

ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church
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September 2022



Celebrating 50 Years of Inspiration from Our Organ Sunday, September 25

Our sanctuary organ is one of main things that makes our sanctuary and our worship so special. On Sunday, September 25, we will celebrate the 50-year anniversary of its installation. Our gifted organist, Lyn Meyer, will share with us specially selected pieces for the Prelude and the Postlude that will feature the range and capabilities of the organ. Be sure to join us for this special Sunday of music and celebration.

Choir Program Starting Soon!

Another aspect of our church that inspires us so much is our choir. After a summer recess, our choir program is starting again soon, and we hope to see some new faces joining our current choir members. The first rehearsal will be Wednesday evening, **September 7, from 7:00 to 8:00 pm.** The ongoing choir rehearsal schedule will be 7:00-8:00 pm on the first Wednesday evening of every month and every Sunday morning from 9:15-10:00 am before church, starting September 11. Come join us in 'Singing Praise unto the Lord'!



Looking for the Silver Lining



As we grapple with the seemingly last throes of the Covid pandemic, we look at the changes the First Presbyterian family has endured. Now it's time to sort out which changes actually are improvements to our old ways of doing things – what do we want to keep and where do we want to change back?

Should we continue livestreaming our Sunday services? Should committee meetings continue to be Zoom calls? How should we do communion going forward? Will we ever again hold hands for the Lord's Prayer during the service? What needs to change for congregation members to come back in person?

In its August meeting, Session approved an effort to assess such questions through a one-year Step Forward task force. Step Forward will begin with interviews of people involved with the church committees and programs. What do they think has worked for them, and what needs to be either reverted or revised? In some cases, that could include a review of "Dream, Discover, Do" and an analysis of the goals we set for ourselves during this program a decade ago. Have we achieved those goals, or do they no longer apply?

After such interviews are complete, the Step Forward task force will make recommendations for Session to consider regarding the ongoing life of the church. Please note: the task force itself will not be making final decisions on how we are going forward.

We currently are seeking a cross-section of church members to serve on the task force, representing the many branches of church life and the diversity of our congregation. We will begin meeting this fall. Please prayerfully consider participation if you are asked to join. If you would like to volunteer, please talk to Sherri Monteith.

Congregational Meeting September 18, 11:15am

The Session of First Presbyterian Church has called a special meeting of the congregation for Sunday, September 18, immediately following the worship service. Our Nominating Committee will present Harrison Gaines as a nominee to fill the vacant Deacon Board position. Members are asked to attend, and visitors are welcome to attend.

Rally Day & Carnival

Sunday, August 14

The weather that day wasn't ideal, but many hardy souls still enjoyed our 2022 Rally Day at the Hensons' farm. This year, the annual event marks not only the beginning of our church year, but also the beginning of our journey in the post-Covid world.

In the dunking booth, Pastors Mark and Heather took turns getting dunked multiple times to the delight of adults and children alike. The kids clearly had fun with the bouncy house, and we all appreciated a delicious dinner from Panera. It will be difficult to outdo this event next year, but Rev. Hicks and the Christian Education Department will try, we're sure!

Special thanks to Jen and Chris Henson for hosting our Rally Day Carnival and picnic. Also thanks to Awesome Entertainment for supplying the bouncy house and dunk tank.





The Presbytery of Scioto Valley seeks your help

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley, of which our church is a part, is thinking about its future and needs our help. A Discernment and Design Administrative Commission, working with Holy Cow! Consulting, is developing an anonymous survey designed to help shape the Presbytery for the challenges of the coming years.

The week of **September 12**, we will receive an email link to participate in this survey, and I hope you will join me in responding with your impressions and experiences. The Commission asks that we respond by **September 23**.

Input from our congregation is very important, whether we are very familiar with the Presbytery or relatively unfamiliar with its work. Every voice counts as our Presbytery seeks to discern where God is leading!

Rev. Mary Jane Hitt, co-chair of our Presbytery's Discernment and Design Team

Our Livestream Continues

You can access our live-steamed worship service at 10:15 on Sunday mornings by going to the church's website (www.westervillefirstpresbyterian.org). Click on "Worship Options" in the left column. On the next screen, click on the word "HERE" at the end of the second paragraph. That takes you to our Facebook page. You can also access recordings of previous services on this page. An audio recording of the worship service is placed on our website soon after each service.

Update on Our Blessing Box

Have you noticed that our Blessing Box is being depleted of particular items within a few days of stocking? Protein foods like peanut butter and canned pasta with meat, tuna, or chicken are especially popular.

In addition, donations of toiletries are always needed for men and women. These include shaving cream and shavers, deodorant, soap, shampoo, tooth brushes, toothpaste, etc. A small bottle of laundry soap is another necessity. Other popular items are bottled water, tissues, cheese or peanut butter crackers, and breakfast bars.

You can place your contribution in one of our storage bins downstairs by the back door, near the file cabinet and Pike County donations. Thank you!



Crop Walk: Please Donate and Walk October 2, 1:00 pm

The Crop Walk is coming on Sunday, October 2, at 1:00 pm in Worthington (across High Street from the Worthington fire station at Schrock and High Streets). Our church has been very involved and responsive to participating in the walk for over 40 years. Twenty-five percent of the money we raise will stay in Westerville, going to WARM, while the rest of the money is used to address urgent world food needs, including investments in self-sufficiency, emergency relief, and refugee resettlement. Crop Walks nationally raise about \$50 million each year. Our congregation has averaged close to \$4000 a year and often wins the Golden Sneaker award for the most money raised among local churches.

We are asking people to donate and to walk. The walk is either 1.5 or 3 miles, depending on your interest and stamina. Speed is not important. It is a great time to get out with family and friends, as well as others in the community on a normally-dry early fall day. It is also a great time for youth to gather for a fun service project. Make checks out to Westerville First Presbyterian Church and designate for CROP. We would like all money to be in by October 16.

Contact John Robbins or Bob Place to get more information and to sign up for walking and/or donating. Look for a sign-up sheet for donating and walking near the secretary's desk in the Gathering Place.

Youth Services



Westerville Farmers' Market

Our Farmer's Market participation has been amazing this year. Special thanks to volunteers Bernie Simpkins, Marge Fredrickson, John Robbins, Abby and Cody Moore, Kathryn and Josh Hanson, Heather Hicks, Deb Gamble, Mark and Kathy Gauen, and Julie Bentley. During the last three months, we have watched hundreds of kids light up as they played with bubbles, sidewalk chalk, giant checkers, and frisbee golf. The city and our Christian Education team are grateful for the time, money, and energy that went into making the market a fun place for families to come and buy local. We look forward to the Holiday Market coming up in November.



Sunday School

Sunday School has started once again. All children from birth to 5th grade are welcome to join us after the children's focus part of worship. We'll have a Bible study and fun activities.



Discovery Zone
Starting Sunday, October 16, 5-7:00 pm

Discovery Zone has been pushed back. We will now meet for the first time on Sunday, October 16, from 5pm-7pm. We are very excited to share that Sarah Bichon will be teaching our middle and high school youth. Naomi Wriston will be teaching our elementary kids. We look forward to seeing everyone then!

Event Update



Genealogy Club: Thursday, September 1, 7:00

We did not meet in August, but our next meeting will be September 1 at 7:00. on Zoom Everyone will share My Favorite Family Photo.

If you are interested or just curious, and have not contacted us before, contact Bill Hitt or Ken Bonvallet.

Dine Out with Nine: Friday, September 9, 6:30 pm

Church members and friends, the Dine Out Group will be gathering at 6:30 pm on Friday, September 9, at Polaris Grill (1835 Polaris Pkwy, 614 431-5598, north of I-270 and right next to I-71). This is a favorite restaurant for many of us, but they are limiting us to 20 people maximum since it is prime time on Friday. Contact Jim Hines or Bob Place to ask questions or reserve seats.

Ladies' Night Out: Tuesday, September 20, 6:30 pm

Our restaurant for September will be announced (soon) in the Sunday morning bulletin and in Pastor Mark's daily emails. Suggestions? Contact Diana Westfall.

Fabrics of Faith: Monday, September 26, 1:30 pm

Fabrics of Faith will meet on Monday, September 26, at 1:30 pm in the lower level of the church. Please note this change from our usual meeting time and day. This will be our new day and time.

We welcome all! We have a nice time knitting, crocheting, sewing, and visiting. Please join us. For more information contact Sharyl Weinberg or check with the church office.

Presbyterian 9 Patchers: Tuesday, September 20, 1-3:00 pm

The next meeting of the P9P quilting group will be the third Tuesday of September, 9/20, from 1-3:00. As always, anyone who is interested is welcome to join us. Contact Karen Hoggarth..

.Canoe Trip: Saturday, September 17, 10:00 a.m.

This is a 6-mile trip (same as last year). Be at the canoe livery by 9:30 a.m. It's the Little Miami Canoe Rental, 219 Mill Street, Morrow, Ohio (513-899-3616) www.littlemiamicanoe.com. The bus pickup leaves the livery at 10:00 a.m.

Cost for rental this year is \$21 per person, canoe; \$35, kayak. If you bring your own canoe or kayak, the cost for transport is \$20 for a canoe; \$25 for a kayak.

We'll have a picnic lunch following the trip! For more information, call or text Carol O'Kane. Sign up in the book in the Gathering Place by Sept. 11 so we can get an accurate count for the livery.

Concert by St. Paul's AME Men's Chorus: Sun., Oct. 9, 4:00 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE! First Presbyterian Church will host the St. Paul's AME Men's Chorus in a free concert! Please join us for an afternoon of great music followed by a dessert reception. St. Paul's Men's Chorus performed in our church in 2018, and we are excited to have them back! The 12-member chorus, singing in four-part harmony, will offer a cappella, spiritual, contemporary, and gospel songs. They love praising the Lord in song!

A Unique Art Exhibit: Food Justice: Growing a Healthier Community through Art, now through September 24

Now on display at the Ohio Craft Museum, this traveling exhibition consists of work by 16 nationally and internationally recognized contemporary artists. They explore the dimensions of national and regional food systems, the advocacy for social change, and community well-being, while acknowledging processes rooted in the craft tradition. The Ohio Craft Museum, 1665 W 5th Ave (near Grandview), is open weekdays from 10am-5pm and Saturdays 11am-4pm.

Sweet Adelines Concert: "Life! We've Got a Song for That!" Sunday, October 2, 3-5:00 pm

The Sweet Adelines, including our own Pam Smith, will present an afternoon of barbershop music on Sunday, October 2, at the Makoy Center, 55462 Center Street, Hilliard, OH 43026.

Tickets are \$12-18. The group of nearly 100 singers has entertained all over Central Ohio and beyond!



Methodist Hospitals and the Supply Chain

Coping with Covid: An Inside Story

By Jack Anderson

In 2019, a Dublin-based management company asked me to serve as their interim supply chain director at the Methodist Hospitals in Merrillville and Gary, Indiana, a 450-bed system. My engagement was supposed to last 60 to 90 days, but a suitable replacement was not presented. After 8 months of commuting from Westerville, I was asked in December 2019 to stay permanently. Sue came to Indiana and found a furnished rental for us in Miller Beach, one block from Lake Michigan.

In January 2020, we learned about the Wuhan virus, found in a large industrial region of China that manufactured medical supplies, along with much else. The first cases reached the U.S. in January, and Methodist had its first patients with CoVID-19 or Covid, in February. Some people began wearing face masks in public places. While masks were not required yet in our hospitals, demand for masks, exam gloves, and sanitizer increased dramatically.

In March 2020, we began universal masking. More than 100 patient rooms were converted to negative pressure areas, where air was exhausted to the outside. Any employee or medical staff personnel coming into a Covid room or in contact with a Covid patient was required to wear personal protective equipment (PPE), consisting of a mask, isolation gown, head covering, and exam gloves that were disposed of upon leaving the patient area. Every nurse, physician, therapist, lab technician, and any other personnel wore this PPE.

The demand for PPE items increased even more dramatically. By April, our hospitals were using 25,000 exam gloves every day. Our supplies for these items quickly ran out. PPE was now being purchased by businesses, schools, restaurants, and churches, not the usual customers, so health care was competing with many more buyers for the same products. To prevent hoarding, suppliers began to allocate their products. Since the allocated amount was based on 2019 usage, our 2020 needs greatly exceeded our allocated amount.

- The Supply Chain department quickly responded to these many changes. We secured our inventory of all types of face masks and PPE items and issued them in eaches (one at a time), rather than boxes.
- We inventoried 28 PPE items daily and shared this count with our CEO and group purchasing representative at a standing meeting.
- Supply Chain staff searched for alternate suppliers or products.
- Where possible, we used reusable products, namely exam gowns, instead of the disposable product.

Over the past 10 to 15 years, more and more products have been manufactured in Asia, most often China. This provided an improve profit margin to our suppliers and a savings to their customers, including my hospitals. However, the supply was extremely fragile. With our traditional suppliers unable to meet our needs, our buyers reached out to alternatives; we refer to them as “grey market” suppliers. They included advertising specialty companies that usually

imported pens, coffee cups, and other bling items and knew little about our medical requirements. Also, there were speculators, frauds (asked for money in advance but didn't deliver), high-jackers, and companies actually trying to solve our problems. From this coterie, we needed to craft some semblance of a supply chain. Carefully, we did it.

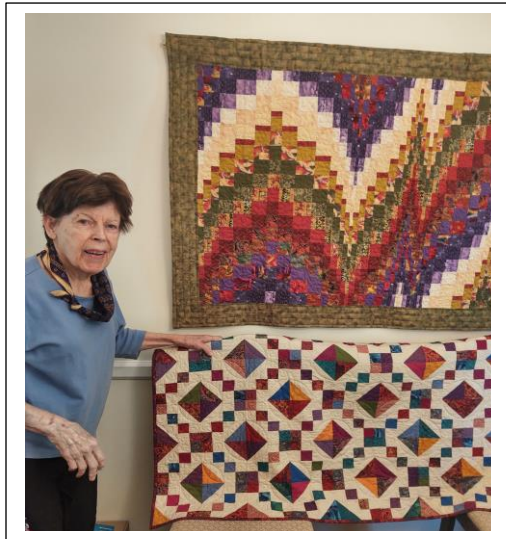
However, the price we paid was dear. Isolation gowns that used to cost \$0.50 each were now \$5.50. A box of exam gloves, once \$4.00, now sold for \$55.00 per box. The prices for other products rose similarly. The transit cost of a shipping container was once \$1,400, but soon became \$15,000. Many container ships moved from the delays of our West Coast ports to other locations. An important lesson we learned was the need to return manufacturing to this continent, and we committed to purchase some of our requirements from US-based companies.

I felt the pressure to provide the products and protective items that our staff required. This was my concern, and that of senior leadership and my staff, 24-7. The thought that someone would be infected with Covid because we failed was always on our minds. In July 2021, the state of Indiana hosted a conference call of hospitals to discuss supply problems and concerns and was inundated with complaints. However, our nurses and clinicians, who participated on this call, stated, "We were never without the products we needed." That made our efforts worthwhile.

In 2002, I was elected into the Bellflower League, the supply chain hall of fame.



Getting to Know You: Pat Beeman



Pat Beeman, a long-time member of First Presbyterian, has been sewing for as long as she can remember. The quilts shown here are just a few of her creations, which include many baby and toddler quilts. Pat's mother, Esther, was her inspiration. Esther used to take the senior citizens bus to the Senior Center every week to join the quilting group there.

For years, Pat has been an active member of and generous contributor to our Fabrics of Faith and Presbyterian 9 Patchers Quilting groups. She says she is grateful for the fellowship and experiences she's had in these groups.

Beside Pat in the photo on the left are her quilts "Bargello" and "Jewell Box." Pat pieced both of them. That is, she sewed together the small, colored fabric pieces of the designs. A friend and Marietta classmate, Jane Godsey, recently quilted the "Jewell Box" quilt. Quilting involves sewing together the three or more layers of a quilt. The "Jewell Box" quilt had been in Pat's to-do pile for a number of years.

In the photo on the right, the "Stars" and "Snowman" quilts were embroidered by Pat's mom Esther, pieced by Pat, and quilted by Karen Lesueur.

Pat is one of a number of talented quilters in our congregation. Many of us have been the grateful recipients of her beautiful work. Pat has about a dozen of her quilts at home and would be happy to show them to you. Just give the Beemans a call.

Adult Growth and Development

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN			
Activity	When	Where	What
Monday Seminar	Mondays 4:00-5:00 p.m.	Zoom Meetings -If interested contact Tom Jonard.	The Adult Class meets every week to read about and discuss the Christian faith.
Shelter-in-place Bible Studies	Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 am Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.	Zoom Meetings -If interested email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us	“Trusting God in Troubled Times” is the theme as we examine the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Contact Pastor Gauen if you would like to join us.
4th Monday Discussion Group	4 th Mondays, 7:30 – 9:00 pm	Zoom Meeting -If interested, email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us	We are studying <i>Be the Bridge: Pursuing God’s Heart for Racial Reconciliation</i> . This book addresses what a church can do about racial issues. This month, we will meet on September 26 to consider Chapter 11.
Circle 4 Women	3 rd Thursdays, 11:00 am	Zoom Meeting -If interested, call Elaine Foley.	Our women’s group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Led by Elaine Foley.
Discovery Zone for Adults	Sundays 5:00-6:30 p.m. Beginning October 16	In-Person in the Library	This class is held in conjunction with the Discovery Zone children’s program. Parents and others are invited to join us as we consider topics on the practice of our faith in our world today. Led by Rev. Gauen.



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

One of my favorite authors and Presbyterians died this past month. Fredrick Buechner, Presbyterian minister and well-known Christian author died Monday, August 15, at the age of 96. He was the author of 39 books that encompass several different genres, including fiction, autobiography, essays, and sermons. Buechner had a way of making faith understandable while at the same time reinforcing the mystery of it all. He once said, "*My job, as I saw it...was to present the faith as appealingly, honestly, relevantly, and skillfully as I could.*" As a fan of his writings, I'd have to say he did just that. Below is an excerpt from his book, *Whistling in the Dark*. The book gives a Christian insight to common everyday words. I like to think that his musings on the word *dying* might have been divinely inspired. At least, I hope that his death was something like this.

DYING (from the book Whistling in the Dark by Frederick Buechner)

The airport is crowded, noisy, frenetic. There are yowling babies, people being paged, the usual ruckus. Outside, a mixture of snow and sleet is coming down. The runways show signs of icing. Flight delays and cancellations are called out over the PA system together with the repeated warning that in view of recent events any luggage left unattended will be immediately impounded. There are more people than usual smoking at the various gates. The air is blue with it. Once aboard you peer through the windows for traces of ice on the wings and search the pancaked faces of the stewardesses for anything like the knot of anxiety you feel in your own stomach as they run through the customary emergency procedures. The great craft lumbers its way to the take-off position, the jets shrill. Picking up speed, you count the seconds till you feel lift-off. More than so many, you've heard, means trouble. Once airborne, you can hardly see the wings at all through the grey turbulence scudding by. The steep climb is rough as a Ford pick-up. Gradually it starts to even out. The clouds thin a little. Here and there you see tatters of clear air among them. The pilot levels off slightly. Nobody is talking. The calm and quiet of it are almost palpable. Suddenly, in a rush of light, you break out of the weather. Beneath you the clouds are a furrowed pasture. Above, no sky in creation was ever bluer.

Possibly the last take-off of all is something like that. When the time finally comes, you are scared stiff to be sure, but maybe by then you're just as glad to leave the whole show behind and get going. In a matter of moments, everything that seemed to matter stops mattering. The slow climb is all there is. The stillness. The clouds. Then the miracle of flight as from fathom upon fathom down, you surface suddenly into open sky. The dazzling sun.

Yours in Christ,