

ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church
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Westerville, Ohio 43081-2103
614-882-3155 Phone
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May 2023

Easter Morning at First Presbyterian He Is Risen Indeed!



On Easter morning, following a stirring sermon about the resurrections in our own lives, our youngest members did their best to find Easter eggs “hidden” in the grass on the church lawn. It was, indeed, a glorious day to be reminded of all our blessings!



Sundays in May (and one in April)

April 30 Music Appreciation Sunday. Time to recognize the amazing talents of those in our music program.

May 14: Mothers' Day. A day to honor one's mother and all those who have been like a mother to you.

May 21: Graduate Recognition. We will celebrate with those who have recently graduated from high school, college, or a trade school.

Teacher Recognition. We will honor those who have been our teachers and advisors this past year for their work in educating and guiding all of us in faith.

Confirmation. We will confirm and commission our young people who have spent the winter and fall studying the faith and committing themselves to Christ.

May 28: Memorial Sunday. We will remember with the tolling of the bell those who have died since the last Memorial Day. If you would like a friend or family member mentioned on this Sunday, please send an email to pastormark@fpcw.us or call the church office at 614-882-3155.

Confirmation Classes in May

May 7	4:15-5:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class – Rev. Gauen's Office
May 14	No Class	
May 15	6:45-8:00 p.m.	Confirmation Class Meets with the Session
May 21	9:00 a.m.	Confirmation Class gathers for pictures
May 21	10:15 a.m.	Confirmation Class confirmed in worship



Here Today.....

A very old, but diseased, pine tree had to be removed from the church grounds on April 17. (If the photo is upside down, click on it.

I love computers. LB)

It's Time to Step Forward Together!

Who do we want to be when we grow up?

The Step Forward Task Force has been laying the groundwork for an answer to that question.

Beginning last fall, the task force has been meeting with all Session-led standing committees and the deacons to determine how our congregation and our procedures have changed since the pandemic began. What did we do differently as a result of the pandemic? Of those changes, which were useful to continue going forward and which have served their purpose and can now be abandoned? And if you haven't been involved in those conversations, here's your chance.

June 11 will bring about a Step Forward Together event immediately following the Sunday service. Kicking off with a meal, we then will break into small groups to talk amongst ourselves about what changes have impacted us and what changes we might like to see moving forward. A streaming event will also be held on Thursday, June 15, from 6 to 8 p.m. Anybody registering for the online event will have a pizza delivered to their home, so everybody who participates will get to enjoy a dinner together!

After the meetings, every member of our church family will receive a SurveyMonkey email survey. That way, each of us has at least two opportunities to voice our opinions about the changes. The SurveyMonkey tool will offer a chance to throw out ideas you may not be comfortable bringing up in a group setting.

The Step Forward Task Force will compile the information collected in a report to Session in the fall. Although the task force will make some recommendations to Session, it won't actually implement changes – implementation of ideas is beyond the scope of the task force and within the purview of Session.

Some long-term members who remember the Discover, Dream, Do initiative from 2009 have asked whether Step Forward is the same kind of exercise. It is not. Step Forward is operational in nature, not aspirational. But determining what functions work best for us may help us in the near future as we explore who we want to be going forward in the coming years.

Step Forward Task Force members are Dorothy Driskell, Peg Duffy, Jen Henson, Gary Hinzman, Mary Lee Jones, Elizabeth Moes, and Sherri Monteith.



Spring Work Day Saturday, May 6, 9:30 am

The annual spring work session will be Saturday, May 6. We'll spread mulch and do a general clean-up of the grounds, starting at 9:30 AM. Everyone is invited to come and lend a hand.

Bags for the Bailey Bench

By recycling our plastic film waste, we can earn a bench for our church! The Outreach Committee is enthusiastic about a new effort to collect plastic bags to be recycled so our church can earn a new bench. This bench would replace the Bailey Memorial Bench that was lost during construction of the church addition.

We will be using the Nextrex® Company's plastic bag recycling program. In this program, a community organization earns a composite lumber bench (plastic bags are used to make the composite lumber) if they collect 500 pounds of plastic bags in a 6-month period.

The Lions Club uses the same program to earn benches for Westerville. You might have seen those nice black benches in Uptown Westerville. Our church's program won't replace the Lions Club program; it will run parallel to it.

In addition to plastic grocery bags, we can also recycle bubble wrap, plastic shipping envelopes, Ziploc bags, bread bags, etc. (see below approved items). **The plastic collection will start on May 1.** A bin for the recyclables will be inside the back door of the church (in the little alcove there.) So please start saving your plastic film waste, bring it to church to be recycled, and help our church earn a new bench to replace the Bailey Memorial Bench. 😊

APPROVED ITEMS FOR NEXTREX® PROGRAM		
ALL PLASTIC MUST BE CLEAN, DRY AND FREE OF FOOD RESIDUE		
		
PALLET WRAP & STRETCH FILM	GROCERY BAGS	BREAD BAGS
		
CASE OVERWRAP	DRY CLEANING BAGS	NEWSPAPER SLEEVES
		
ZIPLOC® & OTHER RESEALABLE FOOD STORAGE BAGS	PRODUCE BAGS	PRODUCT WRAP
		
RETAIL BAGS	AIR PILLOWS	BUBBLE WRAP

The Church's March Financial Report

First Presbyterian Church of Westerville Statement of Income and Expense March, Fiscal Year 2023

	March Actual	Year-to-date Actual	Year-to-date Budget	Annual Budget
Income				
01, Contributions	21,101.00	73,128.39	74,338.53	297,354.00
02, Administrative Services	500.00	640.00	249.99	1,000.00
03, Christian Education	0.00	0.00	75.00	1,300.00
05, Membership and Evangelism	0.00	300.00	50.01	1,075.00
08, Worship	421.00	669.00	650.01	2,600.00
Total Income	\$ 22,022.00	\$ 74,737.39	\$ 75,363.54	\$ 303,329.00
Expense				
01, Personnel	19,324.74	57,288.83	58,131.24	227,408.00
02, Administrative Services	6,908.26	17,603.56	14,462.48	60,100.00
03, Christian Education	25.94	374.21	1,500.00	6,000.00
05, Membership, Evangelism, Events	184.14	184.14	706.22	3,800.00
06, Stewardship	0.00	0.00	62.51	21,250.00
07, Outreach	0.00	62.07	700.02	8,800.00
08, Worship	163.57	1,182.94	1,450.01	6,100.00
09, Deacons	0.00	0.00	62.49	250.00
10, Step Forward	0.00	0.00	249.99	1,000.00
Total Expense	\$ 26,606.65	\$ 76,695.75	\$ 77,324.96	\$ 334,708.00
Income Less Expense	\$ (4,584.65)	\$ (1,958.36)	\$ (1,961.42)	\$ (31,379.00)
Dedicated Funds Committed to 2023*				
		\$ 878.00		\$ 31,379.00
Income Over Expense plus Dedicated used		\$ (1,080.36)		\$ 0.00

* Property Maintenance

April Session Actions

The following votes were taken at the recent Session meeting (April 10):

- Linda Barr, Kay Mackan, and John Robbins were approved to fill positions on the Nominating Committee.
- Baptisms were approved for the Moes brothers. Their mother, Elizabeth Eshelman Moes, and grandparents, Tom and Jane Eshelman, are members of the congregation.
- Family leave was approved for Rev. Gauen for Sunday, April 16, to attend his cousin's funeral in Atlanta. Heather Hicks will preach.
- Vacation also was approved for Rev. Gauen for Monday, Aug. 7-Thursday, Aug. 10, so he can help celebrate his mother's 90th birthday in Wisconsin.

Youth Services



Sunday School is in full swing! 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.



Summer Church Camp

Over the years, we have given many of our children and youth the opportunity to attend church camp. There, they deepened their relationship with Jesus Christ and learned meaningful spiritual disciplines and leadership skills. We have seen the impact these important weeks have on the lives of our children as they enter adulthood. This year, we have many opportunities for 3rd through 12th graders, as well as grandparents wanting to engage in a camp experience with their grandchildren. As part of the camps, music, sports, mission, etc. are all centered around building a relationship with God. If you are interested in a camp for your children and/or youth this year, please see Rev. Heather A. Hicks for more information and sign-up sheets.



Saturday Morning Farmers' Market

Last summer, we engaged more than 600 children and their families at our local farmers' market. We played with bubbles, created sidewalk chalk drawings, and offered a beautiful lawn full of shade for families to relax and enjoy the summer days. We intend to continue this successful event this year. If you would like to volunteer for this significant and fun ministry to our community, please contact Rev. Heather A. Hicks.



Vacation Bible School, July 17-21, 5-7 pm

We're back! Vacation Bible School is coming back this summer. This year, we will be exploring Superheroes of the Bible. If you are interested in bringing your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, etc, please mark your calendars for July 17-21, 5pm-7pm. If you would like to serve on our VBS team, please contact Rev. Heather A. Hicks. We need teachers, set decorators, food preparers, etc. We cannot wait to see you this summer!



Nursery Attendant

We are so excited to welcome back Lisa Tennant as our nursery attendant--and to welcome the youngest among us to the nursery. As part of our efforts to protect our children and our staff, we also need volunteers to help in the nursery. If you would like to help in our church-wide efforts to make a difference in the lives of our children, please contact Rev. Heather A. Hicks to sign up for a Sunday. Heather can also answer any questions you may have about what is expected.

Graduate Recognition **Sunday, May 21**

The Christian Education Department will be recognizing our graduates during the service on Sunday, May 21. If you or your child will be graduating from high school, college, graduate school, or a trade school this year, please let us know so that we can include you, and them, in our graduation celebration. Call the church office (614-882-3155) by Thursday, May 4, and leave the graduate's name and the graduation school.

Sanctuary Flowers

Memorial flowers are a special way to remember loved ones and special occasions, along with providing arrangements to grace the worship service each Sunday. We have dates to fill in May, June, July, and August. Reserve your date in the Sign-up Book in the Gauen Gathering Area. The cost is \$35.00.

The arrangement in the photo was donated by Marilyn Linkous on April 16 to honor her granddaughter Chloe's 14th birthday.



Event Update



Genealogy Club: Thursday, May 18, 7:00 pm

At our April meeting, Jim Hines showed how his research on a family line connected with published works. Our next meeting will be May 18 at 7:00 pm. Ken will demonstrate using the free websites familysearch.org and newspapers.com. You may attend in person or via Zoom.

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

Dine Out with Nine: Friday, May 12, 7:00 pm

We are going to dine out together on May 12 at 7 pm (half an hour earlier than usual) at the Cap City Diner in the Gahanna Stoneridge Shopping Center (Morse Rd. and Hamilton Rd.). They have a nice cross section of menu selections. Again, **we have a limit of 25 people** to attend. Call Jim Hines or Bob Place to make a reservation or ask questions.

Ladies' Night Out: On hold for May

Ladies Night Out is going to take a one-month break in May, but we'll be back in June. Please plan to join us on June 20 at 6:30 pm, restaurant to be determined.

Fabrics of Faith: Monday, May 22, 1-3:00 pm

The Fabrics of Faith group will meet on May 22 on the lower level of the church at 1:00 pm. We'll make items to donate to people in need. You are welcome to come and visit the group anytime. Please call the church office if you have questions.

Presbyterian 9 Patchers: Tuesday, May 16, 12 – 3:00 pm

The P9P (Presbyterian 9 Patchers) create quilts to be donated to others. We are working on a group of unfinished quilts that were given to us. We're going to complete as many quilt tops as possible and hopefully raise money for Habitat. If you would like to come and help or have questions, please contact Karen Hoggarth.

~ Beverly Etling Presents ~

MUSIC: “In My Life”

A lifetime of music that has shaped my life!

~ Something for everyone ~

**Broadway, pop, jazz, musical comedy,
swing & sacred!**



Sunday, June 4, 2023

3:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church

41 W. College Ave – Westerville, OH

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser!

Commit to Eat!

City Barbeque, Thursday, May 11

Come eat with us and support the cause.

Where: CITY BARBECUE, 600 South State St., Westerville

When: Thursday, May 11, 11:00 am-8:00 pm



Why: City Barbeque will donate 20% of its profits that day to Habitat. Mention that you are with Westerville Habitat Partnership before placing your order.

How it Works: Any way that works for you:

- Dine in
- Take out
- Delivery
- Drive thru
- Pick up

A Few Thoughts About Kindness:

- Kindness is one thing you can't give away. It always comes back.
--George Skolsky
- Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.
--Sally Koch
- Try to be a rainbow in someone else's cloud. --Maya Angelou
- The most sincere compliment we can pay is attention.
--Walter Anderson

Getting to Know You: Meet the McElhaney's



A native-born Californian, Ann was raised on east and west coast naval stations until her father retired from the US Navy and settled in Redlands, California, in the mid-1950s. She earned a BA in Elementary Education with a minor in math from San Diego State University and was teaching 3rd grade in San Bernardino when she met John at a singles function at the Norton AFB Officers Club.

John had grown up in Pennsylvania and graduated with a BS in Agricultural Economics from Penn State and his commission in the US Air Force. They were

married in 1967 and spent the next 24 years living at various locations throughout the United States and the world. Places they called home included RAF Lakenheath, England; Cheyenne, Wyoming, (where John earned his MBA); Riverside, California; Loring AFB, Maine; Bellevue, Nebraska, (where Ann earned her BS in Accounting); and Barksdale AFB, Louisiana. John also spent time in Vietnam and Iceland before he retired and they moved back to California to be near Ann's parents.

The McElhaney's have three children. The eldest, Leann, is a graphic designer living with her significant other of 25 years, Eddie, in Inglewood, California. Sean is a retired Air Force officer living with his wife Karie and children Gabriel and Kaela in Saint Johns, Florida. The youngest, Judy Mulligan and her husband Chuck, are both retired Air Force Master Sergeants living in Bellevue, Nebraska, where Chuck works in the VA Clinic and Judy works at the Offutt AFB Hospital.

Following the death of Ann's mother in 2009, John and Ann decided it was time to leave the hectic pace of California and move near some of John's family. In August 2009, they purchased their home in Westerville. After signing the closing papers, they were strolling through Uptown Westerville when they noticed the church bell tower behind City Hall and decided to investigate. They met Rev. Gauen that morning and were actually ushering before they were officially members of the church. John served six years as a Deacon and is currently the Elder chairing the Kitchen Task Force, while Ann served six years as an Elder.

The picture above depicts not only their enjoyment of time in the kitchen, but also two of their other favorite activities: travel and spending time with grandchildren. It was taken in Cozumel while on a Disney Cruise to the Caribbean with family. Ann has contributed numerous colorful quilts to the church as an active member of Fabrics of Faith since its inception and now devotes time to the church's Presbyterian 9 Patchers group. She also makes about 40-45 lap quilts annually for the Mount Carmel Hospice Veterans to Veterans program. John has spent his spare time as a member of American Legion Young-Budd Post 171's Honor Guard, providing Military Honors for deceased veterans. He served 4 years as Commander and is now a Trustee. When not busy there, he can be found with the Aladdin Shrine Legion of Honor.

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 Monday Seminar has been reading <i>Do I Stay Christian?: A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned</i> , by Brian D. McLaren. The author is a former college English teacher and was a pastor for twenty-four years. Now he's an author, activist, public theologian, and lecturer.
Weekly Bible Studies	Tuesdays, 9:30-10:30 am Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 p.m.	Tuesday: Hybrid Wednesday: Zoom -If interested email pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us	<p>"A Study in I Peter"</p> <p>Join us as we begin a new study in this special New Testament letter, one of Martin Luther's favorite books of the Bible.</p> <p>Note: The Tuesday Class is now hybrid. Join us on-line or in-person in the Knox Meeting Room.</p> <p>Second note: There will be no Bible Study classes on 5/2 and 5/3.</p>
4th Monday Discussion Group	4th Mondays, 7:30	Zoom Meetings -If interested, email Pastor Gauen at pastormark@fpcw.us	We are looking at a Christian approach to addressing homelessness with the book <i>Grace Will Lead Us Home</i> by Kevin Nye. Contact Rev. Gauen for more information. Next meeting: Monday, May 22.
Circle 4 Women	3rd Thursdays, 11:00 am	Zoom Meetings -If interested, call Elaine Foley.	Our Presbyterian women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Our next meeting is on Thursday, May 18. Led by Elaine Foley.



Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

As many of you know, my cousin, Susan Foertsch, died on March 31 of this year. She was 65 years old. Susan and I grew up together; our families got together often while we were growing up. After Susan graduated, she took a job with Homemakers Schools, where she traveled about the Midwest conducting cooking schools for national sponsors. I was living in Wisconsin at the time, and Susan and I would get together whenever she was in my vicinity. Later Susan took a new job in Chicago. Needing a roommate, my family put her together with my fiancé, Kathy, and the two of them roomed together in the Chicago suburbs for our engagement year. Susan was one of the bridesmaids for our wedding. Later, I had the privilege of conducting Susan's wedding, which was the first wedding ceremony I performed.

Susan and her husband moved around a lot after their marriage, finally ending up in the Atlanta area, where they raised their two children and were very active in their church. Kathy and I stayed in touch with Susan and her family through social media, but we never made it down to Atlanta to see her. On Saturday, April 15, I went to Atlanta to say goodbye to Susan, the first family member of my generation to pass away. As I grieve this loss, I am comforted by the kind words of many in this church, and by the fine people of Susan's church, who will surround her grieving husband and children with love and support.

As always, there are stories to share when one gathers for a funeral, and I would like to share one such story that was told about Susan.

Susan was diagnosed in late January with Stage 4 lung cancer that had metastasized into her bones and brain. The day she got the diagnosis she and her husband Steve went to see their pastor, who already knew that things weren't going well for Susan. Susan's first words when she entered her pastor's office were, "God is good." And her next words were, "I'm good." And with that beginning, Susan, Steve, and their pastor began to lay out her last months of life and her funeral service. She told her pastor that she wanted these last months of her life to be a testimony to the goodness of God. And she wanted her funeral to be the same way, not to be about her, but to be about the goodness of God.

Not all of us get to plan for our death so intentionally, but I do hope that I can meet death with such faith, and such grace. Susan, from what I heard and saw this weekend, you managed to do both. May God welcome you into that heavenly mansion.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark L. Lauer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pastor Mark