

1st Presbyterian Church Newsletter

August-September 2023



BLESSING THE BACKPACKS

Bring your backpacks to worship Sunday, August 20, so you and your backpack can receive a special back to school blessing!

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVERS:

August 20: Don Youel, Cecilia Richardson & Delbert Duckins or Marty Sloan, Jo Salvage, Gretchen Downs

August 27: Stephen Potts, Sarah Crawford & Allison Mackin, Rusty Phlegar, Nancy Gates

September 3: Don Youel, Rick & Mary Beth Gilts, Fay Mitchell, Stephen Potts

Communion: Kathy East & Kathy Jarosz/Allison Mackin & Brenda Youel

September 10: Stephen Potts, Jay & Jo Salvage, Michelle Chavez, Kathy Jarosz

September 17: Don Youel, Randy & Eileen Phillips, Rick Gilts, Stephen Potts

September 24: Don Youel, Doris Currie & Robb Gates, Megan Merrell, Gretchen Downs

First Presbyterian Church of Perrysburg

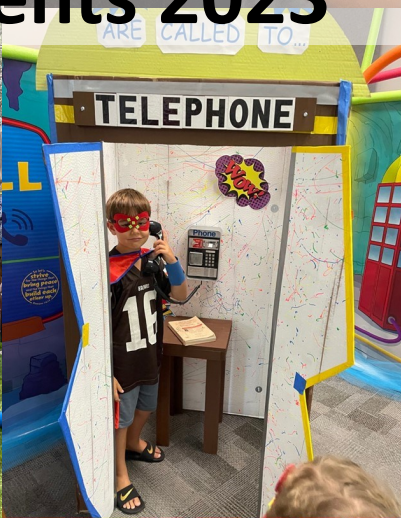
200 E. 2nd Street, Perrysburg, Ohio, 43551

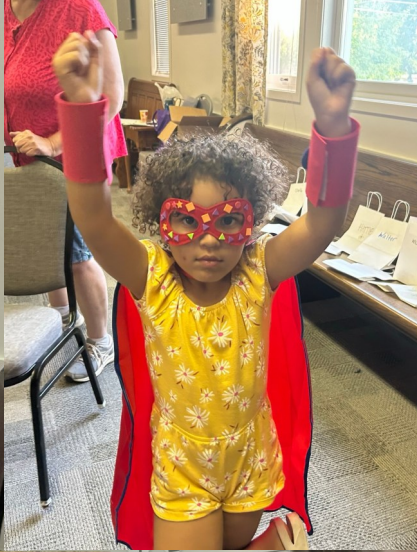
www.1stpresbyterianperrysburg.com

Celebrating Christ's love for all people



VBS Moments 2023





From the Christian Education Team/Super Heroes (added by Pastor Katie)

Before VBS even started there were Super Heroes hard at work preparing for an amazing experience for our youth. Programming, technical setup, music, craft and science projects, food planning, recreation, and decorating all came together with the help of our incredible congregation. Without this combined effort our Vacation Bible School would not happen and the CE team is so grateful for your support.

And then 20 young Super Heroes arrived with capes and masks and lots of energy! It was a blessing to watch as they joined in to learn more about Grace, building each other up, and knowing that God is our Super Hero and He will always be with us.

The mission project collected \$310.00 for the Black Swamp Conservancy which will be used to continue the Fox Habitat project. Sounds like this could be a great field trip for us in the future. Thank you David Nunn for bringing this project to our attention.

Thank you again for those whose hands worked to make this VBS a success and for those who shared their prayers and encouragement. *It is truly a labor of love!*

* * *

Aug 20th **Blessing of Backpacks.** Students & backpacks receive special blessing for a safe and successful school year

Aug 27th Children will remain in service to observe the baptism of little Jack Rodeman.
There will be special material for them to work on during the service.

Sept 3rd Communion Sunday Children remain in service.

Sept 10th **JR WORSHIP OFFICIALLY STARTS**

Blessings to all from your CE team. Peace, Julie

Dear FPC community,

I wanted to share that choir is returning soon (yippee!!), and we'll be starting loud and proud! On Sundays **August 27** and **September 3** I will be hosting OPEN CHOIR, an opportunity for ANY-BODY to join choir and sing in worship! I'll host **two** rehearsals each of these days:

- One rehearsal before worship starting promptly at **9:15 AM**; here we will warm up our voices (and brains!) and learn the hymns for worship that morning.
- One rehearsal after worship and fellowship; here we will learn an anthem that we'll sing later in the season for offertory!

If you have ever been moved by the power of music in or outside of worship, I strongly encourage you to give choir a try in this fun, no-judgement opportunity! I can't wait to make music with you all this year.

Peace and blessings, Steven Naylor



Pastor's Page



²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. Jn 12:24-26

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

This passage from the Gospel of John about life and death, holding and releasing, losing and gaining, limited life and eternal life, and serving God is an important one to attend to as we practice being disciples of Jesus Christ. Last week, Session met for one of our “strategy” meetings and we wondered together about how best to lead when we have to, first and foremost, attend to serving God’s mission for this church, and yet, that very mission is one that includes welcome and maintaining space for a diversity of points of view and preferences among the congregation. In other words, how do we pick a path for the congregation, if picking a path might cause some among us to say, “I am not called to that path.” In other other words, what if we leaders of the church come to understand where God is calling us all to go next as a congregation, but choosing to follow that calling causes the church to split apart? (We were ONLY wondering!)

And there we come back to the words of Jesus recorded in the Gospel of John. God calls us to risk for better things again and again and again. When we are feeling the most comfortable, the most satisfied, that is when God asks us to drop our tidy little seed back into the fertile ground and let it spring forth in newness. And as disciples, we come up against our resistance to that again and again and again. Which is why we are practicing together (in every stage of our lives) how to keep trusting in God’s providence, grace, and unfolding Kingdom. That is what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. That is what it means to be a Church.

The Session and I keep returning to the needs and desires of this congregation named in the 2020 CAT Survey of this church. Among the top priorities named by this congregation were for leadership to “*provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual formation at every age and stage of life;*” and to “*strengthen the process by which members are called and equipped for ministry and fellowship.*” How we go about that will definitely look differently that how we did it in 1973, 1983, 1993, 2003, and even 2013. Education has become more integrative. Children do not go to classrooms and listen to lectures. Good teaching now encourages hands-on, practice-style learning that engages different intelligences within the same exercise. And this aligns more closely with the way Jesus taught his closest disciples: get started, try it out, practice, ask questions, practice, ask more questions, figure out the way *you* do it and share with the class, repeat.

Did you realize that this summer worship was also a classroom for adult education and spiritual formation in which we were being equipped for ministry? Because, it was. When we were all taking time to consider the scriptures together, we were dipping our toes into 1) thinking from our own perspectives about the living Word of God among us, and 2) practicing speaking about our faith, thoughts, insights, and even confusions and doubts. I could have held a summer adult Sunday School in which some of you with extra time listened to me teach the history of discipleship in the church and describe best practices for spiritual formation and equipping the saints in our current day and time. That could have been very satisfying. I love a good class taught by a wise and well-researched professor. But it wouldn’t have gotten us any closer to growth and development. It wouldn’t have required us to wrestle with the tension points within us. It wouldn’t have given us the opportunity to try it again after it was weird, and not just what we wanted the first or second or third time. It wouldn’t have gotten us any closer to dropping our precious seed in to the turned up dirt.

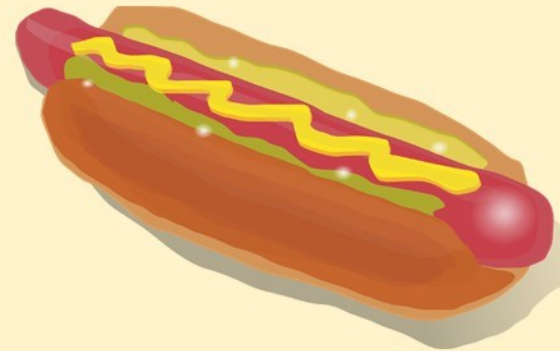
I promise, conversation in the sanctuary will not be the way we continue doing worship. The experiment will conclude at the end of August. But there will be other opportunities to practice speaking in faith together. And Jesus will keep smiling, and giving us little nudges, saying, “C’mon, don’t be chicken!” (Matt 14:22-33)



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
 1ST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SELLS
 HEAVENLY BRATS AND BREWS
 DURING THE RALLY DAY FESTIVITIES

**Sunday, Sept. 17
 CHURCH PICNIC**

*Volunteer
 Helpers
 Needed!*



August 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	5:30pm S/F/M Team meeting	Pastor Katie's Retreat Week 4pm MVP Vision Team meeting	7pm AlAnon			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Blessing of Backpacks in worship	CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	Pastor Katie Back in Office 6pm Joy Belles	Amy Out of the Office 7pm AlAnon	3pm Presby Pies		
27	28	29	30	31		
Baptism of Jack Rodeman	5pm Cong. Life Team meeting	4:30pm Cong. Care hosted Info -Event	7pm AlAnon			

Congregational Care

By Marty Sloan, Chair

Team Members: Fay Mitchell, Melinda Gallant, Doris Currie, Carol Sprague, Eileen Phillips, Marty Sloan & Pastor Katie

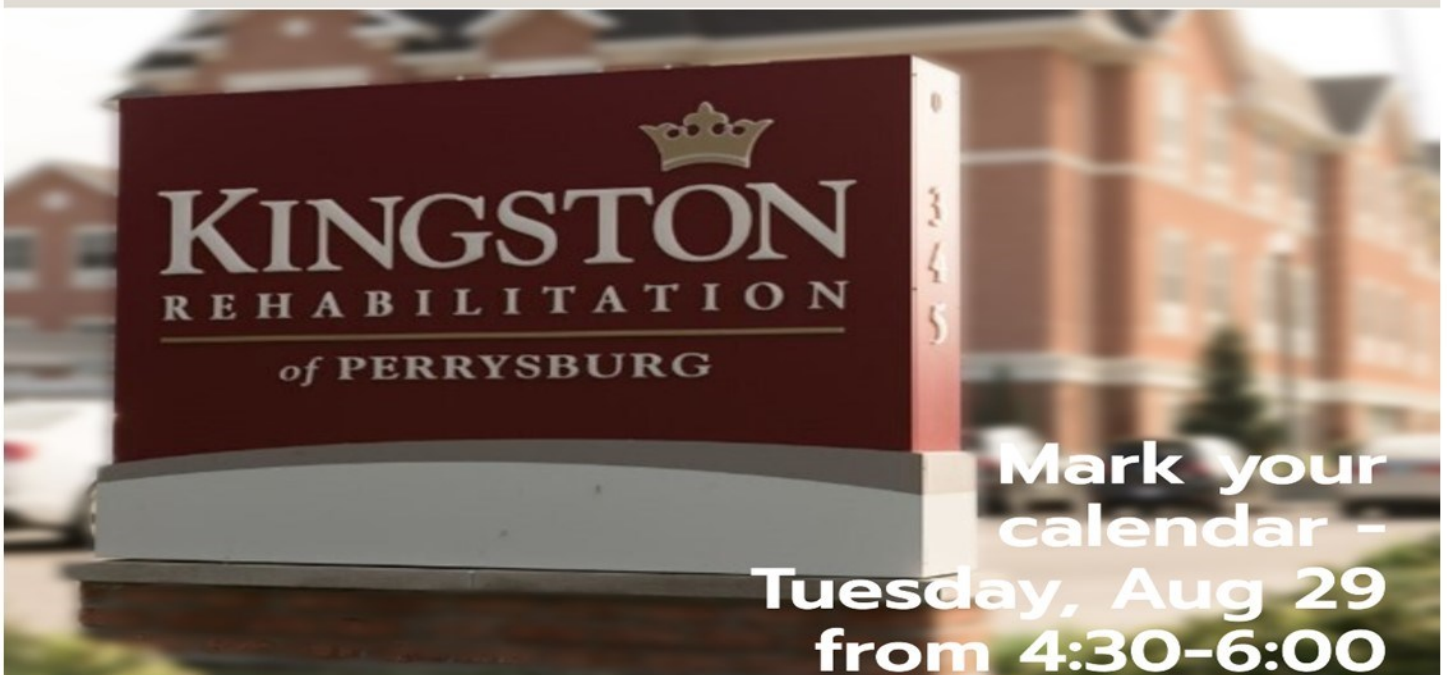
REQUESTS FOR PRAYER



We come together to remember and grieve with two families. We join in mourning Darcy Metcalfe, her son Colt, and her mother Janet Metcalfe, in the loss of Jim. As well, we remember Ron Huling and family as they grapple with the loss of Rhea. Our thoughts are with them during this difficult time.

Lord, in times of distress and heartache, we turn to You for comfort and guidance. When our hearts are hurting, wrap Your love around us. Remind us that even in our sorrows and sadness, You will never leave us nor forsake us. In moments of pain, hold us tight and let us recognize that we are not alone, for You are with us. Be with those who are grieving for a lost one, and give them peace and rest. Help us to lean on You for strength, hope, and sustenance.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



**Mark your
calendar -**

**Tuesday, Aug 29
from 4:30-6:00**

The Congregational Care Team has scheduled another informational event! This presentation is provided by Monica Aberl, the Wellness Coordinator at Kingston Rehabilitation of Perrysburg. You may not be aware that the Wellness Program through Kingston is open to anyone! Monica will detail all that is provided and explain the Silver Sneakers program as well as other services available at Kingston. This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall and snacks will be provided.

ADULT EDUCATION

Discover the transforming journey of SIN starting Tuesday, September 12th at 10am. With the expert guidance of the book *Original Blessing: Putting SIN in its Rightful Place*, the Tuesday Morning Study Group will explore how our origin in Original Blessing became belief in original sin. Join us in person at church and on Zoom to discover how we can return to our joyful state of Blessing. For more information, contact Selinda.

Men's Bible Study **The Book of Acts** **Begins Sunday, Oct. 1**

PRESBY PIES

We have had an incredibly successful season of baking and selling pies. Thanks to all the bakers and customers. Sales will continue August 24, September 7 & 21.



**LET'S CELEBRATE
WITH PIE!**

Mission

In their hearts, humans plan their course,
but the Lord establishes their steps. —Proverbs 16:9

THE MISSION TEAM DID NOT MEET IN AUGUST.

PCU

August: SHAMPOO

September: CRACKERS



[Bring donations to the Elm Street entrance vestibule](#)

HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER

Mission Team donated \$334 of hygiene and cleaning products
Aug. 8th, members of the Mission Team helped with a “Back to School Fair”

LOOKING AHEAD

Paul Belazis, from The Heights, will be presenting during fellowship hour on
September 10th. Please plan to attend! The Team will host fellowship hour.

THE TABLE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20TH MAIN ENTRÉE: PORK CHOPS

MMM (AFRICAN WELLS): upcoming visit by Rick Delaney TBD

NOSA CARDS: July's total was \$1,800.00.

Another successful month! THANK YOU!

NEXT MEETING:

Sept. 6, 2023
at 6:00PM



Submitted by:
Mary Beth
Gilts

Church Picnic

Fun for the Entire Family

Gather with us Sunday, September 17!

Enjoy a delightful afternoon of food and fun with us after worship. We welcome all ages and families to join us for a lively church picnic at the church. Come ready to eat, play games, and have a great time!

Young People's Reflection In Worship Sun. Aug. 13, 2023

A Reflection on Matthew 14:22-33 and
Walking on Water, a painting by Ivan Aivazovsky

Brown, choppy water
Angry, cold, deep sea
Frighted, distressed, scared

When I have to read in front of the whole church
When I have to go to the doctor and get shots
When I first ride my bike without training wheels
When I'm about to go on a huge rollercoaster
When I don't have a light in my room

Yellow and orange light
Jesus glowing and reaching out
Saying, "Why don't you try again!"

Sending our friends and family, church members, teachers and coaches to help us.



—Jane and Kate Merrell, Peyton and Celeste Hollar, Isla and Fiona Davies

September 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion Minute for Mission: Peace and Global Witness	4 LABOR DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	5	6 6pm Mission Team meeting 7pm AIAnon	7 3:30pm Presby Pies 5pm Worship Team meeting	8	9
10 11:30am PHCC Presentation in Fellowship Hour	11	12 11am Bible Study 6pm Session Business mting	13 7pm AIAnon	14 12pm Toledo MVP Clergy lunch	15	16 Harrison Rally Day—Heavenly Brats and Brews on the church lawn
17 Church Picnic	18	19 11am Bible Study 3pm Presbytery meeting	20 5:30pm The Table 7pm AIAnon	21 1pm Cong. Care Team meeting 3:30pm Presby Pies	22	23
24	25	26 11am Bible Study 6pm Joy Belles	27 7pm AIAnon	28	29	30