

# 1st Presbyterian Church Newsletter

April - May 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Perrysburg

200 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Perrysburg, Ohio, 43551

[www.1stpresbyterianprerrysburg.com](http://www.1stpresbyterianprerrysburg.com)

*Celebrating Christ's love for all people*

# Pastor's Page



*“Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen.” ~Colossians 1:15-20*

Blessed Members & Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, who leads us in to eternal life! “If you’re happy an you know it, clap your hands!” (Can you hear me clapping?)

Big “Thank you” to everyone who made Easter Sunday such a glorious gathering for worship. Big “Thank you” to all who shared laughter, and jokes, and wore silly clothes, and celebrated the preciousness of life on Holy Humor Sunday. (**Gold Star** for Mary Beth for best outfit and **Gold Star** to Jo for the perfectly executed solar eclipse themed coffee hour!) And Big Thank You to God for giving us all the chance to share in a moment of excitement and awe as we watched the total eclipse of the sun on April 8th.

Recently, we’ve had two presentations in worship about **Work Camp**. If you were there for those presentations by Thomas Bebee and Kathy East, you might be catching on to the narrative that this annual, week-long opportunity to serve others is a strong part of our identity as a congregation, and that it also seems to be appealing to younger people in our community of faith. As we move into the future of the Church, it is worth noticing that service is a common language, and serving together provides the opportunity to bond with one another, and reflect with one another about the big questions of life and the how we see the Way of Christ addressing those big questions.

I’ve been asking all our congregation’s Teams to go through a process of asserting together what their purpose is, and naming how the work of any given Team supports our congregation’s part of God’s mission in the world. Everyone in the congregation shares the work of nurturing the faith of the next generations. Some of us will be called to accompany younger people in our midst in the work we do together as a congregation. Some of us will be called to bravely engage the questions that are bigger than all of us, with the humility and truth that we don’t have all the answers, but we have practices and community to help us grow in wisdom and understanding. And some of us will be called to create and hold the space for those interactions, employing our resources and abilities to ensure they are available and on-going. How are you called? And what kind of support and equipping do you imagine you will need to live into that calling?

In coming Sundays you will be hearing about another opportunity to serve that is closer to home, in Bowling Green, actually. We are partnering with 1st Pres. of BG and the Cocoon to **build a dog-run** at the shelter. I hope we FPC congregants will all inquire about how we can each support this project and encourage the faith-growth of our young people by joining them in this opportunity to serve in the pattern of Jesus Christ and empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Blessings and peace to you all, **Pastor Katie**



**HOLY HUMOR**

**SUNDAY**



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



*"God is love and he has defeated evil."*

*~ Pope Francis ~*

PCU: April collection item: CANNED FRUIT

**BLOOD DRIVE: MAY 17TH AT ZOAR.**

Meijer's "Simply Give" Campaign **EXTENDED** until June 29th.

*THE TABLE: April 17th - a touch of Italy. Entrée: Spaghetti*

## CABELL-LINCOLN WORKCAMP

Join us for an impactful journey at our upcoming Workcamp! We currently have three adults and two youths. If you are considering this opportunity, there are information/registration packets available in Fellowship Hall. Community Outreach will cover the cost. To save us money, you must be registered prior to May 1st.

If you have any questions, contact Mary Beth.

## THE COCOON: CLOTHESLINE PROJECT & DOG PARK PROJECT

Mark your calendars, you don't want to miss this! **APRIL 28TH**, Robin Guidera (Director of Development & Communications) will give a presentation on both projects in Fellowship Hall after worship. The Dog Park is a congregational project, along with the FPC in Bowling Green.



JOY BELLES  
MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 23  
6:00 pm



EASTER EGG HUNT 2024

# Presby Pies 2024!



**Pie dates:**  
**June 13 and 27**  
**July 11 and 25**  
**August 8 and 22**  
**September 12 and 26**

**We are hoping for another great season of pie baking and selling.  
Mark your calendars with the dates and more information will be available in  
May. Hope you will consider participating!  
Questions? See Nancy Gates**

## UPCOMING WORSHIP LEADERS:

Apr 21: Don Youel, Cecilia Richardson & Delbert Duckins/Marty Sloan, Jo Salvage, Gretchen Downs

Apr 28: Don Youel, Sarah & Lizzie Crawford/Allison Mackin, Rusty Phlegar, Stephen Potts

May 5: Stephen Potts, Rick & Mary Beth Gilts, Fay Mitchell, Kathy Jarosz

Communion: Kathy East & Kathy Jarosz/David & Susan Rowland Miller

May 12: Don Youel, Jay & Jo Salvage, Michelle Chavez, Nancy Gates

May 19: Stephen Potts, Rauscher Family, Rick Gilts, Gretchen Downs

May 26: Don Youel, Tom & Karen Lingeman, Megan Merrell, Stephen Potts



## A Letter to the Congregation Concerning Stephen Ministry

You are probably aware by now that we are reviving the Stephen Ministry at our church. This is a ministry of care that not only supports the minister's pastoral care of congregants, but also equips those of us called to caring ministry. Are you feeling the call? **Because . . .**

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR STEPHEN MINISTRY CAREGIVERS

There are hurting people all around us....and you can help! As you look into your heart and consider this opportunity, the questions and answers below might help. If the Spirit is prompting you, contact Pastor Katie or Sue Fyten for an application, so we can consider it together.

### WHAT KIND OF CARE WOULD I BE PROVIDING?

As a Stephen Minister, you would be providing emotional and spiritual care for a person going through a difficult time in life. The two of you would meet twice a week for about an hour, and you would do a lot of listening, empathizing, asking questions, praying, and overall providing your care receiver with a safe place to express and process through thoughts and feelings.

### I'M A CARING PERSON, BUT NOT A SKILLED CAREGIVER. WHAT IF I SAY OR DO THE WRONG THING?

Before being matched with a care receiver, you will be extremely well trained in how to care and relate to hurting people in a distinctly Christian way. A lot of the training includes what to say or do...and what not to say or do...when people are facing difficult situations. The training includes a lot of discussion, skill practices, and activities to help you grow as a caregiver. It also emphasizes trusting God for the care receiver's healing – even if we make mistakes along the way.

### WOULD I BE EXPECTED TO GIVE MY CARE RECEIVER RIDES, PREPARE OR DELIVER MEALS, HELP AROUND THE HOUSE, RUN ERRANDS, AND THINGS LIKE THAT?

No. The role of a Stephen Minister is to provide emotional and spiritual care, not to offer assistance with practical or physical needs.

### HOW LONG DO CARING RELATIONSHIPS LAST?

It varies depending on the needs of the individual care receiver. Some caring relationships may last just a few months; others may last a year or more. Each caring relationship lasts until the care receiver has moved beyond the crisis and no longer needs care and support from the Stephen Minister. (continued)

### HOW WILL I BENEFIT FROM THIS EXPERIENCE?

Stephen Ministers often say that being able to walk with people through challenging times in life is a tremendous blessing. It's a great opportunity to use your caring gifts in meaningful ministry. You'll also learn many caring and relating skills that will be valuable in how you relate to family, friends, coworkers, and others.

# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>14</b> Kathy East Work Camp Presentation	<b>15</b> S/F/M Teams	<b>16</b> 10am Bible St. 6:30pm CE Team Zoom	<b>17</b> 5:30pm The Table 7pm AlAnon	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> EARTH DAY  5:00 Congre- gational Life	<b>23</b> 10am Bible St. 6:00pm Joy Belles	<b>24</b> 7pm AlAnon	<b>25</b> 1pm Congre- gational Care	<b>26</b> 5:45pm Toast Masters	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Cocoon dog- run project Presentation May flower to Elm House	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10am Bible St. Registration DEADLINE for Work Camp				

## WHAT'S THE TIME COMMITMENT FOR SERVING AS A STEPHEN MINISTER?

For the initial training, you'd be attending 20 class sessions, with each one lasting 2 ½ hours. They're scheduled to fit in easily with people's day-to-day responsibilities. Then, as a Stephen Minister, you'd visit your care receiver once a week for about an hour. You would also attend two meetings a month for supervision and continuing education.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

You can start the process by filling out an application form. Katie and/or Sue has these forms. Then we'll arrange a time to meet with you, find out more about your interest in getting involved, and answer any questions you may have before making a decision together.

I hope these questions and answers help! I look forward to visiting with you.

**Sue Fyten, Stephen Leader**

## ISN'T CARING MINISTRY THE PASTOR'S JOB?

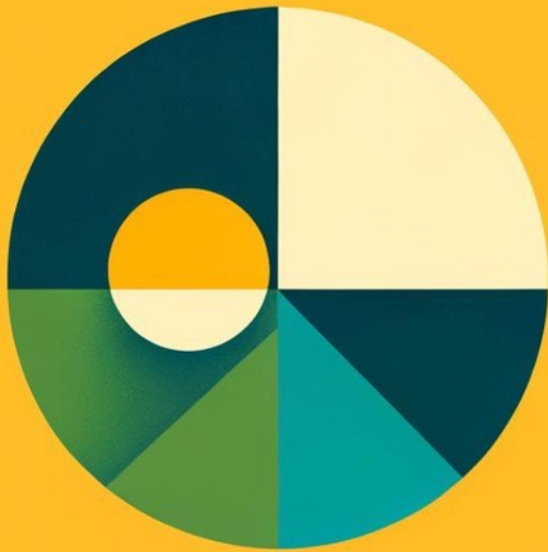
Caring ministry is definitely a key part of the pastor's role, and the pastor will always be at the center of our congregation's caring ministry. But no one person can address all the needs for care alone, which is where our Stephen Ministry comes in. Stephen Ministers complement and support the pastor's ministry, which takes a significant burden off the pastor's shoulders and enables our congregation to provide even more care to those who need it.



# May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 5pm Worship & Music 6pm Comm. Outreach 7pm AIAnon	<b>2</b> <u>10am Bible Study</u>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Communion 11:15 CE Team	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10am Bible Study	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>Mother's Day</b> <i>Pastor Away on Study Leave</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10am Bible Study	<b>15</b> 5:30pm The Table 7pm AIAnon	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> <i>Pastor Back from Study Leave</i>
<b>19</b> <b>Pentecost</b> 	<b>20</b> S/F/M Teams	<b>21</b> 10am Bible Study	<b>22</b> 7pm AIAnon	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> VBS Banner in <b>Memorial Day</b> Parade 5pm Cong. Life	<b>28</b> 10am Bible Study 6:30 Joy Belles	<b>29</b> 7pm AIAnon	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	

## Awesome Adventure, God's Amazing Son



Our new series is produced by the same publisher as our last adventures with Paul which was really interesting & relatable to both the children & teachers. All material is printed for easy guidance with room to improvise where the spirit moves you. Please let one of your CE team members know if you are interested in helping with the teaching of our children.

## Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday was a day filled with celebration of the risen Lord, Fiona's baptism, and happy children finding over 300 candy filled Easter eggs. All a sight to behold!

*Christian Education*

*Christian*



# MAY BASKETS

**April 28, 2024 will be the 42nd delivery of May Baskets!**

The children will be preparing the potted flowers during Junior Worship then deliver their creations to our neighbors at Elm House during Fellowship time. This gesture of caring is always appreciated by the residences and the children experience first hand the joy of giving.

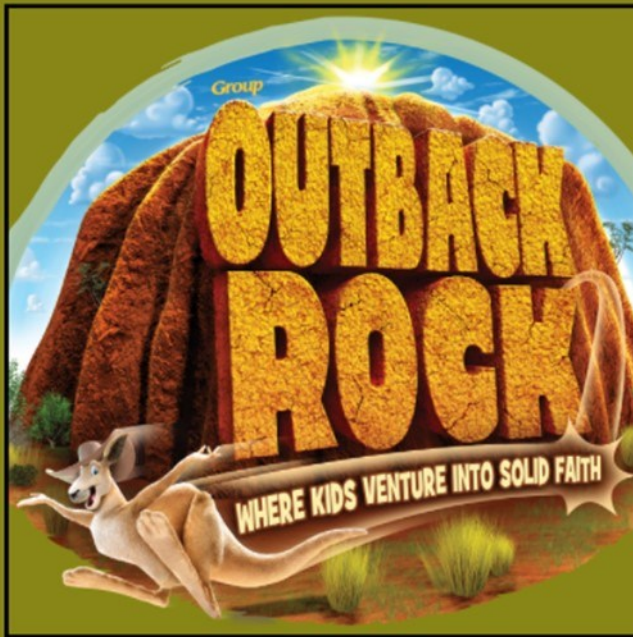
## Let's Skate Away!

*\* The incoming 5th thru 8th graders \*  
\* are going on an outing at The Ribbon ice skating rink at Glass City Metro Park. They are confirming the exact date and will send it out very soon. \**



*Education*

JOIN US FOR VBS - JUNE 7, 8, 9



G'day mates! Are you ready for an "Outback Rock Weekend"? You will experience stories of Joseph, Jacob's son & Jesus from the manger to the Tomb through song, skits, crafts & games. This is always a fun filled weekend with fellowship & learning for everyone involved. Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

*Education*

*Christian*



**Middle schoolers will continue to gather upstairs after the sermon. They will be keeping a journal using prompts from the series on Simon Peter and how it related to their own lives.**

# New Children's Worship Bulletins

**Each bulletin is packed with Bible-based activities.**

From word searches to seek-and-finds and dot-to-dots to additional Bible-based activities, each 2-page bulletin is designed to provide hours of fun kids love.

**Available in two age groups.**

Choose from Ages 3-6 and Ages 7-12, or choose both!

**Online games keep the learning going all week long.**

Children will hold on tight to their bulletin following services because, after they get home, they can enter their secret code from the bulletin into a safe and secure website and continue the learning and fun!

*Education*

*Christian*

## Memorial Day Parade - May 27

We will be participating in the Perrysburg Memorial Day Parade on May 27th.

This will be a great opportunity to showcase our upcoming VBS program to the community.

We will be walking with our bright banner, wearing Aussie gear, and handing out candy with details of our VBS.

All are welcome to participate!

