

1st Presbyterian Church Newsletter

June - July 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Perrysburg

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

www.1stpresbyterianprerrysburg.com

Celebrating Christ's love for all people

PASTOR'S PAGE



“Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.” —John 14:12

FPC Members & Friends,

Blessings and peace to you!

I attended my oldest nephew's high school graduation party a week or so ago and there was a pen, a highlighter, and a Bible set out on a table with the request that we guests highlight a favorite Bible passage and write a note for him in the margin of the page. I have LOTS of favorite Bible passages, but one I highlighted was John 14:12. It has been on my mind a lot lately. You might have heard me refer to it recently. When Jesus was preparing to ascend into heaven he gifted his followers with the Holy Spirit and said, “You are going to do greater things than I have done.” Together. As Christ's body the church. Together. What a mandate!

It is time for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to remember again its God-given power. It is time to shake off the fear of death and let the Holy Spirit do great things through us again. And how will we do such things if we do not speak such things? How will we renew if we do not imagine new things? How will we share the Good New of Jesus Christ in our communities if we do not get to know what they think of and wonder about, if we do not know of what they speak of when they worry, and when they hope?

We, as a congregation, are setting out to hone our skills in telling the parts of God's unfolding kingdom in the world that we know, namely the parts we can witness to, the parts we have experienced and know. And we are also honing our ability to receive the stories of others. We are taking on the work of intentionally building up skills of translation (across age gaps, cultural gaps, income gaps, neighborhood gaps, resource and familial difference gaps). Honing. Building up. This takes work. This takes intention. This takes practice. This takes commitment.

To that end, I am particularly excited about three things that are happening this summer at First Presbyterian Church. First: I am terrified and terribly excited about going to Work Camp with a cadre of young people associated with our congregation. Think of the possibilities! Second: The book we are reading together this summer, Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life, is such a great opportunity for any who are interested in our church to work on honing some skills of listening and speaking in distinctly Christian ways. And third, at the end of July we will begin a four-week exploration of statements of faith in worship.

Beloved siblings in Christ, I am looking forward to this summer with you, Pastor Katie

Vacation Bible School 2024



Your CE team is happy to report we had 17 lively, loving mates participate in our Outback Rock Vacation Bible School. They sat in a well where Joseph was thrown by his brothers, a prison where he spent two years, then moved to the palace where he served the Pharaoh & forgave his brothers for their evil deeds. Joseph lived through many hardships but he knew GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US...BELIEVE IT!

Vacation Bible School 2024



The second day we walked through Jesus' life from manger, to the wilderness and the lost sheep, then to the cross where he died for our sins and the empty tomb where we received life everlasting through our faith in God.

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US...BELIEVE IT!

Vacation Bible School 2024



The kids introduced two of their top songs to the congregation on a Sunday morning, along with big dance moves. It was evident that the music had a profound effect on them, as it did on everyone else. The lantern-making activity was distributed to some of the lucky ones during the service. The weather was ideal for a series of lively dodgeball matches. Many of us were glad we were just the referees!

GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US...BELIEVE IT!

Vacation Bible School 2024



We are truly grateful for the congregation's support in managing the online registration, food, cleanup, registration area, character roles, dance leaders, setting up & taking down decorations, & guiding the kids to their designated spots. This support is crucial to making this happen.

This gathering was a delightful reenactment of Bible stories, reminding us that
GOD IS ALWAYS WITH US...BELIEVE IT!



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed, and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society." ~ Billy Graham

PCU: June collection item—CANNED MEAT

May 17th Blood Drive collected 56 pints!

Meijer's "Simply Give" Campaign extended until June 29th. On June 15th – the amount is doubled!

"STAMP OUT HUNGER": Collected 3200 pounds

NOSA CARDS - MAY TOTAL: \$1,445.00

THE COCOON: DOG RUN PROJECT

OUR BELOVED CONGREGATION DONATED

\$3,020.00

AN OUTSTANDING AMOUNT! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

THE TABLE:

CELEBRATING OUR 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

AN ARTICLE WILL BE PLACED IN THE MESSENGER.

PRESBY PIES SEASON LAUNCH! ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE!

All pie bakers are welcome! Fellowship Hall has a variety of pie pans and boxes available. While all kinds of pies are sellers, fruit pies are particularly popular. If you're looking for a simple crust recipe, Nancy has a reliable one to share.

We could use help setting up tables. Lowrie Gilmore will be coming back as our main cashier, and Mary Beth Gilts, Chris Stuart, and Carol Sprague will be handling the setup and pie running duties. However, we can use help, especially from 3:15 to 4:00. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Nancy.

Pie Dates:
June 13 and 27
July 11 and 25
August 9 and 23
September 12 and 26



LOOKING FORWARD TO HAVING YOU JOIN US AS A HELPER, BAKER, OR BUYER! EVERY DOLLAR GOES TO SPECIAL PROJECTS FOR THE CHURCH. LAST YEAR PIE MONEY HELPED REPAIR AND REPAINT THE STEEPLE!

UPCOMING WORSHIP LEADERS:

June 16: Stephen Potts, Cecilia Richardson & Delbert Duckins/Marty Sloan, Jack Simmons, Gretchen Downs

June 23: Don Youel, Sarah & Lizzie Crawford/Allison Mackin, Rhyn Davies, Stephen Potts

June 30: Stephen Potts, Carol Sprague & Allison Mackin, Allison Mackin, Marty Sloan

July 7: Don Youel, Rick & Mary Beth Gilts, Gretchen Downs, Nancy Gates

Communion: Rick & Mary Beth Gilts, Matt Hollar & Michelle Chavez

July 14: Stephen Potts, Jay & Jo Salvage, Kathy East, Kathy Jarosz

July 21: Don Youel, Rauscher Family, Jay Salvage, Gretchen Downs

July 28: Stephen Potts, Tom & Karen Lingeman, Kathy Jarosz, Stephen Potts

Congregational Care

Caregiving is an opportunity to practice humility, patience, and unconditional love. - Dalai Lama

Lisa Myers & Intern Wendy



We extend our gratitude to everyone who participated in the Wood Co Committee on Aging event held on May 22! Lisa Myers, the Social Services Director, & Intern Wendy welcomed us, showcasing the various opportunities Wood Co offers through the Committee on Aging. Lisa also shared advice on maintaining our safety while living alone at home. If you missed the event but are keen on the details shared, you can find brochures in Fellowship Hall, covering Home Safety Tips, activities at the Perrysburg Senior Center, & Bowling Green Senior Center activities.

Lisa & Wendy with group



**WOOD COUNTY
COMMITTEE**
ON
Aging

**Next meeting scheduled for
Thur, June 20 at 1:00 pm.
ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**



PICK-UP CHOIR ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear FPC,

I warmly invite all past & present (and future) choir members and music enthusiasts to Pick-Up Choir on Sunday, July 14! We will gather in the sanctuary at 9:00 AM and rehearse some great music to sing in worship that morning. This is a very fun, casual, low-stakes morning of singing, so I encourage you to come especially if you've considered joining choir in the past, or haven't sung in a while. We are here to make a joyful noise! This will be my final service with you all as music director, so I would love to see as many people as possible, regulars and newcomers, come and sing in Pick-Up Choir!

Musically yours,

Steven Naylor

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Our dedicated group has been engrossed in the book "Between the Listing and the Telling: How Stories Can Save Us" by Mark Yaconelli. Throughout our journey of reading and engaging in discussions about each chapter, we've come to understand that "Story telling is about being human together." The conversation about the final chapter, scheduled for July 2nd, marks the beginning of our summer break, a period of relaxation before we embark on a fresh reading journey together in September.



STAY TUNED FOR UPDATES ON OUR UPCOMING BOOK. JOIN US TUESDAY MORNINGS STARTING SEPTEMBER 10TH ON ZOOM OR IN PERSON AT CHURCH.

CALL SELINDA AT 419-865-8383 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Moving toward ‘Intentional Authentic Evangelism’

Evangelism & Discipleship June 5, 2024

Ongoing series focuses on 7 Marks of Vital Congregations and sharing God’s love



by Darla Carter | Presbyterian News Service

Some churches evangelize by holding community events. (Photo by Stewart Truelsen)

LOUISVILLE — Could fear or busyness be holding you back from reaching out to the community and being a deep listener?

Both of those real-life challenges were raised during a recent online discussion about “Intentional Authentic Evangelism” and what obstacles stand in the way of accomplishing it.

The 90-minute discussion, attended by 34 people, was facilitated by Alicia Demartra-Pressley, Associate for Mis-

sional Equipping in the [Office of Theology & Worship](#), a ministry area of [Theology, Formation & Evangelism](#). It’s part of an ongoing series of conversations focused on the [7 Marks of Vital Congregations](#). Participation is free and open to ministry leaders from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and other faiths. Early on in last week’s discussion called “Matthew 25 Continued Conversations: Vital Congregations,” participants were asked to give their own definitions of Intentional Authentic Evangelism. The answers included:

- Something that is part of your mission and your focus and your church’s life, from the congregation to leadership. Spreading the word. Always being in the Word. Also, being motivated by the [Matthew 25](#) message and not being afraid to say so.
- Encouraging people to talk about how faith has been life-changing for them and listening for times when you can share how the gospel has been good news for yourself.
- Always sharing the gospel, using words only when necessary.
- Deep listening that includes focusing on the person and listening for what they need. Being willing to invite people in and have church, even if it doesn’t translate into money or donations or butts in the pews. In other words, being welcoming and doing the work of Christ without strings attached.

Demartra-Pressley stressed that there was no right or wrong answer but also offered the following [definition](#) at various times during the discussion: “Intentional Authentic Evangelism means sharing God’s love with others in a real and sincere way. Churches should reach out to others with respect and show them how God’s love can change their lives. It’s about building real connections and relationships, not just telling people about God.”

When asked what gets in the way of doing that, participants noted the fact that families and church staffs are sometimes stretched thin, and that elements of fear and discomfort may be present.

“Sometimes, we’re reticent to share our faith on a personal level with other people because we don’t want to be thought of as proselytizing,” said the Rev. John Allen Bankson, pastor of the [Union Presbyterian Church](#) in Fort Madison, Iowa. But “if our faith does mean something ... if it has made a difference in our lives, then we’re going to want to share it with other people.”

With prompting from the host, participants noted several ways in which their churches are reaching out to their communities through events. Examples included providing a summer lunch program for children and paying a good wage to the person overseeing the program, doing a Bible school for 150 kids, creating a welcoming environment for a newcomer who divulged a personal struggle, providing outreach to widows and widowers, supporting a local food bank, giving out water at a park, hosting a family fun day, and bringing together a cluster of churches so their members could interact, share food and sing favorite hymns.

The group also discussed the pros and cons of knocking on doors. The Rev. Sam Foskey, covenant pastor of the PC(USA) churches in [Pinckneyville](#), Illinois and [Murphysboro](#), Illinois, said he’s been open to doing that in his area because “we’ve got to meet people somewhere, so I just did it. Most people were pretty gracious.”



Another participant noted that sometimes people want to talk about how angry they are at the church. The group explored the “what ifs” of having a place where people could feel free to come and express themselves without being judged.

Intentional authentic evangelism is a form of sharing God’s love, said Alicia Demartra-Pressley, Associate for Missional Equipping in the Office of Theology & Worship. (Photo by Cindy Corell)

Sharon Curry, vice moderator of the [Synod of the Sun](#), noted that 20 years ago listening posts were utilized and might be something that should be brought back. The posts were clearly marked and located in places such as parks and college campuses. Today, they would be a time to “put down your cell phone, put down your social media ... go sit and look a real person right in the eye and know that you’re only there to listen,” said Curry, who is also a regional ministry associate for [Grace Presbytery](#).

Foskey recalled knocking on doors 30 years ago as a seminary student and discovering that some people would talk to him for up to 45 minutes because they needed someone to listen to them. “I think sometimes we’re the scared ones,” he said. “Scared to share. Scared to be vulnerable.”

Summing up some of the conversation, Demartra-Pressley said, “There’s a lot of need out there. I heard about hunger. I heard about human contact. ... I heard a lot of people just needing someone to see them, hear them and be with them.” That’s a reminder, she said, that authentic evangelism is basically just “sharing God’s love.”

Curry noted that she recently went out on a limb by giving a ride to someone new, who turned out to be an amazing person. “I think we need to overcome our own personal fears about reaching out and open ourselves to where the Spirit’s leading (us),” she said.

June 2024


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
16 Father's Day! WORK CAMP → KERT away	17	18 10am Bible Study	19 5pm The Table 7pm AIAnon	20 1pm Cong Care Team	21	22
23	24 5pm Cong Life Team	25 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm Joy Belles	26 7pm AIAnon	27 PIES	28	29
30 MUD HENS GAME						



Join Us June 30th for the Toledo Mud Hens Game!

It's not too late to sign up!
Deadline is Sunday, June 16!

July 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Pastor KRT vacation->	2 10am Bible Study	3 7pm, AIAnon	4 Independence Day - Office Closed 	5	6
7 10am worship 11:15am CE Team meeting	8 <-Pastor KRT vacation	9 6:30pm Session meeting	10 5pm W&M meeting 6pm CO meeting 7pm, AIAnon	11 PIES	12	13
14 10am worship Steven Naylor's Last Day	15	16	17 5:30pm The Table 7pm, AIAnon	18	19 5:45 pm Toastmasters	20
21 10am worship	22 5:00 pm Cong Care meeting	23 6pm Joy Belles	24 7pm, AIAnon	25 PIES	26	27
28 10am worship Apostle's Creed Sermon Series	29	30	31 7pm, AIAnon			