

1st Presbyterian Church Newsletter

July 2026

Vacation Bible School 2026



Look for more pictures from VBS in this newsletter!

First Presbyterian Church of Perrysburg
200 E. 2nd Street, Perrysburg, Ohio, 43551

www.1stpresbyterianperrysburg.com

Celebrating Christ's love for all people

Psalm 42:7 “Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.”

I first heard the line years ago from my grandmother. I don't remember the occasion, but I'll never forget the comment because it seemed so out of character for the family matriarch. “When bad things happen,” she said, eyes almost averted, her head shaking slightly, “they always come in threes.”

I had no clue where she got that idea, nor why she believed it. Grandma Hoyt could not have pointed anywhere in scripture for that idea, as she well could have for most of her foundational beliefs. But this ancient bit of folklore—does it have pagan roots?—never fully left her mind and heart. “Bad things happen in threes.” She wasn't— isn't—the only one to say it or believe it. Google it sometime.

Can it be true? I don't know. But it must have seemed a valid perception for generations of human beings caught in the kind of downward spiral that the writer of Psalm 42 must have been in while putting pen to papyrus. And, as we all must sadly admit, often as not, perception creates its own realities.

Is it silly? Sure. If we expect it to be true, we may be silly. But the sheer age of that odd idea argues for some ageless relevance. Whether or not it's true isn't as important perhaps as the fact its sentiment has offered comfort and strength to human suffering.

True believers expect something more than they've already gone through, some additional misery if they have already been stung twice. By repeating the old line, Grandma was steeling herself for the next sadness, anticipating that three would mean the end of sorrows, at least for a while.

My guess is that ancient folk wisdom finds a place in the human psyche not because it's true, but because it's comforting: it brings order to chaos. Sad to say, there are three coming, but at least that's it.

Interesting, I think, that Eugene Peterson uses the word chaos in his version of this verse: “chaos calls to chaos,” he says. And he's just as right as anyone, I suppose, for it's impossible to claim biblical inerrancy when it comes to a verse like this. The KJV says “waterspouts” where the NIV says “waterfalls,” wholly different phenomena. The fact is, nobody really knows what specifically is meant by “deep calls to deep.”

And yet everyone who's faced a myriad of consecutive sadnesses knows very well. “When sorrows come, they come not single spies but in battalions,” Shakespeare says in Hamlet, an even more depressing assessment than Grandma's.

We really don't know what the writer means here, but many readers of Psalm 42 somehow get it. Our lives on occasion feel like Thomas Hardy novels, when things simply seem to get worse and worse and worse, and don't get better.

There are no vivid pictures embedded in the line “deep calls to deep,” but that doesn't mean there isn't meaning enough for most of us to find ourselves in it. We can't avoid the painful reality of the soul that's sliced opened to us in Psalm 42: the singer who believes in the light but sees nothing but darkness around. And maybe, thankfully, what's there is the outline of a third bad thing.

~ Rev Rob Martin

MELINDA GALLANT
January 18, 1946-May 15, 2026

Please join us as we gather to honor, remember, and celebrate the life of our beloved Melinda Gallant.



Saturday, July 25, 2026

Memorial Service: 11:00am
Luncheon to follow

First Presbyterian Church of Perrysburg
200 E. Second Street
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Your presence would mean so much to our family as we share stories, memories, and celebrate the life and legacy of the amazing person we all loved, Melinda Gallant.

PRESBY PIES

JUNE SALES UPDATE

June's sales were a bit disappointing, yet we still managed to earn \$950! The first week was extremely hot, and during our second sale, it rained for the first hour! Thanks to Rev Rob, we were able to sell indoors at first until the sun finally made an appearance. We're not attracting our usual customers, so please help us spread the word! We're hopeful that sales will improve in July.



227TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE Presbyterian Church (USA)

Passionate debate and faithful discernment will be hallmarks of the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), according to the Stated Clerk and Executive Director of Presbyterian Life & Witness the Rev. Jihyun Oh.

“My expectation is we will also faithfully discern, pray, worship and listen to one another,” said Oh. “My greatest hope and expectation is for the spirit that was present in the last assembly, with convictions that led [commissioners and advisory delegates] to different positions. They looked at one another and said, ‘there’s still room for you in the denomination.’”

“That said, we have a lot of historically contentious issues coming before the assembly,” Oh said. “Anything involving Israel-Palestine continues to be an issue for conversation.” The highest council of the church must talk about that region of the world “while upholding our interreligious commitment” to people in the Jewish faith “and being clear about religious nationalism, Christian nationalism and Zionism,” she said.

“When we talk about religious nationalism, it has implications beyond us to places where it’s become religious extremism,” Oh said.

Among the most important questions Presbyterians in the PC(USA) are asking — and it’s “similar to what’s being asked in the world,” she said — is “will we choose to move forward or choose to go back to the way things were?”

“We liked it the way it was before. Why are you changing it?” she said of conversations she’s heard. “For some, the past represents the best of who we are. I’m not surprised in some ways, but that’s the thing that keeps me up at night — that we can’t move forward because some folks’ grief won’t let them move forward into the new thing that God is doing.”

“I recognize the deep fear and sadness and anxiety over what the world is becoming,” Oh said. She summed up the nostalgia some people of faith are experiencing: “What if we could just go back to when everyone was in church together and the church was so intact?”

Oh turned to the staff and volunteers of the Presbytery of Milwaukee. “From the very first conversations, they were so excited. They’ve brought back things they found from the last time they hosted (at the 204th General Assembly in 1992). They found baby onesies and other memorabilia from that previous assembly,” Oh said. “Hearing about [Saturday’s Community Day] and being able to share in some of their mission and witness in the community will be exciting.”

Local organizers “are also eager to share the story of how they’ve contributed to the faith and life of the denomination,” Oh said. “All of the firsts that were here — they celebrate that history. I hope that will also be a look to the future. My hope and expectation is we can celebrate history and recognize that here is a future we need to step into.” Oh called assembly worship “an important aspect of our work together.

“The work itself, and the ways we will see the Holy Spirit really be present — I like watching for those moments,” she said.

She’s also watching with interest PC(USA) teaching elders and others running for public office in local, state and federal races across the country. “It’s folks saying, ‘I can do something about this,’” Oh said. “Maybe it’s people are interested in where we’re moving [as a nation]. Folks are wondering about the church’s witness in this time and have energy to give and a sense [they will] stand at this time. It’s been a while.”

Oh called “the true essence of what we do together” the “worshipful work of the community of Christ together, gathered across the denomination trying to discern the mind of Christ together and be the physical presence of Christ — discerning how to do that both during the assembly and as we head back afterward. It’s the core of what makes us Presbyterian.”

Christian Education

LEGO SUNDAY



How does LEGO SUNDAY sound? That's our plan for Jr. Worship this summer. Each Sunday, we will have a Bible lesson. After the lesson, the children will build something that represents the theme of the lesson. They will then share their creations with friends during Fellowship time and explain how it connects to what they learned that morning.

On communion Sundays, the children will remain in worship. This arrangement enables the teachers to join the congregation in partaking of communion.



THIS DO IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME



2026 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS provided a fantastic learning opportunity for everyone involved. Both young and old, we gained a newfound respect for the significance of safeguarding our valuable water resources, supporting our neighbors in need, and practicing reuse, recycling, and waste reduction.

Rev. Martin began our days with prayer and scripture readings, connecting them to each day's theme.

On our water day, we conducted tests on water from the Maumee River, our church's tap water, and Maumee's tap water. Can you guess which one we preferred not to drink? Preventing water pollution from runoff caused by roads, factories, and farms is crucial for maintaining the cleanliness of our rivers and streams. Remember **"We all live downstream"**.

Our trip to St. Timothy's soup kitchen and Clothesline was truly uplifting. These services are available to anyone in need, completely free of charge. The children felt immense pride in delivering countless pounds of canned goods and clothing donated by our congregation. The cookies they baked in the soup kitchen were set to be served at the upcoming soup supper, but naturally, the kids took a few home for themselves. We all departed with a deeper understanding of the necessity for these services in our community. It served as a reminder that **"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands"** and that we must **"Take Care of Each Other"**.

The theme for day three revolved around recycling, reusing, and conserving. With materials from Grass Roots, the children discovered what could be created from weathered barn siding, decorated toilet paper rolls, common saws, old drawers, and other discarded items. They decided they would rather sit on the smoothed, planed barn siding to avoid splinters. They crafted a wall hanging with a bottle attached to hold flowers, adding their unique artistic flair with a variety of trinkets provided by Grass Roots. We must commit to recycling, reusing, and conserving, or we might find ourselves singing the **"Recycling Blues"**!

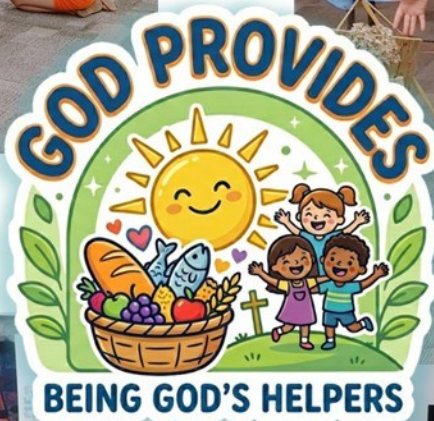
All words in "quotations" represent songs we learned to help us remember how we can contribute to the solution, even if we start with small actions.

Sunday was the day we shared our learnings with the congregation. They couldn't help but join in singing the upbeat songs and doing the hand motions.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with planning, decorating, and taking down decorations, as well as those who participated each day. This event wouldn't have been possible without your commitment to the children of our church.









Dearly Beloveds

This communication is coming to you from two friends and clergy members (Rev. Megan and Rev. Melanie) who have been working hard to prepare another multi-faith collaboration for TOLEDO PRIDE 2026 (sources tell us it will be August 15) We would love for you to consider joining us! It is our belief, and we hope you agree, that we are Better Together, and by uniting for Pride, we have an opportunity to model inclusion in ways that speak louder than words.

Our goal is not to highlight our individual faith communities, nor is it to campaign to increase worship attendance or membership; instead, our vision is to show up as a group of faithful people, with our different histories and traditions, in a way that expresses something so much bigger than any of us – LOVE. OUT. LOUD! Our hope is to demonstrate belonging through the bridges we build with each other, and to provide people with access to resources that can connect them with faith communities that are in their geographic locations or areas of spiritual/religious interest/backgrounds. In a world with so much division and pain, we can shine hope brightly through the power of unity, love and inclusion!

Last year, once again, it was an absolute honor to gather with more than 300 people, from over 30 different faith communities, and across 9 different denominations and traditions to share a powerful embodiment of connection and community for the sake of love and belonging. We continue to hear from people who participated and who experienced the movement in different ways how meaningful it was, and we are excited to come together again for Toledo Pride 2026!

We will be gathering to march in the Toledo Pride parade on (as far as we know at this time) Saturday, August 15th. We will walk together, united behind one banner and wearing coordinating shirts, to represent the inclusion we hope to inspire.

Allison Mackin will once more serve as the contact person for your church. If you're interested in getting involved, feel free to reach out to her. Additionally, you can inquire with the Salvages, the Gilts, and the Lingemans about their experiences from previous years.

Rev. Melanie Forrey
Zoar Lutheran Church, Perrysburg, ELCA
Rev. Megan Allen-Miller
Trinity Cathedral, Cleveland, TEC



TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY NEWS

Our faithful group is journeying through the church year with the book, **A Beautiful Year**, by *Diana Butler Bass*. This time between Pentecost and Advent invites us to find the extraordinary, the incredible, and the wonder in our everyday lives. We will carry on this Season by delving deeper into the stories Jesus shared, which we refer to as Parables. In July, we will focus on the Parable of the Wicked Tenants, the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids, and the Parable of the Talents. Our final class before the August break will center around Practicing Gratitude. We will resume on September 15th to continue our journey through the church year. We warmly invite you to join us!

When:

Tuesdays at 10:00 AM

How to Join:

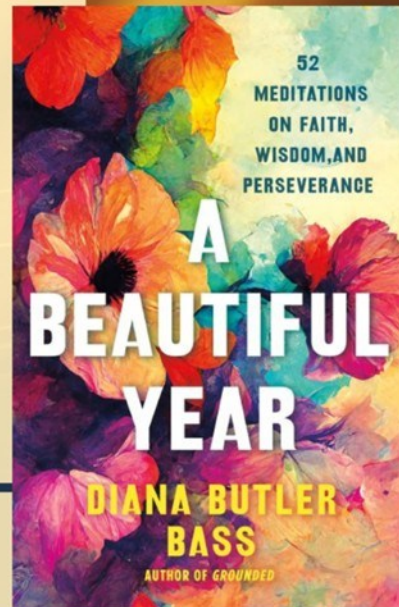
In Person & on Zoom

For Zoom Access:

Contact Selinda at

Selinda5971@gmail.com

Please Note: We will not be meeting during the month of August, but we'll get back together on September 15th.



JULY 2026 WORSHIP LEADERS:

July 5: Don Youel, Rick & Mary Beth Gilts, Gretchen Downs, Nancy Gates

July 5 Communion: Matt Hollar, Michelle Chavez, Rick & Mary Beth Gilts

July 12: Stephen Potts, Jay & Jo Salvage, Kathy East, Kathy Jarosz

July 19: Don Youel, Rauscher Family, Jay Salvage, Gretchen Downs

July 26: Stephen Potts, Tom & Karen Lingeman, Claire Krabill, Stephen Potts

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5pm Worship & Music Team 6pm Community Outreach	2	3	4 
5 10am Worship	6	7 10am Bible Study	8 6pm AlAnon	9 3:30pm Presby Pies	10	11
12 10am Worship	13	14 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Session	15 5pm The Table 6pm AlAnon	16	17 5:45pm Toastmasters	18
19 10am Worship	20	21 10am Bible Study 4pm Facility Management Team meeting	22 6pm AlAnon	23 3:30pm Presby Pies	24	25 11am Melinda Gallant Memorial Service
26 10am Worship	27 5pm Cong Life Team meeting	28 10am Bible Study	29 6pm AlAnon	30	31 5:45pm Toastmasters	