

1st Presbyterian Church Newsletter

August 2026

“... you will ... surround me with songs of deliverance” Psalm 32

Several years ago, I sang in my high school choir. Our choral director did not favor the jazzy new music that was making its way into many high school choirs at the time. He was what we might call “old school.” We sang mostly a cappella - after all, who needs accompaniment when the human voice is enough?

At festivals, we longed to sing the fresh new pieces we heard other choirs perform. I especially remember a chorale anthem titled “O Lord God,” a Russian piece I used to sing with devotion. I love it because it tells a musical story. It begins with deep anxiety, begging the Lord to hear prayers offered with daily diligence. Then, suddenly and remarkably, about two minutes in, the music soars into wondrous thanksgiving: *“I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.”* A more knowledgeable musician could explain what happens technically, but no professional training is needed to feel the glory of that moment: the petitioner knows their prayers will be answered.

I was always moved by the musical story of deliverance in Pavel Chesnokov's “O Lord God”.

Many of our hymns are songs of deliverance. The Christian life begins, or so it seems to me, in thanksgiving. What happens in Psalm 32 is what happens in the lives of all believers: once we come to know the miracle of grace, once our quaking bones have been delivered from the load of our fears and anxieties, once we apprehend the love of God, we can't help but sing. Grace makes all our solos sound like John Sebastian Bach. Our greatest hits are all songs of deliverance.

I occasionally cried at the incomprehensible clarity of music, something that can't be explained really, but certainly can be experienced. I'd try to tell you what exactly it is that the music adores, but I can't. There are no words. The only way to hear it - and understand it - is music.

That's why verse seven of Psalm 32 is such a wonderful line. The Psalmist makes a perfectly understandable claim here. The story of their life isn't over, but the victory has been won. He's sinned, he's confessed, and he's been forgiven, and will probably sin again.

“You are my hiding place,” the Psalmist says, my comfort and my joy; you are my habitation; you are where I live. And you surround me - as if this whole world were the superb salesroom of some eternal electronics store - you surround me with songs of deliverance. Not stories - songs. Just Wonderful. Let the music begin.

~ Rev. Rob Martin

You can listen to a recording of the piece by the Luther College Choir here: <https://youtu.be/Fn-IVMB3FnE>

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

www.1stpresbyterianperrysburg.com

Celebrating Christ's love for all people



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

JUNE DONATIONS:

Water for Ishmael - \$500

PHCC - \$486 for Food, Hygiene & Cleaning Products (Fire)

PCU:

"One Day Sunday" August 30th - Shampoo

THE TABLE:

August 19th - It's traveling to Italy theme.

Entrée - Chicken Alfredo

FREE RUMMAGE SALE:

September 12th - 9:00AM to 1:00PM

Sunday, September 6 assistance is needed: arranging the tables, stacking the chairs, and moving all the furniture from the sanctuary to the conference room. Additionally, the Free Rummage Sale banner needs to be hung.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY NEWS

Our faithful group is continuing through the cycle of the church year using the book,

A Beautiful Year

by *Diana Butler Bass*.

This "ordinary time" invites us to find the unusual, the unbelievable, and the wonder in daily life. We have concluded our time of exploring Parables. We will return on September 15th to continue our journey through the church year.

Please join us!

When:

Tuesdays at 10:00 AM

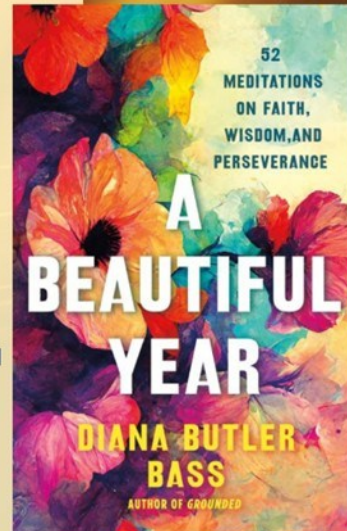
How to Join:

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.



AUGUST 2026 WORSHIP LEADERS:

August 2: Don Youel, David Nunn & Marty Sloan, David/Susan Rowland Miller, Nancy Gates

August 2 Communion: Jay & Jo Salvage, Tom & Karen Lingeman

August 9: Stephen Potts, Nick & Claire Krabill & Lowrie Gilmore, Sarah Magoun, Kathy Jarosz

August 16: Don Youel, Cecilia Richardson & Delbert Duckins/Marty Sloan, Jo Salvage, Gretchen Downs

August 23: Stephen Potts, Sarah Crawford & Paul Martell, Isla/Fiona Davies, Stephen Potts

August 30: Don Youel, Davies Family, Allison Mackin, Marty Sloan

August 2026

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