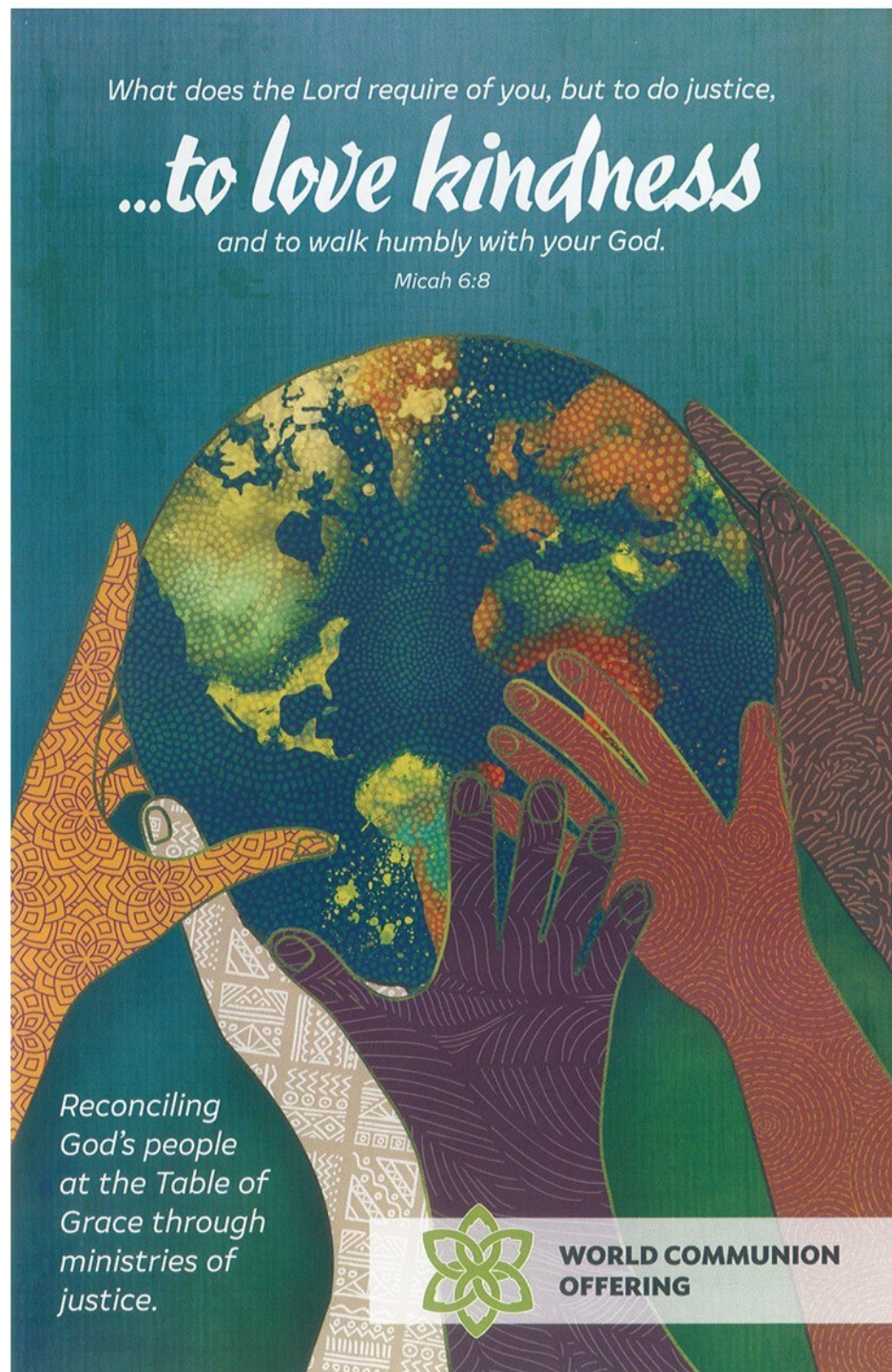


# 1st Presbyterian Church Newsletter

## September 2026



**First Presbyterian Church of Perrysburg**  
**200 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Perrysburg, Ohio, 43551**  
[www.1stpresbyterianperrysburg.com](http://www.1stpresbyterianperrysburg.com)  
*Celebrating Christ's love for all people*

# NOTES FROM REV. MARTIN

It was an interview, almost 75 years ago, back when television was young. They put a poet on CBS News and asked him to sit for an interview. The poet was no ordinary wordsmith. It was Carl Sandburg, three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize. He was a man who loved words, who juggled words, and who adjudicated words. Edward R. Murrow was the interviewer, an ever-present Camel cigarette in his hand. After a bit of small talk about Sandburg's work, Murrow gave him this question: what is the ugliest word in the English language? Sandburg looked him over, then started working over the question. "The ugliest word, what's the ugliest word?" He rolled the question over his tongue. "Ugliest? Ugliest word? Hmm...the ugliest word."

Then, rather abruptly, he gave his answer. "The ugliest word is exclusive." Edward R. Murrow blew a bit of cigarette smoke, then asked the question, "Why? What makes that the ugliest word?" The reply: "That word 'exclusive' shuts out a large portion of humanity from your mind and heart."

It is a word that has often been used to make people feel special. We live in an exclusive community. We vacation in an exclusive resort. We are inducted in an exclusive society. We are offered an exclusive deal. It's not so ugly if you are one of the insiders, if you count yourself among the brightest and the best, the richest and the most privileged. You might be tempted to boast, "I am a member of an exclusive club."

Yet, that, precisely that, is why the poet named it the ugliest word. Because it separates you from the rank and file. It presumes to lift you above everybody else."

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One of my teachers told the story of growing up in Appalachia. “We didn’t think we were poor,” he said, “because there was always somebody worse off than us.” It made him feel better, a little better. One day, his church group announced they would make up fruit baskets and deliver them to the poor families in town. Fred felt good about that. It would lift his spirits to do something kind for somebody else.

The fruit baskets, mostly apples, were put together. The group split up into a few different cars and headed out to the poor sections of town. Fred held his basket on his knee. He knew what he would do. He would sneak up to the front door, put down the basket, knock hard, and then run away. It was guerilla charity, he said. Unload the basket and leave.

So, he approached a run-down clapboard house. Lawn was overgrown. One of the bedroom windows was broken. A single light bulb on inside the home. He thought to himself, “Oh, these poor folks are really going to enjoy this fruit basket. I’ll bet nobody has done something nice for them in a long time. I’ll drop the basket on the porch, knock on the door, and run away. Good plan.

He leaned down to place the basket when the front door opened abruptly. He stood up, shocked. This was not the original plan. A grizzled sharecropper took the basket in his wrinkled knuckles. He brightened in a broken smile, then said, “How kind of you! Thank you ever so much.” Then he paused, held out the basket, and said, “Would you like one of these apples? They look delicious.”

The kid froze. This was definitely not in the plan. He was supposed to give away the apples, not take one. The old man stood there, waiting. So, Fred took one of the apples. Took a big bite. Indeed, it was delicious. “Ever since that moment,” he said, years later, “I realized we all eat from the same basket. All of us, from the same basket.”

- Rev. Rob Martin



FOOD  
FRIENDSHIP  
FAITH 

Table for 6  
plus Rob = 7  
plus Barb = 8

A MONTHLY DINNER OUTING WITH FIRST PRESBY FRIENDS



Groups of 6 — including couples and individuals — will be organized for one dinner outing each month in:



Rev Rob, and possibly his wife Barb, will join a different group each month.



Each group of 6 will decide where to go and when to meet monthly.



Enjoy good food, great conversation, and growing friendships in a relaxed, welcoming setting.



SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER



NOVEMBER

*What a great way to get to know Rob and Barb, and to enjoy your First Presby friends.*

**SIGN UP!**

SIGN UP IS ON THE  
**CHURCH BULLETIN BOARD**

PLEASE ADD YOUR NAME BY  
**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

ACTS 2:42



## Jr. Worship

We will be using the Growing in God's Love curriculum for Jr. Worship. This curriculum has been used in the past, and we have found it to be easy to teach, engaging, and enjoyable for the children.

On Communion Sundays, the children will remain in worship with the congregation. Quiet activities will be available on the back pew for the children to pick up as they enter the sanctuary.



## Help Shape a Lifetime of Faith

If you have a little extra time and energy, the Christian Education Team is always happy to welcome new helpers. Your commitment can be as much or as little as works best for your life.

We promise it will be time well spent. You'll be reminded of the simple, powerful Bible stories you remember from childhood, stories that stay with us and last a lifetime.



Join us in nurturing faith that lasts a lifetime.



## BOOKS BRAINS AND BOARD GAMES (BBB)

Wednesdays • 5:00-7:00

School is back in session and the studying begins. We are here to help with homework for all ages and all subjects. Like last school year, we will meet at church on Wednesdays from 5:00 until 7:00 for a simple meal before getting started with homework. Certified teachers and helpers will be on hand to answer questions and supervise lessons. When the homework is done, board games and imaginative play will follow. We hope you will join us for some work, some play, and fellowship.



Growing Together in  
**FAITH, LEARNING & FUN!**

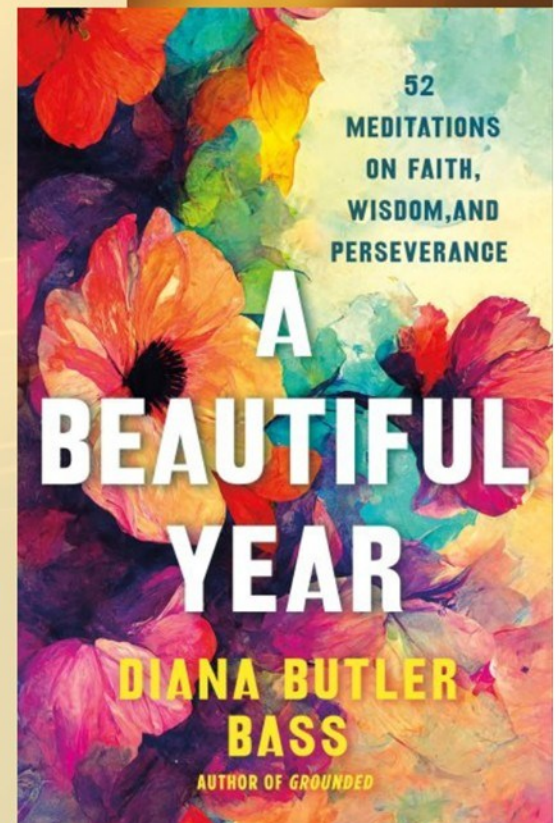
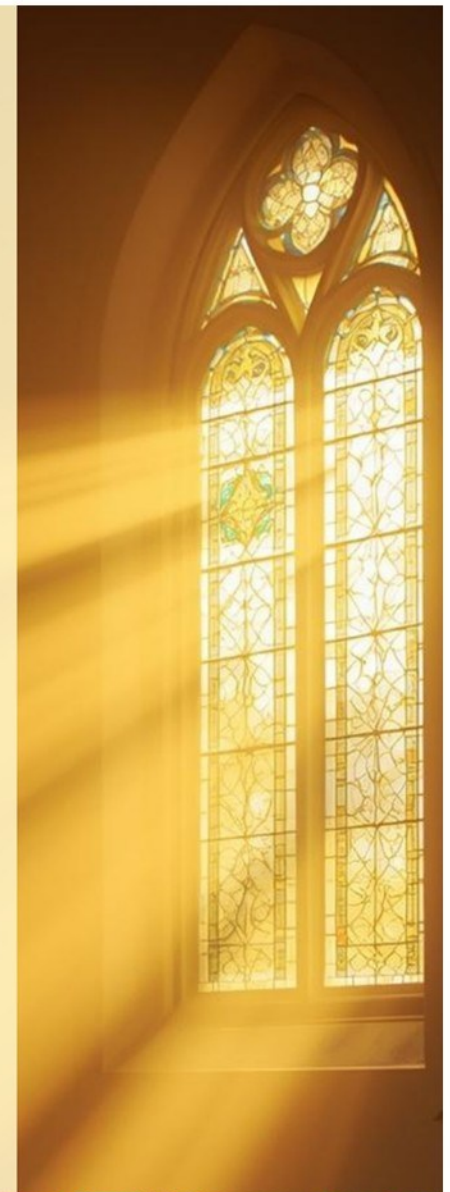


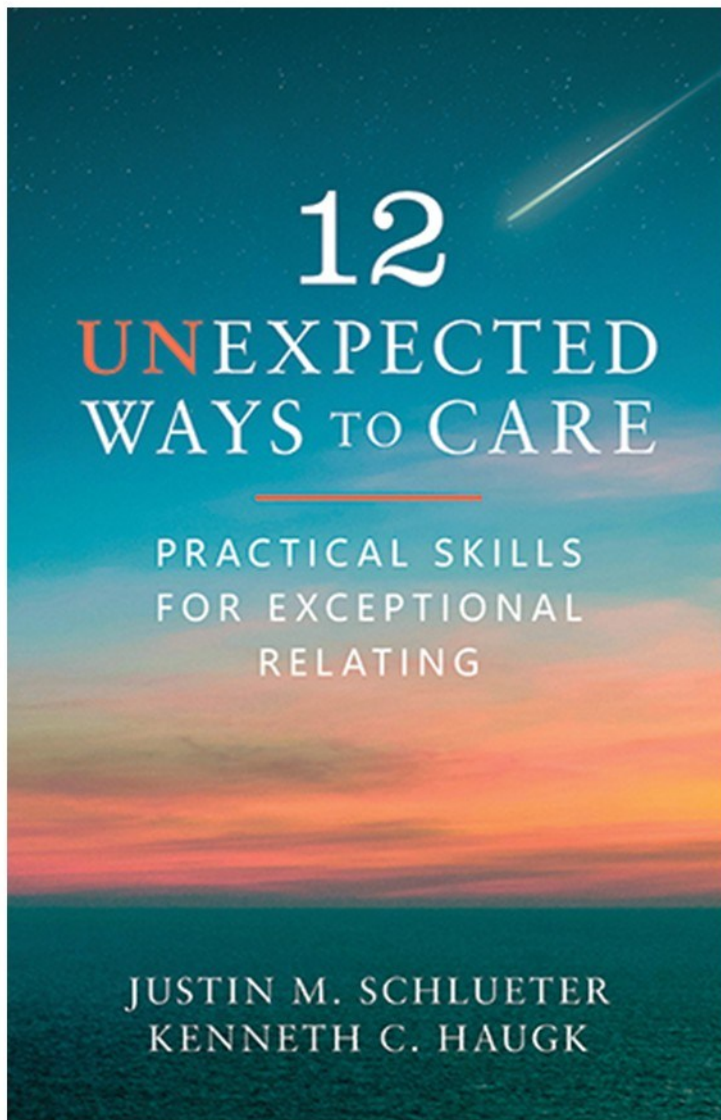
# TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY NEWS

After a refreshing Summer break, we are excited to resume our exploration of *Diana Butler Bass'* book, **A Beautiful Year**. On Tuesday, September 15th at 10 AM, we will meet once more at the church and online to continue our study with the chapter titled: Practicing Resurrection. Come and discover what that means! For more details, please call Selinda at 419 865-8383.

When:  
**Tuesdays at 10:00 AM**  
How to Join:  
**In Person & on Zoom**  
For Zoom Access:  
**Contact Selinda at**  
**Selinda5971@gmail.com**

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We've all found ourselves in situations where someone—be it a neighbor, a friend, or a child—has reached out in anger, pain, fear, or frustration. How do you respond? What do you do?

For some, this can be a scary moment. We might wish for everything to just go away. Others might resort to clichés like, "God only gives us what we can handle," which can sometimes deepen the hurt.

This little book that Sue Fyten has been mentioning in church offers valuable insights on how we can better support those around us.

Starting in mid-September, we will read it together and share our thoughts in 3-4 one-hour discussion groups on Sunday afternoons. Please join us! We already have a wonderful group, but your presence would make it even better.

Feel free to reach out to Sue Fyten at 419-575-3691 or [sfyten@hotmail.com](mailto:sfyten@hotmail.com) so she can order a book for you.



## Community Outreach

AUGUST DONATIONS: PCU-\$800 | THE OPEN DOOR-\$800

NOSA Cards: \$1,865 in July

PCU: One Day Sunday | September 27 | Crackers

World Communion Special Offering: September 6-October 4

**Minute for Mission: September 14**

Free Rummage Sale: September 12-9am-1pm | September 6-table set up



**Presby Pies**

Made with love

**countdown!**

We have 2 sales in September –  
the **10th** and **24th**.

SEPTEMBER  
**10<sup>TH</sup>**

SEPTEMBER  
**24<sup>TH</sup>**

Thank you to everyone who  
has supported this project!

Sales have picked up in July and  
August, so we are hoping for a  
successful sale year.

## SEPTEMBER 2026 WORSHIP LEADERS:

**September 6:** Don Youel, Tom & Karen Lingeman, Sue Fyten, Nancy Gates

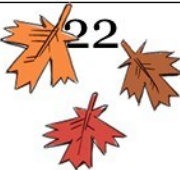
**September 6 Communion:** Kathy East, Marty Sloan, Tom & Karen Lingeman

**September 13:** Stephen Potts, Jay & Jo Salvage, Matt Hollar/Michelle Chavez, Kathy Jarosz

**September 20:** Don Youel, Rauscher Family, Marti Clayton, Gretchen Downs

**September 27:** Stephen Potts, Rick & Mary Beth Gilts, Sue Fyten, Stephen Potts

# September 2026

| Sun                | Mon                                                                                                            | Tue                                                                                                                          | Wed                                          | Thu                      | Fri                       | Sat                                |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                    |                                                                                                                | 1                                                                                                                            | 2<br>6pm<br>Community Outreach<br>6pm AlAnon | 3                        | 4                         | 5                                  |
| 6<br>10am Worship  | 7<br><br>Church office closed | 8<br>6:30pm Session                                                                                                          | 9<br>5pm Worship & Music Team<br>6pm AlAnon  | 10<br>3:30pm Presby Pies | 11                        | 12<br>9am–1pm<br>Free Rummage Sale |
| 13<br>10am Worship | 14                                                                                                             | 15<br>10am Bible Study<br>4pm Facility Management Team meeting                                                               | 16<br>6pm AlAnon                             | 17                       | 18<br>5:45pm Toastmasters | 19                                 |
| 20<br>10am Worship | 21                                                                                                             | 22<br><br>Fall begins<br>10am Bible Study | 23<br>6pm AlAnon                             | 24<br>3:30pm Presby Pies | 25                        | 26                                 |
| 27<br>10am Worship | 28<br>5pm Cong Life Team meeting                                                                               | 29<br>10am Bible Study                                                                                                       | 30<br>6pm AlAnon                             |                          |                           |                                    |