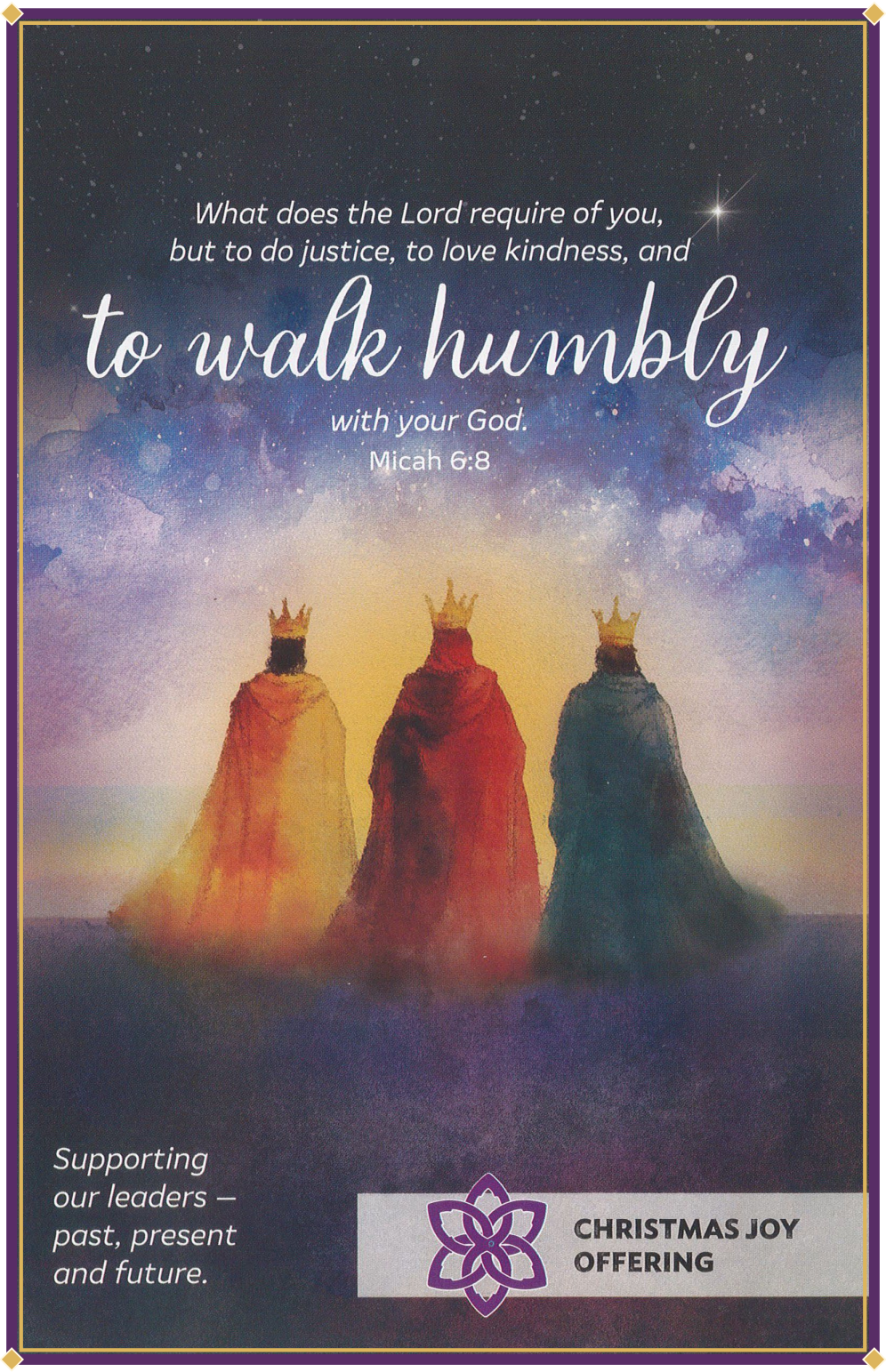
1st Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November 2026



First Presbyterian Church of Perrysburg

200 E. 2nd Street, Perrysburg, Ohio 43551

www.1stpresbyterianperrysburg.com

Celebrating Christ's love for all people

It may be difficult to imagine a war as destructive as the Thirty Years War, largely fought in Germany in the early 17th century. Starvation, disease, and out-of-control armies literally destroyed the countryside, and thousands and thousands of people died, mercilessly. Here's a snapshot of Cicely Wedgewood's history of that brutal war.

At Calw(kalph) the pastor saw a woman gnawing the raw flesh off a dead horse on which a hungry dog and some ravens were also feeding .... In Rhineland [city magistrates] watched the graveyards against marauders who sold the flesh of the newly buried for food .... Acorns, goats' skins, grass, were all cooked in Alsace; cats, dogs, and rats were sold in the market at Worms ....

Political and religious hatred is what fueled that war. To those who lived through it, the steel wheels of that horrific war must have seemed to grind on endlessly. Thousands of people deserted their farms and homes for protection in the old walled-in cities. But, soon enough, there was no room.

At Strassburg, Ms. Wedgwood says, the living shut their windows to death groans just outside. Finally, when the city knew it could do no more, the magistrates threw out 35,000 refugees to the terror and death that would stalk them outside the walls.

Spring came in long days of warm rains that kept the earth moist and rich for disease that flourished in the hot summer sun that followed. Plagues swept through the streets riding the gusts of warm wind. Outside the gates, law and order crumbled.

At the end of this Thirty Years War, Martin Rinkert was a preacher in his own hometown, Eilenberg, Saxony. In 1637, at the height of the destruction, thick in the swamp of life-draining disease, he was the only clergyman left in the city, Rinkert held funerals for up to fifty people per day, if you can believe it. Even his wife died of disease.

But sometime during those years--amid the groaning persistence of war's evil--the Reverend Martin Rinkert sat and wrote a magnificent, stately tribute of thanksgiving to his God, the ruler of a world that was crumbling all around him.

Thanksgiving. In the middle of all that horror. "Now thank we all our God," he wrote, his nostrils full of the stench of death. Impossible.

Yet, as we all know, real thanksgiving somehow miraculously arises, even in the worst of times--always has, still does, always will.

Today, almost 400 years later, thousands will sing Martin Rinkert's famous, powerful hymn, wrung from the sheer horror of war's desolation, a hymn with an unforgettable story.

On Thanksgiving people ritually express their thanks not for what they'll get but for what they already have--be it stuff or health or happiness. The statesman, William Jennings Bryan said that on Thanksgiving we celebrate our dependence. Isn't that a great line? Could anything be more counter-cultural?

And here's a boost: according to John Tierney, in the NY Times, Thanksgiving is also the most "psychologically correct holiday of the year" because simple thanks are good for you--good for the mind, good for the heart (literally), and good for the soul. Seriously. According to Tierney, research makes clear this plain-and-simple fact: thanksgiving--which is to say giving thanks--is just plain good for you.

Strange as it may sound, dependence is a blessing. That's why today's holiday--barring eating disorders and family feuds--may well be the most blessed of all, if we really do celebrate, with prayer, our dependence on God.

Which reminds me, did you know that the first Thanksgiving lasted three days? A bit excessive, don't you think? Then again, maybe they knew better than we do. Over the past 10 years or so, composer-lyricist John Bucchino's song "Grateful" has become extremely popular.

I've always sort of fantasized that 'Grateful' would become the song that people sing at Thanksgiving, because there isn't really a Thanksgiving song.

Following the terrible tragedy of 9/11, Julie Andrews heard the song at the first Thanksgiving following 9/11. A good friend of the family sang the song a cappella at the dinner table for everyone just because she felt it was appropriate for the occasion. Julie said something like, 'That song makes me want to sing again.' Julie and her daughter, Emma, adapted the lyrics into a children's book. Some of the lyrics fit with our Embrace Hope stewardship theme:

I feel a hand holding my hand --
It's not a hand you can see
But, on the road to the promised land,
This hand will shepherd me
Through delight and despair,
Holding tight and always there.

Grateful, grateful,
Truly grateful I am.
Grateful, grateful,
Truly blessed
And duly grateful.

Anyway, thanks for the idea, Mr. William Jennings Bryan: on Thanksgiving, we get together and celebrate our dependence.

~ Rev. Rob Martin

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Embrace Hope



At First Presbyterian, stewardship is more than giving – it is our faithful response to God's love, expressed through joyful generosity of time, talent, and treasure.

Your support sustains ministries that cultivate community, nourish spiritual growth, and extend God's inclusive love into the world.

Each act of giving invites us to loosen our grip on what we hold and place our confidence in the One who holds us. It teaches us to trust that God's grace is sufficient, that love is not scarce, and that we are sustained not by what we keep, but by what we share.

Through generosity, our lives are tuned to embrace hope.

Our mission remains strong and life-giving, yet we recognize that vibrant, thriving ministries depend on consistent and faithful support. During this transitional time, we embrace the hope of seeking our next pastor.

Preparing the 2027 Budget

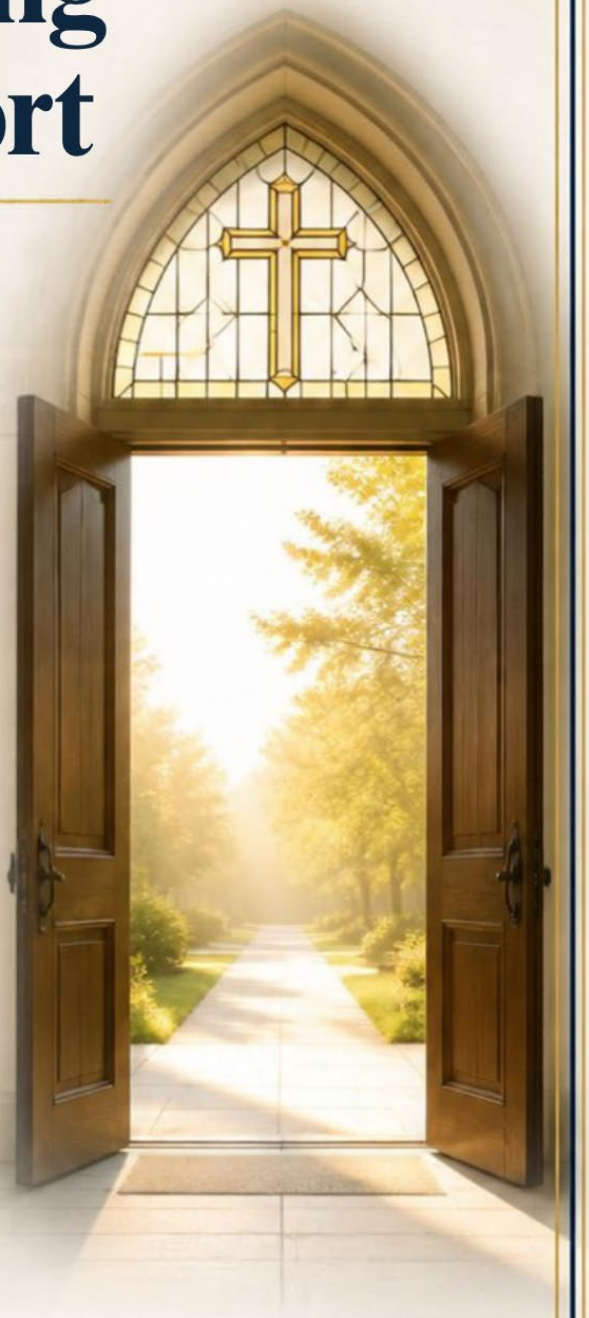
As we prepare the 2027 budget, we have balanced our budget for the remainder of this year. Although our operating expenses are still recovering, we are on the right track. Funded almost entirely by pledges, our operating budget covers essential expenses—including salaries, utilities, repairs, and the many worship, education, outreach, music, family, and youth programs that make First Presbyterian a blessing to so many.
We are grateful to the congregation for making this possible.

Keep Our Operating Budget Fully Funded

First Presbyterian is fortunate to have a congregation that understands the importance of pledging; the percentage of our members who pledge far exceeds that of peer churches. Thank you for making that possible. In these uncertain times, with costs continuing to rise, it is imperative that pledges continue to fully fund our operating budget. Your sustained support is essential to that effort.

From your Stewardship Committee, please accept our heartfelt thanks for all you do to make First Presbyterian such a blessing for the members of our congregation, our neighboring communities, and our worldwide missions.

Pastor Nominating Committee Report



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) continues to meet every other week. We are presently finalizing the documents that will be submitted to Maumee Valley Presbytery for approval and then entered in PCUSA's CLC on-line system, which is used to match potential candidates with us. Once we begin receiving resumes of potential candidates we will begin reviewing these to identify people with whom we want to talk.This likely will not begin for another month or so. We'll keep you posted.

Please keep us and our church in your prayers as we do this work.

The members of the PNC are Allison Mackin, Rick Gilts, Marti Clayton, David Rowland Miller, Claire Krabill, and Jay Salvage (chairperson).

Advent Mini-Stories

During Advent, we are asking the church family to share short memories of Christmases past or favorite holiday traditions. These few-sentence "blurbs" will be sent out in a daily Advent email.



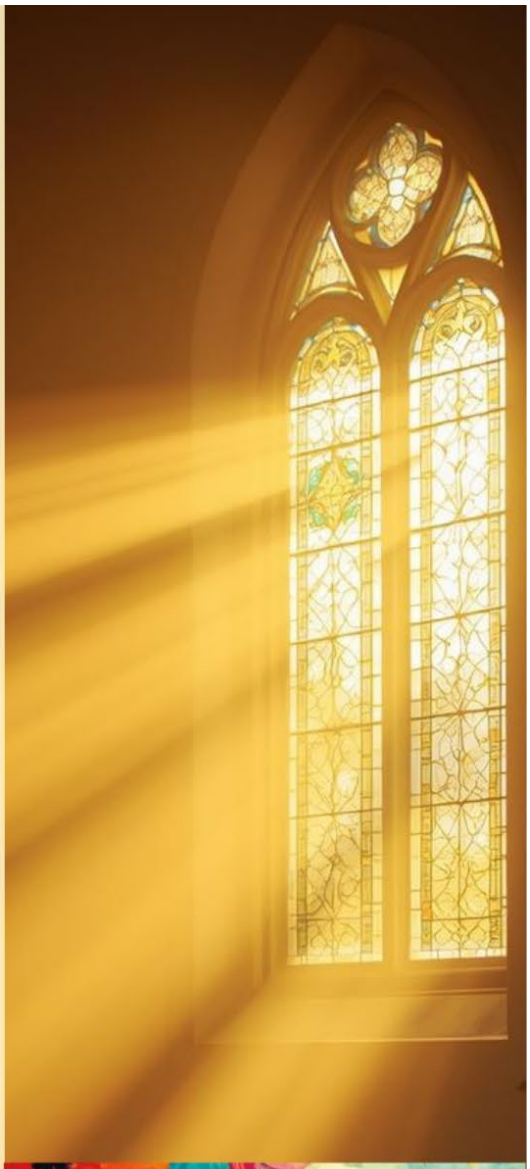
Please sign up on the bulletin board in the hall, and then email your (very) short story to Amy!

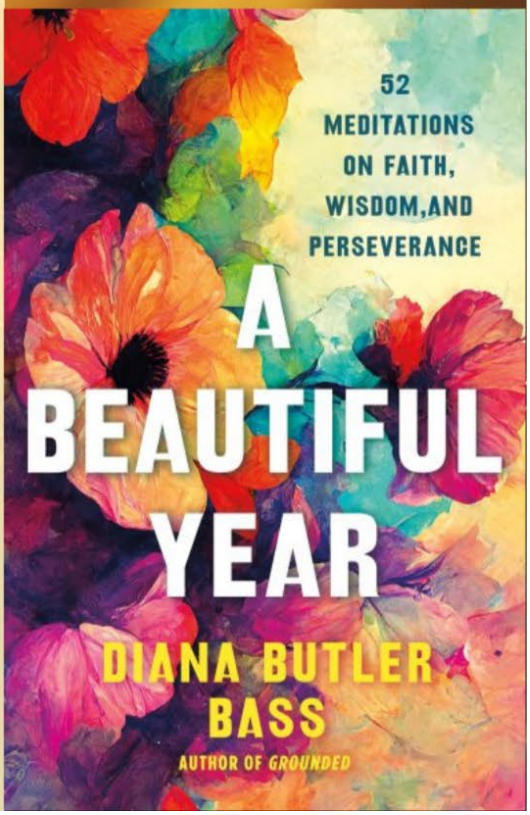
TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY NEWS

As we wrap up the Church Year in November and head into the final month of our secular calendar, we'll keep exploring the wonderful cycle of faith using *Diana Butler Bass's* book, **A Beautiful Year**. You'll recognize some of the holidays we celebrate—like Halloween (All Hallow Tide) and Thanksgiving—but Christ the King Sunday might be new to you! We're moving forward along this spiritual journey, getting closer to the New Year as we enter the Season of Advent in December.

Please join our lively discussions on Zoom or in Person at Church on Tuesday mornings at 10AM.

Contact Selinda at *Selinda5971@gmail.com* with questions.









POINSETTIAS!

It is that time again to order the flowers for Christmas. The orders and money must be in the Church office no later than

Sunday, 8 November.

#_____	Red	6-1/2"	$ 8.50	$_____
#_____	White	6-1/2"	$ 8.50	$_____
#_____	Red	7-1/2"	$14.00	$_____
#_____	White	7-1/2"	$14.00	$_____
#_____	Red	8-1/2"	$18.00	$_____

#_____ TOTALS $_____

Name_____

In Memory of or in Honor of:

_____

_____

_____

Hanging of the Greens



Please mark your calendar and plan on joining the Joy Belles for our annual Advent decoration event.

We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 on Tuesday, November 24.

We will provide a light soup supper (and pizza for the youth).

There are many tasks, so there is a job for everyone!
Many hands can make our Advent celebration beautiful.

Thank you in advance for your help.

BIBLE PRESENTATION

A SPECIAL MOMENT. A LIFETIME OF FAITH.

November 22nd

Four of our Jr Worshipers will receive their own personalized Bibles!

The recipients are Kate and Beau Merrill, Noah Ward, and Charlie Worthy.

COME CELEBRATE WITH US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL! WE'RE SHARING CAKE TO HONOR THESE WONDERFUL YOUNG PEOPLE AND ENCOURAGE THEM AS THEY GROW IN THEIR FAITH.

BOOKS BRAINS AND BOARD GAMES (BBB)

Wednesdays • 5:30–7:00

We'd love to have all school-aged kids join us for a relaxed meal, some guided study time on whatever subject they're working on, and fun interactive games. We can't wait to see you!

Growing Together in
FAITH, LEARNING & FUN!

Christmas Pageant

December 13th

During the regular service

Everyone - kids and friends alike - is invited to join in on this special Holiday tradition. There will be singing, costumes, engaging dialogue, and sharing the magic of the Christmas Story as a group.

We're keeping practices minimal so you can make the most of this wonderfully busy and festive season.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

PCU

NOVEMBER ITEM: TOILET PAPER
MEIJER'S "SIMPLY GIVE CAMPAIGN":
DECEMBER 12 (IS DOUBLED) - ENDS DECEMBER 26

THE TABLE

NOVEMBER 18 - DOORS OPEN AT 5PM
THEME: THANKSGIVING DAY - ENTRÉE: TURKEY

LOOKING AHEAD

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 20
ANGEL TREE: INCREASED THE AMOUNT - 24 ANGELS
REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR: PUTTING FOOD INTO A BOX
"ADOPT A FAMILY": THIS IS OUR THIRD CONSECUTIVE YEAR WITH THIS FAMILY. (MOM, 8-YEAR-OLD AND 3-YEAR-OLD)

NOVEMBER 2026 WORSHIP LEADERS

November 1: Don Youel, Rick & Mary Beth Gilts, Gretchen Downs, Nancy Gates
November 1 Communion: Sue Fyten, Allison Mackin, Rick & Mary Beth Gilts
November 8: Stephen Potts, Jay & Jo Salvage, Kathy East, Kathy Jarosz
November 15: Don Youel, Rauscher Family, Jay Salvage, Gretchen Downs
November 22: Stephen Potts, Tom & Karen Lingeman, Kathy Jarosz, Stephen Potts
November 29: Don Youel, Dennis & Jean Thayer, Allison Mackin, Marty Sloan

NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 10am Worship	2	3 10am Bible Study	4 5pm Community Outreach 5:30pm BBB	5	6	7
8 10am Worship Poinsettia orders due	9	10 10am Bible Study 6:30pm Session	11 5:30pm BBB 6pm Al-Anon	12	13	14
15 10am Worship	16	17 10am Bible Study 4pm Facility Manage	18 5pm The Table 5:30pm BBB	19	20 5:45pm Toast-masters	21
22 10am Worship	23 5pm Cong Life Team	24 10am Bible Study 5:30pm Hanging of the Greens	25 5:30pm BBB 6pm Al-Anon	26 	27	28
29 10am Worship	30					