

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church

November 2024

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

THE TERRITORY AHEAD

Hello Church Family ! As you know we all are on a JOURNEY TOGETHER toward THE TERRITORY AHEAD. This journey includes both: keeping the church operational (lining up sermons and services, as well as the day to day operations) -- and -- working through the process of bringing on a new pastor. As detailed in prior newsletter articles, our Pastor Search Committee is busily engaged in reviewing possible candidates' backgrounds and qualifications. As of now, we have two (2) candidates still "in the running". Our review of the most recent Candidate # 6 has been temporarily "put on hold" because the Committee is very excited about the other candidate. This Candidate # 5 is already ordained in our EPC-denomination and seems to have the skills we are looking for (and our Committee has not only had a "zoom meeting" with him, but just recently, hosted this candidate and his family (in-person) here in Bucyrus). Our Finance Committee and our Session are in the process of putting together a "Financial Package \$-Offer" for him more details to follow at a later date. Please keep our Church Family, our Pastor Search Committee and all potential candidates in your thoughts and prayers, as we seek God's Guidance on getting the right pastor. God certainly has someone already out there in-mind to fill this opening.

Concerning other matters, as you all know -- our country is going through a lot right now. In addition to devastating weather calamities, a very important election will soon be upon us (many have already taken advantage of early voting). As these next weeks play out, please pray and hold-fast to the following excerpt from the Prayers of the People, that Lori Rager recently shared:

Gracious Loving God we struggle to come to you and so at times, it feels like we are famished and parched. We confess we are distracted by so many things. We SEEK YOUR HELP to avoid that which steals our positivity and the good lives you want us to experience. Almighty One we are often worried and afraid. We helplessly watch the devastation resulting from climate issues, as nature lashes out with: hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes (one after another). So WE PRAY for those suffering in the aftermaths of these storms. Merciful God we are worried and afraid. We watch the devastation resulting from humanity, lashing out at one another with war. Fighting and violence spread because of revenge and retaliation drowning out the cries for peace. So WE PRAY for those living in war zones, the people of Israel, Palestine, Lebanon, Ukraine, Syria and Sudan. Everlasting God we are stuck -- we are trapped in echo chambers that further divide our nation as election day draws near. We are hurting and tired, so WE PRAY for empathy and healing. We hear again Your Call -- for us to come to you; and so we do in prayer and in faith. Amen.

In each of the upcoming Newsletter Articles, we will continue to remind us all that - the overall process of securing a new pastor will take time and much patience and prayer. As always, if you have any comments or questions, we strongly encourage you to reach out to any of our current Session Members.

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Group and Committee Dates



For October 2024

Session Meeting - The Elders will meet on **Monday, November 18th @ 6:00 PM.**

Deacon's Meeting – The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, November 13, @ 6:15 PM.**

Gamma Delta - The Gamma Delta group will meet on **Thursday, November 21, at 12:30 PM at AlterCare.**

Finance Team meeting to be announced.

Discipleship Group – The **Ladies' Discipleship Group** will meet at **6:30 PM** on Tuesday, November 5, Ch. 9 “Martha and Mary: Working and Worshiping”
Tuesday, November 19, Ch. 10 “Mary Magdalene: Delivered from Darkness”

The **Men's Discipleship Group** to be announced.

Presbyterian Men - The Presbyterian Men's Bible Study meets each **Friday @ 7:00 AM, at the Pelican.** All men of FPC are invited to attend.



Daylight Savings time ends on November 3th.

Don't forget to set your clocks back 1 hour.



Happy Birthday

- 2 Emily Fox
- 10 Duane Rios
- 15 Dave Hablitzel
- 16 Carol Griffith, Laney Hablitzel
- 22 Carson Britton
- 23 Cory Myers
- 28 Mary Ann Basinger, Hannah Schafer, Julie Wells

Anniversary

- 1 Ron & Marcia Burkhart

Liturgist

- 03 – Deb Hablitzel
- 10 – Tami Robinson
- 17 – Marcia Stout
- 24 – Tami Robinson

Worship Leaders & Sermon

- 03 – Tami Robinson – Gateway
- 10 – Tami Robinson – Gateway
- 17 – Marcia Stout - Gateway
- 24 – Tami Robinson - Gateway

Ushers/Greeters

- 03 – Tom & Sandy Britton
- 10 –
- 17 – Gary Irwin
- 24 – Lori Rager

Flowers

- 03 – Tasha Nickler
- 10 – Kathy Bardon
- 17 – Lori Rager
- 24 – Al & Jan Fulton

Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley, Joe Ann Johns is currently in Altercare, 1929 Whetstone Street, Room 411. Prayers & cards are greatly appreciated.

Cancer

Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon
Amanda Compton, Lori Rager's step-daughter

Surgery

Judy Eichhorn, prayers for healing after surgery and acceptance, endurance and patience while Judy lives with chronic pain
Jeri Hargis, Knee Replacement
Nedra Baum, Judy Diederich's daughter
Kathy Hildebrand, Courtney's Mother, received a liver transplant

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Bob Thompson, heart issues and resting at home.
Chet Johnston, cards can be sent to Altercare, Room 108. He would appreciate visitors.
Dan Price
Lou Ross, Lori Rager's Dad, Dementia
Whitney Hildebrand, Courtney Posey's sister
Abigail Sutherland, recovering from heart surgery, Dishon's granddaughter
Mike McKee, Heart problem. Friend of Kathy Bardon
Becky Bellamy, Parkinson's, sister of Kathy Bardon

Military:

Keagan Rios, Gennie Rios grandson
Levi Diebler, member and Carrie Diebler's son
Grayson Robinson, Tami Robinson's grandnephew





First Presbyterian Church News



Kudos and Updates from Jan:

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 *6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. 7 Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 8 And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*

Don't forget to refer to this scripture as you prayerfully consider how you can continue to help our church family meet all three stewardship opportunities needed to continue the ministry and life of Bucyrus First Presbyterian Church. Give and serve as God has blessed you, and do it cheerfully. Think about how blessed we are to be members of the family of God and dwell in this beautiful house that He has provided for us. Think about how blessed we are to be able to gather safely and continue our ministry while we wait for God to bring our next earthly shepherd. **Pledge cards are available in the Resource Center.** Please fill out the pledge card and **bring it to church by November 1st.** As always, please contact me with ANY questions. Many thanks for your gracious consideration during this important time of the year.



The first Sunday in Advent is

December 1st. This is also Thanksgiving weekend. I know everyone is busy that weekend, so I would like to decorate the church for Christmas sometime after Sunday worship on 11/24, or the evenings of 11/25 or 11/26. If you can help please let me know and state your preference of which date suits you.

Warmest regards,

Jan Fulton, Treasurer

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Greetings from my Cozy Corner Office!

If you were running late or only tuned in to worship online on October 20, you missed something warm and wonderful. Pastor Taynce Addison and members of the Good Hope Lutheran Church came to sing to us before our service started. Pastor Taynce thanked us once again for our hospitality during their months of worship in our building as their steeple was being repaired. She noted our generosity and Christ-like loving-kindness to them, and she also remarked about our stewardship in keeping our historic building so lovingly maintained. Then she and about 60 of her parish members sang “Jesus Loves Me” to us; we joined in. They made a circle around our sanctuary, enfolding us in their heartfelt gratitude and uniting us in Christian fellowship.

Just for a moment I had “a foretaste of glory divine,” what it might look like and feel like when we put down our swords and spears and turn them into plowshares and pruning hooks. How lovely it has been to partner with Good Hope Lutheran and to put real-life, practical hands on what it means to *love our neighbor*. As we anticipate our new earthly shepherd and as we learn to be salt and light in a weary world that desperately needs the saving love of Christ, let us remember to keep building this house upon the rock. Let us never tire of doing good, loving justice, seeking truth, and storing up treasures in heaven.

Glory to God for securing steeples, for the people who are willing to climb around that high, and for the friends we have made with Good Hope. God is good, all the time!

May blessings abound,
Marcia





The Mission Team has all the shoeboxes ready for everyone to pick-up and fill. The dates to bring the shoeboxes back are on **November 3rd, 10th, and 17th**. Please see **Debbie Hablitzel** for more information

Women's Discipleship
Fall Schedule 2024
@ 6:30 PM

Tuesday, November 5, Ch. 9 "Martha and Mary: Working and Worshipping"

Tuesday, November 19, Ch. 10 "Mary Magdalene: Delivered from Darkness"

Tuesday, December 3, Ch. 11 "Lydia: A Hospitable Heart Opened" and "Epilogue"

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; God will help her when morning dawns. Psalm 46:4-5

Thank you

First Presbyterian Church,
 On behalf of the Scott Fishpaw family, we thank you for allowing his funeral service in your church. It was a beautiful service that he would have really enjoyed.

Sincerely,
 The Fishpaw Family

"Advent Artwork"

A special, 4-week, Adult Sunday School Class

December 1, 8, 15, and 22
 at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall

Marcia Stout, leader

Join us as we explore religious artwork that depicts images central to the messages of Advent: Hope, Faith, Joy, and Peace.

