

The Presbyterian

A Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church
125 South Poplar Street, Bucyrus, OH 44820

February 2021

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

You Can't Retire From Church

In our men's discipleship group, we had a wonderful discussion about the role and responsibility of older Christians to mentor and disciple younger Christians in the faith. Unfortunately in many churches, there is a tremendous divide in the generational gaps, and that divide feels like it continues to grow. Older Christians deride younger Christians for certain practices and social norms, and younger Christians deride older ones for being out of touch and judgmental. And, as these two groups continue to remove themselves from each other, the church becomes less like the Body of Christ. You see "old churches" and "young churches." You see "traditional churches" and "contemporary churches." And, I would suggest, those labels completely miss the goal and function of the church.

If our preference of church is based solely on the age demographic and the style of worship, then what we have implicitly communicated is that church is about "me." But, nowhere in scripture do we get any kind of indication that those things are factors in our involvement in a church. In fact, the generational difference is one of the things scripture upholds as good and important in the life of the church.

In a Yale University study, researchers followed a large group of students who grew up in the church from elementary through college in order to answer one question: "What is the difference between those Christians students who stay in the church and leave the faith when they get to college?" And after decades of research, the results were surprising. The difference between the two groups wasn't technology, or culture, or their friend groups, or video games. There were two main indicators that a child who grew up in the faith would remain in the faith when they went off to college. First, if their parents lived out their faith authentically in front of their children. That means that didn't just go to church, but they saw their parents serving others, reading their bible at home, praying regularly, and showing grace and forgiveness. Second, and perhaps most surprising, is whether these kids had another adult in the church who was not family pour into them and disciple them.

And, this is where you come in. God's people throughout history has always been an intergenerational body. Psalm 145:4 says, "One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." Older generations are to actively declare to the younger the truths about God. Older generations are to help the younger navigate the stages of life they have already traversed. Instead of speaking down to them, walk alongside them. Instead of pushing them away, invite them in. Sit down at the table with them. Listen to them. When the world tells them they are worthless, tell them their worth. When the world tells them things are hopeless, give them hope.

So, may our prayer be this: "From my youth you have taught me," and, "Even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come" (Psalm 71:17-18).

For His Kingdom,

Rev. Jeremy McNeill, First Presbyterian Church

Group and Committee Dates

Please check with the
Committee Chairperson for information.

Deacons Meeting

The Deacons will meet **Wednesday, February 13, @ 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.**

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet **Monday, February 15 @ 4:15 PM.**

Session Meeting

The Session meeting will be on **Thursday, February 21, @ 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.**

Presbyterian Men

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

Discipleship Groups

Men – February 2, Chapter 6 pp. 119-134

Ladies – February 9, Chapter 6 pp. 134-141

Men - February 16, Chapter 6 pp. 134-141

Ladies – February 23, Chapter 7



Ash Wednesday Service will be held

February 17, @ 6:30 PM



Happy Birthday

- 4 Marcia Dishon
- 10 Beth Cotsmire
- 24 Marcia Heminger
- 25 Joyce Rarick
- 26 Phyllis Cole

Flowers

- 07 – Tami Robinson
- 14 –
- 21 –
- 28 –

Liturgist

- 07 - Debbie Hablitzel
- 14 – Marcia Stout
- 21 – Tom Britton
- 28 – Carrie Diebler

Deacon for February: Sue Irwin
Elder for February: Al Fulton

Covid 19 Vaccine Information

If you are interested in getting the vaccine or would like to make an appointment through Avita you can call 419-469-0800. You can give them your name and date of birth and they will call you to make an appointment when your age group is available. You can also call this number if you have any questions.



Surgery, Injury, and/or Recuperating:

Crosby Hieber, 5 years old, great grandson of Mary Kiess, Jennie Biller, Sue Irwin's Niece, Steve Hoover, Dorothy Watts son, Vickie Ahlefeld, Kaori Holmes, Chet Johnston & his daughter Kathy Thompson, Norm Campbell, Duane Watts, Joyce Hahn, Marv Hauenstein, Judy Eichhorn, Jay Owen, Barb Price's Son,

Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley, Glenn Gibson, Grace Kearns, Marcia Dobbins
Rodger and Jenni Murphy

Cancer

Nancy Crum
Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon
Ann Pokopac, Kathy Bardon's sister
Ellen Andrews, Kathy Bardon's cousin
Bruce Price, Dan's brother
Ruthie Robinson, friend of Gennie Rios

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Gary Hess, Friend of Kelli Patterson
Joe Kilgore's Grandmother, Sue
Bill Irwin, Gary Irwin's brother
Sylvia Lane, Kelli Patterson's grandmother
Jo Anne Johns, Donna Watts's mom
Florence Cooper, Vickie Ahlefeld's mother
Sandy Will, Carrie Diebler's mother
Bob Downing

Military:

John T. Ballinger III, Cody Gibson, Keagan Rios,
Levi Diebler, Daron Watts, Zach Wilson, Brydan Lohr

Prayer Requests

Prayers are needed for: _____
Member ___ Family ___ Friend ___
Remove Prayer request:

Requested by: _____

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