

# The Presbyterian

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

May 2021

*Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.*

## You Should Probably Pray More

Catchy title, isn't it? But, it's true nonetheless. It's true for you. It's true for me. It's true for our church. We need to pray more. I have found that prayer, though in theory one of the simplest things we can do, is the one thing many Christians say that have a difficult time doing. They will find time to read their Bibles (praise God!) but then seem lost when it comes to prayer. Charles Haddon Spurgeon, a preacher from London in the mid-1800s was once asked if prayer or scripture reading was more important. His response? "Which is more important—breathing in or breathing out?" Why is this? Why do we have such a difficult time praying?

Perhaps it is because we feel that we cannot be eloquent enough. If so, we need only remember that Jesus praised the prayer of the tax collector who could only get out the words, "Have mercy upon me, O God, a sinner." Our words don't need eloquence, they need honesty.

Perhaps we don't quite know what to say. If you are reading your bible, you have words to pray! Westminster Shorter Catechism question #99 asks "**What rule has God given for our direction in prayer?**" The answer: "**The whole Word of God is of use to direct us in prayer...**" The word of God shows us what to be thankful for, what to repent of, what to desire, what to believe, and what to pursue. And all of those things can be turned back to God in prayer for thanksgiving, confession, help, and praise.

Perhaps we don't know when to pray. Well, that one is easy. 1 Thessalonians 5 tells us, "Pray without ceasing." In other words, "when should I pray?" is the wrong question. Rather, the question is, "When should I NOT pray." Romans 12 tells us to "...be constant in prayer..." Are you joyful? Pray! Are you sorrowful? Pray! Are you blessed? Pray! Are you doubtful, fearful, or anxious? Pray! Are you discerning? Pray! Are you breathing? PRAY!

Or, perhaps we really don't know why we should pray. John Bunyan once remarked. "You can do more than pray after you have prayed, but you cannot do more than pray until you have prayed. Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God, and a scourge to Satan." Prayer is a shield because true prayer shapes our wills and desires to God's. It is a sacrifice because prayer itself is a confession of our need for God. And, prayer is a weapon wielded against Satan because it focuses our hearts towards God, takes every thought captive, discerns the claims of the world, and gives us fellowship without our Creator.

So, yes, we should all pray more. Probably much more. But, it doesn't have to be elaborate, long, or eloquent. It is simply, "an offering up of our desires unto God, for things agreeable to his will, in the name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgement of his mercies" (Westminster Shorter Catechism 98). Prayer is a gift from God, but negligence of it is harmful to our soul. As the author of Hebrews said, "Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to

sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

Enter boldly into the Holy of Holies in prayer today, tomorrow, and without ceasing!

For His Kingdom,  
Rev. Jeremy McNeill  
First Presbyterian Church  
Bucyrus, OH

## Group and Committee Dates

Please check with the  
Committee Chairperson for information.

### Deacon's Meeting

The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, May 12, @ 5:00** in the parlor.

### Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet **Monday, May 17, @ 4:45 PM.**

### Session Meeting

The Session meeting will be on **Thursday, May 20, @ 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.**

### Table Toppers

The Table Toppers meet Wednesday afternoons at 2:30 until 5:00. All ages are welcome to join in for an afternoon of board games and card games. Bring your snacks and beverage.

### 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

Ladies – May 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> @ 6:15 PM

Men – May 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> @7:00 PM



**Happy Birthday**

- 3 Bridget Kohls
4 Dana Griffith
Alan Bacon
7 Kathy Randall
Jared Young
9 Julie Pelter
Megan Young
23 Ronda Hoerig
Tommy Randall
24 Al Fulton
26 Elijah McNeill
29 Kenny Hablitzel

**Anniversaries**

- 1 Dan and Barb Price
6 Al and Jan Fulton,
13 Tom and Vickie Ahlefeld
29 Tom and Joyce Rarick

**Flowers**

- 02 - Dan & Barb Price
09 -
16 - Tom & Vicki Ahlefeld
23 - Lori Rager
30 - Tami Robinson

**Liturgist**

- 02 - Debbie Hablitzel
09 - Dave Hablitzel
16 - Tami Robinson
23 - Marcia Stout
30 - Debbie Hablitzel

**Greeters**

- 02 - Tami Robinson & Kathy Thompson
09 - Mark & Marcia Dishon
16 - Kathy Thompson & Jeri Hargis
23 - Tom & Sandy Britton
30 - Dave Hablitzel & Gary Irwin

**Deacon for May:**

**Elder for May:** Dan Price

**Special Prayers**

Marv Hauenstein, Dorothy Watts, Phyllis Cole, Tom Ahlefeld, Duane Watts

**Shut-Ins:**

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

**Cancer**

Jay Owen, Barb Price's Son
Crosby Hieber, (5) great grandson of Mary Kiess
Jennifer Barnes, friend of Connie Watts
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:**

Anya Schell
Judy Eichhorn
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

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

# First Presbyterian News



## Revelation Series

We are at the end of the Revelation Series:

05/02 – 22:1-7

05/09 - 22:8-12

05/16 – 22:13-21

Services are still available on-line and on Facebook.

## Adult Education

Adult Education will take a short break and start back up at 9:00 AM on **May 16**, with **Pilgrim's Progress**.

Books will be \$8.00. All are welcome.



## Graduates &



## Scholarship Winners

On Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, the church will be honoring our Graduates and Scholarship winners during the worship service.

There will be a reception following worship service in the Chapel.

## June Congregational Meeting

The June Congregational Meeting will be held on **June 20, 2021** following Worship service to vote on the new Elders and Deacons. Please join us, all are welcome.



## Bridget Kohls

Hi church Family,

I hope you are all doing well! I just wanted to update you all that I graduated in December. I am currently working at a music store and am a long-term sub at Westerville Central for their band. I am still looking for a full time music teaching job! I just wanted to thank you again for the scholarship and your support ☺

Love,  
Bridget Kohls



## Thank You

A huge thank you to everyone who helped with the funeral luncheon for Betty Hauenstein's family on April 14<sup>th</sup>. The food was delicious and so many people helped with cooking, set up, serving and clean up. I could feel the love surrounding Betty's family and amongst all of you as you contributed and worked together. Our congregation may be smaller right now, but WOW – we are MIGHTY in the work of the Lord! You filled up my heart!

Jan Fulton

## Thank You

Church Family,

We can't thank you enough for your kindness and prayers. Thank you Pastor Jeremy for your comforting words and beautiful service to celebrate our wife and mom. Thank you Marcia for the beautiful organ music and for everyone who planned, cooked and served the wonderful luncheon. You are all such a blessing.

Thank you,  
Marv Hauenstein,  
Cheryl White & Family  
Cindy Inscho & Family

## Lifewise

This program is being introduced to all of the Crawford County schools and will be taught to all Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. If you have any questions or would like to donate **please contact Al Basinger @ 419-569-4369.**



### Public Schools and LifeWise

Public educators are heroes. Now more than ever, schools must address character and mental health on top of providing academic instruction. LifeWise Academy comes alongside administrators and teachers as a supportive ally in the fight for better character development, mental health and academic achievement.

#### How Schools Benefit



##### Character Development

Teaching weekly character qualities and how they can be applied in the classroom, at home and in the community



##### Mental Health

Providing a means for religious activity which studies show can positively affect students' mental health



##### Academic Performance

Reinforcing and supplementing the skills and achievements that students must gain in order to succeed in school and in life



##### Family & Community Involvement

Attracting and retaining families who may otherwise opt out of public school due to lack of religious instruction.

### The LifeWise Approach

#### We Keep It Legal

LifeWise is keenly aware of the need to keep public and religious institutions separate. We are diligent to adhere to relevant laws and policies, namely the maintenance of a program that is (1) privately funded, (2) off school property and (3) inclusive of only students with parental permission.

#### We Keep It Simple

LifeWise focuses on the central message of the Bible. We avoid getting bogged down in the finer points of religious doctrine. Instead, we focus on the most foundational themes that speak to the issues common to all people.

#### We Keep It Practical

LifeWise seeks to create real and lasting change for students, schools and communities. We continually look for ways to make instruction not only conceptual, but also actionable.

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