

The Presbyterian

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

July 2021

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

Elders as Shepherds

As we prepare to ordain and install elders and deacons into their prospective office, I thought it would be a good time to remind our church what the role of an elder is. In my next pastoral letter, I will address what our deacons' role is. When we think about the office of an elder in our current day, many of us think about a board of directors, or chairpersons of committees, or some other organizational business-model description. Yet, when we look at the Scriptures and about 4,000 years of history, we recognize that our current understanding of elders on Session has deviated. As a Session, we are working to re-structure and re-focus our efforts towards a more biblical model of being an elder. And that model is this: elders are shepherds first.

What does this mean? It means that, according to scripture, the elders' primary duty and obligation are towards *people* not the *institution*. As shepherds, their task is to be with and among the sheep. Shepherds lead properly only by walking with the flock. Shepherds can't shepherd from a distance. So, you may be noticing a change in how our elders operate. You may start getting phone calls from your parish elder. This doesn't mean you are in trouble. Your elder simply wants to know what you are going through, how they can pray for you, and how to encourage you to grow as a disciple in your walk with Jesus. A healthy church is not built by simply bringing numbers in, but by strengthening believers and building more faithful, sacrificial, and zealous disciples.

So, what should you begin to expect? Our elders will be working to refocus our church in several ways. They will be people-builders instead of institution-builders. They will be shepherds, not CEOs. They will spend time discipling more than organizing. They will enable members of the church to do the work of the church, instead of being the only ones who do it. They will exercise spiritual authority, which is servant leadership. They will create freedom within the church to be faithful to God instead of being bogged down with bureaucracy and politics. We will aim to be a simple church instead of getting lost in all the complex systems that worldly organizations have imposed upon the church.

And, what does this mean from you? Well, to put it plainly, be sheep who are willing to be shepherded. These elders were elected BY you to do these things. As the old Presbyterian Book of Order states, "Ruling elders are properly the representatives of the people, chosen by them, for the purpose of exercising government and discipline in conjunction with pastors or ministers." Also, love, honor, and encourage your elders. They achieve no worldly gain from this office. They sacrifice time, mental space, emotional energy, and spiritual strength to love and lead this church family. Don't be sheep that bite. Understand that God has called, equipped, and imparted his authority to this office. Listen, and be lead. Understand that your elders love you. Believe that all your elders want is for you to grow in the knowledge of God, to follow him

more deeply, are to serve your church family more faithfully. If we are willing to do this, we will see the health of our church increase. Yet, insofar as we prevent our elders from shepherding, we only find ourselves in opposition to how God has set up *His* church.

Your elders are excited about this season of life in the church. Be praying for them. And, be willing to allow them to shepherd you.

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

Group and Committee Dates
Please check with the
Committee Chairperson for information.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet **Monday, July 12, @ 4:45 PM.**

Deacon's Meeting

The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, July 14, @ 5:00** in the parlor.

Session Meeting

The Session meeting will be on **Thursday, July 15, @ 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

"Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis
Ladies will meet on July 13th and 27th @ 6:15 PM
Men will meet on July 20th @ 7:00 PM



July

Happy Birthday

- 2 Shelbee Linn
- 3 Tom Ahlefeld
- 5 Corey Black
- 6 Gabriel Helbert
- 11 Phyllis Reed
- 15 Daron Watts
- 22 Mary McNeill

Anniversaries

- 15 Dana and Carol Griffith
- 24 Al and Mary Ann Basinger
- 25 Duane and Connie Watts

Flowers

- 04 – Tami Robinson
- 11 –
- 18 – Kathy Bardon
- 25 – Duane & Connie Watts

Liturgist

- 04 – Debbie Hablitzel
- 11 – Marcia Stout
- 18 – Tom Britton
- 25 – Dave Hablitzel

Greeters

- 04 -
- 11 -
- 18 -
- 25 -

Deacon for July:

Elder for July: Dan Price

**The office will be closed
July 16th through 23rd.**



Special Prayers

Crosby Hieber, Anya Schell, Marv Hauenstein,
Dorothy Watts, Phyllis Cole, Duane Watts

Shut-Ins:

Mary Lou Hastings, Sue Headley, Glenn Gibson,
Grace Kearns, Marcia Dobbins

Cancer

Brian Barns, Sue Irwin's nephew
Jay Owen, Barb Price's Son
Jennifer Barnes, friend of Connie Watts
Nancy Crum
Annette Cheney, a friend of Kathy Bardon
Ellen Andrews, Kathy Bardon's cousin
Bruce Price, Dan's brother
Ruthie Robinson, friend of Gennie Rios

Members, Family and Friends of Members:

Judy Eichhorn
Gary Hess, Friend of Kelli Patterson
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 for: _____
Requested by: _____



First Presbyterian News

Elders & Deacons for 2021-22

Elders

Al Fulton
Dan Price
Tom Britton
Carrie Diebler
Marcia Stout

Deacons

Jan Fulton
Vicki Ahlefeld
Kathy Bardon
Sandy Britton
Marcia Dishon
Susan Irwin
Danny Nickler
Barb Price
Tami Robinson

New Sermon Series Schedule

For the 10 Commandments

The following will be the scriptures for the series on the 10 Commandments:

07/04: The Fourth Commandment (Deut. 5:12-15)
07/11: The Fifth Commandment (Deut. 5:16)
07/18: The Sixth Commandment (Deut. 5:17)
07/25: The Seventh Commandment (Deut. 5:18)

08/01: The Eight Commandment (Deut. 5:19)
08/08: The Ninth Commandment (Deut. 5:20)
08/15: The Tenth Commandment (Deut. 5:21)

Congregational Life

Mark's Ice Cream Truck

Congregational Life is treating the congregation to a special treat on Sunday, July 11th, following worship service. Mark's ice cream truck will be in the parking lot and serving their great ice cream. Everyone is welcome!



For I know the
Plans
I have for you,
declares the *Lord*
Plans to *Prosper* you
and not to harm you
Plans to give you
Hope and a *Future*
-Jeremiah 29:11



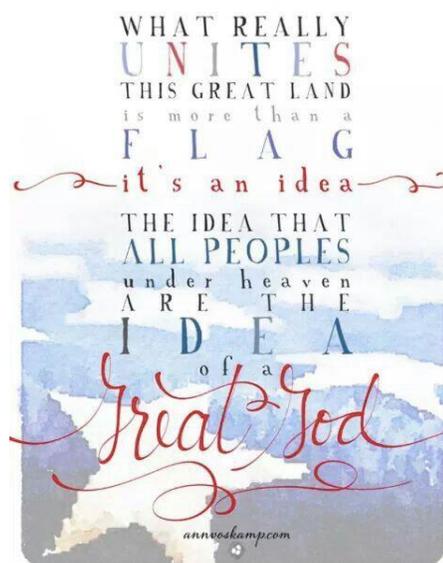
Come join us for National Night Out

National Night Out is being held on August 3, 2021, and we are excited to participate together this year. Tami Robinson has volunteered to head this up and volunteers will be appreciated. There will be a sign-up sheet as soon as more information is available.

Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival

August 19, 20 & 21

Each day there is a little more normal in our lives! The Bucyrus Bratwurst Festival will be up and running this year! The church will be taking donations to park in the church parking lot again and volunteers are needed to help. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church with 2 hour time slots, hope you can find a convenient time to help. If you have any questions please call Danny Nickler at 419-569-5735.



Young Adults

Thank You

Dear Church family,
Thank you so much for the Bible that you gave me as a graduation gift. It will support me as I begin this new journey in my life. First Presbyterian has been a mainstay in my life. I appreciate all the love, support, and prayers and will miss being able to attend on Sundays.

Thank you also for selecting me as one of the recipients of the First Presbyterian Church 2021 Scholarship. I am very grateful for your support.

I will be attending Columbia University in New York City to study Physics and Applied Mathematics. The financial assistance you have provided will be a great help in paying for my educational expenses and allow me to focus on my studies this first year of college.

Thank you again for your generous support.

Samuel Rager

Dear Church family,
I could never fully express how thankful I am for each of you. You all have shown me so much love and support ever since I was a young girl and it truly has shaped me into the person and Christian I am today. I am so appreciative of the scholarship monies I have received, as they have been such a blessing to me to pay college expenses. I am currently taking summer classes and clinic and I am on track to graduate with my Bachelor's degree in dental hygiene. Thank you all so much for your love and support!

Love,
Victoria Hoerig

Dear Church family,
Thank you for the graduation celebration. I hope everyone continues to be friendly to others around them in the long run.

Peyton Bardon

COMMUNITY NEWS

Bicentennial Celebration

The bicentennial celebration for Bucyrus will kick off on July 2nd-5th. There is a complete schedule of events on the website bucyrus2021.com.



Schine's Summer Concerts 2021

June 3 – 60 Days to Play
June 4 – Outpatient 5
July 1 – The Lesser Known Poets
July 2 – The Rolling Hams
July 15 – Bound by Love
July 29 – Perfectly Damaged
August 6 - The lesser Known Poets
August 12 – United in Harmony
August 26 – The Hobos
September 9 – Greg Bell Tribute

First Friday's

The Community's First Friday's will begin on June 4th and continue through the summer on the first Friday of each month.



School Lunch Program

The Bucyrus Public Library will be serving free lunch and breakfast for Kids ages 1-18, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 10:35 – 10:50 AM starting June 1, 2021. Two free lunches and breakfasts will per student will be given on Monday & Wednesday. One Breakfast and Lunch will be given on Friday. Students do not need to be present to receive meals. Walk up or drive through service only.

The First Presbyterian Church

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