

# The Presbyterian

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

September 2021

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

## What Church Growth Requires

Over the years, the church has been bombarded with “church growth strategies” from big corporate minded people with experience in marketing, selling, and cornering a market. And, it seems like every few years, the old stops working, and some new idea comes into play. Churches who fall into this trap find themselves constantly fluctuating with the newest trends, and their main focus is lost at the expense of attracting new people. But this is not the biblical model for church growth. So, what is “church growth?”

- 1) Church growth begins with spiritual growth. A tree with no roots topples in a storm. It is the responsibility of each member of our church to attend faithfully to the ordinary means of grace: the word, sacraments, prayer, and loving fellowship. And, we have a responsibility not only towards our own spiritual growth, but to walk with others in our church. When we understand the importance of God’s word, of prayer, and of the sacraments, then we can understand more clearly what God declares to be important. When we do that, the less important things fall to the side and our hearts long for what God loves.
- 2) Church growth also requires taking the authority of the session seriously. Your elders, under their own vows, are accountable before God for shepherding this church to greater faithfulness and godliness. When the session, through prayer and discernment, believes God has called us towards certain action, our first instinct should be trust—just as a sheep trusts its shepherd. Questions are always fine in seeking understanding, but, don’t be a biting sheep.
- 3) Next, church growth requires commitment. If you want others to be involved in the life of the church, but you are not involved in the life of the church, then we should have no expectations that others will find important what you find unimportant. Take advantage of Sunday School, Discipleship Groups, times of fellowship... and of course corporate worship.
- 4) Church growth also requires that we remember that our Christian life is not isolated to Sunday. If we want to see the church grow, we must engage with our neighbors. We must invite our neighbors. But, most importantly, we must SERVE our neighbors. When I came on board here, I was asked early on by someone why more people weren’t coming already. And my response was, “How many people have you invited to come?” Which leads to my last point...
- 5) Church growth requires the church. The life and vitality of a local church is not solely dependent upon the pastor and elders. If you, a member of the church, do not desire and engage in the mission and vision of the church to grow spiritually, to reach our neighbors, and to share the gospel, then the church will not grow. Church growth requires YOU. As we move forward as a church, we are going to be identifying a singular outreach focus in alignment with our vision of “biblical hospitality.” Everything we do will be reshaped around that vision. You are going to be asked to be part of that vision: to serve, volunteer, plan, implement. If you want to see the church grow, be part of the process!

God is doing great things, and all of us should desire to be part of what God is accomplishing in and through First Presbyterian Church of Bucyrus.

For His Kingdom, Jeremy W McNeill, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church

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

**Deacon's Meeting**

The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, September 8th, @ 5:00** in the parlor.

**Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee will not meet in September.

**Session Meeting**

The Session meeting will be on **Thursday, September 16th, @ 6:00 PM** in Fellowship Hall.

**Gamma Delta**

Gamma Delta will meet **Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>, @ 12:30 PM at LaFragua Restaurant**, 1006 County Highway 330, Nevada. Guests are welcome to join.

**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 September 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:15 PM

Men will meet on September 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM





### Happy Birthday

- 3 Gary Irwin
- 8 Judy Rhode
- 13 Susan Irwin, Peyton Bardon
- 22 Duane Watts
- 23 Levi Diebler
- 28 Judy Diederich
- 30 Sammy Rager

### Anniversaries

- 6 Tom and Sandy Britton,  
Brian and Megan Plantner
- 21 Tim and Brenda Mutchler

### Flowers

- 05 – Dan & Barb Price
- 12 – Tami Robinson
- 19 – Kathy Bardon
- 26 – Lori Rager

### Liturgist

- 05 – Tami Robinson
- 12 – Debbie Hablitzel
- 19 – Marcia Stout
- 26 – Tom Britton

### Greeters

- 05 – Dave & Debbie Hablitzel
- 12 – Tami Robinson & Kathy Byrne
- 19 – Gary Irwin & Tom Ahlefeld
- 26 – Mark & Marcia Dishon

**Deacon for September:** Kathy Bardon  
**Elder for September:** Marcia Stout

### Special Prayers

Tom Rarick, Craig Hargis, Caroline Campbell, Josette (Hahn) Mok, Crosby Hieber, Duane Watts

### Shut-Ins:

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

### Cancer

Jay Owen, Barb Price's Son  
Dan Black, friend of Al Bacon  
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:

Kathy Byrne  
Marv Hauenstein  
Anya Schell  
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



# First Presbyterian News

## New Series on the Holy Spirit

Sept 5- Who is the Holy Spirit?  
Sept 12- The Holy Spirit in Creation  
Sept 19- The Giver of Life  
Sept 26- Born of the Spirit

Oct 3- Sanctified in the Spirit  
Oct 10- The Comforter  
Oct 17- The Spirit in the Church  
Oct 24- The Seal of God

## Kudos and Updates from Jan:

On August 3<sup>rd</sup>, our Deacons sponsored a **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT** party in our church parking lot. **A big thank you to Tami Robinson for chairing this event.** She worked with the city to have the fire department bring their antique fire truck and provide a fire safety presentation. Tami also worked with the police department, and we were all very happy to meet Ellie from the K-9 Unit. **High fives to Sandy Britton** for having Mark's Ice Cream bring their truck for the evening. Many, many thanks to our Deacons and members who donated food for the party and **worked** the party. The reason we participate in community activities isn't just to have a social get together for our congregation (although we certainly have a lot of fun). We are "leaving the building" and reaching out to our neighbors by putting faces (happy, fun-loving faces) on the members of First Pres. **We want to be the "face of Christ" as we reach out and draw others to Him by example.**

**Major kudos to Danny Nickler** for taking charge of the **BRATWURST FESTIVAL** parking lot project. That was one long, hot three-day weekend and Danny isn't in the best of health. He was there the whole time except for a two-hour break on Saturday. Thank you to the members who worked with him. Al and I worked a couple of slots and had FUN! AGAIN....it was a chance to spend

precious moments with people from all over and show that the members at First Pres are not only willing to sit in the heat and make money for special projects, but are willing to extend the hand of friendship...and we're FUN! We gave directions, food options, information on what we do with the money. We even answered questions about the history of our church. We were all wilting, but we strove to be the "face of Christ". The parking fee is based on donation, and that project brought in \$1,206.00. Danny and the folks in Gamma Delta will be deciding where those funds will do the most work.

**The Chapel** floor is complete and beautiful!! Next, we will be selecting area rugs and occasional furniture for that space to make it a welcoming, comfortable room where we can have meetings, coffee hours, etc. It will also remain, of course, additional seating for the sanctuary. We will be replacing carpeting in the elevator entrance room, parlor and Rensselaer and driveway entrances and stairs. These areas will also be freshened up with paint, etc. in the days to come. Feel free to ask me about the projects as we go. I'm excited that we are able to freshen up our beautiful church home. Yes, it is hoped that visitors will appreciate these changes. However, for me, it is a labor of love for our church family. If you feel pleased with our church home, you will want to bring others here to visit us and hopefully, join us. When I was growing up, my house was home base for all of my friends. We need to be that house...a place where we thrive and grow, and a place where everyone else wants to come and be a part of our family...God's family.

*Jan Fulton, 419/561-0263*

## **Gamma Delta**

Gamma Delta will meet monthly except, January & February. We will continue sponsoring a family for Christmas through the Salvation Army.

Sincerely,  
Debbie Hablitzel, Secretary



## Congratulations

Congratulations to Brydan and Victoria (Hoerig) Lohr who were married in our church on August 7<sup>th</sup>. We wish them a life time of love and happiness as they begin their new adventure.



## Denny and Sue Norton

Denny and Sue Norton attended Church at First Presbyterian on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, following the Bratwurst Parade which they were the Parade Marshals. They told the congregation they were married 60 years ago in this church, they now live in Indiana. We are so glad they attended service with us.

## Thank You

Dear Presbyterian Church,  
Thank you for your generous monetary donation. It will be used towards our amazing ministry. We really appreciate your kindness.

Love,  
The Jericho House



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Men's Community Breakfast

Save the Date, Wednesday, September 8, 2021 Due to the restrictions that the Bucyrus Community Hospital has in place, The Men's breakfast will take place at "**Trillium Event Center**" located at 1630 East Southern Avenue in Bucyrus on **Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7:00 am**. There will be a Full Breakfast for only \$8.00 per person, cash only. Ladies are more than welcome to attend as well.

**Obie Stillwell**, Sports Analyst for the Buckeye Fever Pregame Show on ABC-6; and a former Ohio State Linebacker, will be the guest speaker for the upcoming Men's Community Breakfast.

Chaplain Robert Brooks, Chaplain for the Cleveland Browns and involved in Athletes in Action, will be participating in the breakfast. **RSVP** to 419-503-9977. If you have any questions, please contact me.



## Autumn Word Search

W	J	W	O	R	C	E	R	A	C	S	U	K	T	N
E	H	X	S	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	O	M	I	D
R	G	C	J	W	U	Z	J	Q	L	D	H	J	U	K
T	A	E	Y	E	L	L	O	W	K	S	P	U	O	M
I	D	K	G	C	J	L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F	J
S	K	T	I	E	H	X	T	S	I	A	K	A	P	U
D	M	I	D	N	G	C	J	W	E	Z	L	Q	L	C
R	J	U	R	T	G	E	H	Z	T	L	I	A	N	O
U	U	O	M	I	D	R	I	C	J	W	U	Z	O	L
O	C	H	J	N	K	A	S	E	L	P	P	A	S	O
G	S	P	U	O	M	I	D	R	G	C	J	W	A	R
J	Q	L	D	H	J	U	K	T	L	E	A	V	E	S
I	E	G	N	A	R	O	T	I	D	R	G	C	S	W
H	A	R	V	E	S	T	J	U	K	T	N	E	H	X
T	S	I	A	K	S	P	U	O	A	I	D	R	G	C

See how many of these autumn related words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

Created by Ben Lindhof  
Grand Forks Herald 2011

- |           |             |               |            |
|-----------|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 1. Autumn | 5. Raking   | 9. Gourds     | 13. Corn   |
| 2. Fall   | 6. Harvest  | 10. Football  | 14. Maize  |
| 3. Leaves | 7. Pumpkins | 11. Season    | 15. Yellow |
| 4. Colors | 8. Apples   | 12. Scarecrow | 16. Orange |

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P.O. Box 67

Bucyrus, Ohio 44820