

The Presbyterian

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

November 2021

Exalting Christ. Denying Ourselves. Loving our Neighbors.

Revitalize

Dear Church Family,

With church attendance in decline nationwide, it is time for us to step up to the plate and take our faith, corporate worship, and evangelism more seriously. Churches every day are shutting their doors. That sad reality is not limited to new churches or churches with little money. Historic churches that have been around for centuries are finding themselves sorrowfully locking their doors for the last time. While the COVID-19 situation does not help the problem, it is not the problem. COVID-19 merely lifted the veil on what was happening in many believers' hearts and minds: church was merely pageantry performed for social acceptance. People were going to church because they didn't want others to think less of them. But when COVID came around, people found a solid alibi for neglecting with the gathering of the saints. The availability of online streaming gave people an excuse for less involvement in the church (even though very few actually participate in the entire service online). And suddenly spiritual apathy and atrophy sets in, and the ship sinks.

I don't tell you this to try to shame you or make you afraid. I'm telling you this because it's the truth, and you tell the truth to those you love. I also tell you this because there are plenty of churches that AREN'T closing their doors. In fact, there are church out there growing and thriving and reaching new people every day. What are the common factors in those churches?

- 1) They place a high priority on the church. They want to see the gospel go out and the church thrive, so they participate actively in the life of the church.
- 2) They serve their church. They reject the cultural current of consumerism. They understand the church doesn't exist to entertain them, but to train the to be faithful servants.
- 3) They share their faith. Churches that are growing and thriving do not depend solely on the leadership of the church to share the gospel. They understand that it is their responsibility to share the gospel. They go forth and tell the good news.
- 4) They take responsibility. If someone sees an area of need in the life of the church, they ask "how can I help?" instead of critique.
- 5) They give. They give their time, their talents, and their treasure. They know God gave them those things for building up his kingdom.
- 6) They invite others to join them. They have a "go out and bring in" mentality instead of expecting people to, on their own, "come and see." They know God commands us to "go," not "sit around and wait."

So, with that, I pray that you would take these things to heart, that you would commit to them, and that you would be part of the movement to "right the ship" of First Presbyterian Church. Will you join us fully and completely in revitalizing our church? Will you be "all in?"

For His Kingdom, Pastor Jeremy McNeill

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

Mission Team

The Mission Team will meet on **Saturday, November 6th**, at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.

Deacon's Meeting

The Deacons will meet on **Wednesday, November 10th**, @ **5:00** in the parlor.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will meet on **Monday, November 15th**, at 4:45 PM.

Gamma Delta

Gamma Delta will meet **Thursday, November 18th**, @ **12:30 PM at LaFrauga Restaurant**, 1006 County Highway 330, Nevada, Ohio.

Session Meeting

The Session meeting will be on **Thursday, November 18th**, @ **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 November 2nd, 16th, and 30th @ 6:15 PM

Men will meet on November 9th and 23rd @ 7:00 PM



Set your clocks back November 7th



Happy Birthday

- 10 Duane Rios
- 15 Dave Hablitzel
- 16 Carol Griffith
- 22 Carson Britton
- 28 Mary Ann Basinger, Hannah Schafer & Julie Wells

Anniversaries

- 1 Ron & Marcia Burkhart
- 10 Jared and Brooke Young
- 14 Scott and Mary Lou Hastings

Flowers

- 07 – Kathy Bardon
- 14 –
- 21 – Tasha Nickler
- 28 – Chet Johnston

Thank you all for the flowers you provide on Sunday mornings. As we enter the 4th quarter of the year, please give thought to pay for the flowers or bulletins you have given on Sundays.

Liturgist

- 07 – Tom Britton
- 14 – Tami Robinson
- 21 – Debbie Hablitzel
- 28 – Marcia Stout

Greeters

- 07 – Al & Jan Fulton
- 14 – Dan & Barb Price
- 21 – Al & Jan Fulton
- 28 – Dave & Debbie Hablitzel

Deacon for November: Danny Nickler
Elder for November: Carrie Diebler

Special Prayers

Melodie Fagan, Craig Hargis, Josette (Hahn) Mok, Duane Watts, Crosby Hieber

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:

Ben Hubble, family of Al and Jan Fulton
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, Zach Wilson, Brydan Lohr

Special Prayers

Please keep Joyce Rarick and her family in your prayers for the loss of her husband Tom Rarick.

Please keep the family of Al Williams in your prayers.



First Presbyterian News

Meeting schedule for the Ladies

Mere Christianity

Book 3

- 11/2 – “Sexual Morality” & “Christian Marriage”
11/16 – “Forgiveness” & “The Great Sin”
11/30 – “Charity” & “Hope”



Congratulations

Congratulations to Levi and Hannah (Mutchler) Schafer who were married in our church on October 9th. We wish them a life time of love and happiness as they begin their new adventure.

Mission Team

The Mission Team is looking for another member. We have 4-6 meetings a year. Our next meeting is in Fellowship Hall, on November 6, at 9:30am.

The Mission Team will gather to move Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes to Collection center on Tuesday, November 16th, at 9:30am.

Also, **after** Worship, on November 7th, Mission Team will place bushel baskets out for Salvation Army non-perishables donations. The gift tags for Salvation Army family will be available by Sunday November 28th to be picked for shopping.

Sincerely, Debbie Hablitzel, Mission Team



Operation Christmas Shoebox

The Shoebox Program collections will begin **October 31st through November 14th**, (3 weeks). Plenty of empty shoe boxes are available in the chapel area and ready to

be filled. Filled boxes will be stored in the library room to the right of the piano. There are also envelopes in the pews if you would like to make a donation toward the purchase of items for additional shoeboxes.

Kudos and Updates from Jan



On Saturday, October 16th, we participated in the city-wide **SPOOKTACULAR** at Aumiller Park. **Many thanks** to Dave & Deb Hablitzel, Vickie Ahlefeld, Brydan & Victoria Lohr, Tami Robinson and Sandy Britton (who took the time to wear her Cat Woman costume). We had Halloween decorations around our cars, Sandy and I wore costumes and we handed out candy to HUNDREDS of children. We were happily tired at the end of it. [See Pictures on last page!](#)

Remember that the Deacons will be hosting a **CHILI COOK-OFF** on Sunday, November 7th, immediately following the **worship service**. We will provide corn bread, crackers, desserts and beverages. So far, we have five people signed up to make a pot of their chili. We'll all sample the different chilis and vote on the best. Take-home containers of leftover chili and desserts will be available for purchase with monies going to the work of our Deacons. The sign-up sheet is still in the back of the church for you to let us know that you are entering the contest. Ink this in on your calendar!!! We're OVERDUE for a social gathering, and NO ONE wants to miss out on Presbyterian cooking!!!

Just a reminder to be very careful when using our elevator. We just had another repair because the sliding gates inside the elevator had a piece broken off. Do not lean on the doors, remember to open & shut them carefully, and if you are entering with a wheel chair, do your best not to bump the doors with the chair. This is an expensive repair.

Approximately twenty members have driveway door keys. These keys cost \$20 each. Please keep your keys in a safe place, and if you no longer need your key, please turn it in to the office.



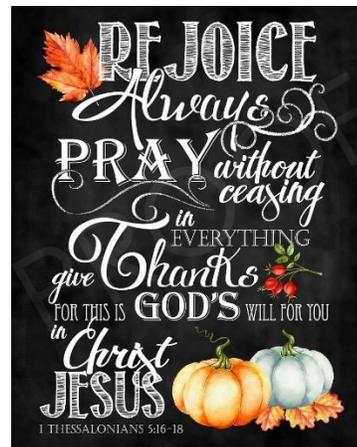
K-9 Ellie

Our Finance Team and Session have decided to help raise money for the Bucyrus Police Department K-9 Unit. They currently have Ellie, a bloodhound, who assists in searching for people. They, and we as a community, need a dog who will search for drugs. This project will cost \$20,000 just to get the dog, get it vaccinated, train it and provide daily supplies. Extra monies are needed for an account to cover ongoing care, supplies, equipment and possible future medical needs. Our church is accepting contributions. **For every dollar contributed we will match that dollar up to \$5,000 for this worthwhile project.** Please make your checks out to First Presbyterian Church and add “BPD K-9 Unit” on your memo line. We will be working with BPD to reach out and include the community in this matching program.

November 7th is Pledge Sunday. You will be receiving a stewardship letter with a pledge card in the mail. Please bring your pledges to church on November 7th, and place them in the collection plate with your offering. As you make your financial pledge for the coming year, **please take some time to carefully discern how you can also pledge your time and talents.** Could you fill in during a worship service as a pianist or worship singer? Could you greet and collect the offering? Could you help with committee work as a member-at-large? I have people make comments to me that our congregation is small and we

need new members. What are you doing about growing our church membership? Do you tell people about our wonderful church family, about Jeremy’s stirring sermons and then invite them to church? Do you know of a group that needs a regular meeting place? When we participate in community activities like National Night Out and Spooktacular, do you actually join us for the activity? **OUTREACH** is a major component of drawing the unchurched to us. Our community needs to see that the PRESBYTERIANS are PRESENT. There are people out there that need us and will never find us on their own. We need to open the doors of our church and actually walk out and shine HIS LIGHT in our community.

Jan Fulton, 419/561-0263



COMMUNITY NEWS

Thank you

Dear First Presbyterian Church,
Thank you so much for your generous donation to Crawford County Young Life! We so greatly appreciate your faithful quarterly donations! Your money helps show the love of Christ to our kids!

AJ Reichard, Young Life Treasurer

Kiwanis Santa Parade

The Kiwanis Parade will be held on November 26 @ 6:00 PM and will start at City Hall.

Men's Community Breakfast

The upcoming Men's Community Breakfast is scheduled to take place at the **Trillium Event Center located at 1630 East Southern Avenue in Bucyrus**, Arrive early for breakfast so you can get a good seat. **Please RSVP** so we can be assured there will be enough food from the cater. When you make a reservation, and something comes up and you cannot attend the breakfast, please call me at 419-503-9977 or e-mail: billdeton425@gmail.com so we will not have to pay for the meal with the cater. Can only accept cash for the breakfast. There is no access to a credit card machine.

Jimmie Bell, Motivational Speaker and Certified Life Coach, will be the guest speaker for the Men's Community Breakfast. Jimmie has been a Football Analyst for Fox/ABC; Football Fever and Good Day Columbus. Jimmie also was a Defensive Line-man for the OSU Buckeyes from 1992-1997 and played 3 years in the NFL.

The breakfast will take place at "**Trillium Event Center**" located at 1630 East Southern Avenue in Bucyrus on **Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 7:00 am**. There will be a Full Breakfast for only \$9.00 per

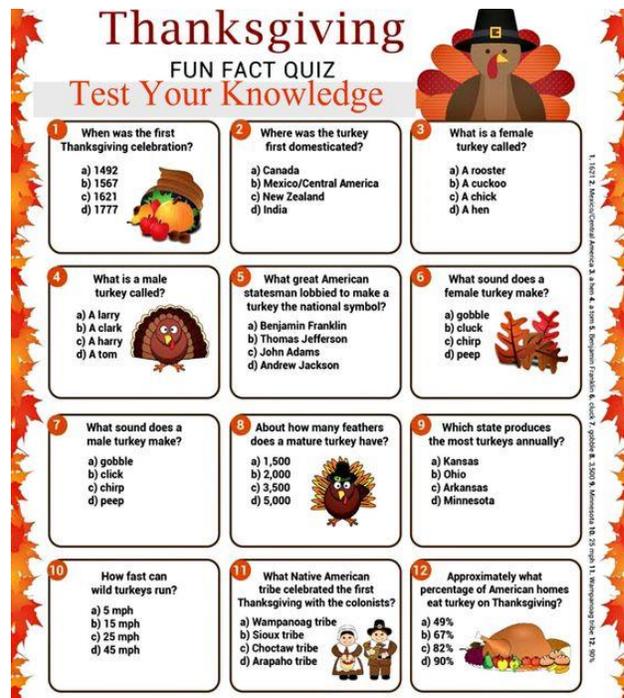
person. Ladies are more than welcome to attend as well. See the attached flyers and Bio for more details. Feel free to pass this information along.

RSVP with Me at 419-503-9977. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Thanks for your time and God Bless!

Bill Denton

Cell: 419-503-9977



SPOOKTACULAR



The First Presbyterian Church

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