



PASTOR'S PEN: "W.I.J.D."



On my bookshelf, I have a dusty old volume of Pastor Charles Sheldon's novel, *In His Steps*. The book was written in 1896 by Sheldon for his youth group in Topeka, Kansas. The novel tells the story of a pastor who challenges his congregation to live for one year, asking, "What would Jesus do?" The rest of the book outlines the transformed lives of the parishioners as they tackle the problems of poverty, economic exploitation, graft, and the like, all in the name of Jesus. The story epitomized the social gospel movement and its optimism in human efforts to solve human problems.

The book is not great literature, but amazingly, it continued to make an impact. In the 1990s, Dan Seaborn read the novel as a youth pastor in Michigan. He used the question as a rallying cry for his youth group. They made buttons with the letters WWJD, which led to a merchandising frenzy. Soon, one found WWJD everywhere, emblazoned on bracelets, T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc. The question became a credo for an entire subculture of Christians. Then the fad faded. Perhaps this is a good thing.

Don't get me wrong. I'm entirely in favor of promoting ethics based on the teachings of Jesus. The world would be a better place if more people patterned their lives after our Savior. However, the question itself is troublesome. "What would Jesus do?" is conditional. "Would" implies an "if" clause. "*If Jesus was here*, what would he do?" As Christians who live in the sunlight of Easter, we can no longer speak conditionally.

"Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed."

The resurrection refuses to allow Jesus to slip into the sands of time. Instead, we believe in his reality and his continued actions on our behalf. His teachings remain valid because his kingdom remains an actuality. The Christian writer and scholar Leonard Sweet puts it this way: "The question is not 'What would Jesus do?' Instead, the question is 'What is Jesus doing?'"

With all respect to Rev. Sheldon, we should take on a new challenge this Easter. Because Jesus is alive, let us ask, "What is Jesus doing right now?" Let's live the next year asking, "What is Jesus doing in our congregation, in our families, in our lives?" When we get that answer, let's join Christ in this Resurrection Movement.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor James Hodsdon*

NEWS FROM SESSION



MARCH 2025

Session reviewed and approved the new branding logo family for First Presbyterian Church of Norwalk. A communication strategy for our church to further our ministry in the world, is underway.

Building and Grounds reported that boiler repairs are still being worked. Special thank you to Wende and Joel Mersereau for their work painting the session room and to Brian and Landon Klett for their work installing new lighting in the CE wings.

Christian Education reported that Evan Hoffman, along with Tracey Sommers and Shannon Sommers, will begin a lunchtime middle school small group in March. Seventy-nine middle school students registered and took permission slips home to be signed. Bible Banter returned on March 10th.

Outreach reported that Dr. Amy Haynes will be our guest speaker at the National Day of Prayer event on May 1, 2025. Breakfast will begin at 6:30am with the prayer service to follow at 7:00am.

The First Presbyterian Church Blessing Box should be "in the works" next month.

Worship reminded us the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services will begin at 6:30pm during Holy Week.

Upcoming Events:

Lent – Mid-Week Wednesday Soup Suppers @5:30pm with Worship Services @6:30pm

April 13 – Hosanna Celebration @ 9:30am

April 17 – Maundy Thursday Worship Service @6:30pm

April 18 – Good Friday Worship Service @6:30pm

April 20 – Easter Worship Services @ 8:30am & 10:45am

April 20 – Easter Egg Hunt @ 10:00am

May 1 – National Day of Prayer - Breakfast @ 6:30am, Prayer Service @ 7:00am

May 3 – Spring Cleanup Day – Begins @ 8:00am

NEXT MONTH'S MESSENGER DEADLINE IS TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 2025

FYI: To avoid delays in reimbursement from receipts, PLEASE have them turned into the office no later than Sunday, to be reimbursed that same week. Thanks!



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

CHURCH FINANCES AS OF FEBRUARY 28 , 2025

YTD Income \$ 76,230.64

YTD Expense \$ 99,250.09

YTD Net Income \$(23,019.45)

Questions about the finances of the church? Please contact our treasurer,
Pat Babcock at pbabcock@bex.net

"A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People"



THE ROAD AHEAD

CORE VALUES

- God**
We are sinners called by God, redeemed by Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Fellowship**
We value doing life and ministry together, not alone.
- Faith**
We gather in worship and prayer, guided by Scripture and the Holy Spirit, to understand God and the new life God has given us.
- Service**
We encourage and support individuals to reach out to God's love to meet the needs of our community.
- Family**
We care for the whole family of God across the generations.
- Sharing**
We reflect God's grace by generously sharing our gifts at home and abroad.



THE ROAD AHEAD - Key Targets

- ✓ **Children/Youth**
Sponsored by Kathleen Wheeler
- ✓ **Involvement**
Championed by George Scherz & Mike Wilde
- ✓ **Discipleship**
Sponsored by Dr. Julie Murdock
- ✓ **Communication**
Championed by Dirk Hiler

DATE	USHERS 8:30am—10:45 am	LITURGISTS 8:30am—10:45 am	COFFEE HOUR	VISITATION	GREETERS 8:30am—10:45 am	SCREEN OPERATORS 8:30am—10:45 am
April 6	Iris & John Hammersmith / Mark & Carolyn Strimpfel COMMUNION: Julie & Scott Gardner, Barb Fries / Michele Graves, John Flickinger & Chris Canfield	Amy Bower / Julie Murdock	Shannon Sommers	Shannon Sommers	Bob & Marsha Sands / Jack Churchill & Ralph Leber	Mindy Klett / Brian Pancost
April 13 Palm Sunday	Iris & John Hammersmith / Mark & Carolyn Strimpfel HOSANNA CELEBRATION -9:30am	Tom Root / Suzanne Boegli	Marcia Barlow	Marcia Barlow	Bob & Marsha Sands / Jack Churchill & Ralph Leber	Nancy Cloak / Kayla Eyer
April 17 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm	Michele Graves & Aundrea Gordon COMMUNION: John & Laurie Flickinger, Linda Carino	TBD	N/A	N/A	Eric & Katrina Dickerson	Brian Pancost
April 18 Good Friday 6:30pm	Diane Eschen & Connie Kluding	TBD	N/A	N/A	Wende & Joel Mersereau	Kayla Eyer
April 20 Easter	Iris & John Hammersmith / Patricia & Dwight Tkach	Youth / Youth	N/A	N/A	Bob & Marsha Sands / Jack Churchill & Ralph Leber	Nancy Cloak / Brian Pancost
April 27	Iris & John Hammersmith / Karen Becker	Kathy Root/ Brian Pancost	Marco Caponi	Marco Caponi	Bob & Marsha Sands / Jack Churchill & Ralph Leber	Mindy Klett / Brandon Schwinn

Please keep in mind, the servers scheduled here are subject to change!

DATE	USHERS 8:30am—10:45 am	LITURGISTS 8:30am—10:45 am	COFFEE HOUR	VISITATION	GREETERS 8:30am—10:45 am	SCREEN OPERATORS 8:30am—10:45 am
May 4	Paul & Mary Ann Lamb/ Chris & Molly Canfield COMMUNION: Mindy & Brian Klett & Heidi Strong / Bev Miller, Brian Hauler & Roger Knight	Marilyn Huston / Chris Canfield	Cynthia Kniffin	Cynthia Kniffin	Marcia & Terry Goodsite / Jack Churchill & Ralph Leber	Nancy Cloak / Brian Pancost
May 11	Paul & Mary Ann Lamb/ Chris & Molly Canfield	Roger Knight / Julie Murdock	Debbie Balduff	Debbie Balduff	Marcia & Terry Goodsite / Jack Churchill & Ralph Leber	Brian Pancost / Brandon Schwinn
May 18	Paul & Mary Ann Lamb/ Chris & Molly Canfield	Youth / Youth	Christian Education	Marilyn Huston	Marcia & Terry Goodsite / Jack Churchill & Ralph Leber	Nancy Cloak / Kayla Eyer
May 25 9:30AM	Chris & Molly Canfield	Katrina Dickerson	George Scherz	George Scherz	Laurie & John Flickinger / Jack Churchill & Ralph Leber	Mindy Klett





So you think you know.....

Barb Fries?



Barb Fries has been a member of the First Presbyterian Church her entire life. She was baptized, confirmed, and married as part of our congregation. She has seen a lot of changes over the years, including the church's move from downtown Norwalk to Firelands Boulevard. Some of her first memories of church involved people like Keith Chapin's dad. "He, like many of the church adults, made a fuss over us. That's a big deal for a little girl."

Barb grew up on a dairy farm right on Ridge Road. She told me, "If you mention cows, be sure to say 'Jersey cows.'" Growing up, she was busy doing lots of chores, including milking those Jersey cows. Family has always been important to her. She is mom to Brice and Andy, wife to Steve, and grandmother to plenty more. When discussing this, she quickly added her daughters-in-law, Jamie and Marinda. She is grateful for their place in the family as well. Barb loves that her son, Andy, has moved back to Ohio. That

makes spending time with his kids a little easier. One family tradition goes back to her time on the farm. Every year, the whole family makes apple butter together, although Brice currently takes the lead. They even use the same family copper pot to make the treat.

For thirty years, Barb was a social worker. She served in both children's and adult protective services. In some ways, the adults could break her heart more. Barb felt the children often had stronger social networks than some of the elderly. Despite the challenges, she was always thankful for the many success stories.

Besides spending time with her grandkids, Barb likes to read, ride her bike, and go for walks. She does cross-stitch and enjoys watching John Wayne Westerns. She is known far and wide for her cookies and, over the years, made plenty with her grandkids. Barb is a choir member and loves the old hymns like "In the Garden" and "The Old Rugged Cross." She remembers singing them to the kids while rocking them to sleep at night.

Barb loves First Presbyterian, especially her small group. She has learned a lot, and they have been very supportive. Barb believes that's a characteristic of the whole church. "They would do anything for you." Her favorite Scripture comes from Ecclesiastes 3: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven..." That chapter was a huge comfort at the time Barb's grandfather died. The two were very close, and she said, "At the time, I just needed to hear that Scripture."

When asked what advice she would give her grandkids during these challenging days, Barb says, "Faith over fear, and trust God."

Grace and Peace,
Pastor James



HAVE A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE?

Will you be celebrating a high school graduation in your family this year? Before May 1, please contact Evan Hoffman, evan@firstpresbyterian.net with the following: Name, high school, future plans (college, employment, military, etc.), a Senior and a baby picture. We would be honored to celebrate your Senior's achievements with a celebration during the 9:30 service on Sunday, June 1st.

“A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People”



**Check out the fun that was had at
MARCH'S E.D.G.E SUNDAY FUNDAY
SHAMROCK SHINDIG!**

ETERNALLY—DRIVEN—BY—GOD'S—EXAMPLE!



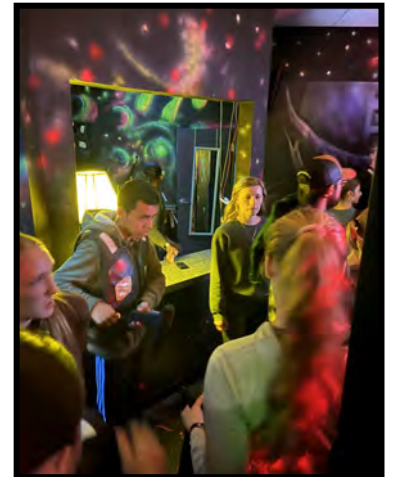
**Do you have a 3rd-6th grader?? Have them join us for all the fun and fellowship at EDGE! 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 4:30pm!
Also, JOIN US APRIL 6 @ noon—
EDGE RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS PARTY!**



JOIN H.Y.P.E.'D!
FEBRUARY'S SERVE — LASER — BOWL



488 GOODS DONATED



HYPED

7TH - 12TH GRADE MINISTRY
**LIVING TRUE LIFE WITH GOD
AND ONE ANOTHER**

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY @ 6PM | HYPED @ 7PM
YOU ARE INVITED

JOIN THE BAND APP VIA THE QR CODE | CONTACT EVAN HOFFMAN



**Do you have a teenager,
grades 7th - 12th ??
Have them join us for all the fun and
fellowship, on Sunday evenings at
6PM for SMALL GROUP &
7PM for HYPE'D!
Helping - Young - People -
Explore - Discipleship**

“A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People”



Belize 2025: In Their Own Words



In February 2025, a group from our congregation and some friends embarked on a mission trip to Belize. We went hoping to be a blessing, but we were blessed beyond our expectations. Here are some of the participants in their own words.

“The land is beautiful. The people are very gracious. The poverty is overwhelming. Their love and trust in God unbelievable. Lord, please help me to be more humble.”

—Kathy Crain

“The faces of the children filled with curiosity and hope called me to help support their schools and libraries.”

—Linda Carino

B—beautiful, brave, believers
E—enduring, earnest, enthusiastic
L—lovable, lasting, laudable
I—incredible, inspirational, impactful
Z—zealous
E—endearing, exceptional, everlasting

— Aundrea Gordon

“This year, I was able to “put it all together”- meet and care for the lonely and sick, help build the elder care center where they could (& should) spend their final days. I saw God working through the volunteers and testimonies. What a life-changing experience it has been.”

— Katie Howell

“My nickname from the group was ‘the interrogator’! I loved asking questions, getting to know our mission team members and then seeing how God worked in all their (and my) lives, his power being made perfect in all our weaknesses!”

— Chris Canfield

“My prayer for this trip was one word, ‘renewal.’ And God answered. This team and our partners in Belize were an inspiration. God is good!”

— James Hodsdon

“This crew jelled. Plain and simple. Socially, on the work site, on horseback, when the van broke. This group was all in for each other. As much as any group I've been with. And I'm over 40 trips.”

— Scott Bailey

“This trip impacted my life at home and abroad. To be able to build sustainable relationships with people whom I had no idea who they were. To bring personal and spiritual growth home, to serve and continue serving has been a blessing.”

— Josh Brant

“A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People”



“THE HYPED RENAISSANCE”

HYPED

Hey everyone, it's Evan! I've been debating what to do for the monthly Messenger. I mean after all there are so many options for what I could do. No one has done a crossword puzzle in this thing yet, or I could start my own movie review section called "Hoffman's Hollywood Insights". Sadly Pastor James shot down these ideas so I figured I might as well keep you informed with what is going on with the Youth Ministry in the church.

February and the beginning of this month has been super exciting for HYPED. We have had the Souper Bowl event where we collected 488 goods to donate to the local food bank. The Serve, Laser, Bowl event, where we took those 488 goods to the food bank and organized them, and we have started to set a foundation of what the ministry will start to look like with new leadership.

We began a group of students called "Operation Praise", with the goal of being the hands and feet of the church. This was started because a member of the church called me and asked if I had any students who would be free to help out with yard work. At the moment, I didn't have anyone who would be able to be there, which led to the creation of the team.

Another event coming up is HYPED Nerf War 2025. Over spring break this month, from the 23rd to the 30th we will be having a 24/7 Nerf War where you get only one "life", and can be eliminated anywhere, within the rules. This is going to be an amazing fellowship opportunity for our students and leaders as they work together to "hunt" other students down and eliminate them from the game.

There are a ton of other amazing things happening in the HYPED ministry, but I don't have enough space in the messenger to write it all down! Thank you to everyone who is supporting the church with everything we do. I am looking forward to reporting more good news to you next month!

Join us Sundays at 7:00pm in the Underground!

Evan Hoffman, Youth Director

Save the Date

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE HYPED YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT!

Be sure to put April 27, 2025 on your calendar to participate, beginning at 2:00pm. Contact Youth Director Evan Hoffman for more details.



Operation Praise

Operation Praise came as response to a phone call for help with yard work. This team is designed to be ready at any moment to be God's hands and feet, whether it is cleaning out a flooded basement or picking up sticks in a yard, we will be there. This group is for all ages ready to give up any night of the week to help serve the church body.

Contact our Youth Director Evan Hoffman to get plugged into the team, or join with the band app via the QR code on the slide.

"A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People"



APRIL

MAY

JOIN US FOR KEENAGERS
 Friday, April 4th at a special time for lunch & a tour of the Senior Center!!
 Meet at 10:45am at 130 Shady Lane Dr.
 Are you 70 years or older??
 If so, come join the fun!!

Keenagers

Friday, May 2nd at 1:00pm
Ice Cream Social & Games!
 in the great room!
 Are you 70 years or older??
 If so, come join the fun!!

"God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him"
(1 John 4:9)

APRIL'S VERSE
 Every month we will challenge the congregation to memorize a Bible verse!

Help Needed!
 Would you like to help fill Easter Eggs for our Hunt?
 Egg Tables will be in the Narthex during the month of March.
 Use pre-packaged sweets, play jewelry, stickers, erasers, money, miniature cars, bouncy balls, Polly Pockets, and more!
 Return them by Palm Sunday, April 13th.

Join Us For Novel Ideas Book Club!

Sunday April 27th @ 4:30 pm
"Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver

Contact Linda Carino or the church office for more information & location.
 Can't commit to every month? Be a "some-timer!"

Join our "BIRTHDAY BUNCH" the 3rd Wednesday of every month!

EVERYONE has a birthday! Let's celebrate together with pizza every month @ East of Chicago Pizza at 12:30pm!

Cheers to 80+ Years!

Happy "80 PLUS" birthday to:

04/05 Lois Rafie	04/12 Kay Kersey
04/09 Jan Graves	04/29 Joyce Ditz
05/03 Dolores Hodsden	05/05 Jan Fegley
05/12 Steve Trimble	05/14 Judy Eckler
05/27 Shari Smith	

Are we missing your birthday?
 Contact Kathi at the church office to get us updated!

“A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People”



MAUNDY THURSDAY
Dinner at 5:30pm
Worship Service April 17, 2025 at 6:30 pm

TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE
LUKE 23:43

WORSHIP SERVICE
APRIL 18 AT 6:30PM

GOOD FRIDAY



He is Risen!
HAPPY Easter

EASTER SUNDAY
WORSHIP SERVICES
APRIL 20
AT 8:30 AM
AND 10:45 AM



Children's Easter egg Hunt

10am, Easter Sunday, April 20th
(no Sunday school classes)

EASTER EGG HUNT - APRIL 20TH, 10AM

Easter Sunday, April 20th, we will host our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** for all children! All who would like to participate can meet in the fellowship hall at 10am. If you would like to **help fill our Easter Eggs** with all kinds of small goodies, please find the Egg tables in the Narthex starting the last couple weeks of March. Take as many egg cartons as you'd like, fill up the eggs with small pre-packaged sweets, party trinkets, stickers, coins, etc. and return them back to those same tables by April 13th.

Join Us for
THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
Thursday May 1, 2025

WHEN: 6:30 AM Breakfast
Provided by the FPC Outreach Committee
7:00 AM Prayer service

WHERE: First Presbyterian Church
21 Firelands Blvd.
Norwalk, OH

SPEAKER: Dr. Amy Haynes

POUR OUT TO THE GOD OF HOPE AND BE FILLED
ROMANS 15:13

Dr Amy Haynes is an advanced functional medicine physician in Vermilion, Ohio. She received her bachelor's of science at The Ohio State University and her doctorate of chiropractic at Palmer College of Chiropractic. She then went on to receive her functional medicine degree through the prestigious Kharrazian Institution and just finished her advanced functional medicine degree in 2023 where she was awarded the flame of knowledge for academic excellence in functional medicine. She was 1 of 23 in the world to received this award.

Amy has been married to her husband Mark for almost 12 years now. They were blessed with 2 beautiful little girls together, 6 older children and 10 grandchildren. She has always been rooted in her faith from a young age, loves Jesus and spreading the love of Jesus through all she does. She is passionate about serving, family, wellness, nutrition and fitness especially when it comes to women's health.



"A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People"



Thanks to everyone at First Presbyterian Church for your many visits, calls, cards and prayers during my recovery. Hope to be back soon.

Jerry Gormley



Thank You!

To our church friends:

Thank you once again for all the cards, e-mails, texts, and phone calls as we journey through Bob's cancer treatments. The kind thoughts and messages bring so much hope for him. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

God Bless, Bob & Marilyn Huston

For all that continually pray for those listed weekly in our prayer insert, thank you for your servant's heart. We are so incredibly blessed by your consistent support and dedication to our church members, families and friends.

The Lord hears your prayers.

Contact the church office at 419-668-1923 or Pastor James if you have a request.



THANK YOU!

Important Notice

CUT OFF DATE

for
RUMMAGE SALE DONATIONS:

Please have all items to the church by the end of worship service
Monday, June 30

Thank You!

HUGE ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
21 FIRELANDS BLVD. NORWALK

FRIDAY AUG. 8, 9AM - 6PM
SATURDAY AUG. 9, 9AM - 2PM

SATURDAY AUG. 16
(9AM - 12PM - CLOTHING ONLY DAY \$5 A BAG)

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

March 5 - April 20
Envelopes available from the ushers or the church office

SCREEN OPERATOR HELP NEEDED

Would you be willing to assist the church by running slides during worship services? It's simple, easy, and we will train you!

Please contact Mike Matter for more info!

"A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People"

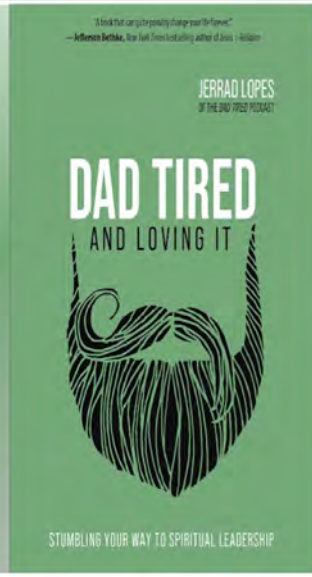


APRIL'S PARENT BOOK NOOK FEATURE:

DAD TIRED AND LOVING IT

By Jerrad Lopes

Visit our Parent Book Nook located next to the
Christian Education Office on the
2nd floor of the Children's Wing.



APRIL PARENT BOOK NOOK FEATURE:

This month's featured book is entitled, "Dad Tired and Loving It: Stumbling Your Way to Spiritual Leadership," written by Jerrad Lopes. Have the day-to-day realities of being a dad and husband left you frustrated or just plain worn out? You're not alone. Jerrad Lopes felt that way too...until he started blogging about his struggles and discovered thousands of other men who want to be good husbands and fathers but don't know where to start. When you begin to understand the bigger picture of God's purpose for you in your marriage and family, you'll see that the good news of Jesus makes it possible for you to love and lead without fear and discouragement. If you are interested in checking out this book or many other helpful parenting resources, visit our Parent Book Nook located next to the Christian Education Office on the 2nd floor of the Children's Wing.



Visit our volunteer station in the Fellowship Hall during the month of March to sign up, or contact Kathleen Wheeler, kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net today!

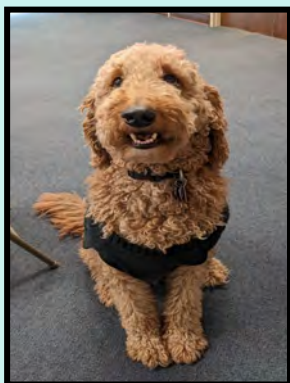
REGISTER FOR VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2025

JUNE 16-20 -REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Vacation Bible School, June 16th - 20th from 9 - 12:30pm daily. This year we welcome all of our preschool through 6th grade students as we learn that God made us, cares about us, loves us, forgives us, and is faithful to keep all His promises to us, in this year's, "MAGNIFIED!" VBS. We would love for you to join us as kids get ready to look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God! To register your kids now, simply go to our church's website, www.firstpresbyterian.net, click on the children and youth tab, then the Vacation Bible School tab and you will find our online registration. Don't forget to invite all of your friends, neighbors, classmates, cousins, and all other kids who want to come and celebrate Jesus with us! Vacation Bible School isn't just for the kids! Won't you consider volunteering to help make this year's event a smashing success?

If you are willing, we will find a place for you! We need everyone from teachers to craft prep to snack providers to those dedicated to praying for this year's VBS - all are welcome.

Keenagers



The Keenagers had their March meeting and heard from Pastor James and Katie Howell about the recent Belize Mission Trip.

Please join us **Friday, April 4, 2025 at 1:00pm** as we meet at the Huron County Senior Center on Shady Lane Dr. for lunch and a tour!

Also keep Friday, May 2nd on your calendars too, we're having an Ice Cream Social!

Are you 70 or older? If so, come join us!!!

Dog hugs, Winston



“Around the Block”

GROW IN GRACE

The dreams of my life have changed. When I was a wee lad, I wanted to be a veterinarian. Animals were my focus and I'd always want to be around them. Then I learned how much school it would take and that my stomach may not be up for it. Hitting the jackpot with a biology partner who wanted to do the dissections while I tried to keep my lunch down was icing on the cake.

It was about this time in the first half of my high school career that I decided to take stock of myself. What did I want to do with my life? What was I good at? Is college in my future? I came to a thought. When looking for a job, there are three things to consider: do you like doing it, are you good at it, and does it allow you to provide for those who depend on you. The priority of these three things changes for each person and even throughout each life.

After doing some reflecting on this, I decided that creativity was in my future. I liked movies and wanted to make them. So that became the focus. Fast forward and I got a degree in broadcasting and digital media. It's a wider skill set and fits the goal of making movies. Just have to make those movies.

So I waited...and waited. But no movie making companies came calling. Go figure. After some odd jobs, I ended up working at a church, which I never had on my life bingo card. Especially with the smelly youth ;)

What was with the four years it took to get my degree? After taking stock yet again, I believed our uniqueness is our best asset. I was the youth director because of my past. Only I would have done it the way I did.

I'm a firm supporter that you can learn from anything you do, especially jobs. And this translates to your life as well. God knows everything you know, everything you've done, and everything you've been through. He can use it all. And I mean all. Even our flaws and weaknesses.

There's a story I heard of a man in India. He would carry two large pots hanging on a pole across his neck. He would carry them down to the river and back everyday, but one pot was cracked and would only be half full by the time the man got back home. The broken pot was miserable. One day it just couldn't take it. "I am ashamed of myself," said the pot, "Because of my crack, I have only been able to deliver half of what you give me. I leak all the way back, making extra work for you." The man smiled and said, "Haven't you noticed the flowers growing only on your side of the path? I've always known about your crack, so I planted seeds on your side, not the other. You have watered them everyday without realizing it."

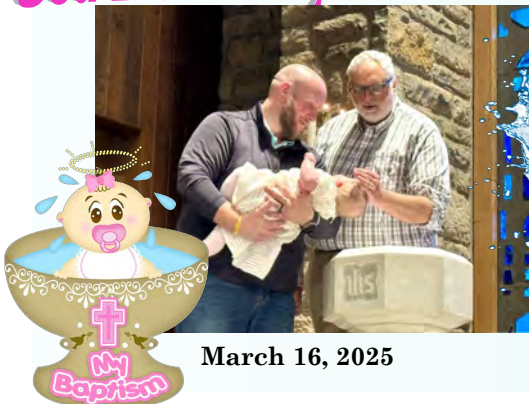
2 Corinthians 12:9-10 (NIV) ~ "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

God shines His light through us, even our brokenness.

Dawson Strong, FPC Member

God Bless You, Millie Davis Kluding

March 30, 2025



March 16, 2025

BAPTISM



God Bless You, Ean Joseph Spangenberg

“A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People”



SATURDAY, MAY 3RD
10 am - 4 pm
FOR VBS
Cricut & Cookies

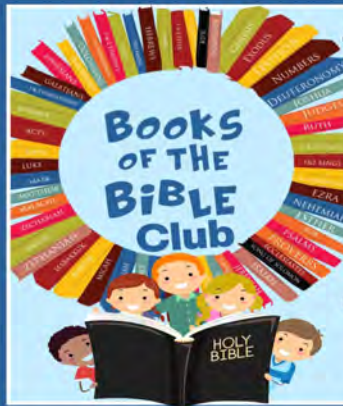
Contact Kathleen Wheeler for more details

VBS CRICUT AND COOKIES PARTY:

If you own a Cricut machine and like cookies, we have an event for you! On Saturday, May 3rd, we will be hosting our annual Cricut and Cookies party to help prep for VBS. Bring yourself and your Cricut machine to the great room anytime between 10am - 4pm to help us cut out all kinds of VBS related items! If you would like to bring a plate of cookies to share with everyone, please do! Otherwise cookies and snacks are provided. Don't own a Cricut machine? No problem! Come anyway to help cut and prep without a machine. We hope to see you there!

BOOKS OF THE BIBLE KIDS' CLUB

Congratulations to our next **GOLD STAR** "Books of the Bible Kids' Club," member, **Eliza Wheeler**, who has completed all 5 levels of memorizing the books of the Bible! What an outstanding job! If your Sunday School aged child would like to join our "Books of the Bible Kid's Club," see Mrs. Wheeler to get started or continue on today. Your treasures await!



ATTN: Sunday School Students -Grade 1-6

Recite the New Testament Books of the Bible, and become part of **THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE KIDS' CLUB!**

Contact Kathleen Wheeler for details

E.D.G.E.
1st & 3rd Thursdays
@4:30pm
3rd-6th grade Youth Group
JOIN US!
Enter through Gym Door.

3RD - 6TH GRADE E.D.G.E. YOUTH GROUP

Join us for E.D.G.E. (Eternally Driven by God's Example) as we finish our study on perspective! We are answering some big questions this time around: things like what do we believe about our world, is there absolute truth, and how did we get here? These will be exciting lessons as we pour over God's word, revealing what He has to say about it all!

E.D.G.E. meets every 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 4:30 - 5:30. Pickup and drop off at the gymnasium entrance. Also, keep an eye out for our monthly **SUNDAY FUNDAY!** We hope to see you and all of your friends at E.D.G.E. Check out our schedule:

Session 3

(Thursday, Apr. 3, 4:30-5:30pm):

How Did I Get Here?

Bible passage: Genesis 1:26-2:25;
Jeremiah 1:5

SUNDAY FUNDAY

(Sunday, Apr. 6, 12-2pm):

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS PARTY!

Session 4

(Thursday, Apr. 17, 4:30-5:30pm):

Value Those Who Believe Differently?

Bible passage: John 4:1-42

SUNDAY FUNDAY

(Sunday, May. 4, 12-2pm):

END OF YEAR FIESTA!

“A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People”



Annual
HOSANNA CELEBRATION
for all ages
9:30 PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 13
(No Sunday school classes)

Come and be part of our Holy Week activities and crafts, along with a delightful breakfast. Everyone is invited to join in the fun!

HOSANNA CELEBRATION

APRIL 13TH, 9:30 - 10:30AM

Even though we just began our Lenten Journey, we will be rejoicing in Easter Sunday before you know it! This year we are bringing back our “**Hosanna Celebration**,” for all ages! Located in the fellowship hall on Palm Sunday, April 13th, we will have all kinds of activities related to Holy Week. This celebration will take place from 9:30 - 10:30 in place of our regular Sunday School classes.

E.D.G.E. 3rd - 6th Grade Youth Group
Random Acts of Kindness Party!

Pickup and Dropoff at the Gym Doors Sun. Apr. 6, 12 - 2pm

Get ready to unleash joy like it's confetti! Channel your inner Picasso with dazzling art, whip up some fabulous cards, or craft posters that scream "WOW!" Dive into kindness challenge games and chow down on pizza like there's no tomorrow! Got toys or kids' books to share the love with local charities? Bring 'em along and we will donate them on your behalf! Let's throw the best kindness party ever!

First Presbyterian Church
21 Firelands Blvd. Norwalk
kwheeler@firstpresbuterian.net

MAKING SUMMER PLANS?
JOIN US AT SUMMER CHURCH CAMP!

PLEASANT HILL OUTDOOR CAMP

CONTACT PAT AT THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS BEFORE APPLYING AT WWW.PHOC.ORG

AGES 3-17 * AGE 17+ BE A COUNSELOR

SIGN UP TODAY FOR SUMMER CAMP!

It's not too late to sign up for summer camp! Camps have an unquestionably significant influence on the spiritual and relational lives of our youth! Send your child to camp this summer and let him or her connect with Christ. For more information and schedules, visit www.phoc.org for information on Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp in Perrysville or www.bbeach.org for information on Beulah Beach's Camp in Vermilion. Camp scholarships from our church are available for all church members. If you are interested in a scholarship, please talk to Pat Babcock in our church office and return your scholarship applications by May 1st.

PAINT BALL
HYPED 4/6 2:00P

Please bring \$20 and a permission slip!

HYPED is going paintballing! Join us at 2pm on 4/6 for a day of paintballing and fellowship. When you come please bring \$10 and a permission slip that gives us permission to hit you with paintballs!

We are having an awards show night for our final HYPED.

We will be going over highlights from this year and bringing in special guests to give away awards. Dress to impress and be prepared for a special night with lots of surprises.

THE HYPED'S
THE HYPED AWARD SHOW
SPECIAL GUESTS, AWARDS, PRIZES, AND MUCH MORE.
5/4 @7PM

“A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People”



YOUNG ADULT BIBLE STUDY

EVERY
THURSDAY
@ 6:30PM



Please contact Youth Director, Evan Hoffman
at the Church to join!



*Can't make it to
church as often as
you'd like?*

Would you like us to add you to our
HOMETOUCH mailing list?
We would like to keep our community
strong and vibrant, so we offer a variety
of adult devotionals, activity pages,
coloring pages, prayers, and crossword
puzzles from both the Old and New
Testaments, as well as
our weekly worship folders.
Contact the church office to be added 419-668-1923

What's up with Building & Grounds?

- We have brand new chairs for the Great Room.
- Scott Howell has been working for several months on our boiler system. We are trying to be more cost effective and energy conscious . This is a very big task, the boiler/heating system is very complicated, and at this time, one of the boilers is still being worked on.
- The sump pump in the hallway of the old basement was clogged somewhere in the plumbing. Scott Howell is re-plumbing this.
- Our Christian Education Wing is getting new flooring on the upper level!
- Larry Carpenter is working on making signs for all the Christian Education rooms, upstairs and downstairs. These will hang on the outside of the rooms to make it easier for folks to find.
- Gutters - there are several areas that get plugged often. We are looking into getting gutter guards, especially for the Courtyard area.
- Our Building & Grounds Committee is planning ahead for Work Days! Mark your calendars for the Spring clean up on May 3, and Fall clean up on October 18.
- There are new chairs placed in the Narthex for the folks that need to sit while visiting, before they head to Fellowship Hall for coffee hour.
- The Bride's Room is getting revamped. Please, if you need to use a room for an uncomfortable child during church services, you are asked to go to the Family Room #202/204. The live stream of the worship service will be offered there soon!
- Revamping the Great Room has been started. Drywall repairs are complete and painting has begun. The Session Room will be next. If anyone is interested in painting, please let Wende Mersereau know.
- If you see something or have a project in mind, please contact a member of the Building & Grounds Committee. The committee can then discuss it at their next month's meeting.
- Russ White, Landon Klett & Brian Klett have been working on replacing some lighting in the sanctuary.



**This will be a monthly update
from our committee.
We want to share the care
and updates with all of you!**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

21 Firelands Boulevard
Norwalk, Ohio 44857

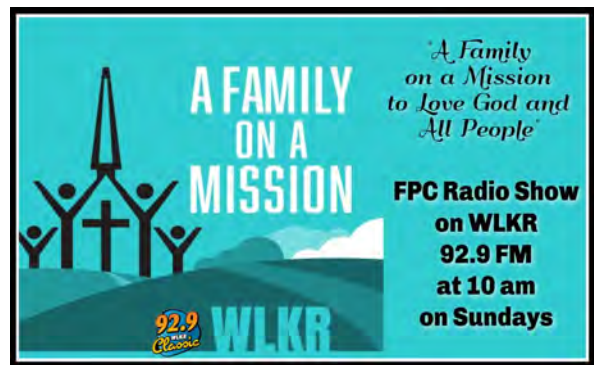
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Fax: 419-663-5115
Web Page: <http://www.firstpresbyterian.net>

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CHURCH STAFF:

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Rev. Clair Brewer, Pastor Emeritus
Kathleen Wheeler, Children & Family Director
kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net
Evan Hoffman, Youth Director
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Michael Matter, Worship and Music Director
mpmatter@gmail.com
Patricia Babcock, Treasurer
pbabcock@bex.net
Kathi Flew, Church Administrator
admin@firstpresbyterian.net
Serena Bowles, Organist
Jennifer Orth, Nursery Caregiver



8:30am & 10:45am—Worship Services



“A Family on a Mission to Love God and All People.”



April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	<p>10a AA Meeting</p> <p>4:15p Mom's Small Group</p> <p>5:15p CE Meeting</p> <p>7p Mary Tester Small Group</p>	<p>7a Men's AM Group</p> <p>5:15p Hodge Podge</p> <p>5:30p Soup Supper</p> <p>5:45p Worship Team</p> <p>6:30p Lenten Worship Service</p> <p>7p Westminster Voices</p> <p>8p Al-anon</p>	<p>6:30a Women's Small Group</p> <p>12p Men's Small Group</p> <p>4:30p EDGE Meeting</p> <p>5:30p Outreach Committee with Communication Team</p> <p>6:15p Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30p Young Adult Small Group</p>	<p>10a AA Meeting</p> <p>10:45a Keen-Agers</p>	<p>6:30p FADS</p> <p>7p AA Meeting</p>
<p>COMMUNION / FOOD BANK SUNDAY</p> <p>Internet Worship Service</p> <p>8:30a Worship Service</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>10:45a Worship Service</p> <p>12p EDGE Sunday Funday</p> <p>2p HYPED Paintball</p>	<p>11a Womens Small Group</p> <p>4:15p Faith McCoy Baton Lessons</p> <p>5:45p Mission Committee Meeting</p> <p>5:45p Worship Committee</p> <p>6p Marotta Small Group</p> <p>7p Bible Banter via Zoom</p>	<p>10a AA Meeting</p> <p>4:15p Mom's Small Group</p> <p>5:30p Building & Grounds</p> <p>6p Fellowship Committee</p> <p>7p Mary Tester Small Group</p>	<p>7a Men's AM Group</p> <p>10a PW Board Meeting</p> <p>12p Stewardship Meeting</p> <p>4p Huston Small Group</p> <p>5:15p Hodge Podge</p> <p>5:30p Soup Supper</p> <p>5:45p Worship Team</p> <p>6:30p Lenten Worship Service</p> <p>7p Westminster Voices</p> <p>8p Al-anon</p>	<p>6:30a Women's Small Group</p> <p>12p Men's Small Group</p> <p>4p Stein Hospice Grief Group</p> <p>5:30p Mission Committee Meeting</p> <p>6:15p Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30p Deacons Meeting</p> <p>6:30p Young Adult Small Group</p>	<p>10a AA Meeting</p>	<p>7p AA Meeting</p>
<p>Internet Worship Service</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY</p> <p>8:30a Worship Service</p> <p>9:30a Hosanna Celebration</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>10:45a Worship Service</p> <p>6p HYPE'D Small Group</p> <p>7p HYPE'D Meeting</p>	<p>11a Womens Small Group</p> <p>4:15p Faith McCoy Baton Lessons</p> <p>6p ACT Board Meeting</p> <p>6p Marotta Small Group</p> <p>7p Bible Banter via Zoom</p>	<p>10a AA Meeting</p> <p>4:15p Mom's Small Group</p> <p>7p Mary Tester Small Group</p>	<p>7a Men's AM Group</p> <p>12:30p Birthday Bunch</p> <p>5:15p Hodge Podge</p> <p>5:45p Worship Team</p> <p>6:15p Bell Choir</p> <p>7p Westminster Voices</p> <p>8p Al-anon</p>	<p>6:30a Women's Small Group</p> <p>10a PW Morning Circle</p> <p>12p Men's Small Group</p> <p>12:30p PW Afternoon Circle</p> <p>4:30p EDGE Meeting</p> <p>5:30p Maundy Thursday Dinner</p> <p>6:15p Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30p Maunday Thursday Worship Service</p> <p>6:30p Young Adult Small Group</p>	<p>10a AA Meeting</p> <p>6:30p Good Friday worship service</p>	<p>7p AA Meeting</p>
<p>EASTER SUNDAY</p> <p>Internet Worship Service</p> <p>8:30a Worship Service</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>10a Easter Egg Hunt</p> <p>10:45a Worship Service</p> <p>4:30p Novel Ideas Book Club</p>	<p>11a Womens Small Group</p> <p>4:15p Faith McCoy Baton Lessons</p> <p>6p Marotta Small Group</p> <p>7p Bible Banter via Zoom</p>	<p>10a AA Meeting</p> <p>4:15p Mom's Small Group</p> <p>7p Mary Tester Small Group</p>	<p>7a Men's AM Group</p> <p>12p LYN Luncheon</p> <p>4p Huston Small Group</p> <p>5:15p Hodge Podge</p> <p>5:45p Worship Team</p> <p>6:15p Bell Choir</p> <p>7p Westminster Voices</p> <p>8p Al-anon</p>	<p>6:30a Women's Small Group</p> <p>12p Men's Small Group</p> <p>6:15p Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30p Young Adult Small Group</p>	<p>10a AA Meeting</p>	<p>7p AA Meeting</p>
<p>Internet Worship Service</p> <p>8:30a Worship Service</p> <p>9:30a Sunday School</p> <p>10:45a Worship Service</p>	<p>11a Womens Small Group</p> <p>4:15p Faith McCoy Baton Lessons</p> <p>6p Marotta Small Group</p> <p>7p Bible Banter via Zoom</p>	<p>10a AA Meeting</p> <p>4:15p Mom's Small Group</p> <p>7p Mary Tester Small Group</p>	<p>7a Men's AM Group</p> <p>5:15p Hodge Podge</p> <p>5:45p Worship Team</p> <p>6:15p Bell Choir</p> <p>7p Westminster Voices</p> <p>8p Al-anon</p>	<p>National Day of Prayer</p> <p>6:30a National Day of Prayer Breakfast</p> <p>6:30a Women's Small Group</p> <p>7a National Day of Prayer Worship Service</p> <p>12p Men's Small Group</p> <p>4:30p EDGE Meeting</p> <p>5:30p Outreach Committee</p> <p>6:15p Bell Choir</p> <p>6:30p Young Adult Small Group</p>	<p>10a AA Meeting</p> <p>1p Keen-Agers</p>	<p>8a Campus Work Day - Building & Grounds</p> <p>1:30p Ministerial Association Meeting</p> <p>7p AA Meeting</p>