

ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church
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September 2024

Families Flourish

What you know: Our church hosted Families Flourish moms and children twice; you've heard of the fun had by volunteers from First Presbyterian and our friends from Families Flourish.

You may also know that

- Families Flourish has achieved success with about 48 local families whom they've moved to neighborhoods with sidewalks, streetlights, parks, schools and libraries within walking distance, and absence of gunfire and threats.
- And that each family has a coach to help them navigate tasks we take for granted, such as how to 1) deal with a bank, 2) do a parent conference, 3) write a resume and apply for a job, 4) parent a child, and many more tasks that are very familiar to most of us.

What you may not know:

Families Flourish parents

- experience an impressive income increase
- see a large decrease in emergency room costs
- develop a greater sense of security
- have improved credit scores
- experience great reduction of stress



Families Flourish children

- develop a greater interest in school
- achieve better grades
- make more friends
- have better health

What our church is doing: Families Flourish is supported financially by many organizations and businesses. Our Session voted at the August meeting to assist Families Flourish with a one-time gift of \$19,200. This money comes from special funds dedicated to mission projects. Families Flourish sincerely and deeply thanks you. Watch for more excitement about this soon! Beckey Stamm and Lori Lampel.



2024 Scholarships Awarded

Three college students from First Presbyterian are beginning their fall semesters with a bit of extra help this year, thanks to the church scholarship program. Jack Bates, Brayden King, and Cole Wright each received \$2,500 from the scholarship funds. Additionally, we donated \$1,000 to the Otterbein Nursing School from the Barbara Haffenden Memorial Scholarship.

The gifts are unencumbered, meaning they can be used for whatever financial obligations arise from an educational program: tuition, books, computers, housing, etc. They can be used for any collegiate degree program, trade school, or fees associated with certifications or continuing education.

The scholarships are made possible by gifts and bequests from the following funds:

- Baker-Burnside Scholarship
- Griffith-McOwen Scholarship
- John D. Lyter Memorial Scholarship
- Miller-Cellar Scholarship
- Robert Miner Memorial Scholarship
- Mary Stout Memorial Scholarship
- Robert J. Wilcox and Eleanor J. Wilcox Scholarship
- Barbara Haffenden Memorial Scholarship (This scholarship is specifically for a nursing student, and if no nursing student applies, the money then goes to the Otterbein program.)

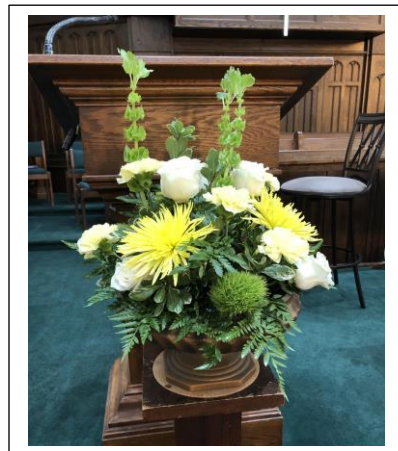
The Scholarship Committee includes Gene and Sherri Monteith (co-chairs), Kathy Krotz, and Jane McMeekin. Our thanks to them for completing this ministry!

Administrative Services Requests Help

Administrative Services is still looking for help on a couple of small painting projects - Barb Klingman's office and Pastor Nancy's office. Anyone willing to tackle either job or to assist someone from Administrative Services with either job, please speak to Naomi Wriston, Brad Gamble, or Jim Hines.

Everything You Wanted to Know About Flowers for the Sanctuary

First Presbyterian has a long-standing tradition of providing flowers to grace the sanctuary each Sunday morning. Your donation of these flowers is a special way to remember loved ones and meaningful occasions. The Flower Coordinator and the Worship Committee work with Talbott's Flowers on N. State Street to provide the arrangements. The donor makes out a check to First Presbyterian Westerville for \$35.00 and writes "flowers" on the memo line. The check can be placed in the offering plate during the month of the donation. Donors are welcome to take their arrangement home but can have a Deacon deliver it to someone in need of support.



Cut flowers are the standard arrangement, but you can also request a planter on the sign-up sheet in the White Binder. Please contact Mary Lee Jones if you want a planter, and she will notify Talbott's. We have a few openings in December, and the 2025 calendar is now in the White Binder. You can select any Sunday(s) throughout the year for your donation.

The flowers in the photo were given by Denver and Mary Jane Santee in honor of their mothers.

First Presbyterian recognizes new births with a red rose in a vase. Parents and grandparents, please notify the pastor of such an occasion so the church can acknowledge God's new gift to the world. The family takes the rose and vase home as a present from the church.

Join the Choir and/or Handbells!

Are you interested in singing or ringing in one of our choirs? If yes, the Chancel Choir's first rehearsal is Wednesday, September 4, at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Handbells' first rehearsal date will be announced soon. For questions, contact Earl Linhart. Come sing/ring with us!

Welcoming Visitors

This card is an invitation for those who have visited the church a couple of times and would like to learn more about First Presbyterian. It was designed by Katie Kaste and others from the new Connections Team. (See the Pastor's Page later in this issue for more details about the team.)



The Church's July Financial Report

8/5/2024
06:43 pm

First Presbyterian Church
Treasurer's Report, Majors with Annual Budget
Finance year 2024, July

Book 01: Operating	Actual Jul. 2024	Actual as of 7/31/2024	Budget as of 7/31/2024	Budget 2024
Income				
01 - Budgeted Contributions	25,442.00	194,750.05	179,408.88	307,558.08
02 - Administrative Services	312.50	1,225.00	583.31	999.96
03 - Christian Education	0.00	35.00	116.69	200.04
05 - Membership & Evangelism	0.00	20.00	116.69	200.04
08 - Worship	145.00	1,445.11	1,516.69	2,600.04
Income:	25,899.50	197,475.16	181,742.26	311,558.16
Expense				
01 - Personnel	14,661.50	124,723.36	145,968.08	232,896.24
02 - Administrative Services	8,445.12	36,364.54	33,230.88	53,510.08
03 - Christian Education	0.00	247.87	2,625.00	4,500.00
05 - Membership/Evangelism/Events	0.00	713.71	2,070.81	3,549.96
06 - Stewardship	11,358.01	14,078.01	15,979.19	21,950.04
07 - Outreach	1,500.00	3,568.01	4,483.38	8,800.00
08 - Worship	181.49	3,428.57	3,845.81	6,625.00
09 - Deacons	0.00	0.00	145.81	250.00
10 - Communications and Technology	408.10	3,966.57	4,917.50	8,430.00
Expense:	36,554.22	187,090.64	213,266.46	340,511.32
Summary: Book 01: Operating				
	Actual Jul. 2024	Actual as of 7/31/2024	Budget as of 7/31/2024	Budget 2024
Income:	25,899.50	197,475.16	181,742.26	311,558.16
- Expense:	36,554.22	187,090.64	213,266.46	340,511.32
Net Income:	-10,654.72	10,384.52	-31,524.20	-28,953.16

August Session Actions

At its August meeting, the Session voted

- To approve the June 10, 2024, minutes. (There was no July meeting.)
- In favor of needing to refresh the website and for the Communications and Technology Committee to review costs with Stewardship and Finance to see if there is a budget.
- To eliminate all language about the Mission Committee in the Dedicated Mission Fund. If we decide to contribute to Families Flourish, the money would first come from the Dedicated Mission Fund.
- To support Families Flourish with a \$19,200 one-time donation.

--Scott Reichley, Clerk of Session

Update on Rehoboth Deliveries

Dave Beeman, who is now making our non-food deliveries to Rehoboth in Perry County, is willing to accumulate donations during the winter months, when Rehoboth is closed, and deliver them in the spring. So do continue to bring in your clothing and household items. Thanks, Dave!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PARISH PARTIES MEET & GREET

The Deacons will be hosting the last of the summer Parish Parties on September 15, 2024 from 11:30 to 12:30.

If you haven't been able to join us yet, we hope you will be able to attend, connect with others in your parish, and meet Rev. Nancy Dumford.

See below for sign up details.
Pizza, salad, cookies and drinks will be provided!

Sept 15 - after church 11:30 - 12:30
Deacons: Anne Bates, Audra Hauff and Deb Gamble

**Please sign up via the white notebook
located in the Knox Hallway
or call the church (614) 882-3155**

Below is the photo from the July 28 parish party. A good-looking group, right?

Also, we need your photos for our online directory. Please send a photo you would like included to Anne Bates. Or see her after church to take a quick picture!!





Coming Soon: Our Annual CROP Walk Sunday, October 13

We hope you will support this year's CROP Walk in whatever way works for you. You have four options: walk on 10/13 (choice of 2 locations; see below), support an individual who is walking, support all our walkers, or walk on another day by yourself.

You also have two choices for a walk. (1) The short Westerville/Northside walk will begin at 2 pm, meeting at the shelter house at Hoff Woods Park (off McCorkle Blvd. across the street from Westerville's main post office). (2) The downtown walk will begin at Scioto Audubon Metro Park (400 W Whittier St, near Olentangy River and near where Red, White and Boom fireworks happen). An Impact Fair at 1 pm will offer more about WARM, as well as other local agencies. You can also enjoy great learning activities for families, a photo booth, etc. The longer Walk Send-Off is at 2 pm. With picnic pavilions nearby, you can bring lunch and make a day of it.

Whether you walk or not, a financial donation to CROP would be very helpful. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Westerville and **indicate CROP on the check.**

CROP continues to fight against the challenges of disease, disaster, displacement, war, famine, and other concerns that leave people hungry. Join with us as we raise funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need today and sustainable food security assistance for developing their own future food sources. About 25% of the money raised by Westerville churches stays locally with WARM to further its community mission in the Westerville area. Be sure to ask your friends to support you in your walk. The more money we raise, the more poor and hungry people we can help. Our congregation has participated in every CROP Walk since 1985 (36 years), and we usually raise the most money of any participating Westerville church, between \$3000 and \$4000 each year. Nationally, CROP walks raise many millions of dollars annually.

We walk to remember and help those worldwide who walk daily to meet their basic food and water needs. We walk to end hunger one person at a time, and we hope you can support us on October 13.

Thank you in advance for your participation. Dave Beeman (chairman), Bill Hitt, and Bob Place.

Farmers' Market Ministry

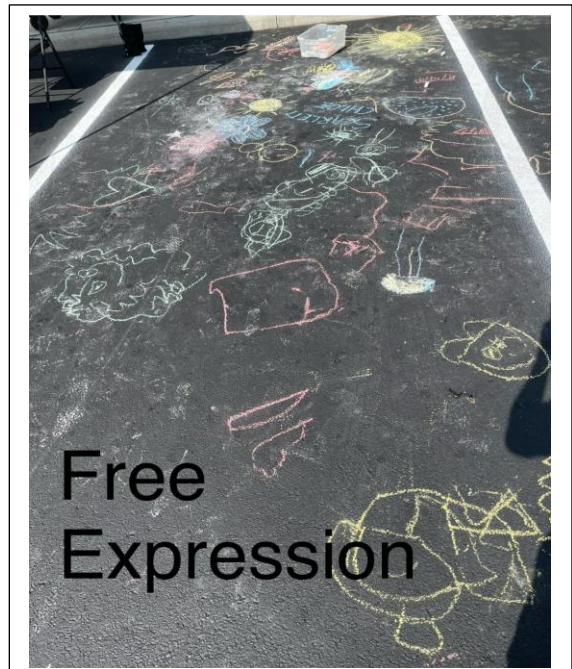
First Presbyterian Church is continuing its Saturday morning Farmers' Market Ministry, and our CE department is supporting this mission outreach by helping to staff the market. We are asking families with children to sign up for one Saturday morning from 9:00-11:30 during the summer.

You will be paired with experienced Market helpers from the church, and together you will set up our church's booth and entertain the children with bubbles, sidewalk chalk, and other fun outdoor activities. When the Market is over, you will take down the booth and store the materials back in the church.

This is an excellent activity for children of all ages, and older children can receive service hour benefits. This ministry helps entertain the younger kids who come to the Market and is a great way to promote our church. You may sign up to help at:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0F4EA5AA28A1FE3-48546200-farmers>

In the photo on the left, Bill Hitt and Dave Beeman at "work." Other church members supporting the Farmers Market ministry include Jack and Sue Anderson, Lori Lampel, John Robbins, and Marge Fredrickson. In the photo on the right, creativity!



Upcoming Youth and Family Events

Discovery Zone

As the school year begins, we are once again starting our Sunday School program, which we call Discovery Zone. Lisa Tennant will be teaching in the Kids' Ministry room (formerly the nursery) following the Especially for Children message each Sunday. A Bible lesson and an activity appropriate for ages Pre-K through 5th grade will be presented each Sunday. We will be using the *Jesus Storybook Bible* to guide these lessons and activities, and we encourage parents to check out this great children's Bible so you can continue the learning at home!

Middle School and High School Volunteer Opportunity

Are you a middle school or high school student who loves working with kids? We would love to have you help with Sunday School and our youth service projects! If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Nancy.



Family Fellowship Gathering

Our next family gathering will be Saturday, September 14, from 3-5pm at the Kaste home. This is a great place to connect with others in a similar stage of life. Whether you are single, married, have kids or not, you are welcome to join us! We will have snacks, games, and activities for kids. We look forward to seeing you! Please RSVP to Katie Kaste.

Youth Service Project



Join us on Sunday, September 22, from 11:45 am-1:00 pm for our next Youth Service Project through Seeds of Caring. We will be learning about Meals on Wheels and how it serves seniors in our community. We will then make crafts to be delivered with the meals. Lunch is included. Families are invited to join in the project and have lunch with us, too! Please RSVP to Katie Kaste.

Event Update

Genealogy Club: Thursday, September 19, 7:00 pm



Van Young, a frequent speaker at the Community Center, spoke to us on August 15 on “The History of US Immigration, Part 1.” He will speak on Part 2 on September 19 at 7:00 pm. Both talks will be Zoom only. The following meeting will be October 17 at 7:00 pm. We will meet at the Westerville Library for a talk by librarian Elizabeth Tait on Westerville Library Genealogy Resources. The room will be announced later. Zoom will not be available.

After the October meeting, we will move to quarterly meetings. If you are interested or just curious and have not contacted us before, contact Bill Hitt or Ken Bonvallet.

Dine Out: Friday, September 13, 6:30 pm

Dine-Out for Friday, September 13, will be CARFAGNA'S at 6:30 pm. Carfagna's is at 1440 Gemini Place, Columbus, near Costco. You and your friends are all invited to have a good time with us! As usual, please contact Bob Place or Jim Hines if you plan on attending or have any questions.

Ladies' Night Out: Tuesday, September 17, 6:30 pm

We all had fun at Marcella's in August and look forward to getting together again on September 17. The restaurant is still to be determined. Watch the church bulletin and daily emails for information. Suggestions? Contact Diana Westfall.

Fabrics of Faith: Monday, September 23, 1-3:00 pm

Pull out the yarn and thread for our next Fabrics of Faith meeting! When we meet, people do needlework, share completed projects, or watch others work. We chat and laugh and enjoy fellowship, whether working or not. It's fun!

Please join us in Fellowship Hall on September 23, 1:00 pm. You don't have to have a project in hand; you don't have to know how to do one. We have materials; bring yourself and a smile. Please contact Beckey Stamm for information or to say you'll be there. And men—you're invited, too!

Circle 4 Women: Thursday, September 19, 11:00 am on Zoom

Our Presbyterian Women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Join us as we continue our study of *Sacred Horizons* at our next meeting on Thursday, September 19. If interested, call Elaine Foley.

Presbyterian 9 Patchers (P9P): Next meeting: ?

The time of our next meeting is uncertain. For an update, contact Karen Hoggarth.

Qigong Practice

Long ago, before Covid changed everything, we held a Chinese meditation practice called Qigong at the church. A relative of Tai Chi and Yoga, Qigong has been found to reduce stress and anxiety, boost immunity, improve our outlook on life, and bring relaxation.

When Covid came, we went online—Zoom—and continued practicing. Recently, I was asked if we would bring Qigong back to the church. The answer is “No,” because over these four years, we’ve gathered people from some faraway places, and we want to continue to include them.

Now that we’re “in transition,” it seems good to let people know that our practice sessions are still available. If you’re new to our church, if you know nothing about Qigong, consider trying this practice.

We meet online on Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm, and Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 pm, at no cost. A benefit of Zoom is you can enter the meeting, turn off your microphone and camera, watch and hear us, and decide if you want to participate—all while not being seen or heard!

I’ve been studying and practicing Qigong for about 20 years, and I love teaching it. Please contact me with questions.
Beckey Stamm



Sweet Adelines to Perform for Us!

Sunday, September 15, 3:00 pm

On Sunday, September 15, the Sweet Adelines “barbershop” group will be at our church to entertain us. Many of you have already enjoyed this group’s shows and know what a treat this will be.

About forty-five women will wow us with some of your favorite songs, including our own member, Pam Smith! This is the group’s 63rd year of harmony. And the program is free!





Pastor's Page Rev. Nancy Dumford

New FPCW Connections Team

We are in the process of gathering a group of people to form a Connections Team that will develop a strategy to genuinely greet and support visitors from their first visit until they are engaged and ready to join our church. We've had wonderful discussions of how to approach this important ministry. To better understand our purpose, consider this excerpt from Nelson Searcy's book, *Fusion*:

Next Sunday the Spirit of God will prompt hundreds of thousands of people in the US and millions around the world to visit a church for the first time. The Sunday after that, He will do it again... The question is: Are you and I doing all we can to accept and honor His blessing?¹

I love this beginning. Nelson Searcy, the author, reminds us that our church is really God's church, and He blesses us by bringing people to our door in a multitude of ways. We see them as "guests," but really, they are gifts from God. What we do with these precious gifts says much about our appreciation for their arrival. Have you ever gotten a gift and set it off to the side, without a thank-you note or a thought to its use? When we fail to receive a gift well, it reflects on our heart's condition. Searcy reminded me that each person takes an incredible risk when they visit a church. For many, it becomes a ripe opportunity for them to begin or re-engage their journey of faith. We want them with us, not so that our church can grow, but so that their lives can be touched, enriched, and transformed by the Lord. The work we do is holy work, and we do not do it alone. God partners with us to welcome the people He has drawn to us.

To work toward this goal, we have two events planned for this fall:

- First, a welcome reception called **Meet First Pres** to be held in the library after worship on Sunday, September 29. If you are new or newer to First Presbyterian, we hope you will join us for lunch and a chance to learn a little bit more about our church.
- Second, a **membership class** to be held in Fellowship Hall after worship on Sunday, November 3. If you would like to explore what it means to become a member of First Presbyterian Church, join us for lunch and a two-hour class. Taking the class does not obligate you to join the church, but it will give you a deeper understanding of our local and denominational expression, and the historic church of Jesus Christ. Thank you to all who offer themselves as "ambassadors"² for Christ, both within our building and in the broader community.

¹ Searcy, Nelson, and Jennifer Dykes Henson. *Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests into Fully Engaged Members of Your Church*. Baker Books, 2017.

² We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (2 Cor. 5:20)