



First Presbyterian Church

Courier

May 2023

**211 Schmitt Drive
Waverly, OH 45690
740-947-2905**

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MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

April 30, 2023

MINISTERS FOR THE COMMUNITY: EVERY MEMBER

Pastor: Jane B. Johnson

Secretary: Bobbie Hall

Clerk of Session: Elaine Zingg

Choir Director: Audrey Tysen

Organist: Patricia Penrose

Pianist: Edy Panjaitan

Treasurer: Michael Milam

MINISTERS FOR VISION AND MISSION: SESSION:

Class of 2023

Tom Hlasten

Susan Thomas

Joyce Holben

Class of 2024

John Mikelson

Barbara Pettit

Elaine Zingg

Class of 2025

Pat Mikelson

Jewell McCliment

Barbara Taphorn

MINISTERS FOR MEMBER CARE: DEACONS

Irene Clark

Barbara Patterson

COMMITTEES:

Discipleship and Worship: Pastor Jane

Evangelism & Mission: Pat Mikelson

Fellowship: Barbara Taphorn

Finance & Stewardship: Susan Thomas

Congregant Care: Joyce Holben

Nominating: Pat Mikelson

Personnel: Pat Mikelson

Presbytery: Barbara Pettit

Presbyterian Women: Pat Penrose

Property: Barbara Pettit

Technology/Communication: John Mikelson

MEMBERS SERVING IN OTHER PLACES:

- Allen Wollenberg, Pike County Outreach Council of Churches
- Mark, Jenny, Kella Rosa, and Aika Estela Hare
Papay-Costa Rica
- Jim McGill, *Sudan*

We are open for worship in the church at 10:15 am. Masks are optional, but recommended. Fellowship Hour follows after worship. We continue to have worship on line each Sunday morning at 10:15 am. You can tune in by your computer or telephone.

If you are using a computer to connect: Open your computer browser (Internet Explorer, Chrome or Safari) Enter <https://zoom.us> 542 773 5626 in the address bar. Follow screen instructions. Password: 6NgnrH

If you are using a phone to connect, dial 312-626-6799 and then enter ID:

542 773 5626#.

When prompted for a password enter 355142#.



a view from the pew

REV. DR. DOUGLAS E. HOLBEN

We began the month of April with Holy Week culminating on Easter. We are now opening the month of May with our eyes on the celebration of Pentecost at the end of this calendar page. While most of us think of May flowers and Mother's Day this month, there is another great liturgical celebration day this month sandwiched between Easter and Pentecost that we call the Ascension of the Lord – when Jesus ascended into heaven. Although most Presbyterians and Protestants in general do not celebrate Ascension Day, it is an important day to remember as disciples of our risen Lord, for it underscores the divinity of Jesus by His

ascending to the Father. The disciples of Jesus witnessed his ascending to heaven and were charged to wait for the promise of the Father when they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. This is the event which we celebrate at Pentecost.

Now, we are all disciples, baptized and empowered to be witnesses to the mighty power of God. Do you remember Rev. Kathy Nice's Easter sermon? "Go tell, go tell, go tell." And by all means possible – be a witness to the love of God by showing the world "we are Christians by our love."

QUARTERLY STATEMENTS

MIKE MILAM

The quarterly statements were recently sent to our congregants. It is important for the church to send out these statements. Each of you is an auditor for your own finances, and the church needs to hear if there are any discrepancies

between what your records show and what the church records show. These statements can also be valuable for caregivers or children, in some cases, to review the financial records of someone needing a little help with finances.

This edition of the First Presbyterian Church Courier sponsored by

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OUR SESSION AT WORK

ELAINE OSER ZINGG

Rev. Dr. Douglas Holben was guest Moderator for a second time at our April Session meeting as Pastor Jane will remain on Disability Leave until May 1, 2023. Session appreciates Doug's willingness to take on this extra work of leading Session in Jane's absence. We also appreciated Rev. Kathy Nice, Transitional General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, and Rev. Emily Krause Corzine, Moderator of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley's willingness to drive down from Columbus to cover some of our Sunday Worship Services in Jane's absence. It has been good to get to know Presbytery leaders firsthand.

At the April meeting, Session approved returning to the pre-COVID Lockdown Method of celebrating the Lord's Supper where four pre-selected servers pass trays of cut pieces of bread and small glasses of grape juice down the pews during the communion celebration. In consideration for congregants who will not be comfortable with this change, there will also be a few pre-packaged

containers of the elements available on the table holding bulletins as you enter the Sanctuary.

We were told that the Evangelism and Mission Committee is sending \$500 of its evangelism funds to Gideon's International as a memorial to Bob Penrose who believed in and worked for Gideon's distribution of Bibles prior to his March 2nd death.

Session also received a report on all the time, energy, and hard work John Mikelson has been putting in on trying to correct problems the church has been having with its sight and sound equipment. Session has approved purchasing an Apple Mini Mack, dongle (additive connector), keyboard and DVD/CD player. John has also signed the church up for a five-year Apple Care contract and an Apple mouse. Session is grateful to John for his willingness to make multiple trips in and out of Columbus and spend hours conferring with internet geeks on the church's behalf.



A BIT OF HUMOR

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I

make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up." At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner."

THANK YOU FROM OUR SESSION

JOYCE HOLBEN

The Session expresses its gratitude to the individuals who have worked tirelessly while our pastor has been on disability:

...to our retired pastors, Presbyters, and liturgists who have provided inspiring leadership in worship and discipleship,

...to Karen Henderson and Barbara Taphorn and their volunteers for our nutritious and sustaining Soup 'n' Study during Lent,

...to Bobbie and her diligent volunteer office staff for extra typing and office hours,

...to those kind and caring persons who have visited the ill or bereaved or those in need of a proper ZOOM connection,

...to our temporary Moderator Doug who has gently but firmly kept us on the Presbyterian Way...

We have ALL done a splendid job keeping Christ's church alive and vibrant during these challenging times. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION!

"Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change..." Jas. 1:17

ADULT STUDIES CLASS

CAL TYSEN

The Sunday, 9:15 am adult studies class for the rest of the April and May will feature part of a 24-lecture series recorded by Dr. David Brakke, a noted professor at Ohio State.

He is clear and documents his 30-minute talks with illustrations which make them easy to understand and follow.

His subject is the New Testament. He tells us how it was formed as one book though with many authors. The series gives information on each

book's subject matter. The first several subjects and dates are: The Paradox of the New Testament (4/16), Jewish Origins of the Christian Faith (4/23), I Thessalonians and Paul's Ministry (4/30), The Salvation of the Gentiles in Galatians (5/7), Romans on God, Faith, and Israel (5/14), and Community Conflicts In I-II Corinthians (5/21).

Come for some interesting and thought-provoking insights from Dr. Brakke, whose talks are 30 min. A short time for discussion will follow each one.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PAT PENROSE

Presbyterian Women will meet on May 3 at 1:30 pm at the church. Both Circles will meet together for Lesson 8 of Celebration Sabbath, "Sabbath and Justice." The lesson will be taught by Study Leader Nel Diehlman. The Hostess will be Karen Henderson.

At this meeting we will be receiving the Annual PW Birthay Offering. This year the offering will be given to Making Miracles Group Home in Tallahassee, Florida and Bethany Yesus Elementary School located in the western highlands of Ethiopia.

Remember also to bring your regular pledge and least coin offerings.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting and remember, you can always bring a new member with you.

KEATS RIVAS

Time to Move on . . .

AUDREY TYSEN

Since Keats was selected to take over some of the duties of the musical part of our church program last September, we have all been blessed with his cello and piano music. His wonderful gift has touched our lives, but Keats has also been blessed by us – he agrees that he now has a whole bunch of new grandmothers and grandfathers!

When he came to us, he was attending Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. He will receive his Masters degree in Cello Performance and Pedagogy. And now he plans to move on, possibly to get more education. He has been awarded at least one scholarship, so he may be moving to Alabama, or Georgia, or Nevada, or ? So we all will support him in our prayers as he does his planning.



While he was with us, he will admit that he matured in his musical skills, learning how to accompany the choir on the piano, playing hymns, and doing solos on his cello. Many times he brought a friend with him who would accompany him on the piano when he played a cello solo. He brought Edy Panjaitan with him to do this (and Edy was drawn to attend on a regular basis.) In fact, Edy is offering his talents for our musical program on a continuing basis – he is working towards a doctorate in “Inter-disciplinarian Arts” at Ohio University.

Keats said he really likes Ohio and our church, so we may see him come back to visit (and we look forward to hearing his cello again). God be with you!

CATERED FAMILY DINNER

MAY 19TH AT 5 PM

BARBARA TAPHORN

Rather than having separate Mother’s and Father’s Day dinners this year, we will have a catered family dinner on Friday, May 19th, at 5:00 pm.

Since it will be catered, please sign the sheet across from the Fellowship Table by May 14th, 2023, if you plan to come. Thank you!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

CONGREGATION OFFERING \$3,140 + Church budget \$2,100 = \$5,240

Your Generous Gifts enables our congregation to share God's love and

- Provides relief for those affected by earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and other natural disasters
- Provides food to the hungry around the world
- Helps to empower the poor and oppressed.

IN MEMORY OF BOB PENROSE

The Mission and Evangelism Committee is donating five hundred dollars from its evangelism budget to the Gideons International in memory of Bob Penrose. The work of the Gideons International was very important to Bob. Our committee appreciates the time Bob gave as a member of this committee. We hope this donation puts Bibles in the hands of many.



PC-USA PENTECOST OFFERING May 28

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps our church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be used to make an impact in the lives of young people within our own Pike County community. The remaining 60% supports children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through PC-USA ministries.

The Food Pantry is greatly in need of

RAMEN NOODLES (LOTS)

**CANNED OR DRIED navy,
pinto and kidney beans**

CANNED chili beans

THE LIBRARY OFFERING NEW HELP TO HOMELESS TEENS

The Garnet A. Wilson Public Library in Waverly now offers a displaced-teen card to the youth in our community, between the ages of 12-18, who are currently dealing with homelessness and/or neglect. The displaced-teen card does not require the signature of a parent or guardian. When teens come in

reporting hunger, depression or homelessness, they are welcomed, have a quiet place to talk and peruse the shelves, and receive goody bags of toiletries and snacks. Last month the library helped 37 teens. Needs at this time are non-perishable snacks for the goody bags.



BREAD FOR THE WORLD LETTERS

May 7 letter signing and May 14 dedication of letters

Each Spring our congregation takes part in the BREAD FOR THE WORLD advocacy letter-writing program to encourage our elected Senators and U.S. Representatives to pass legislation which provides funds to alleviate hunger and provide healthy food sources both in the U.S. and around the world. This year the letter promotes the Farm Bill, a package of legislation passed roughly once every five years that has a tremendous impact on farming livelihoods, how food is grown, and what kinds of foods are grown.

The Farm Bill covers programs ranging from crop insurance for farmers to healthy food access for low-income families. As a leading advocate for family farmers and sustainable agriculture, it's our job to make sure that this important bill is good for farmers, consumers, and for the natural envi-

ronment. 76% of the Farm bill is for SNAP - the largest federal nutrition assistance program which provides benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families.

The current farm bill was enacted into law in December 2018 and expires in 2023. The original farm bill(s) were enacted in three stages during the 1930s as part of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal legislation. Its three original goals – to keep food prices fair for farmers and consumers, ensure an adequate food supply, and protect and sustain the country's vital natural resources – responded to the economic and environmental crises of the Great Depression and the Dust Bowl. While the farm bill has changed in the last 70 years, its primary goals are the same.

CHALLENGES FOR KIDS IN OUR LARGER NEIGHBORHOOD

In a recent interview about the C.O.P.E. program, staff person Brack Montgomery reported that almost 35% of Waverly School students do not live with their biological parents. Grandparents, aunts and uncles, friends, older siblings provide housing, and, in a few cases, older students live on their own. During the year, many of these young people move from one caretaking situation to another. 54% of all students are on Medicaid, indicating our local poverty level; it is 75% in other parts of the county. 26% of Waverly students have special needs, compared to 14% in the state of Ohio. These and other statistics indicate the high level of need among the young people of our county.

The staff of C.O.P.E., which stands for Community Outreach Parental Engage-

ment, is on hand to help these students and their caretakers to “cope” with the challenges of poverty and lack of stability in the home situation. The specific goal is to do whatever is possible to help these young people to complete their schooling and to have a path ahead after graduation. As an indication of the success of the program, last year the staff identified 20 H.S. seniors at risk of not graduating. Of these, 19 of the 20 did receive their diplomas and were ready to take the next steps in their lives. Let us hold these young people in our thoughts and pray for guidance, energy, and continuing renewal of vision for the COPE staff: Brack Montgomery (Middle and High Schools), Jeremy Peters (Elementary and Intermediate Schools), and Terri Dunham (Social Services Coordinator).

CHRISTMAS GIVING MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Our congregation and several other groups in Waverly have been making Thanksgiving and Christmas donations in support of the students served by COPE. This last December these gifts reached 200 households/350 students! Terri Dunham reported on one of the households we assisted at Christmas. On the edge financially, the mother works and does her best to support her two girls.

She tells us that without our generosity, that small family would not have had a Christmas to celebrate and have expressed their appreciation for our support. They find hope about their future in the sense of concern that we share through our giving. And so it is with other families in this area who are struggling with these kinds of long-term poverty issues.



Join us for a delightful

AFTERNOON TEA

*Sunday, May 7, 2023
First Presbyterian Church
3:00 - 5:00 pm*

\$10 per person (tickets at the door)

Enjoy fine teas and canapes while learning about the subtleties of each cup.

Light musical entertainment provided

For information call: 740-708-6580

Sponsored by Prime Thyme Growers Garden Club

Proceeds benefit select Pike County Charities





Remember in Prayer:

Maurice Bailey
Gary Baker
Marilyn Beilstein
Dan Beilstein
David Boyer
Jim Clark
John Dawson
Jean Earnhardt
Jerry Hall
George Hartwell
Bud Hobday
Jane Johnson
Ruth Karner
Janet Marsh

Marty Miller
Ann Oyer
Barbara Patterson
Tom Patterson
Pat Penrose
Martha & Ed Pool
Jeff & Nancy Sapienza
Dimitry Sergay
Nancy Seward
Lew Stratton
Angie Strewsbery
Julia & Kara Washington
Allen Wollenberg
Judy Wollenberg
Elaine Zingg

Bristol Health Care:

George Hartwell - 105
Bud Hobday - 125
Bill Johnson - 113
Janet Marsh - 24
Nancy Seward - 205
Judy Wollenberg - 312

Birthdays:

Nancy Seward - 6
Geri Prod - 7
John Mikelson - 8
Bobbie Hall - 14
Sherry Sapienza - 21

REMEMBERING BOB PENROSE (continued)

good friend Dr. Kimura founded the Western Ohio Poison and Drug Information Center.

Bob was an elder and current deacon of the First Presbyterian Church of Waverly. He was a member of Orient Lodge #321, Past Master of Webb Lodge #252, and recently received his 50-year member award. He was a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of Aladdin and Pike County Shrine Clubs. Bob was currently chaplain of Pike County Camp Gideons International. He was a member of the Ohio Pharmacists Association.

He is survived by his wife of fifteen years Patricia and his children Christopher (Nicola) Penrose of

Stockport; Marianne Penrose Veach of Grove City; Natalie (James) Hicks of Pickerington; and Robert (Sabrina) Penrose of Zanesville.

Bob was proud of his family and their achievements and enjoyed spending time with all of his family; annual family trips to the Ozarks; listening to Pat play the piano and organ; and traveling.

Caring Cremation has taken place through the Boyer Funeral Home in Waverly, Ohio. Tentative plans for a graveside service have been made for June 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. at the Pennsville Cemetery with best friend Jim Brian officiating.

EST.



1842

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF WAVERLY

211 Schmitt Drive
Waverly, OH 45690

The Amen Corner

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02-07-2014

MOSES AND NOAH HAVING AN ARGUMENT