



**First Presbyterian Church**

# Courier

**June 2023**

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

## **In This Issue**

- A Note from the Pastor
- Our Session at Work
- Congregants' Care
- Presbyterian Women
- Message from Costa Rica
- Family Dinner
- Dimitry Sergay & Bud Hobday Gone
- Welcome Edy Panjaitan
- Presbytery Report
- Calendar
- Remembering in Prayer

# MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

May 28, 2023

## MINISTERS FOR THE COMMUNITY: EVERY MEMBER

**Pastor:** Jane B. Johnson

**Secretary:** Bobbie Hall

**Clerk of Session:** Elaine Zingg

**Choir Director:** Edy Panjaitan

**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 NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

REV. JANE JOHNSON

*1 How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!*

*3 ... For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.*

*~ Psalm 133:1 and 3b*

One of the things that the Lord began to speak to me about toward the end of my temporary disability leave was the power of agreement.<sup>3</sup> *Can two people walk*

*together without agreeing on the direction?* (Amos 3:3) The blessing of

unity was on display during the two months I was on medical leave. What a joy it was to join you each Sunday on Zoom and Facebook for worship.

Technology and multi-media may be so unpredictable at times, but it is still a gift for those who cannot join in-person worship for a season.

I have to give a grateful shout out to **John Mikelson** for the hard work he does in trouble shooting the issues that often come up. I have seen him at the church on many occasions working to get the

bugs out of the system. Thank you, John and the **Sight and Sound Team!**

As I ease back into activity, I may have to take a vacation day here and there for respite as I continue to learn how much is too much on this road of recovery. I thank you for your patience and prayers, and I am so grateful for God's healing grace.

During the month of June, I will be in the office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday as usual. Monday is my work at home day when I plan worship, begin sermon preparation, prepare the bulletin, and prepare for the week ahead. This allows me to limit my physical activity while having quiet time to work. Usually on Friday I am off unless something comes up and I cannot be off. As I always say, I am available **WHENEVER** you need me, call me on my cell phone 276-224-6994.

I am very happy to be back to serving our Lord together with you!

Pastor Jane

This edition of the First Presbyterian Church Courier sponsored by

## BRISTOL VILLAGE



National Church Residences

660 East Fifth Street • Waverly, Ohio 45690 • 740-947-2118



# OUR SESSION AT WORK

ELAINE OSER ZINGG

Actually, the Session wasn't "at work" in May as five of our nine Ruling Elders could not be there due to scheduling conflicts; and, as there were no pressing issues on the agenda, we canceled May's meeting. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 21st.

I recently heard that some of our congregants were concerned about why Session approved having someone other than Pastor Jane lead and preach at 8 consecutive Sunday worship services beginning March 12th and ending April 30th; and why during this entire period Jane would not appear personally in the sanctuary or her office or at church committee or fellowship meetings, or visit with or call any of our congregants. In February our Session approved Jane's application for 2 months of disability leave during which these very restrictions would be required by the insurance provider.

One percent of every full-time pastor's salary goes to the Office of General Assembly to provide disability insurance. None of us expected that Pastor Jane would need to spend a period recovering from major surgery and therefore unable to provide pastoral services. But life

happens and, after a thorough consultation with an orthopedic surgeon, Jane agreed to undergo spinal laminectomy and fusion surgery to alleviate severe back pain from which she had been suffering for months. She undertook this surgery that she might better provide the pastoral services needed by the congregation.

Our Personnel Committee researched and obtained all the official medical and other forms necessary for Jane to be approved for the disability leave the surgeon said she would need. The disability insurance also paid 2/3's of Jane's salary for all but the first two weeks of her disability leave, which enabled us to pay others to lead services in her absence. Again, the major requirement for this coverage was that there could be no contact between Jane and our congregation for the full eight weeks. With generous assistance from some members and retired pastors, we covered the pastoral needs of the congregation during her absence. Thus, we were able to meet the requirement, which enabled Pastor Jane to return as a healthier member of our community of faith.



# CONGREGANTS' CARE

JOYCE HOLBEN

In the merry, merry month of May, we've been visiting folks in Bristol Health Care and elsewhere. Home-bound communion is available for those who cannot make it to church. It's been fun to talk with our seldom-seen members, and it is indeed a joy to represent our congregation in small groups to share the Lord's Supper.

Our committee's prayers are with all our congregation to share joys and

sorrows, happy events as well as concerning ones. Won't you help us to ask the Lord in mercy to hear our prayers? Illness and sorrow can be lonely experiences, so prayer is one way we can support each other, and did you know? Sometimes a glorious event can be better experienced with prayerful support, too! Let's tell one another of our prayers for each person, of our concern and of our rejoicing...The Lord loves cheerful hearts!



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

On Wednesday, June 7 at 10:30 AM Presbyterian Women will gather for the last time until next September. The Circles will first meet together to organize for the new year. We will need a Lesson Leader and two hostesses for each meeting.

The Coordinating Team members that were elected at the gathering in May will be installed by Pastor Jane Johnson. They are:

**Pat Penrose**, Moderator  
**Audrey Tysen**, Treasurer  
**Joyce Holben**, Circle Leader  
**Karen Henderson**, Member-at-Large

We look forward to having Pastor Ron Johnson lead Lesson Nine of our Bible Study Celebrating Sabbath, "Sabbath and Community."

Each person is asked to bring a salad to share for lunch and the Coordinating Team will have beverages and dessert for everyone.

We hope to see you in June. Remember to bring your Mission Pledge, Least Coin and Thank You Offerings. Don't forget you can always invite a friend to join us.

# A MESSAGE FROM COSTA RICA

MARK O'HARE

Dear friends,

We are living in a time of climate crisis. Our way of living is destroying God's creation. I just finished listening to Ibram X. Kendi's "How to Be an Antiracist." It is an incredible book, and it made me think about the connections between racism and our destruction of the natural world. I would like to introduce you to two new phrases that have been ping-pong around in my head: ecological destructivist and ecological anti-destructivist.

An ecological destructivist is someone who expresses an idea that supports harm to or destruction of the natural world, and/or who, through action or inaction, supports policies and activities that result in harm or destruction to the natural world. An ecological anti-destructivist is someone who expresses an idea that supports care for and regeneration of the natural world, and who supports policies and participates in actions that eliminate harm to and support regeneration of the natural world. My question for myself, my family and for you is, which do you choose to be?

In 2018, the people of the Latin American Biblical University (UBL) based in the city of Montes de Oca, just to the east of San José, Costa Rica, began a journey of becoming a

"green seminary," an institution that would, in word and action, search out ways to reduce harm to ecological systems and begin regenerative practices that would help heal the damage already done. In January 2020, Jenny, Keila, Annika and I moved to Costa Rica to support this ministry. Jenny and I became part of the "Equipo de UBL Verde," the "Green UBL Team." The team is made up of students, members of the administration and faculty, including our colleague Karla Koll, also from Presbyterian World Mission. Karla is director of the seminary's College of Biblical Science and is a specialist in church history and the theology of mission; she also makes astoundingly good brownies and banana bread.

Since it began in 2018, the Green UBL Team has succeeded in making a deep impact on how the institution functions. In 2019 UBL began to address its electrical consumption by installing a large array of solar panels. In January of this year, we discovered that in 2022 the panels produced a net surplus of 5,300 kW/h. Last year, Mauricio, the university administrator, worked with handyman César to also install a simple system for collecting rainwater. The system filters the rainwater and makes it usable for washing the laundry in the residence building. Mauricio was proud to show me that in the three





*Mark Hare and Jenny Bent and daughters*

months the system was operating in 2022, the university reduced its use of treated city water by around 32,000 gallons. UBL has indeed become a model for the faithful application of theologically founded practices of Earth Care.

It feels good to be part of a movement of ecological anti-destructivism. One of my main roles is helping to care for two community gardens. Huerta Rocoto or Rocoto Garden is a community garden serving the people within the university. The name for the garden, “Rocoto” comes from a Peruvian hot pepper that a residential student from Peru, Joseline, planted in 2022, a few

months before she finished her degree work and returned to her ministry in Peru. Joseline was a garden fanatic, and she pulled me into the work when I was still trying to find my place here. Joseline made me feel welcome and useful and through her, I began to feel real ownership for the work. Rocoto is now a highly productive, organic urban garden. We’re producing healthy herbs and vegetables year-round; our community composting system is providing a cubic yard of compost every two or three months; we have 12 recycled tires full of composting red worms; we are producing some of our own vegetable and flower starts. Right now, we have over 200 spinach starts!

## A MESSAGE FROM COSTA RICA (continued)

Friday has become a day when dedicated students and other volunteers work all morning weeding and fertilizing, pruning, and transplanting. In addition to the regulars, Rocoto Garden attracts international volunteers who come to UBL. Our friend Chrys initially came to UBL mainly to work in the library but has let herself get drawn deeply into the work of both Rocoto and Girasoles gardens.

Huerta Girasoles, or Sunflower Garden, is on 1,200 square yards of land that belongs to UBL. Separated from the main campus by a long cement block wall, a simple door of wood and tin roofing opens the way in. Since UBL began its ecological initiative in 2018, the Green UBL Team has had a vision of using this land to serve the local community of Cedros. A couple of ideas came and went, but the seed that germinated was to use it as a space for a second community garden “owned” and run by people from Cedros. The Green UBL Team initiated this process at the end of 2022. We now have about 18 people from Cedros who are part of an online chat group, sharing ideas and information about gardening in general, and about the Sunflowers Garden in particular.

Estrella, from Cedros, is a tall stately woman in her late 60s. Thursday is her day to water Sunflowers Garden. One of five members of the coordinating team for the garden, Estrella is the first person in our group chat to confirm her participation in each workshop and garden activity. She brought her daughter to the medicinal plants workshop in April, and she inspired Jenny and me to invent a version of BINGO based on new garden vocabulary. Estrella is also responsible for Julio. In his 70s, Julio is a handyman is the Cedros member who built the bench for the new red worms tires.

Almost all of us want to be part of something bigger than ourselves. Psalm 104 is filled with God’s love for God’s creation. God yearns for us to be ecological anti-destructivists. The Earth Care Pledge program, housed in the office of the Presbyterian Hunger program is one great option. Please contact Jessica Maudlin ([jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org](mailto:jessica.maudlin@pcusa.org)) to find ways of becoming involved.

Thanks to each of you for your prayers for us and for our world, and for your dedication to being part of God’s mission.

Mark





The Food Pantry is greatly in need of

**RAMEN NOODLES (LOTS)**

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

**CANNED chili beans**

**WELCOME BAGS FOR BRISTOL  
VILLAGE NEWCOMERS**

Available June 5th for delivery.

If you would like to deliver a welcome bag to a specific newcomer (or other person in Bristol Village or elsewhere) and get bag from Pat Mikelson

**PASTOR WITH THE PIZZA**

Tuesday June 27 4pm

If you have a neighbor or friend and would like to invite them  
invitation postcards will be available



**GARNET A. WILSON  
SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

This year the PCUSA Pentecost funds kept locally will be used to support the Library's summer reading program. Held in June and July, the reading program encourages children to read and use the library. The program includes reading and craft activities as well as snack time.

# FAMILY DINNER - MAY 19, 2023





# DIMITRY SERGAY & BUD HOBBDAY GONE

To date, seven members of our church have died in 2023, leaving 44 voting members plus 10 retired ministers, and 11 frequently attending laity. The two who most recently departed were Dimitry Sergay [September 23, 1923 - April 15, 2023] and Bud Hobday [November 21, 1920 – May 1, 2023].

Dimitry Sergay and his wife, Phyllis, moved to Bristol Village in 2003 and joined the church in 2004. Phyllis died March 21, 2011. Dimitry had been trained as an engineer and held several patents prior to retiring. At Bristol Village, Dimitry played the violin in the B.V. Consort for many years before it folded. He was also a Ruling Elder in our church, last serving in the Class of 2017. He moved from independent living into our Healthcare

Center and then in 2022, to Columbus nearer his son Alex where Dimitry died.

Bud Hobday and his wife, Vivian, moved to Bristol Village in 1975. Vivian died October 25, 2012. Bud was employed as head of B.V. maintenance for many years, and was an active member of the B.V. Model Railroad Club. He made so many trips to Klinker's Hardware over the years, that when he died Klinker's made a donation to the Railroad Club in his name. Bud joined our church in 2002 and spent many years lighting the candles at the beginning of the Sunday worship services. Until a very short time before his death, Bud and his good friend George Hartwell would leave the Healthcare Center and be seen chasing each other around the village streets in their motorized carts.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

	Operating Budget			
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR
<b>INCOME</b>	\$16,978.31	\$19,295.84	\$17,806.98	\$6,807.69
<b>EXPENSES</b>	\$15,522.86	\$14,074.06	\$16,778.20	\$10,941.17
<b>MONTH NET</b>	\$1,455.45	\$5,221.78	\$1,028.78	-\$4,133.48
<b>YEAR NET</b>	\$1,455.45	\$6,677.23	\$7,706.01	\$3,572.53

This chart shows the income and expenses for our Operating Budget through April. We anticipate that we will be in the "Red" at the end of the year. This is in line with our 5-year analysis. We do have reserves to cover our losses.

An updated table will show the church finances at the end of each quarter.



# A WARM WELCOME TO EDY PANJAITAN

Beginning June 1, Edy will officially begin his duties as Church Choir Director and Church Pianist. Most of us have already welcomed this warm-hearted and unassuming young man, and one who acknowledges that his talent is a gift of God.

A long journey (by miles and traditions) brought Edy from Indonesia to America. Nationally recognized in his home country, he also became an internationally known musician, teacher, and composer/ arranger. He taught at Jakarta Wesley Institute in his country, but also gained other teaching experience, publishing, and research. Edy has a list of awards, but is shy about promoting himself – when conversing with someone, he would probably turn the conversation so it centered on the other person, and their accomplishments.

Presently, Edy is pursuing a doctorate degree in Interdisciplinary Arts, having won a prestigious scholarship; and he has many responsibilities connected with Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. We first



got to know him when he came to our church to accompany Keats Rivas on his cello (Keats is now at his home in Georgia, planning for further education in the fall).

Edy was born and spent the major part of his life in Indonesia. He was an orphan since he was about 10 yrs. old; he grew up independently with an elder brother and sister.

(He is the youngest of 8 children.) His parents were lay leaders in a Methodist Church; this and other Christian influences impacted his life. He praises the community of believers who nurtured him during his development, and continues to provide love and support. "Edy's "specialty" is in teaching. He was in 6th grade when he started teaching guitar and keyboard; his students are now helping church in music ministry.

He received a bachelor in music education, and a master's degree in

*(continued on inside back cover)*

# PRESBYTERY MEETING, CIRCLEVILLE PRESBYTERIAN & VIA ZOOM

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023, 3:30 PM

(PRE-PRESBYTERY MEETING 2:30 PM)

I did attend this meeting, including the pre-presbytery meeting. As most of you know, I had eye surgery to repair a macular hole in late April. Healing is going as anticipated. The gas bubble to help hold the tissue in place as it heals is also doing its job. It is a long process with surprises, often, as to what vision I have daily. I have not been able to do the work necessary for my usual reporting.

Kathy Nice, Transitional General Presbyter, who was in our pulpit several times when Jane was on disability leave, wrote a very informative summary of the meeting. You may access it at the new website

“Presbytery of Scioto Valley”. Click on “News and Events” then click on “Newsletters” then click on “Mid-week E-News for May 18” to get the information for the May 16th meeting.

The newsletter comes by email on Wednesday mornings. I invite you to subscribe to it. Also, since this is a new website, take a few minutes to get acquainted with it.

Consider traveling with me to Covenant Presbyterian Church for our next meeting on September 19, 2023.

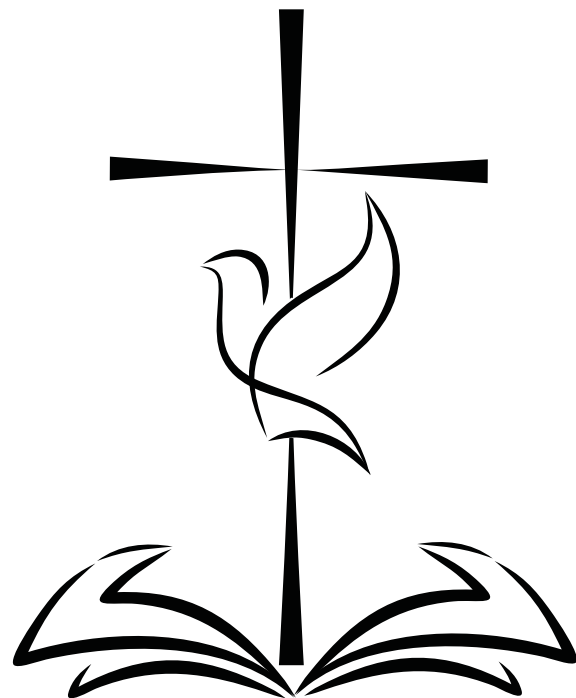
Babsy (Barbara) Pettit  
Commissioner to Presbytery

## GREETERS

June Doug & Joyce Holben  
Barbara Taphorn

July Audrey & Cal Tysen  
Barbara Taphorn

August Sherri Sapienza  
Gerri Prod  
Barbara Taphorn



# JUNE

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 W&D 1:30 pm	2	3
4 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	5 Property Committee 10 am	6	7 Presbyterian Women 10:30 am	8 Clergy Breakfast 9 am	9	10
11 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	12	13	14 Finance 10 am	15 Session Reports due  Newsletter Articles due	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	19 JUNETEENTH Office Closed	20	21 Session 1:30 pm	22 Prime Thyme Gardening 5:30 pm	23	24
25 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am Pastor Jane guest speaker at Pleasant Green Baptist Church in Portsmouth - Co-op Day 4 pm	26	27 Pizza with the Pastor	28	29	30	





<b>Remember in Prayer:</b>	Tom Patterson	Janet Marsh - 24
Maurice Bailey	Pat Penrose	Nancy Seward - 205
Gary Baker	Martha & Ed Pool	Judy Wollenberg - 312
Marilyn Beilstein	Jeff & Nancy Sapienza	
Dan Beilstein	Nancy Seward	<b>Birthdays:</b>
David Boyer	Lew Stratton	Bill Johnson - 12
Jim Clark	Angie Strewsbury	Otto Zingg - 13
John Dawson	Julia & Kara Washington	Pat Penrose - 14
Jean Earnhardt	Allen Wollenberg	Irene Clark - 19
Jerry Hall	Judy Wollenberg	Jim Clark - 24
George Hartwell	Ruth Wonnell	Judy Wollenberg - 24
Ruth Karner	Elaine Zingg	
Janet Marsh		<b>Anniversaries:</b>
Marty Miller	<b>Bristol Health Care:</b>	Barb & Tom Patterson - 6
Ann Oyer	George Hartwell - 105	Mike & Linda Milam - 10
Barbara Patterson	Bill Johnson - 113	Cal & Audrey Tysen - 12

A WARM WELCOME TO EDY PANJAITAN  
(continued from page 10)

classical arts performance in Changdu, China, previous to coming to the U.S. He says “My musical journey seems impossible, but nothing is impossible in God.”

We observe Edy teaching, conducting, performing, and it seems to come from “within.” Edy says “I believe God is continuously guiding me through His path...” and he is grateful to have achieved all the wonderful things in his life. “[It is] a gift and has a plan. God made me such a precious masterpiece to this earth. I would trust Him all the way of my life.”

Edy is thankful for the opportunity to serve our “wonderful church and its people.” He says we are vibrant, enthusiastic, and serve the Lord Jesus. “It touches me to be able to serve and share my talents, inspire and bless everyone here in this fabulous community.”

Our congregation has – and will be – blessed by the beautiful music that comes from his hands (but also from his soul)!

– Audrey Tysen

EST.



1842

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF WAVERLY

211 Schmitt Drive  
Waverly, OH 45690

## The Amen Corner

