



First Presbyterian Church

Courier

September 2023

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

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MEMBERS IN MINISTRY

August 27, 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 O'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#.



POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE

MIKE MILAM

Our church property looks different. Some flowers and tall grasses are showing up. After multiple herbicide applications last year and this spring to kill the turf grasses, on June 7,

we planted 40 pounds of pollinator habitat seed over our four acres of property. It was not an easy task to spread equally 40 pounds of seed over four acres. We contracted Dresbach Farms to plant the seed.

After the seeding was completed, the biologist advising us on the project, Jason Jones, visited the site twice and remarked that the project is looking “very good”. Even though we were starting to see abundant plains coreopsis (the yellow flowers with the dark center), I was advised to mow the property at a high mower setting of 12”. I mowed on August 8, but left a small portion from the fire hydrant to the west un-mowed to show the



contrast. The mowing request was expected. The purpose was to clip off some of the weeds before they seeded and to provide light to some of the pollinator plants trying to emerge.

I may be advised to mow again before the project reaches maturity in three years. Either later this fall or next spring, I will mow the walking paths that we want.

This experiment is new to me, so I am quite curious how everything is going to turn out. If you look at the un-mowed section, the final project should resemble this area but have a wide variety of flowers and more native grasses. For the gardeners in our congregation, some of the planted native flowers are: plains coreopsis, Illinois bundleflower, purple coneflower, false sunflower, black eyed susan, brown eyed susan, common evening

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BRISTOL VILLAGE



National Church Residences

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POLLINATOR HABITAT UPDATE (continued)

primrose, wild bergamont, common milkweed, prairie dropseed, swamp milkweed, smooth blue aster, stiff goldenrod, New England aster and several varieties of clover and other native grasses.

Establishing pollinator habitat from mowed lawn is starting to be a new trend, and we are at the forefront. Being on the Pike Soil and Water Conservation District board, I have had the opportunity to sit in on various presentations about

pollinator habitats. When I mention what our church is doing, I get a lot of attention and interest in the project.

Besides avoiding over \$5,000 per year of commercial mowing cost, we are doing something good for nature. Pay attention to what is growing and be patient. I think you will like the end result.

Mike Milam
Property Committee





PARMA, ITALY - The fresco, *Twelve year old Jesus in the Temple in Duomo* by Lattanzio Gambara (1567 - 1573).

OUR SESSION AT WORK ELAINE OSER ZINGG

At the time of our August 16, 2023 Session Meeting, Pastor Jane Johnson had just completed the second year of her contract to be our Five Year Called and Installed Designated Pastor. It was a good time for Session to begin evaluating where we stand on implementing the five goals we had set out for our focus during this period in our life together as a community of faith. To help us do this, our Personnel Committee had prepared a document setting out those goals broken down into significant subparts with instructions that each session member mark each subpart as C—complete, I—incomplete/not started, NA—no longer applicable, or ?—don't know where this stands. These completed documents are to be returned to Pat Mikelson, Moderator of Personnel Committee, by the end of August to be collated in September in preparation for

discussion at the October Session meeting.

At the August Session meeting we also approved Nominating Committee's designating Ruling Elder Tom Hlasten to take on the special function of completing Bob Penrose's position as the Class of 2023 Deacon. Pastor Jane also reported that she completed 32 hours of training in conflict transformation and mediation skills during her July 21 – August 4, 2023 continuing education leave.

Session approved Sight and Sound Moderator John Mikelson's plan to purchase two large TVs to be mounted on the front wall of the Sanctuary to replace our current problematic method of zoom projection.

INTERESTED IN SOULFUL CONVERSATIONS?

OTTO ZINGG

As people of a faith tradition, we sometimes feel that we need to “match up” to the expectations and belief systems of the organized church. And, if we don’t, then we are not “real” Christians.

Yet some of those beliefs and practices may not address our deeper needs or the life challenges we face. The reality is that we are all on a spiritual journey and that we may be in very different places on that road. Some of us hunger for an opportunity to reflect about where we are and where we are going on that inner journey, the journey of the spirit.

Would you be interested in having such “soulful conversations” with others? This would not be a formal class; the only curriculum will emerge from each

other’s life pilgrimage – and from however the Spirit may lead us as we listen and share.

If you would like to be part of such a group, please leave your name and phone number on the sheet on the table in the lobby – by Sunday, September 17. We will decide on dates and frequency later in the month.

Questions? Call Otto Zingg, 740-941-0846.

(“Soul” is not a thing, but a quality or a dimension of experiencing life and ourselves. It has to do with depth, value, relatedness, heart, and personal substance. From *Care of Soul: Guide for Cultivating Depth and Sacredness in Everyday Life*, by Thomas Moore)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PAT PENROSE

The first gathering for our new year will be at the church on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. We will begin at 10:30 with both Circles meeting together for our business meeting.

At 11:00 we will begin our new study, *Sacred Encounters-The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*. The Introduction to Sacred Encounters

and Lesson 1- *Elizabeth’s Sacred Encounter* will be led by Martha Pool the Moderator for PW of the Scioto Valley Presbytery.

Following the lesson we hope you will bring a sandwich for lunch so we can continue our fellowship together. Dessert and drinks will be provided by Hostesses CT officers and Barbara Taphorn.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (continued)

We look forward to getting together again with friends after our summer break to study and fellowship. Remember you are always encouraged to invite someone who is not a member of PW to come with you and join the group.

BRIDGEHAVEN

The church has a separate fund for Bridgehaven. Any contributions to this mission will be passed directly to Bridgehaven. Just note on your envelope, "Bridgehaven."

CONGREGANTS' CARE COMMITTEE

We encourage you to pray this prayer and follow your prayer with action!

Good Shepherd,

Make us humble in your presence. Cause us to shepherd one another by seeking out the lonely among us with a call, a card, or a visit, and by sharing hope, joy, and peace, in Your Name, Good Shepherd!

FAITH AND VALUES FORUM

**Book Review: A Voice in the Village:
A Journey of a Pastor and a People**
by Howard Moody

10:00 a.m., Thursday, September 21
Rehearsal Room

As senior minister of Judson Memorial Church in Greenwich Village from 1956-1992, the Reverend Moody was sometimes involved in a sometimes shocking, often provocative, and always stimulating call to social activism while the church was breaking ground in avant-garde art, music, theater, and dance at the same time seeking out honesty and authenticity in worship and what it means to be a church.

Presenter: Betsy Hall

ALL ARE WELCOME!

4-H PROGRAM AT WAVERLY INTERMEDIATE FOR 3rd - 5th GRADERS

Looking for a rewarding volunteer opportunity?

(About 1½ hrs. one afternoon a month during school year)

Meeting Tuesday September 5, 2:30pm

Call Pat Mikelson 614-330-9634

This past school year four members of our congregation volunteered with the 4-H program for 3rd – 5th at Waverly Intermediate School – Sherlene Keefer, Otto Zingg and Pat and John Mikelson. This is a special program for kids that, for economic or family reasons are not able to participate in regular 4-H clubs. The kids met once a month for one hour

after school. This program had four kids qualify for the state competition. Three of those worked with our volunteers: Iris Goodling in Quilting (worked with Sherlene Keefer), Brilon Malone in Knots (worked with John Mikelson), and Lucas Harris in Fun with Flight (worked with Otto Zingg).

FOOD PANTRY DONATION IN HONOR OF EVELYN BAKER

PEANUT BUTTER MONTH!!

Skippy - Jiff - Kroger - any brand!

Smooth - crunchy - any kind!

Standard sized jars appreciated



PASTOR JANE'S HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE

If anyone would like to make a donation toward Pastor Jane's study pilgrimage to the Holy-Land please send make do so through the church and label your check clearly for the "Johnson's study pilgrimage". This Pilgrimage is sponsored by the Scioto Valley Presbytery and the Miami Valley Presbytery and several other Presbytery churches have raised funds to sponsor the Johnsons, as well as personal family members and friends of the Johnsons. Additional donations will help with the remaining flight costs, food, gratuities and kennel fees for their pets.

PC(USA) PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering stays with the local congregation. Mid councils retain

an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

**Saturday Sept 16 at 10:30am
speaker and lunch**



Speaker: Amira Barham, a Palestinian Christian

who has been working with refugees from Israel for some years.

Includes a short video on historical background.

This is a unique opportunity that will help us as people of faith understand the situation of ongoing turmoil and suffering and to consider possible responses.

Open to all – invite your friends

**Wednesday September 1st at 1:00pm
FPC Community Room**

Film: Wrestling Jerusalem

Shows the personal struggle of a Jewish playwright over the Israeli–Palestinian issues. For those who can make it, this film will be a good preparation for Saturday's workshop.



Jim McGill

Children play a major role in water gathering with the village animals.

Water is Life in Niger

"Water is Life" is a statement that is heard frequently throughout Africa as many people cannot take water for granted. This is particularly true in Niger, a country that is mostly within the Sahara Desert, with the remainder lying within the Sahel — a dry ecosystem that transitions between desert and savannah lands. The importance of water is observed throughout the various cultures within Niger as a cup of water must be offered as a gesture of welcoming. Providing water to the household is primarily designated to women and children, who often get their water from hand-dug wells that can be 250 to 300 feet deep and that use animals to lift the water for a fee. If money is not available, the women often are required to lift the water themselves.

Niger is also a country that has been ranked by the Human Development

Index (HDI) to be 189th out of 191 countries. The HDI uses ranking criteria that includes the ability to live a long and healthy life, to be knowledgeable and to have a decent standard of living. The low ranking indicates that people in Niger are living within a cycle of poverty.

Niger is also a country in which over 98% of its population follow the faith of Islam, with less than 1% claiming to be Christian.

The mission statement of our church, the Eglise Evangelique de la Republique du Niger (EERN), includes:

"Proclaim and demonstrate the values of the gospel of Jesus Christ through holistic ministries that address the moral, intellectual and physical needs of a person equally with their spiritual needs, while also caring for our living environment."

Thereby, the EERN obliges itself

to help bring the Nigerien people out of poverty by improving access to education and improving healthy livelihoods for its people. As a part of its mission, the church has established a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) program to help people begin to step up the ladder to leave poverty behind.

EERN WASH agrees with the statement that water is the "Blue Thread" that flows through all development. Increased access to water brings better health through improved sanitation and hygiene. Having increased access to water will lead to improvements in standards of living as incomes can be augmented by having water available for uses other than drinking, cooking, cleaning and bathing. Water is also a necessary component for an effective educational environment.

In 2014, the EERN made the

decision that it would place a pastor or evangelist in each of Niger's 52 "Administrative Departments." In recognizing that water is so important in providing opportunities to its people, the EERN has mandated that EERN WASH establish a "1 Evangelist/1 Well" program to strive toward each congregation having access to safe water everywhere a pastor or an evangelist is serving. The EERN sees a wide range of opportunities that arise when water is made available:

- Water is a welcomed asset that introduces the evangelist and the evangelist's family into a new community.
- Bringing access to water can begin breaking down barriers that exist when a Christian church is opened within Muslim communities.
- Having more water available means an opportunity for improved health, as water is necessary to improve sanitation and hygiene within the area.
- Increased access to water improves the financial situation of those with

access to the water not only because their health has improved, but more directly in that more water is available for livestock and for growing small kitchen gardens.

- There are financial benefits for the church as water can be sold at prices that are charged almost universally around the country. Those funds go to support the income for the evangelist/pastor.
- Income from water sales allows the system to be maintained over time.
- Providing water opens opportunities for the evangelist/pastor to share what they have learned about improving WASH in their community while at Bible College.

As part of the 1 Evangelist/1 Well program, a well was drilled at the church in Gangara, which is located near the EERN headquarters in Maradi. This well is now a demonstration site for the 1 Evangelist/1 Well program, displaying all of the benefits of having access to an ample water supply near

the home. While Gangara is a poorer community, the community is already benefiting from having more water, while the church will now be able to support its pastor independently from sales of produce available year-round from an irrigated garden. Collected funds will also maintain the pump and the irrigation system.

John 4's account of the Samaritan woman at the well could very well take place today at a well in Niger. This story is a reminder that water has always been an essential part of ministry. The EERN prays that this program can follow Jesus' example when he sat at that well and began a conversation with "Will you give me a drink?"

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Support PC(USA) mission co-workers
around the world:
pcusa.org/donate/E132192



An irrigation system in Gangara waters both trees and vegetables

Jim McGill

COPE PANTRY NEEDS

GENTLY USED BELTS

BODY WASH

TRAVEL SIZE DEODORANT

TRAVEL SIZE MOUTHWASH

SMALL JARS OF MAYONNAISE

SHOWER CAPS

(mayo and shower caps to be part of a lice removal kit)

A BIT OF HUMOR - EXAMPLES OF IRONY IN REAL LIFE

What's ironic about the Bible?

In one of the most interesting irony examples, the most shoplifted book in America is The Bible.

What's ironic about Alcoholics Anonymous?

The founder of AA asked for whiskey on his deathbed. (The nurse refused.)

What's ironic about *A Charlie Brown Christmas*?

Every year ABC cuts down *A Charlie Brown Christmas*—a movie about the over-commercialization of the holidays—to make room for more commercials.

What's ironic about Charlie Chaplin?

He once entered a “Charlie Chaplin walk” contest... and came in 20th.

What's ironic about Alexander Graham Bell?

Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone but refused to keep one in his study. He feared it would distract him from his work.



2023 HUNGER WALK

CAL TYSEN

This year's Pike Outreach Hunger Walk will be held on **September 17, 2023**. This earlier than usual date is set to coincide with Hunger Awareness Month.

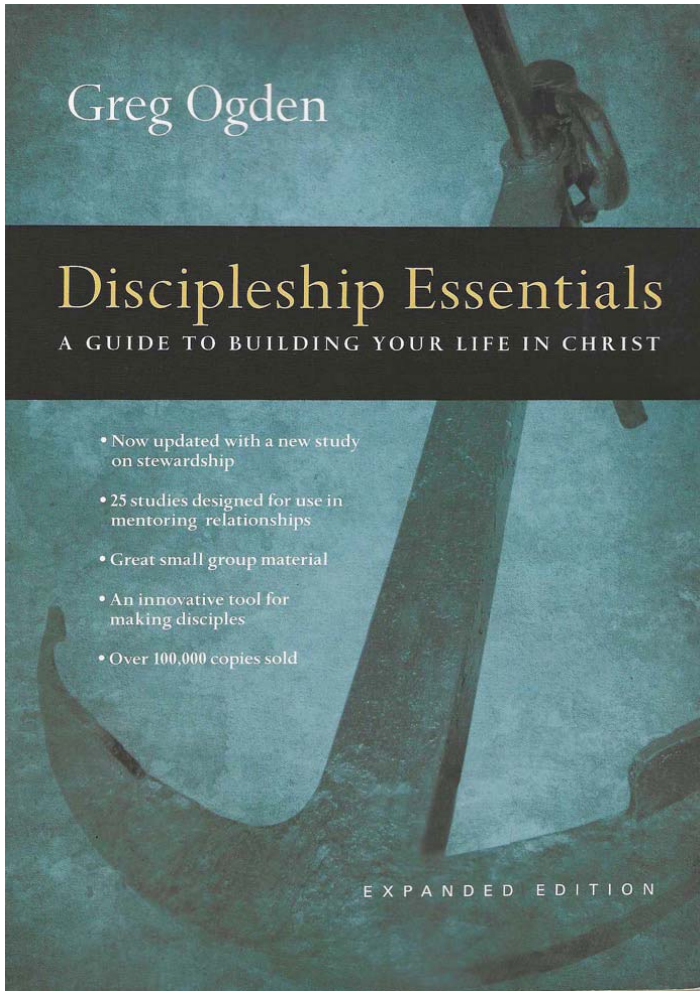
The walk will begin and end at First Baptist Church. It will be led by the Waverly High School marching band. The route will take walkers past the Food Pantry on Bridge St.

Even if you cannot walk the route, showing up would be appreciated as a demonstration of your support for those

who can. Your presence and gifts will show your commitment as Christ's disciples to love your neighbors in need.

Offering envelopes will be in the Bristol Village Bugle and on a table in the church. Gifts that are marked for the walk may be directed to First Presbyterian Church and will be passed on by our treasurer in one lump sum after the walk. Or you may choose to give your offering to Cal Tysen or send directly to the Food Pantry.

FALL DISCIPLESHIP CLASS



September marks the return of Bible Study and this fall and winter our focus will be on **Discipleship – discovering the fullness of life in Jesus Christ.** We will be using the book *Discipleship Essentials – A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ* by Greg Ogden. This study is **limited to 10 people** and I'd truly LOVE to see 10 of you sign up and join me beginning **Wednesday, September 20th at 4 PM.** This promises to be an enriching and faith building time of study and prayer. Please sign up in the church lobby. A sample of the study will be on the information table in the sanctuary. **Let's GROW TOGETHER in Christ!**

Pastor Jane

ADULT EDUCATION

CAL TYSEN

The adult class has been learning more about the New Testament content and authorship, and how first century believers in Jesus were affected by the times and events of their nation and of the Roman world they lived in. The study will be continued beginning on Sept. 3 at 9:15.

The DVD study is led by Dr. David Brakke, a noted bible scholar and historian. Each section is 30 minutes, followed by a brief time to discuss and share insights. We hope you will want to learn more about the Bible, God's Word to us.

SINGING IS A GIFT

EDY PANJAITAN

Singing is a gift God bestowed on humans. Why? Because we are given vocal cords to sing notes, which is a very special talent. I believe that singing is truly a magical instrument that we can use. Singing can convey a deeper message to listeners. It is known as a universal language. I was brought to tears when I heard a blind singer sing in a melodious voice, like the voice of an angel, and my heart was touched. I believe this is also what many people feel when they are moved by someone singing.

For example, in the book of Psalms, David's pilgrim song is an expression of a sinful man who fully surrenders his life to God. It is an inspiring poem, praising and worshipping God. I believe our lives completely belong to God and return to God. Singing is a way for us to honor, show gratitude, and praise our Creator.

My experience includes singing with a large choir in a theatrical drama, entitled *Hymn from the Batakland*. It was written in the Batak Toba language, and I performed it with the Svava Sacra choir, which has performed in several cities in Indonesia with the aim of conveying the gospel news through singing hymns in Batak Toba. I really love to sing classical songs because the harmony and

melody are very much in line with the lyrics conveyed. I have been involved in singing in and accompanying several choirs.

Singing in a choir, in my point of view, provides a greater impact than solo singing because it involves coordinating each voice: soprano, alto, tenor and bass. It also means balancing the volume of each voice and singing with beautiful harmony. Not surprisingly, within a few months of leading the choir at church, I realized that getting the voices together is not easy. This is a challenge for every chorister and especially the conductor.

I am convinced that singing makes our hearts peaceful. Every breath we exhale with tunes will add happiness to life and send our prayers that are conveying praise and worship to God. Thus, I hope you too will find that singing is a gift that can bless people, and I delightfully and cordially invite everyone to join the choir at First Presbyterian Church Waverly. This is an opportunity for all of us to testify and spread the Good News through our voices. Hallelujah!



Edy Panjaitan
Director of Choir
First Presbyterian
Waverly
Accompanist/
Pianist

CHOIR BEGINS

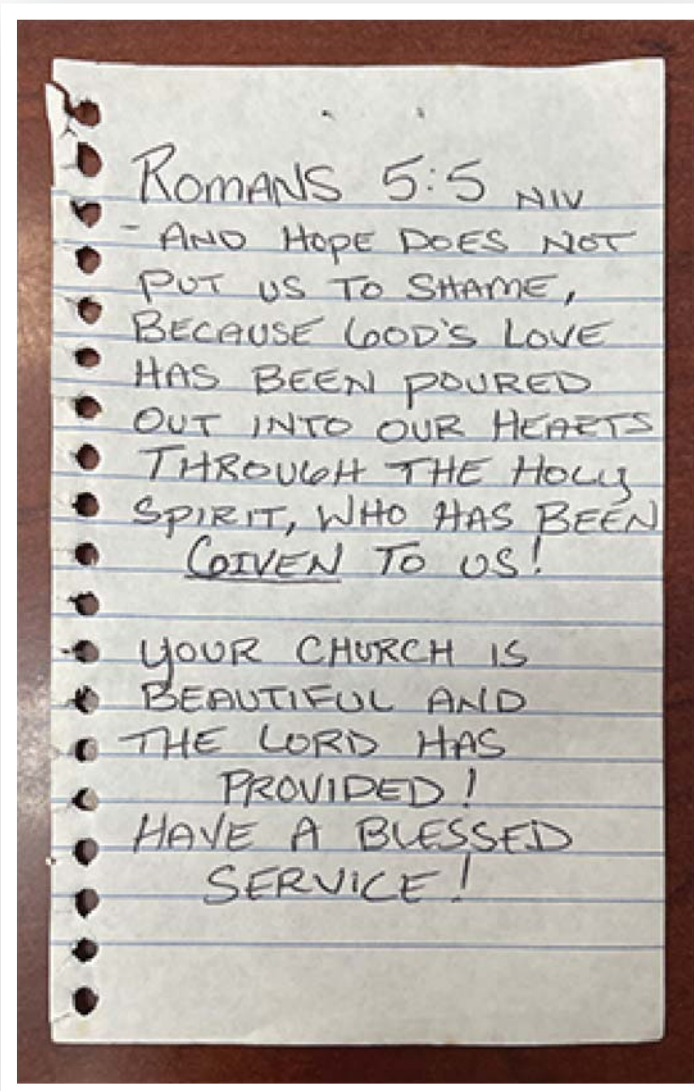
AUDREY TYSEN

Our choir will begin rehearsing on Sunday, September 6 after the church service (start about 11:45 until 12:30). The first time we sing is September 13 during our Worship Service. On that day we will have a rehearsal before the service, beginning about 9:45, but we would not be rehearsing after the service. The following Sunday, Sept. 20, we would rehearse at 11:45, but not sing during the service.

The plan is to sing for "Special Music" two times a month.

If you are interested in singing with the choir, just come to the rehearsals. Our Choir Director, Edy Panjaitan, will be preparing us and conducting while he accompanies the group.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD!



Anonymous note with crosses left at our front door last Sunday morning (August 20).

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	4 LABOR DAY Office Closed	5	6 M&E meet at Food Pantry 2:30 pm	7 W&D 2 pm	8	9
10 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	11 Property 10 am Fellowship 1 pm	12	13 Finance 10 am Film - <i>Wrestling Jerusalem</i> 1 pm	14 Clergy Breakfast 9 am Session Reports due Courier Articles due	15	16 Speaker from Jerusalem, Amira Barham & Peacemaking luncheon 10:30 am
Jane's Vacation - September 12 - 19						
17 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am	18	19 Presbytery Meeting 3:30 pm	20 Session 1:30 pm Disciple- ship Class 4 pm	21 Prime Thyme Gardening 5:30 pm	22	23
Jane's Vacation - September 12 - 19						
24 Adult Studies 9:15 am Worship 10:15 am Peacemaking offering Courier Published	25	26	27 Disciple- ship Class 4 pm	28	29	30 Session Planning Meeting 11 am



Remember in Prayer:

Maurice Bailey
Gary Baker
Marilyn Beilstein
Dan Beilstein
Sue Brondell
Irene & Jim Clark
Jeanne Conrad
John Dawson
Monica Dawson
Jean Earnhardt
Glenn Franklin
Jerry Hall
George Hartwell
Ruth Karner
Janet Marsh
Marty Miller
Barbara Patterson

Tom Patterson
Pat Penrose
Babsy Pettit
Steve Rhoades
Jeff & Nancy Sapienza
Nancy Seward
Lew Stratton
Angie Strewsbury
David Stinnett
Melissa Stinnett
Sue Thomas
Julia Washington
Kara Washington
Allen Wollenberg
Judy Wollenberg
Ruth Wonnell
Elaine Zingg

Bristol Health Care:

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

Birthdays:

Ken Beilstein - 1
Joyce Holben - 6
Tom Patterson - 6
Elaine Zingg - 12
Betsy Hall - 13
Gary Baker - 23
Audrey Tysen - 23
Sue Brodt - 26
William Niebling - 30



GREETERS

September
Barbara Early
Kitty Neeley
Barbara Taphorn

October
Emma Edgington
Martha Whitehouse
Barbara Taphorn

LITURGIST

September
Allen Wollenberg

EST.



1842

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF WAVERLY

211 Schmitt Drive
Waverly, OH 45690

The Amen Corner

