

October 2017

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 3 Issue 10



Planning for Paulding from Ian Ferguson

Since I walked across the stage last spring to receive my diploma from Denver Seminary, I have been asked one question over and over. Professors, family, and friends have inquired, "What are your plans?" Now that they have heard that we are moving soon, a new round of the question is being asked. I know they ask because they care and we are excited to share our plans with them.

Plans are good. Well, at least that is what my wife often tells me. I have had to learn the value of planning in my life. School, work, projects, hobbies, relationships, and now our son require our planning. Because of this, my wife and I take time each week to plan everything that needs done. At the moment, lots of planning revolves around our move to Paulding. We all plan and we all need to learn how to plan wisely. A good start is evaluating my plans.

You may have heard of the old Yiddish adage translated something like "Man plans, and God laughs." Though this is not a quote from the Bible, similar ideas are found in Scripture. In Psalm 2:1-6, God laughs at those who conspire against Him. Those that plan rebel-

lion against God are doomed to fail because God will not be thwarted. First, we should evaluate our plans, even those plans we make in our heart, for intentional sin. Are we planning on placing ourselves in compromising situations? Are we planning to work against those God has put in authority over us? Evaluate our plans according to their devotion to God.

Most of us would not find many intentional sins in our planning. Yet, we despair when our plans do not work out. We are overwhelmed with anxiety when our priorities are not fulfilled. Second, we should evaluate our plans for including God. In James 4: 13-16, James criticizes those who arrogantly make plans that omit God. Instead, they should allow room for God in their plans. If God wills, then their plans will succeed. Evaluate our plans according to their inclusion of God.

Alissa, Samuel, and I are excited to move forward with planning this new season of our lives with you all at First

Presbyterian Church. We are planning with the hope that moving, tests, paperwork, and meetings go smoothly. We put these plans into God's hands. We plan to work diligently with those God has put in authority over us. We plan to make room for God in our plans, whatever may come. In this newsletter, you will see a general timeline that we are working through. God willing.

We would like to thank the congregation for their warm welcome! We are excited to be part of First Presbyterian Church and the community. Thank you for your kind words of encouragement and for making us feel at home. Thank you to session and the search committee for all of their hard work. You will be in our prayers until we can join you. We are excited!

Blessings, Ian, Alissa, and Samuel



October 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Pastor Dan Young Communion	2	3 Chamber of Commerce Candidate Breakfast Fellowship hall at 8:00 am	4 1st Wednesday meal (5:30) and service (6:15) Choir Practice 7:00	5 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	6 5th Quarter Party Lutheran Church hosting 9-11:30	7 7 am to 7 pm Prayer Vigil for Andrew Brunson
8 Pastor Dan Young	9	10	11 Choir Practice 7:00	12 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	13	14
22	23	24 Session 7:00	25 Choir Practice 7:00	26 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the basement	27	28 36th Annual Women's Retreat Doors open at 8:30 am 9 to 2:30
29	30	31				

October

1st - Marlene Buehler

1st - Chantz Verfaillie

4th - Terry Buehler

10th - Adam Leever

11th - Haley Via

12th - Tim Cline

12th - Don Crossland

21st - Jennifer (Mayer) Thompson

23rd - Justine Holtsberry

24th - Bill Hurtig

26th - Marcia Wiebe

29th - TJ Wiebe

30th - Jeremy Fife

Oct. Anniversary

12th - Jason and Andrea (Smalley)

Retz

30th - Harry and Marcia Wiebe

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed, or is listed incorrectly, please get the correct information to the office ASAP. Thanks!

Session Highlights

At the Sept. 19th Session meeting, elders:

*heard that the nominating committee has filled the slate of officers for the coming year. Elder Barb Searing accepts a second 3-year term; Bud Koenig will begin a new 3-year term; and Darwin Cline will fill the remaining one year of Ed Cline's term. Deacon Jane Nice accepts a second 3-year term; and Darla Cline will begin a new 3-year term. These officers will be elected at a congregational meeting in November, and ordained/installed during a worship service in December. The dates will be set in October.

*discussed concerns over giving. It was explained that the General Fund is still okay, as we are not paying a pastor salary at this time, but that we are not as far ahead as might be expected during this time.

*voted to finish the upgrading of ceiling lights to LED at a cost of \$2450. The first half of the project was done last year.

*thanked Rhonda for deep-cleaning the cottage; and Barb for attending the Midwest Presbytery meeting with Ian and Alissa Ferguson. Barb reported the Fergusons met with the chairmen of the Ministerial and Candidate Care committees that day.

*heard that the preachers for October will be Dan Young (1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th), and Pastor Dwayne on the 15th.

*were reminded that the Women's Group is hosting several community events: Meet the Candidates breakfast on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce Tues., Oct. 3rd at 8:00 am; the Women's Retreat Sat., Oct. 28; and the Women's Ecumenical Potluck on Thurs., Dec. 7th at 6:00 pm.

*learned that the NA meeting attendance has grown from an average of 6 to 15 with our basement as a regular place to meet. More furniture was added by Nice's to accommodate everyone.

*complimented the Property Committee on the garage, which is complete except for the clean-up/yard work. There will be a work day to move things from Straley's and Nice's barns. Funds are still be accepted to replenish the Nicelley Investment fund from which \$16,000 was withdrawn.

*were glad to hear that the chili booth was a success, with proceeds going toward missions; and that the

nursery has had children each week since it re-opened.

*listened to a presentation by Adam Vance about MERGE, a new ecumenical youth effort in Paulding. Elders delayed committing to this until our new pastor is here.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Searing, clerk

Barb and Stan Searing putting safety latches on doors in the nursery.
Thanks!



Fearless Leader & Spouse

Grandmas and Moms Arise!

The nursery opened for business on Sept. 10th, and there have been children using it each week. What a praise, thanks to so many who helped prepare in various ways.

The staffing plan is all-volunteer and two-part. Part one is four teenagers who are serving in rotation: Erin Karlstadt the 1st week of the month, Kristen Razo the 2nd week, Anna Karlstadt the 3rd week, and Julia Fife the 4th week. Thank you, girls!

Part two is moms/grandmas who are willing to volunteer for one.....just one!.... Sunday in the nursery between now and Christmas. The dates to be covered as of this writing are October 15, 22 and 29, November 5, 19 and 26; December 3, 17, 24, and 31.

If you have not already taken a turn, and if you are interested and physically able, **you are really needed!** The quickest way to volunteer for your date is by calling or texting Dianna Karlstadt, the nursery coordinator, at 419-670-2948. You may also call the church office; or sign yourself up on the clipboard by the wide steps.



More of our Beautiful Babies



Zane Oliver Summers
Born August 30, 2017 at 3:00 pm
8 lb 9 oz and 21 inches long
Parents are Jeff and Sherie Summers



Barb Searing holding granddaughter Abigail Searing while Bret Fishbaugh leads the service. We love our beautiful babies even when they get a little bigger!

Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

Thank to all who have so faithfully donated to the Food Pantry over the past several months when a very busy church agenda and family vacations are our priority.

Suggestions for October donations are:

Baking items anything you use in your kitchen for baking

Snack & Lunch items - peanut butter, tuna, crackers, pop corn, jelly

Always and ever needed are Hygiene Items).



Sayla Grace Gerber born to Kristen and Jeff Gerber on September 23rd. Opa Bud Koenig and cousin Jace are holding her.

Financial Update

During August we made the following payments:

- Hartzog Lumber in the amount of \$530.00 for upgrades to the nursery
- Kirkmont Center in the amount of \$1,700 for 5 children to attend Camp Rejoice
- Classic Land Design in the amount of \$1,401.13 for mowing and mulching
- Derrick Clellan a total of \$15,300 for concrete work on the garage project
- Habbegger Ace Lumber in the amount of \$5,705.20 for garage project materials
- Sam U Schwartz a total of \$9,600 for garage project labor

We also cashed in \$16,000 from the Nicelly investment and transferred \$5,943.62 from the Nicelly income fund to help pay for the garage project. (This was approved at a congregational meeting on May 7, 2017)





Ron and Donna's Visit: just a few pictures to jog your memory of the Schumacher's visit. We have had the blessing of knowing them for about 40 years; following their family and their work. Thank you Jesus!

First Wednesday Meal

October 3 at 5:30 will be our first First Wednesday Meal of the season with the meal prepared and hosted by Darla Cline with the assistance of the Women's Board. November 1st volunteers are Dave and Jane Nice, December 6th the volunteers are Ken and Janet Wagner. Thanks to each one.

First Wednesday Service

This month, Jane Nice will speak on the book *The Art of Neighboring* by Dave Runyon and Jay Pathak. This goes right along with what Pastor Dan Young has been teaching us about reaching people: develop friendships, discover stories, discern needs. Join us as we continue of the journey.



Exchange Student

Pia Bornholdt is staying with the Reineck family until June. She is a 16 year old exchange student from Hamburg Germany. Pia enjoys playing soccer and basketball. Welcome Pia!

Pictured are Sydney Reineck and Pia Bornholdt



Thank you again to all who donated \$5 gift cards to the Drug Court reward basket. The judge and the participants are grateful for our church's ongoing support of the program.

Meeting dates for October's Drug Court are Friday,

October 6 and Friday, October 20. These sessions are open to the public and convene at 9:30 a.m. in Judge Tiffany Beckman's courtroom on the second floor of the courthouse.

The Second Chance Narcotics Anonymous group continues to meet in our church basement every Thursday evening. Their numbers have grown since we have begun hosting meetings. N.A. is open to anyone, not just participants of Paulding

County's Drug Court program. However, there are a lot of local people who are very, very grateful to attend the meetings without the added hassle of coordinating out-of-town transportation.

Your continued prayers are needed for these people who are on their recovery journeys. If you have any questions about either program, ask Judge Beckman or Dave and Jane Nice.



Susan Crossland, co-chair of PNC, Alissa, Samuel and Ian Ferguson, Matt Reineck moderator of the Congregational meeting when we called Ian.

Pastor Ian!

The congregation of First Presbyterian Church called Ian Ferguson to serve as our next pastor at a Congregational meeting on Sept. 17, 2017. The vote was 44-0.

As eager as we all are to have Ian and his family in Paulding, there are still procedures to be worked through. Here are the exciting details as we know them to date:

When Fergusons got home on Tuesday, Sept. 19th, Ian gave his two-week notice at his job in Denver, and the family also gave their one-month notice on their apartment lease. Ian and Alissa are exploring moving options for their belongings, which may arrive in Paulding well before they do, and could be stored in the cottage or garage.

- 2) Ian's transfer from the EPC Presbytery of the West to the EPC Presbytery of the Midwest has been requested. Ian's candidate care toward ordination will be in the Midwest Presbytery.
- 3) Ian still has a paper exam to take related to ordination in the EPC. He must also complete a psychological exam. The doctor to administer this psychological test is in Ian's current Presbytery, and must be approved to administer this test by Midwest Presbytery's Candidate Care committee.
- 4) Ian and Alissa plan to leave Denver in about 2 weeks, driving to visit Alissa's grandpa in Iowa along their way to Ian's parents' home in Illinois.
- 5) Fergusons will live with his parents in Illinois while Ian studies for his paper exam. I'm sure it will be no sacrifice for these grandparents to have baby Samuel around for a few weeks! The plan is to study during October and take the test in early November here in the Midwest Presbytery. It is strongly recommended by Presbytery that the test be completed before Ian assumes his duties here, so that he can give full attention, first to the test and then to his new pastoral duties.
- 6) Once the test has been taken and scored, Ian can be hired as a 'stated supply' pastor and begin serving here while the ordination process rolls out.
- 7) With all the testing and moving and transferring from one presbytery to another, and realizing that neither he nor we have much control over the timing, Ian's guess/hope is that he will be in Paulding, at the latest, the first of the year; and at the earliest the end of November. It will all be in God's good time.
- 8) It is anticipated that Ian will be examined on the floor of Presbytery at the February meeting, which is Feb. 16-17, 2018 in Greenville, OH.

Barb Searing, Clerk



PNC WRAP UP

The Pastor Nominating committee has wrapped up its task and has been dissolved following the nomination and acceptance of Ian Ferguson as our new pastor at First Presbyterian.

The committee was formed almost one year ago to begin the search. The group spent a few months completing the church information form, which included a lot of congregational input, as we examined our beliefs, goals, strengths, and weaknesses. What an interesting and exciting task!



Then the waiting began - waiting on applications, waiting on interviews, waiting on responses - all in His time. Finally on May 28 we received a letter of interest in us and then it began - - -

After two Skype interviews and a visit in early August we made our decision.

We are so pleased Ian and Alissa Ferguson and son Samuel will soon join our church family!

The committee is thankful to our congregation for staying strong through all of this. Thank you for your support, encouragement, and above all - your prayers. Your faith and trust in us through God allowed us to endure this process and complete our task. We praise God for HIS hand in everything As the choir sang: "We are the Church"! and we all sing: We will "Build your Kingdom here"!!

Now here we are waiting again - - - tests, transfers, more paperwork and details, moving, etc. but the end AND the beginning are now in sight. It's all in His time. Remember - by perseverance the snail reached the ark!



Sue Crossland - co chair for the committee: Stan Searing - co chair, Brent Fishbaugh, Jane Nice, Bud Koenig, Judy Robinson, Alex Straley

Speakers for October

Guest speakers scheduled for the month of October are: Pastor Dan Young on the 1st, 8th, 22nd and 29th; Pastor Dwayne October 15th.

New Plaque



A plaque commemorating the recent work done on the organ is now in the choir loft. There are 4 plaques: in memory of F. W. Hyman; Organ rebuilt 1946 by funds of Miss Jesse Pursel; Organ rebuilt 1977 with addition of chimes; Organ rebuilt 2016 Swell Division



Kristen Razo and Stan Searing

Kiwanis Speaker

Kristen Razo spoke at the local Kiwanis Club in August about her experience at HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Conference). Each year a high school sophomore is chosen to attend based on an essay written on leadership. Thousands of youth attend throughout the nation. Stan

Searing was program chair. The Kiwanis Club offers a scholarship for the student to attend. The 2017 conference was held at Ohio Northern University.

Women's Ecumenical Christmas Banquet and Program



This year, in just three short months, our Women's Group will be hosting the annual Christmas Dinner for the women of the community. This is a significant anniversary, but the number escapes me as I write this. We need help spreading the word, so talk to your friends from other churches. A planning meeting will be scheduled in a few weeks. Pray that we have a celebration worthy of our Lord.



Our speaker: Carrie Gaul of Revive Our Hearts Ministries.

Saturday October 28, 2017 36th Annual Women's Retreat

Carrie Gaul from Revive the Heart Ministries is returning to bring us a three part series titled *Thrive* based on John 10:10.

There will be special music, a catered lunch and lots of warm fellowship.

Look for your detailed flyer in the mail or included in your October newsletter but write the date on your calendar now so you don't miss it.

JOHN 10:10





On Oct. 7, 2016 Andrew Brunson and his wife, Norine, were summoned to a local police station in Izmir, Turkey. At the time, this didn't seem like anything to be worried about. The couple, originally from North Carolina, had lived for 23 years in Turkey's third largest city, where Andrew was the pastor of the Izmir Resurrection Church, a small protestant congregation of about 25. The Brunsons had raised three children in Turkey and had applied for permanent residency. They went willingly to the police station, thinking they were finally going to get it.

Instead, Andrew and Norine were taken into custody, accused of missionary activities "against national security," and told they would be deported. Norine was released on Oct. 9 and so far has been allowed to stay in Turkey, but almost a year later, Andrew remains locked up. On Dec. 11, he was moved to a counterterrorism center and charged with "membership in an armed terrorist organization." A judge ordered that he be detained rather than deported.

It will be a year on October 7 since Andrew Brunson was taken prisoner in Turkey. Session approved a day of prayer by our church for him and Norine on that Saturday. The church will be open twelve hours for prayer and there will be a sign-up sheet to come in person and pray or commit to pray at home at half hour intervals.

Thanks much, Becky.

Flat Rock Creek Chili Booth

Despite the warm weather, chili sales were boosted by the large festival attendance and we were able to donate about the same amount of money to the church's missions as we did last year.

Thanks to the following people who helped or donated to the chili booth this year:

Marlene Buehler
Terry Buehler
Ruth Eschbach
Becky Fishbaugh
Larry Fishbaugh
Dave Nice
Jane Nice
Dick Paulus
Sue Paulus
Barb Searing
Rhonda Smalley

Jill Straley
Erica Temple
Harry Wiebe
Marcia Wiebe





First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Caroline & Cherry,
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Fall and Winter Schedule
Sunday School 9:00
Praise Music 10:15
Worship Service 10:30

First Presbyterian Church

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In Essentials, Unity.
In Non-Essentials, Liberty.
In All Things, Charity.

