

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 2 Issue 11



Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)

We would worry less if we praised more. Thanksgiving is the enemy of discontent and dissatisfaction.
(H. A. Ironside)

During this time of great transition in my life I have to admit that I've been a little nervous about what will happen after January 29. Like most people, I don't like change and I much prefer a comfortable present to an uncertain future. But at the same time, I am truly thankful. I'm thankful not only for the past 25 years, but I'm also thankful for what's ahead. And, I'm thankful for this present moment, even though this present moment is full of questions I haven't had to think about for over 25 years.

Giving **thanks in all circumstances** not only encompasses difficulty and pain but also uncertainty and regret. That is, it takes into account *everything*—past, present and future. The familiar promise of Romans 8:28—**in all things God works for the good of those who love him**—is the fertile soil out of which thankfulness grows. The fact that God is constantly working for our good makes it possible for us to be constantly thankful: even when we look back at painful things and bad decisions, even when we look ahead at uncertainty and risk.

Thankfulness does not diminish the pain or regret or uncertainty we might feel—it puts these things into perspective. As the apostle Paul (who was certainly familiar with difficulty and pain) put it: **our**

light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. (2 Corinthians 4:17) Whatever troubles we might have, or have had, or will have are not insignificant, but they pale in significance to what we *always have*: the infinite love of God the Father, the glorious salvation purchased by God the Son and the incomparably powerful presence of God the Spirit.

These things are not visible, but they are real, and they are constant, and they vastly outweigh whatever we're dealing with. So, as Paul says, **we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen.** (2 Corinthians 4:18) This isn't wishful thinking, or "pie-in-the-sky" fantasy—it's a promise that we can hold onto right now, and it's weighty enough to stand on.

And so I can be thankful in the midst of transition and uncertainty. I can be thankful when I am uncomfortable. I know this from experience—from what I am experiencing right now. What I don't know from experience is the terrible circumstance of tragedy—the death of a child, for example. I can only know what Job said when all of his children were killed in one day: **The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised.** (Job 1:21) I'm glad I haven't had to say this, and I don't know if I would say it, but I do know that I possibly *could* say it. I know this is possible because I know that to **give thanks in all circumstances is God's will.**

Some of us see the glass half-empty, some of us see it half-full. But all of us can become more thankful than we are right now. This has practical benefits—*We would worry less if we praised more*—and it also has the supreme benefit of being in line with God's will. It makes us more of a blessing to be around, and it draws us closer to the One who makes constant thankfulness possible. Shalom!

Pastor Dave

November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Circle 7:00	2 Prayer for the Church at 8:00 1st Wed. Meal and Service Choir 7:00	3 Prayer, IGNITE! Senior Center at 7:00 pm	4	5
6 Communion	7	8 Circle 7:00 	9 Prayer at 8:00 am Choir 7:00 pm Worship comm. after choir	10	11	12
13	14	15 Circle 7:00 Session 7:00	16 Prayer at 8:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	17	18	19
20	21	22 Students coming for a community work day	23 Prayer at 8:00 am Choir 7:00 pm	24 	25	26
27 	28	29 Christmas parade Bargain Bin supper here Circle 7:00	30 Prayer at 8:00 am Choir 7:00 pm			

November Birthdays
 7th - Audrey Stechschulte
 8th - Art Razo
 15th - Megan Reineck
 17th - Imogene Kochenour
 17th - Jessica St. John
 21st - Linda Reineck

27th - Judy Robinson
 28th - Brent Fishbaugh
 28th - Jeff Summers
 29th - Jane Nice

November Anniversaries
 5th- Bryce and Nikki Verfaillie
 8th - Dick and Sue Paulus
 8th - Darwin and Darla Cline
 13th - Paul and Kari Searing

Session Highlights

At the October 18th Session meeting, elders:

*approved use of the Fellowship Hall by the Don Crossland family on Sat., Nov. 5; and by the Bargain Bin on Nov. 29th to serve a baked potato bar supper in conjunction with the Chamber Christmas Lights parade.

*approved the proposal of the Congregational Life/Outreach committee to host two 5th Quarter parties at the school after 2 home basketball games Dec. 9 and Feb. 3rd. The school is again welcoming this and has waived all fees for use of the building.

*learned that the past year's Session minutes were approved by the Midwest Presbytery Review committee without exception.

*heard an update on Pastor Dave's new part-time chaplaincy training at Parkview Randallia. As per his agreement with the Personnel committee and Session, Pastor Dave's schedule balancing his part-time schedule at Parkview and his continuing work for our congregation was accepted for this month. This plan will be reviewed and accepted by Session month by month until Pastor Dave's ending date in January.

*heard from the Property committee that the demolition of the house at 321 N Cherry will hopefully be accomplished the first week of November.

*reviewed information returned by committees about the Vision Team survey suggestions that had been disbursed to them for discussion.

*learned that the Nominating committee has secured two elders (Rhonda Smalley and Matt Reineck) and two deacons (Jeff Summers and Marcia Wiebe) to serve as the class of 2019.

*learned that the Personnel and Worship committees are working with Pastor Dave to ensure loose ends are tied up and that there is continuity of Sunday worship as the transition to a new pastor begins.

*were pleased to hear that the suggested individuals that elders had approached to serve on the Pastor Search committee have all agreed to serve. (See separate article).

*set a Congregational meeting for Sunday, Nov. 6 after worship for the two-fold purpose of electing the Pastor Search committee and electing elders and deacons to serve as the class of 2019. The minutes of the regular September meeting and the Sept. 25 Congregational meeting were approved by Session and are now available in the church office. As always, feel free to contact any elder with your comments or questions.

Barb Searing, Clerk of Session



November 2, 2016

1st Wednesday meal and worship on the 2nd.

Supper at 5:30

Worship at 6:15

Hosted by a group with food planned for the Fabulous Family Fun Fest at Searing's that was cancelled due to weather. There will be food and it will be good!

(Signup sheet available in the sanctuary if you want to assist or organize a meal for the upcoming season).



More of our Beautiful Babies!

Mason Christopher Martinez, born September 22nd and weighing 6 lb and 3 oz, is the son of Nathan Martinez and

Diana Chairez. Mason is the great grandson of Dick and Sue Paulus.

February 2017 Bible Study

Following the retreat: We would love to have you join us for an 8 week interactive Bible Study on the book of Philippians being offered in February 2017 at First Presbyterian Church. The study will be on *Joy in the Midst* by Carrie Gaul, our featured speaker for this year's retreat.

In this study we will learn the connection between joy and the gospel. We'll gain practical help in applying the gospel to our daily lives as we observe the life of the apostle Paul; a man who not only understood the gospel but experienced joy in the midst of hardship and adversity.

INTERESTED? Please give us your name, e-mail address, phone number and information as to what time of day and day of the week would work for your schedule. You may contact Becky Fishbaugh or call 419-399-2438 or e-mail the church secretary at fpcpaulding@gmail.com with the information.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, Nov. 6th after worship

The purpose of the meeting is two-fold:

- to elect elders and deacons to serve in the Class of 2019
- to elect a Pastor Search Committee

Elder/Deacon Background: Elders and deacons are elected to 3-year terms. They may serve up to 6 years, and then must take at least one year off.

Pastor Search Background: In early September, members received a letter outlining Pastor Dave's plan to retire as our pastor, with his last date being Jan. 29th or earlier. As required by EPC, a Congregational meeting was called and held Sun., Sept. 25th, and Pastor Dave's announcement was accepted.

At the September Session meeting, as per EPC guidelines, elders began a discussion on forming a Pas-

tor Search committee. Sue Crossland and Stan Searing were identified to be asked to co-chair this group.

Sue and Stan agreed, and Session called a special meeting with them to discuss additional candidates for the Search group. Five more people (in addition to Sue and Stan) were selected, and were approached by elders. All have agreed to serve. This slate is to be voted on at the Nov. 6 meeting.

After the Pastor Search committee is elected, a liaison from the Midwest Presbytery Ministerial committee (our presbytery in the EPC) will be assigned to work with the Pastor Search group.

Question 1: To elect the slate of elders and deacons for the Class of 2019:

For elder:
Rhonda Smalley (renewing)
Matt Reineck

For deacon: Jeff Summers (renewing)
Marcia Wiebe (renewing)
(This slate is recommended by the Nominating committee and has been approved by Session)

Question 2: To elect members of a Pastor Search Committee:
Susan Crossland, co-chair
Brent Fishbaugh
Bud Koenig
Jane Nice
Judy Robinson
Stan Searing, co-chair
Alex Straley
(This slate has been developed by the co-chairs and by Session)

As in all congregational votes, nominations can be made from the floor (with the prior consent of that person).

Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting; only members can vote. Voting must be done in person.



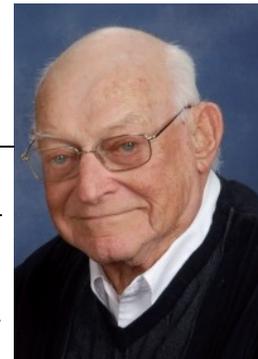
Feeding Some Hungry Kids from Band

The Paulding High School Marching Band was fed by the women of our church prior to an away football game in October. They must have been comfortable here, as the noise level sounded like one of our meals with lots of conversation and laughter.

More on Band Kids: The Band Boosters treasurer, who just happens to be Carol Razo, is telling us that there are a couple of band members that might need some financial help to go on the marching band trip to FL after Christmas. Our congregation has a history with band that includes Lauren Hill, Kristen Razo and Joe Reineck as current band members. We understand how important the music program can be to young people. The financial need is close to \$1,000.00. If you would like to donate, you may mail a check to the church with Band Kids in the memo line. Thanks so much!

How Does it Feel to be Old?

A young student asked me that question. In thinking about it, God gave me directions that I want to share with everyone. Written by Chuck Lutz



First we should define old. Webster has an abundance of suggestions. Bread is old after seven days. Milk is old after 20 days. We must be six to enter school, at 15 we can get a driving permit. We can get a driver's license at 16. Most graduate from school at 18 and become eligible to vote and serve in the armed forces. We become adults at 21 and at 25 our car insurance is reduced. The State of Ohio issues us Golden Buckeye cards at 55 and calls us Senior Citizens. The Federal Government says we can draw our Social Security at 62 and manufacturing says we can retire at age 65 and we can get a free fishing or hunting license at age 70. Between age 50 and 82, insurance companies issue you life insurance with no questions asked. Someone once said "You're as old as you feel." In the above dissertation Webster offers many suggestions. The only definition that explains being old is "anything that is not new." Someday God will come and say "Well done my good and faithful servant" and take us to the land that no longer keeps recorded time and gives us everlasting life.

"If PRAYER were your job would you still be employed."
Thank you, Lord, for the privilege of praying. Amen.
Submitted by Becky Fishbaugh

Lighthouse Library News

Starting in November, our featured authors for the coming weeks are David Bunn and Robert Whitlow. Men, you will enjoy these books.

(the following is a review by Terry Buehler)
EXCITING NEW DISCOVERY! Want an author whose novels are difficult to put down? I recently discovered one... Davis Bunn, an exciting writer of historical fiction and legal thrillers.

Bunn's novels are sure to be of interest to every reader. He is known for his themes of global politics and intrigues interwoven with moral, religious, ethical choices of individual characters.

His reputation of excellence as a storyteller has won him Christy Awards four times. These awards are awarded each year to recognize novels of excellence written from a Christian perspective. The Christy Awards are named in honor of Catherine Marshall and her novel Christy.

You are sure to enjoy many of his books which are currently in our church library or forthcoming. All of his books are listed on the library bulletin board.

One of my favorite books is his Strait of Hormuz. It is the last of a series of

three which begins with Lion of Babylon followed by Rare Earth. The story's setting is the Middle East. At stake is Iran's threat to blockade the narrow Strait of Hormuz, cutting off vital shipping routes and escalating tensions beyond the breaking point. The specter of preemptive strikes has put United States officials on edge as they struggle to keep the world from plunging into the abyss.

Marc Royce, the leading character throughout the three books in this series, is a finely crafted character and is a hero that both men and women are sure to enjoy reading about. His Israeli partner, Kitra Koban, a member of the Mossad which is Israel's counterpart to our CIA, is equally exciting as she and Marc struggle with romance and the dangerous tasks assigned to them.

I assure you that the story will keep you in its grasp from beginning to end. Be sure to read. You are guaranteed to enjoy!

Happy reading, Terry Buehler

P.S. Marlene's favorites, so far, are The Great Divide and Winner Take All.

Check out and enjoy!

The Library Committee

Financial Tidbits:

- We had one final payment due on the organ repair contract. The total contract amount was \$62,200. We had already paid \$55,930 leaving a balance due of \$6,270. We paid this amount in September.
 - We paid \$33,926.70 for the Cherry Street property adjacent to Cornerstone Cottage.
 - We received a donation of \$400 for the Garage Replacement Fund. The balance in this fund is now \$24,888.33.
 - The library committee purchased a new table for the library.
 - We received donations of \$50 and \$375 for 5th quarter parties.
 - Chili sales of \$280.53 were deposited into the missions fund.
- Carol Razo, Treasurer

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CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY

Please make these items a priority as you so generously give:

Toilet paper-the supply has been completely depleted

As always, hygiene products are in **great** demand. Food items can and do often come from the Midwest Ohio Food Bank, but they do not supply any kind of hygiene item. That is why we have to ask for them every month.



Uniting in prayer for revival!

Prayer continues on the first Thursday in November (the 3rd) at the Paulding County Senior Center at 7:00 pm. A second IGNITE! Is being scheduled for

January. Keep watching for more information.

Women's Circle: will meet in the fellowship hall Tuesday November 1st and each Tuesday for the rest of November: We will begin a special **WEEKLY** study for the month! It is called The Greatest Gift and focuses on God's great gift, Jesus. We believe you will be blessed by this preparation for Advent. We will meet on Tuesdays except for the 22nd due to Thanksgiving. Barb Searing has the new books. You can get them today! Bring payment of \$10.00 first night if possible. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Dear Dave:

I wish I had that moment back again. That moment during the congregational meeting when the moderator asked if there was any discussion prior to voting on your resignation. I was waiting on someone else to speak up, and then suddenly the moment was gone with no one having said anything.

If I had it to do over again, I would speak up. If I could go back to that moment, I would tell you how much I appreciate your unfailing dedication to our church over the past 25 years. These days it's difficult to find someone who's stayed in the same job for 25 years. You have been with us consistently through weddings and funerals; through periods of growth and times of regression. During those same years, I waffled back and forth between being an active contributor and barely attending services at all. All those years, you were at the pulpit every Sunday.

Transitions are always difficult, but God uses all situations for good. Please know that we thank you for your service and are praying for God to guide your future, as well as the future of our congregation.

We love you! Carol Razo



Upper right: some of the people in attendance at the breakfast, left photo is Sheriff Jason Landers as he talks about the possibility of reopening the jail, lower right is Michael Werhkamp and John DeMuth, both candidates for Juvenile/ Probate Judge, with Chamber Director Peggy Emerson between them.

Chamber of Commerce Breakfast



5th Quarter Time is Here!

5th Quarter parties for teens in 7th - 12th grades were again spear-headed by our church, courtesy of the Congregational Life/Outreach committee. All parties following football games were held in the Presbyterian parking lot, rain or shine. The dates for 2016 were:

- ~~Friday, Sept. 2 (First Christians hosting)~~
- ~~Friday, Sept. 9 (Nazarenes hosting)~~
- ~~Friday, Oct. 7 (Presbyterians hosting)~~
- ~~Friday, Oct. 14 (Branch Christian Fellowship hosting)~~
- ~~Friday, Oct. 28 (Methodists hosting)~~

5th Quarter Teen (eyeing pizza):
"Is all this free?"

Presby: "Yes! Help yourself."

Teen: "Be sure to tell the whole church 'Thank you.'"

We are now heading into the basketball games, with two 5th Quarter parties following games this season: Friday December 9th and Friday February 3rd, both after home basketball games.

Watch for more information.



Community Christmas Celebration

The Chamber of Commerce Christmas parade will be Tuesday, November 29th. That same evening, the Bargain Bin will be hosting a Baked Potato Bar in our fellowship hall, open to the public.

VISION TEAM UPDATE

You may have noticed the Vision Statement which has been on the front of the bulletins the past few weeks and which will be on the front of subsequent newsletters:

A congregation of passionate and enthusiastic people who want to become more like Christ and live out their faith in the community.

Matt Reineck came up with this statement and the VT has adopted it for our congregation. A vision statement means nothing if it is not spelled out and lived out. So, beginning October 9, Pastor Dave will be preaching a three week series on the three parts of the statement: what it means to be a passionate

and enthusiastic Christian; what it means to become more like Christ; what it means to live out faith in Jesus in the community. He's preached about each of these things in the past year, but not consecutively, so this series will be a refresher on what the VT has been talking about and trying to communicate with our congregation.

One of the main things we talked about at our last meeting was regarding what we feel has been our biggest challenge: our congregation has become smaller and older and some in our church family are looking to the VT to "come up with a solution" for this situation. To some extent we on the VT have had the same expectation. We seemed to agree, however, that there is no "magic bullet" or quick fix to our situation (a situation to which about 80% of US churches can relate). On the one hand, we've affirmed that we're already doing lots

of good things in our community (individually and collectively). On the other hand, none of these things has resulted in more unchurched people coming to our church.

What we want to do, above all else, is to encourage each other to see ourselves as missionaries in our own community—as those who are gathered inside the church building to worship Jesus and then sent outside the church building to represent Jesus to those God sends our way. This is easier said than done, but it is what Jesus talked about when he said, **You are the light of the world.** (Matthew 5:14)

Vision Statement

A congregation of passionate and enthusiastic people who want to become more like Christ and live out their faith within the community.



Paulding OH 45879
Corner of Caroline & Cherry,
First Presbyterian Church

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.

