

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 4 Issue 6



Thoughts from Ian...

Sometimes we just go too far. Recently, I was reminded of this while watching Samuel learn how to throw

things away in the trash can. He has seen Alissa and me throw trash away countless times and now believes it is time for him to join in on the game. He has grown enough to reach the lid of the trash can, open the lid, and toss in whatever is in his hand. The problem is he throws anything and everything away. Spoons, keys, straws, and more have been happily tossed by our playful boy. Of course, many of these items are not appropriate to throw away and so his mom and I need to dig these items out of the trash. Even though the keys may be covered in trash and gunk, they must be recovered! And we hope that Samuel is watching our correction.

At times, we can be like Samuel. People can be too quick to 'throw things away'. We are too quick to discount people. We give up hope on situations and think that they are too far gone. We sin, fail, and make mistakes and toss them in the pile of unredeemable things. I look at the brokenness of the world and I know that I am too weak to fix much or any of it. I am happy to throw things away and move on to easier tasks and "easy to get along with" people.

But God is like a wise parent who looks through my pile of unredeemables and restores what I have so easily discarded. God is a redeemer, especially of people. Ro-

mans 3:23-24 says that all have sinned and all who are saved are redeemed freely and graciously by Jesus. Jesus

is the Redeemer of his people. In Psalm 111:9, the Psalmist praises God's redeeming of his people through the covenant. God is a redeemer of people.

God is also a redeemer of our circumstance. I am sure that many of the Israelites who were slaves in Egypt felt discarded and forgotten, but God redeemed them and their circumstance (Exodus 6:6-8). God does not only pull them back into a relationship with him (I will take you as my own people and I will be your God) but he redeems their situation (I will bring you to the land I swore). God can redeem our lives as well. And he hopes we are watching.

God hopes we are watching because he wants us to have hope. Confidence in the fact that God can redeem us and the people in our lives. Confidence that he can bring good out of bad situations. He wants us to have hope in him. Also, God hopes we are watching because he wants us to participate in redeeming people and circumstances. In James 5:13-20, he reminds us of two ways we can participate. First, we can pray. In prayer, we partner with God and ask him to redeem. Second, he reminds us to restore those who have wandered from the truth. We partner with God in redeeming people when we lead them back to THE Redeemer. Let's not be people who go too far in discarding people and circumstances. Instead, let's put our confidence in the Redeemer and partner with him to bring redemption in the world.

And if you ever see Samuel near a trash can at church, you may want to check to see if he has thrown anything away and, if he did, if it is something that needs to be rescued from the trash.



June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Anna Karlstadt Open House 1-4
3 Communion	4	5 All Churches 5th Quarter planning meeting 6:00	6 Ladies do Lunch at the church with Chef Jeffery DeBlaere at noon	7 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge Prayer for the community at the Senior Center 7:00	8 Drug Court	9
10	11	12 Retreat Planning meeting 7:00	13	14 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge	15	16
17 Father's Day Brunch	18 Ladies Do Lunch Noon at Fiesta Habaneros	19	20	21 Red Cross Blood Mobile 12-5:30 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge	22	23
	Ian out of the office to attend General Assembly					
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge

June Birthdays:

3rd Carol Razo
5th Chuck Lutz
10th Joy Nice Coughlin
11th Rhonda Small
18th Conner Fidler
22nd Lauren Hill

25th Frieda Good

June Anniversaries:

3rd - Paul & Martha Panches
5th - Matt and Allie Brown
5th - Ian and Alissa Ferguson
7th Chuck & Phyllis Lutz

8th Todd & Lisa Searing

12th Bud & Cindy Koenig
12th Garrett and Maely Alexander
16th Bill & Becky Hurtig
17th Chuck & Cara Lou Strahley
22nd Matt & Linda Reineck
26th Terry & Marlene Buchler

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

Session Highlights May

At the May 15th Session meeting, elders:

*heard from Pastor Ian that he will be adding staff/leadership bio's to the "about us" area of the web-site; that he is testing some better music videos for contemporary songs at the beginning of worship; and that he received an EPC scholarship for part of his expenses to attend General Assembly in Tennessee in June. The remaining expenses will be covered 50% from his Continuing Ed fund and 50% from Miscellaneous, with discussion of adding the annual expense to the church budget going forward.

*were encouraged to think of couples who might want to attend a "Family Life Weekend to Remember Marriage Getaway" offered in October 2018/ November 2018/Feb 2019 in Dayton/Detroit/Cincinnati. All expenses including tuition and motel would be covered by a Ministerial Fund held within the Paulding Co Area Foundation. If you are interested or have a suggestion, speak to Pastor Ian.

*learned that the Property committee will schedule a workday probably June 23 or 30 for upkeep that needs to be done around the building. All hands on deck makes light work! Also, no replacement of the ignitors on a kitchen range will be done, as the expense outweighed the benefit. This committee will also review our current status as a Red Cross Emergency Disaster site and whether information is current.

*heard that a decision whether to schedule boiler replacement or to take our chances with fingers crossed for another winter needs to be made, as work would need to be scheduled by August. Cost is in the \$35,000 range for total replacement, and donations are being sought.

*put off further discussion of the idea of a play-ground area, until at least after the boiler replacement is dealt with.

*thanked Stan Searing for updating the cottage tax status with the County Auditor now that it is being used completely as a residence. In years past, the 'conference room' (only) was considered tax-exempt. The change in the property tax bill should be minimal and will appear in 2019, when 2018 taxes are due.

*joined Friends of the Chamber for \$100. This is the parent group of CoRP, which is working on Downtown Revitalization and the potential creation of an historic zone that would include our church.

*tossed around the idea of using our prime location during the 127 Garage Sale August 2-5. Possible ideas were to rent spaces in the lot; offer food and cooling in the Fellowship Hall; provide a baby changing/nursing area; etc. Questions would include liability, staffing, what to charge, etc. Funds could be used toward instituting a Mission trip (a Pastor Ian dream!), or to support future Women's Retreats. No decision was reached. If this idea is of interest to you, please talk to Pastor Ian or Barb Searing.

*added/re-affirmed these calendar items:

-Mon., May 28: Reineck family using the Fellowship Hall for a going-away party for exchange students Pia Bornholdt and Nick Pfister before they return to Germany

-Tues., June 5, 6 pm: all-church meeting about 5th Quarter 2018 season

-Tues., June 19: Session cancelled. There will be NO SESSION MEETING in June

-Thurs., June 21: Red Cross Bloodmobile in Fellowship Hall

-Sun., June 24-Sat., June 30: vacation for Pastor Ian. The worship committee will fill the pulpit June 24.

-Sun., July 22: Paulding Pastor Swap. Pastor Jeremy Thompson, Church of the Nazarene, will fill our pulpit; Pastor Ian will be at St. John's and St. Paul's Lutheran churches

Submitted by Barb Searing, Clerk of Session
Barb Searing, clerk

Pastor Ian's new Robe:

A gift from his
parents for his
ordination.





Dear Church Family,

During the last few months of my illness I have been overwhelmed by your acts of compassion and caring. Your continuous prayer support has kept us hopeful and focused on my recovery. Hundred of well-wisher cards continue to this day. Plus your provision of food gifts like soup, casseroles, custard and cookies were delivered to our door for weeks until we were able to cook on our own again. Pastor Ian's visits have been especially beneficial. Finally the many floral arrangements and plants you have sent continue to brighten my day. Needless to say, we have been truly blessed by all of these generous gifts.

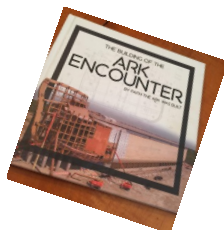
When Jeff returned to Colorado after the Christmas holidays, he said it best when he told me, "Mom, I don't worry about you because I saw for myself how the church in Paulding is supporting you during this challenging time." We are truly grateful for you all.

I am improving each day and going through tests, scans and more. I have been accepted into the experimental drug study. Those treatments were scheduled to begin this week. Keep praying, keep praising.

In Christ's love, Becky, Larry, Brent and Jeff

The Lighthouse Library

A huge thank-you to Ruth Eschback for donating the book, "The Building of the Ark Encounter". It tells the amazing story from the original vision to the completed attraction in Kentucky. If you are planning a visit be sure to "check this out"



Summer Schedule

Began Sunday May 27

Praise at 9:15

Worship at 9:30



Bud Koenig: Living on the Edge

This picture is being included without shrinking it much so that you can get a real feel for the height he climbed up to. All that to clean the fan blades, which really needed attention. Thank you so much Bud.

The next time you are in the sanctuary, look up at the fan and imagine yourself on the ladder, cleaning.

The **Property Committee** is looking for your help. You don't need to be a "handy" person to serve with this group- anyone willing can contribute. To my knowledge we have never had a lady on this committee- If one of you gals would like to "break the glass ceiling" we would welcome you! Contact Bud Koenig for more information [419-789-2810](tel:419-789-2810)

The good news is IT'S SPRING!! The bad news is that before next heating season the church will need a new boiler system. Cost will be in the \$35,000 range. The Property Committee is currently researching and getting quotes. Please consider giving to this needed project.



Sad, angry, resolute: thoughts from a Turkish courtroom

by Richard White, Pastor
Christ Community Church, Montreat, N.C.

Sad, angry, and resolute.

These are my states of mind as I wake after Andrew Brunson's trial. After 10 hours in court, I am deeply saddened that the judge refused to allow Andrew's request to return home and finish the trial under some form of house arrest. I'm sad at having to watch Norine be brave yet again for her husband and community. She is like Mary pouring her treasure out at Jesus' feet. It's her costly treasure of time, lost time with husband and children, her father's death, and so much more. I'm also sad for the Turkish people and the blatant miscarriage of justice. This bleeds into my anger.

The judge allowed the most ludicrous witnesses to testify against Andrew. One young man, who had angrily left their church years ago, wanted to return to the church but was denied membership because he was such a troublemaker. He refused to repent. On the stand, this man admitted to creating a fake Facebook page in Andrew's name and posting pro-terrorist items on it. The judge looked passed this and validated this man's testimony of seeing terrorist flags in Andrew's church. It was a total lie, but the judge said it carried weight. The judge not only led witnesses with his questions, but also linked all the witnesses at the end in an effort to maintain the case against Andrew. The most angering blow was at the end when the judge decimated Andrew's witness defense list saying that most of his witnesses were also "suspects" and, therefore, could not testify on Andrew's behalf. This, in effect, ties the hands of Andrew's defense.

So, what to do with unresolved sadness and justified anger? This morning I am reflecting on 1 Peter 2:23—"When he was reviled he did not revile in return, when he suffered (unjustly) he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to Him who judges justly." Also, Psalm 30:5—"Weeping endures for the night but joy comes in the morning." And Romans 12:12—"Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation and constant in prayer."

God did answer many prayers. Andrew spoke with clarity, authority, and boldness in the Lord as he refuted many, many lies spoken against him. Norine remained strong and alert. I had asked the Lord to be able to get into the courtroom. We got in. I asked to be a visible encouragement to Andrew and to have five minutes to visit with him. Everyone assured me that it would be impossible. No clergy of any faith have visited prisoners during this state of emergency in Turkey. BUT...then there was a technical difficulty with the jumbotron screens and while all were distracted, Andrew turned around in his seat and looked back at us as we sat in the back of the court. Norine said that this was not allowed. But with the judges distracted with the screen, Andrew was able to lock eyes with Norine and me and Sam and several others. I was able to communicate love, prayers, and blessings. It was a sacred and joy-filled moment from the Lord. We all wept. This technological difficulty lasted five minutes. It happened again later so we got another opportunity for eye-to-eye, loving contact. When Andrew was escorted out of the courtroom I moved to a place closer to his exit door and yelled out, "We love you, brother. We will never forget you. The whole church is praying for you back home."

Joy, sorrow, anger, and resolution.

I remain resolute in standing with and praying for Andrew. I know you do as well. Hebrews 13:5 says, "Remember those in prison as though with them." So we must keep praying. God is working something much larger than we can see or understand right now. I assured Norine and Andrew (in a note I left for Andrew with the U.S. consular) that our church is praying for them, even at 2:00 a.m. in Graham Chapel.

Thank you for praying. This is the hard work God has for us. Romans 15:30 says, "I appeal to you brothers and sisters by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf, that I may be delivered."

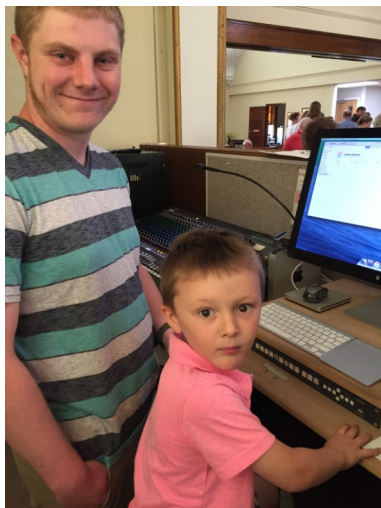
You will continue to give receive updates on Pastor Andrew until our prayers are answered and he is home.

Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

Thank you for the amazing increase in donations during the month of May.

Now please bring beverages of all kinds and sizes, as well as a variety of canned fruits as we go into the warmer months.

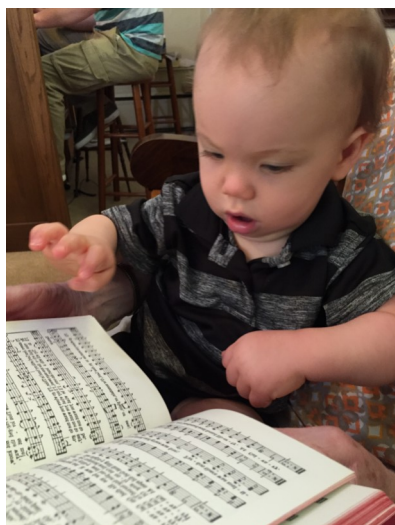
Gratefully,
Becky



Our Future:

Above Joe Reineck shows Wyatt Wilhelm, his little cousin, how to run the sound system.

Below: One year old Logan Crossland is deciding what hymn he would like to sing next.



Ways to Serve in June

volunteer
do good, feel good

We are starting Children's Church in May. At this writing we had children for two Sundays out of three. We will need two volunteers each Sunday all summer.

Volunteer in the nursery: Call Dianna Karlstadt 419-670-2948 We have babies every week now, and adults are needed. The ever-famous clip board will be at the top of the steps, take a look and sign up.

Are you comfortable welcoming people? We could use greeters to say "Welcome" each Sunday Morning. Ushers are also needed.

Sign up to bring flowers for a Sunday service. The Flower Chart is on the wall in the hall outside of the fellowship hall doors.

Many ways to volunteer.



Please shower our oldest member Frieda Good with a birthday card before her big day, June 25th. Her address is: % the Gardens
199 Rd 103, Paulding OH 45879



Last month, little Samantha Alexander was wearing a worship bag for a hat. This month, we are all trying to figure out how Maely (Crossland) Alexander knows that Sammy is up to something when Sammy is in the back with Gram (Phyllis) and Aunt Sue.

Does Mom have Eyes in the Back of Her Head?



Waiting for BBQ

Dick Paulus helps entertain Samuel with the stones while waiting for lunch at the Herb Monroe Park in May while waiting for lunch from the food truck.



Bailey Taylor Buehler is the daughter of Marc and Olivia Buehler, granddaughter of Terry and Marlene Buehler. She was born on Thursday May 17th, weighing 6 pounds and 17 ounces. Doesn't Grandma Marlene look pleased!



More of our Beautiful Babies!

WHEN

When you can turn the other cheek
in response to words or actions unkind
and say a silent prayer or two
You're a Christian in body and mind.

When you see mean and unjust treatment
being rained upon the inform or lame
and your heart fills with compassion
You're a Christian in more than name.

When you try to live as the Bible says
even though it's an unpopular goal
the toll will give you peace my friend
Within your wonderful Christian soul.

Written by Cara Lou Strahley



Ladies Do Lunch:

In June there will be two lunch events: the first here at the church on Wednesday June 6th a "Special Event" with Chef Jeffery DeBlaere, Jr. making lunch for us at the church. The menu includes:

medium rare chuck roast with au jus, creamed parmesan spinach with pine nuts and raisins, rice pilaf, desserts, and a salad to start. There will be some group participation so that we can "re-make" the lunch on our own. Chef Jeff will provide recipes, and tips and tricks for cooking the menu items. Sounds like a fun and tasty learning adventure! Please RSVP so that he has an idea how much food to plan on using.

Call the office at 419-399-2438 or sign the clipboard at the top of the stairs. You may also e-mail Darla Cline at stold69@yahoo.com or Barb Searing at barb@searingfamily.com.

The second event for June is lunch Monday June 18th at Fiesta Habaneros, noon. No reservations required, just come.

The programs for July and August are in planning stages, but will be finalized within a few days so that flyers are available. Both months will have a "special event" that will include lunch (of course) and might require a little travel, a sign up or a modest fee for an activity. Each month lunch will be scheduled locally on a different day, so stay tuned.

These outings and lunch dates have been so much fun the past few summers. Feel free to invited a friend, your sister-in-law or who ever you wish to join in a casual ladies event. We do get to know each other better by spending this kind of time together. Ladies Do Lunch is organized by the Women's Fellowship Board.

By the first of June, we will have the full schedule printed into a flyer for the women of the church to have for reference. For now, put June 6th and June 18th on your calendars.



Joe Reineck & Jacee Harwell



Lauren Hill holding baby brother Zane



Kristen Razo and Preston Engel



Anna Karlstadt and Miah Coil

Prom

May 5. 2018

Brian Hoffman and Erin Karlstadt



Abbey Adams, Chloe Foltz, Pia Bornholdt, Adela Foltz



Brad Hurtig Motivational Program/Concert October 26



Dianna, Anna and Dan

Anna Karlstadt received her "Career Passport" at Vantage Awards Ceremony Van Wert on Friday May 18th. Her open house to celebrate graduation from Paulding High School is here Saturday June 2 from 1-4. All are invited. Once she takes her State Boards, she will be working at Richie's Hair Off the Square in Paulding



Razo Sisters

A rare happening recently; all three home at the same time. Rachel home from Tennessee, Kristen still lives here, Tiffany home from Prince William Sound in Alaska.

On Thursday May 3rd, about 20 people gathered in the gazebo on the Court House Lawn, in the pouring rain, to pray for our nation. We also hosted a Prayer Vigil here at the church most of that same day. Thank you for praying. God bless America!



Thanks for all you do for Paulding County Drug Court. One of the participants is expecting a baby this fall. She is also about to graduate from the program. We will be collecting diapers of all sizes, along with diaper wipes, for her baby through June 7th. Please leave them in the hallway. Again, a huge thank you!

Celebrate with a Drug Court Participant



Noteworthy items from April

In April we:

- Received a reimbursement check of \$269.19 for the cost of replacing a coffee maker that was damaged in the fire suppression incident.
- Received \$100 in memorials.
- Paid Schweller Electric \$850 for parking lot lighting repairs.
- Paid \$325 to Indiana Small Business IT for setting up our new internet connection.
- Paid Snows Fire Protection Service \$260 for annual fire extinguisher maintenance.
- Paid Brune Printing \$172 for vinyl post flags for the parking lot.
- Received a letter from First Financial Bank explaining they have merged with MainSource Bank.





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

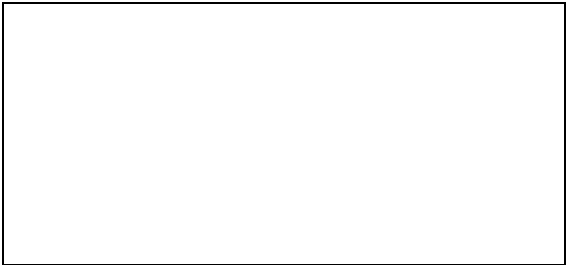
*Summer Schedule
Praise Music: 9:15
Worship Service 9:30*

First Presbyterian Church

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Phone: 419-399-2438
Secretary's e-mail: fpcpaulding@gmail.com (new)
www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com (new website)

firstpresbyterianpaulding.com



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