



The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 4 Issue 5



Thoughts from Ian...

May 2018

It is often difficult for me to remember those around the world who are suffering for their faith in Jesus. There is so much darkness in the

world, it is no wonder that I actively keep it at arm's length. At times, stories of those who are suffering break into my newsfeeds and newspapers and I can't bear to ignore them. One example of this has been the recent flurry of news around a pastor within our denomination, Pastor Andrew Brunson. Many of you may have heard of this pastor who has been in Turkish prison for 18 months.

On April 16th, Pastor Andrew Brunson sat in Turkish court to defend himself against accusations of alleged connections to terrorist groups and espionage. For twelve hours, the court listened to the charges and Pastor Andrew's testimony. Andrew denied the allegations and testified of his innocence.

"I've never done anything against Turkey," he told the court. "I love Turkey. I've been praying for Turkey for 25 years. I want truth to come out."

After a very long day, the court decided to delay further action until next month on May 7th. Andrew, who has already suffered terribly in prison, was moved to a prison that is notorious for overcrowding. Pastor Brunson's story is one of the many around the world that reminds us to pray. He has been faithful to God's call to Turkey and has greatly suffered for it.

On April 16th, our church prayed for the release of Andrew. We prayed that God would be glorified and that his family would be comforted. We prayed alongside thousands of others around the world. I hope that we continue to remember Andrew and his

family in our prayers as May 7th approaches. But why do we pray?

It is true that God is sovereign. God is powerful enough to do what he wills (Job 42:2). Also, God is all knowing (Hebrews 4:13). Even though God knows Andrew's situation and has the power to release him, God still calls us to pray. In Ephesians 6, Paul reminds us to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. Christians should follow Jesus' example in praying often (Luke 5:16).

God commands that we pray in order that we may find continued spiritual growth. Since our new life is found in Jesus, we should continue to press into our relationship with God through prayer. We are to ask God for what we need because he is a loving Father who wants to give us good gifts (Luke 11: 11-13). Sometimes we do not have because we have not asked (James 4:2). In prayer, we align our minds with God and ask for His will to be done. We act out our relationship with God and mature in our faith. We learn that God is not a slot machine for what we want but a good and personal God we should trust.

I do not know God's plans for Pastor Andrew. I know that God calls us to pray. I know that God is good, powerful, and all-knowing. I ask that we would remember to pray. Pray for Pastor Andrew as May 7th approaches. Pray for others who are persecuted for their faith around the world. Pray for those you know. Pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests because God is powerful and wants us to engage Him with our needs.

(We are hosting a second Prayer Vigil here at the church on May 8th, from 2:00 to 7:00 pm for Pastor Andrew.)

Do you have an idea for a title for Ian's monthly column?

Two suggestions came in: "Message to the Big Godders"

"Insights from a Cracked Pot"

May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 First Wednesday meal 5:30 and service 6:15 Choir Practice 7:00	3 National Day of Prayer all day N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge Prayer for the community at the Senior Center 7:00	4	5
6 Communion	7	8 2nd Prayer Vigil for Pastor Andrew Brunson 2-7 Women's Board 7:00	9 Choir Practice 7:00	10 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15 Session 7:00	16 Choir Practice 7:00	17 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge	25	26
27 First Sunday for summer schedule Praise at 9:15, service at 9:30 Graduation Day	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		

May Birthdays

2nd - Martha Panches

7th - Mike Pennington

7th - Susan Kaysor

9th - Josh Pennington

12th - Reba Hurtig

15th - Erin Karlstadt

16th - Brenda Clark

19th - Erica Smalley Temple

20th - Brody Verfaillie

21st - Sue Crossland

23rd - Jace Crossland

23rd - Abigail Katherine Haas

25th - Bud Koenig

May Anniversaries

4th - Jeff and Brenda Clark

5th - Bill and Jillene McMichael

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

Session Highlights April

At the April 17th Session meeting, elders:

*approved Pastor Ian's request for the Ministerial Association to meet at our church May 8th, and whenever it is the Presbyterians' turn in the rotation; and his request to purchase "Series Engine" for \$100 to enable audio of worship services to be put on the website. Pastor Ian will be attending General Assembly from June 18-22 in Memphis TN.

*noted that giving year-to-date is \$5800 under what was budgeted

*heard a thorough insurance review by Dan and Alex Straley, Straley Insurance Agency. They reviewed the various church coverages, how the church value is determined, what claims we have had, what actions we might need to take as a church to better meet insurance guidelines, etc. Thank you for your time and expertise, Dan and Alex!

*approved a Prayer Vigil at the church on Thursday, May 3 in observance of National Day of Prayer. (This follows the community observance at 8 am at the Gazebo uptown)

*learned that the EPC has updated (and simplified!) their Annual Statistical Report, and that clerk Barb Searing filed that report at the end of March as required.

*heard that the new church 'feather flag' has been displayed several Sundays, and that matching banners for the parking lot poles will be ready soon. Brune Printing did this work for us.

*reviewed the property committee list of ongoing projects, from range ignitors in the kitchen, to drainage at the cottage. The lawn care contract with Randy Bostelman has been renewed for 2018 (if spring ever comes). Longer term issues are boiler replacement, exterior sealing for the building, and the possibility of the church falling into a proposed Paulding Village Historic area designation. If you have an interest in helping the property

people juggle these items, please contact Bud Koenig or Pastor Ian ASAP. More hands make lighter work.

*approved returning Children's Church to the Sunday morning schedule in May. Children age 3-5 would start in the service, and then be dismissed to the fellowship hall for age-appropriate curriculum. CE and Worship committees are developing this, and volunteers are needed. Speak to Sue Crossland, Rhonda Smalley, Pastor Ian or Alissa Ferguson.

*approved setting aside Sat., Oct. 27 for the 37th Annual Women's Retreat. Discussion is in its earliest stages.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Searing, clerk

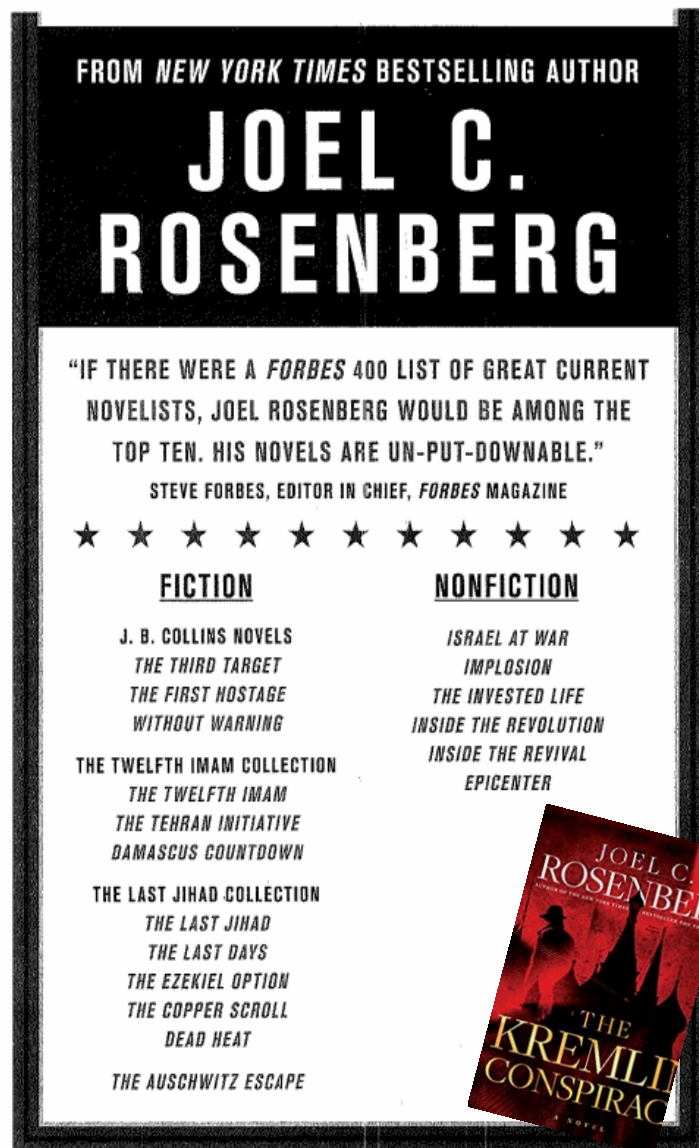
The Property Committee is looking for a couple of new members. You don't need to be a "handy" person to serve with this group- anyone willing can contribute. To my knowledge we have never had a lady on this committee- If one of you gals would like to "break the glass ceiling" we would welcome you! Contact 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.



Thank you to everyone who donated gift cards to the drug court reward basket during Lent. Our church donated 34 \$5.00 gift cards. Thanks so much for your generosity!



The Lighthouse Library

is featuring the books of Joel C. Rosenberg for the month of May. His newest release is *The Kremlin Conspiracy*, pictured above. This is a stand alone book, you don't have to read others to fully understand the story line. We have a wonderful library. Enjoy!

1st Wednesday Meal and Service:

Wednesday May 2nd

Supper at 5:30

Service at 6:15

Followed by choir practice at 7:00

Summer Schedule

Sunday May 27 is the first Sunday of our summer schedule.

Sunday May 27

Praise at 9:15

Worship at 9:30

During the service, there is recognition of our high school graduate, Anna Karlstadt

Anna's open house will be held in our fellowship hall on Saturday June 2nd. Mark your calendars as more information will follow. Senior pictures will show the huge changes! Grandma's cutie...



The Wizard of Oz



Joe Reineck, right, in the high school production of the Wizard of Oz. Great job, Joe



Continue in prayer

“Pastor Andrew Brunson, a fine gentleman and Christian leader in the United States, is on trial and being persecuted in Turkey for no reason. They call him a Spy, but I am more a Spy than he is. Hopefully he will be allowed to come home to his beautiful family where he belongs!” Tweet from President Trump

On April 18, the [Washington Post reported](#) that the Trump administration warned Turkey that it is considering punitive “consequences” if Brunson is not freed.

Wess Mitchell, Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs at the U.S. State Department, said the State Department is consulting with Congress about “possible measures” if Brunson is not acquitted or released.

Brunson is being tried on charges that he aided terror groups and committed espionage against Turkey, where he has lived since 1993. At the time of his arrest in October 2016, he had been serving as Pastor of Izmir Resurrection Church since he planted the congregation in 2010.

In an 30-minute video interview available on the [Christian Broadcasting Network](#) website, Aykan Erdemir—a former member of the Turkish parliament and now a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington, D.C.—said Brunson’s 18-month, pre-trial imprisonment “has become a sort of torture”

Right after the noon break when he came back and was defending himself, he had a mental breakdown. He sat down; it’s reported that he started crying and he told the judge how difficult it is to survive in this kind of isolation chamber,” Erdemir said.

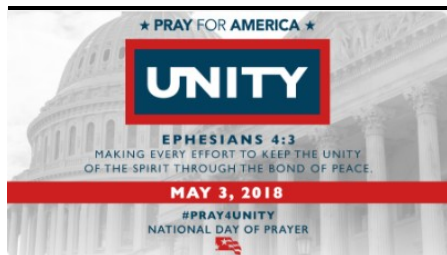
Following more than 12 hours of testimony, the judge adjourned the hearing until May 7 and ordered Brunson returned to prison. The Wall Street Journal [reported](#) that as he was being escorted from the courtroom, Brunson turned to his wife and said, “I am going crazy here, I love you.” Brunson was sent to the facility where he was held from December 2016 through August 2017, which is notorious for its overcrowding. As many as 22 inmates are held in cells designed for eight prisoners.

Brunson’s trial has garnered media coverage internationally, with outlets in such locations as [Japan](#), [Nigeria](#), and [Singapore](#) reporting on the situation.

EPC Stated Clerk Jeff Jeremiah encouraged people to share media reports of the trial among their social media networks.

“I want to keep Andrew’s situation in the public eye as much as possible,” Jeremiah said. “The entire world needs to know about Andrew, and both pray to the Lord and advocate to their leaders on Andrew’s behalf.”

A second prayer vigil will be held here at First Presbyterian on Tuesday May 8th, when his trial resumes, from 2:00 to 7:00 in our sanctuary. Please pray for Pastor Andrew.



Prayer brings people together. Prayer builds bridges between opposing persons and even political parties. Prayer reminds us that we are created in God's image and He desires for us to represent Him everywhere we go. Prayer brings UNITY. In 2018, our theme will be **Pray for America - UNITY**, based upon Ephesians 4:3 which challenges us to mobilize unified public prayer for America, *"Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."*

The community will meet to pray together at 8:00 in the gazebo on the Court House Lawn. A prayer vigil for our great country will follow in our sanctuary from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm. How blessed we are to be so privileged that we may pray publicly, boldly declaring our faith.

Ways to Serve in May

volunteer

do good, feel good

Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

Food Pantry donations have fallen off considerably since Easter. Please consider making a donation of any hygiene product, cleaning supplies or non-perishable food item as we go into May.

Thank you for generosity to this need in caring for our local residents.



We are starting Children's Church in May. While we have a volunteer to be the lead for the month, our policy manual says that we are to have two people at all times with the children, so we still need a volunteer for each Sunday in May. 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

Suggest a favorite hymn, call Sue Paulus 419-399-5533 or Sue Crossland 419-399-5943 or put a note in the collection plate.



No Compromise

A history/mystery dinner theater, **No Compromise**, written by Jane Nice was presented April 13 and 14 at St. Paul Lutheran Church as a fund raiser for the downtown Merry and Bright committee. Presbyterians involved in the production were narrator Rhonda Smalley, the Bargain Bin lady, Ruby Crossland, teacher, Erin Karlstadt, the young mother, Jane Nice, author, and Don Crossland, dynamiter.

What a great job, a wonderful evening. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to give the community a grand time!



The Presbyterian table on Saturday night was (left to right) Dave Nice, Ian Ferguson, Alissa Ferguson, Ruby Crossland, Martha Punches, Don Crossland, Paul Punches, Audrey Stechschulte and Clete Stechschulte.





Rylan Baker loves on his newborn brother Brayson. They are the children of Nathan and Mattea Baker, grand children of Steve and Melissa St. John and great grandchildren of Betty St. John. Brayson was born February 16, and weighed 8 lb 6 oz.



Chloe Gabriela Martinez, shown in her car seat headed home, was born April 10th, weighing 7 lb 3 oz. She is the daughter of Nathan and Diana Martinez, grand daughter of Pam Leever, and the great granddaughter of Dick and Sue Paulus



More of our Beautiful Babies!

Ronin Douglas Retz, born February 21, 2018, weighing 8 lb 2 oz. His parents are Jason and Andrea (Smalley) Retz, grandparents Doug and Rhonda Smalley. He is pictured with big sister, Gracie.

Noteworthy items from March

The following actions took place during the month of March:

1. Ian received his first official paycheck as an ordained pastor.
2. We collected and paid \$315 to Gideons International.
3. We received \$115 in memorials.
4. We paid \$260 to Schlatters Heating and Plumbing for sewer repairs at Cornerstone Cottage.
5. We paid \$957.17 to Hartzog Lumber to cover water lines, repair drywall, and paint in the women's restroom.
6. We paid \$225 to Lima Pipe Organ Company to repair a valve in the organ.

We replaced a coffee pot that was damaged in the fire suppression accident with a cost of \$269.19. We have since received a check from Snow's Fire Protection for reimbursement.



Jill Straley and Sue Paulus got the memo on dressing alike for Easter. Both have big smiles as they prepare to put on choir robes to sing for our Easter celebration.



Easter Sunday



One of

Many Ways to Use the Worship Bags

A lot of small children have been in worship lately. As you can see in the picture of Samantha – Don and Ruby Crossland's granddaughter, worship bags are available for young ones. Although, most kids don't wear them for a hat! They have recently been restocked by the worship committee with books, note pads and coloring things, a small toy and a stuffed animal. This will keep little ones busy during the worship service until time for children's church. They are available at the top of the stairs and should be returned there after the service.





In Tennessee and Georgia for a long weekend are Kacie Karlstadt, Kristen Razo, Erin Karlstadt and Adam Leever. They are enjoying the steps to the river in downtown Chattanooga.

Brad Hurtig Motivational Program/Concert October 26

Be Still

Our Lord does not always expect that you "Be Strong"
 He realizes events can conspire to overwhelm someone;
 When you feel totally spent and everything goes wrong
 And you want to give up thinking that deep despair has won;
 Please remember His Son who walked earthly pathways
 Who knows they are long --- filled with valleys and hills;
 He says "Be still, and know that I am God"
 forever and always
 You must rest until your life reservoir replenishes and fills;
 Your must be still for a time, and you must surely wait
 Let your mind and your body recover and revive;
 Be still and allow God to guide as you meditate
 And remember, dear child, you can do this – you're alive.

Submitted by: Cara Lou Strahley



Leah Futey, 7th grade, runs her leg of the 4X400 at Rio Rancho NM.



Luke Futey, sophomore, runs the 1600 for Cleveland Storm (Rio Rancho NM) in 4 minutes 48 sec-



Above: left to right Luke Futey, Stan Searing, Leah Futey, Elle Futey and Barb Searing.

These three young people are the children of Chris and Gretchen (searing) Futey and the grandchildren of Stan and Barb Searing.



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

*Summer Schedule begins
Sunday May 27
Praise Music: 9:15
Worship Service 9:30*

First Presbyterian Church

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www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com (new website)

firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

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

