

November 2018

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 4 Issue 11



Thoughts from Ian...

Last month I wrote about my trip to Door County, Michigan. My family had a relaxing time in

this beautiful community nestled in the upper region of Door County. If you ever have a chance to go, I highly recommend it. One of the hidden gems of Door County is the Northern Sky theater. Situated in Peninsula State Park, this outdoor theater was a unique pleasure. We had the opportunity to watch *Dairy Heirs*, a humorous and musical account of a brother and sister who inherit the family dairy farm. I anticipated the cow puns and cheesy storyline (get it?), but we actually had a wonderful time.

I enjoy humor. I think it is a very good thing. Sadly, humor is often misunderstood as an undignified or even unholy thing. This is understandable, though. Too often stand-up comics confuse mere crassness or vulgarity with humor. Humor can often seem unsophisticated and beneath God. We can often think of Jesus as someone who floated around during his life on earth, completely unrelatable. We think of Jesus as imitating the dispassionate and always completely logical Spock from Star Trek. I think G.K. Chesterton got this wrong when he wrote in the last chapter of *Orthodoxy* that the one thing that God in Jesus hid from us was His mirth.

God enjoys humor and we see this in the Bible. We can miss God's humor

because humor is culture bound. We are a few thousand years

separated from the original events. Also, we can miss God's humor because we have heard the stories so many times. Once we take a fresh look at the life of Jesus and understand him on his own terms, we see the mirth of Christ.

In the time before *Knock Knock* jokes and reflections on why chickens cross the road, jokes were told through hyperbole. Once we understand this, we can better appreciate the humor of trying to imagine how a camel can fit through the eye of a needle and of a person with a large log sticking out of their eye solemnly criticizing a friend who has a speck of sawdust in their eye. Jesus was not only fully God and fully human but Jesus was socially adept. He worked a 9 to 5 carpentry job and went to parties.

As Elton Trueblood wrote in *The Humor of Christ*, "Christ laughed, and...He expected others to laugh...A misguided piety has made us fear that acceptance of His obvious wit and humor would somehow be mildly blasphemous or sacrilegious. Religion, we think, is serious business, and serious business is incompatible with banter (p.15)." Instead, humor is holy. If you ever get the chance to go to Door County, I hope you are able to make

it to the Northern Sky theater. See *Dairy Heirs* and be a "moo"sed. Don't follow the herd on this one! (Ok, I'll stop milking this.) Thank God for humor and spend some time laughing this week. As I often remind myself, God loves a good laugh. After all, he created me.



November 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Wrap up of the Ladies study on Ephesians 7:00 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge Prayer at the Senior Center 7:00	2 Drug Court	3 Kadesch family using Fellowship hall all day for baby shower
4 Communion Daylight Savings Time Ends	5 Congregational Life meeting at 6:00	6 Election Day	7 First Wednesday meal 5:30 and service 6:15 Choir 7:00	8 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30	9	10 Craft family using Fellowship Hall all day for a shower
11 Congregational meeting following worship	12	13 Session 7:00	14 Choir 7:00	15 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30	16 Drug Court	17
18	19	20	21 Choir 7:00	22 Happy Thanksgiving! N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge 7:30	23	24
25	26	27	29 Choir 7:00	30 N.A. meeting at 7:00 in the Youth Lounge 7:30		

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
16th - Doug and Rhonda Smalley

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 October 16th Session meeting, elders:

*voted to approve the slate of church officers for the Class of 2021, as recommended by the Nominating Committee, and set the date of Sun., Nov. 11 for a Congregational Meeting after worship for the membership to vote on this slate. (See separate article)

*approved conducting Pastor Ian's first annual review in March, 2019; and then returning to the regular schedule of annual reviews in December of each year. The Personnel committee and Pastor Ian have been working on how this process of evaluation can best be accomplished at their regular meetings.

*learned that the Chili Booth at the Flat Rock Fall Festival grossed \$1288. After supplies and festival fees, the net of \$642.86 was given to the Missions committee for use. Thank you to Dave and Jane Nice for all the chili and planning!

*heard that there are two more 5th Quarters during football season: one in our parking lot 10/19, and one at the high school auditoria 10/26 featuring speaker Brad Hurtig and band 'The Stray'. An anonymous donor stepped forward to cover the balance of Brad's \$850 fee, and we thank him/her/ them very much! This ministry to youth will be transitioning to the Missions committee between football and basketball seasons, as it is 'filling a need in our community'.

*approved an Angel Tree during November to support drug court families and their children. The tree will be near the elevator. Families will list needed items. Congregation members will shop for the items, and return the unwrapped gifts to church. Dave and Jane Nice then return our wrapped gifts to Judge Beckman's court, where they are given to the children from their parents.

*supported a recommendation from the Board of Deacons that they (the Deacons) absorb the budget and the duties tied to the Daily Bread food bags, and the delivery of donated items to the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry.

*okayed a request from Judge Beckman's Drug Court to use the Fellowship Hall on Friday, Nov. 30 from 9 am-3 pm for a graduation celebration.

*heard quotes regarding the heating system replacement and the tuckpoint work needed to resolve the deterioration of the brick, especially on the south wall of the sanctuary. These facts will be shared, as information only, at the upcoming Congregational Meeting on Sun., Nov. 11. Everyone who is a regular attender is encouraged to stay for this brief meeting and hear about these two important needs straight from the Property committee.

*heard of vandalism to our fall decorations on the ramp the weekend of Oct. 13-14. No permanent structures were damaged, but pumpkins and flowers and 5Q signs were tossed around, and had to be cleaned up. The incident was reported to the police.

*okayed the reimbursement to Pastor Ian of \$80 for laptop computer updates and virus protection; and also the purchase of a new office chair for the secretary's office.

*approved making shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child available for individuals or families to fill if they are interested. These are collected at one or two local churches, sent to a central location, and distributed. We have not done this as a church before, and it is not a replacement or 'competition' for the Drug Court Angel Tree project.

*were reminded of the 1st Wednesday meal on Nov. 7, prepared by the Deacons.

*asked Barb to check on fresh EPC symbols for the outdoor church signs by the highway and on the corner. The current ones were made by Brune Printing about 10 years ago when we joined the EPC.

Submitted by Barb Searing, Clerk of Session



Wednesday November 7th at 6:15

We are invited by the Lord to spend some time with Him in worship, praise and prayer following our meal. A meditation on the Essentials of Our Faith will be presented by Pastor Ian.



5th Quarter

As this goes to print, the sixth season of 5th Quarter parties is over. Another huge “thank you” to all that donated time, money, food, prayers to these events that are so needed in our community. You are showing the youth that they are loved by many, loved by the Lord.



The Bruce and Mary Becker family thank all of you so very much for all of your prayers, love, cards and kindness at the sudden death of our son, Timothy. Thank you, also for all of your prayers for our health concerns. Your love is deeply appreciated.

Bruce and Mary Becker



Angel Tree

Once again, our church will provide Christmas gifts for the children of Drug Court participants. Look for the Angel Tree soon. You can take an angel, shop for a child and return the gifts, unwrapped, in a bag with the angel attached. They will be needed by mid-December.



Jane Nice in period dress for the

Graveyard Walk

Congregational Meeting Sun., Nov. 11, 2018

On Sunday, Nov. 11, 2018, immediately after worship, there will be a brief (10-20 minutes) congregational meeting for two purposes.

The main purpose of the meeting is to vote on church officers for the Class of 2021.

A second purpose, while we are already gathered as a church family, is to hear information from the Property committee about two large and pressing projects that will probably need to be addressed in 2019. The boiler/heating system needs to be replaced; and major tuck-point work is needed on the main church building, especially the south wall, to solve the moisture damage that is evident. This will be informational only.

Session approved the following slate, developed by the Nominating committee:

For elder: Larry Fishbaugh (beginning a new 3-year term)
Kenny Robinson (beginning a new 3-year term)
For deacon: Jill Straley (beginning a second 3-year term)
Don Crossland, Jr. (beginning a new 3-year term)

For Nominating committee from the congregation:

Judy Arlene Cline (beginning a new term of up to 6 years, replacing Robinson, who is completing her full term)

At a Congregational meeting, nominations can also be made from the floor, providing the nominee is aware and agreeable to being nominated.

Everyone who attends the church and considers First Presbyterian Church to be their ‘church home’ is encouraged to stay after worship for this meeting. Only members of the church may vote.

Pastor Ian will be hosting a Pastor's Welcome class during the Sunday School hour (9:00-10:00am) from November 11th- December 16th in the Fellowship Hall. It will be a good time to get to know Pastor Ian, our church, how we function, what we believe, and how you can plug in. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Don't miss the fun, a new sign up sheet is at the top of the stairs for November.



Wednesday
November 7th
Meal provided by the Deacons.
Invite friends and family to
join us at 5:30 pm.

Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

Think of what you need for your own Thanksgiving dinner. These are the items needed at the Food Pantry. Add to that canned fruit.

As always, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, and hygiene items are needed, especially toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant. Thanks!



The last several years, the Chamber has started the Christmas season with the Merry & Bright parade. The Congregational Life committee would like to see our church represented in this growing community activity on Sun. Dec. 2. We are reaching out to see who in the congregation is a lover of parades and would step forward to lead us into some sort of participation, however simple.

There are some ideas of what might be done; there are some "indians" who would be willing to help. We are in need of a "chief" who is willing to 'own' this project for 2018. Please respond to Barb Searing or Pastor Ian before Nov. 10th if you have a heart for this project. If no one steps forward, this will go into the 'maybe next year' category.



Merry and Bright Parade

An Angel Among Us?

The Women's Board is seeking a **funeral dinner coordinator** for 2019. This is a much-appreciated ministry to families in our church who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

Sue Paulus has been our **funeral dinner coordinator** for three years. She has stated that, at the end of 2018, she needs to take a break. The Women's Board is seeking the 'angel' out there who is already thinking about filling that role for 2019.

'Coordinator' may sound like a huge responsibility. It is not quite as heavy as you might imagine because there is an entire funeral dinner plan that has worked smoothly for about 10 years now.

The '**funeral dinner coordinator**' title belongs to the person who is actually 'on the scene' in the kitchen on the day of the meal. She (or he....we do not discriminate!) also does a little shopping for perishables.

The plan includes someone else who talks to the family about how many people they think might be attending the meal and what they would like for the meal.

The plan includes someone else who sets the tables and puts out centerpieces.

The plan includes someone else who calls to line up workers and food donations.

The plan includes someone else who coordinates clean up after the meal is over.

The **funeral dinner coordinator** gets a call from the person who has talked to the family about the menu and the number to be served. The coordinator then makes just 2 phone calls to pass along the information about the numbers and the menu to (1) the food-and-worker caller and (2) the table-setter(s) so they can proceed accordingly.

The hardest part of the **funeral dinner coordinator's** job is that there is no predicting when the need for a funeral meal will arise! And, when the need arises, the meal will happen in the next several days! Acknowledging that no one can be available 365 days a year, the plan includes someone else who is a fall-back person in case the day of the funeral just cannot fit in your calendar.

Please give this your prayerful consideration. If God is tapping you on the shoulder and you have questions, or if you would be open to exploring the idea of volunteering in this way, feel free to ask Barb Searing or Sue Paulus. It would be very much appreciated by the Women's Board, and by families who will need this ministry in the coming year.

Submitted by Barb Searing

Adult Sunday School Class



Lighthouse Library

New fall and winter books are arriving. Listed below are Non-Fiction which are displayed under the lighthouse picture in the bookcase we use for check out:

Knowing God—J. I. Parker

Mere Christianity—C. S. Lewis

Walking Through Twilight—Douglas Groothuis

Unshakable Hope—Max Lucado

Warfare—Tony Evans

New Fiction found on the book table:

Legacy of Mercy—Lynn Austin

To the Moon and Back—Karen Kingsbury

In This Moment—Karen Kingsbury

If you are a new library user, please read the procedure used to check out books found in the clear frame on the checkout bookcase. The following is a short book report by Pastor Ian on *Walking Through Twilight*.



Walking Through Twilight

Sometimes we learn a lesson more through a life than a lecture. The best lessons I have learned about suffering have been learned in this way and the person who has taught me the most has been Dr. Douglas Groothuis, one of my professors at Denver Seminary. As his student, I watched him process his life and faith as his wife suffered with primary progressive aphasia, a type of dementia. He was open about his and his wife's ordeal and I found wisdom in his example. I am pleased to say that our library has recently added Groothuis' memoir of lament which reflects on this time.

In *Walking Through Twilight*, Groothuis opens this experience up to the reader. His memoir is more than an honest lament, a reflection on tragedy that puts God's truth front and center. As Groothuis writes, "I hope my reflections on the drama of dementia will set up a few guideposts and illuminate a few dark places. We can walk through twilight and into the night with courage, and hope for a new dawn at the far side of suffering (p.7)." His book is not easy, neat, or happy. Yet, *Walking Through Twilight* gives us what we all need: honesty, hope, and wisdom. I hope you give it a chance and pick it up at our library.

Noteworthy actions taken in September include:

- Paid Buckeye Exterminating \$420 for renewable termite bait stations at the church building and the cottage.
 - Paid Midwest Presbytery \$507 and Office of General Assembly \$897 for our 2nd half per member asking
- Submitted by Carol Razo, Treasurer



Audrey Stechschulte, Jane Nice, Joy Coughlin and King Isaac Nice

Trine University Homecoming King, Isaac Nice





Fall Family Fun Fest

Held at the Searing barn on Sunday, September 30. Top left photo is of the hayride to the alpaca farm, right is the barn with food and friends, lower photo is Martha Punches, Mary Ann Roberts, Mel Roberts holding Arabella, Mike and Denise Gebers grand-daughter. Bonfire, good food, wonderful fellowship all equal a good time at the Fall Family Fun Fest.



**Great Fun!
Thanks Searings**



No Compromise!

The second production of *No Compromise*, written by Jane Nice was presented at the John Paulding Historical Society for a fund raiser for the museum and for the Friend of the Chamber. Photo above is full cast, look closely and you will find Presbyterians hidden within those costumes. Great job to all involved!



Our Own Briggs Stoller carried the football for the Paulding High Schools Homecoming court and game which was won by the Paulding Panthers.



First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Caroline & Cherry,
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Fall Schedule begins September 9th
Sunday School begins the 9th at 9:00 am
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.

