

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 4 Issue 12



Thoughts from Ian...

*Isaiah 43:1b
“Do not fear,
for I have
redeemed you;*

*I have summoned you by
name; you are mine.”*

Advent is upon us! This means that my family has been in Paulding for nearly a year. Alissa, Samuel, and I are having such a wonderful time getting settled in and getting to know all of you. We are greatly enjoying being a part of the community. We especially appreciate your patience with us as we learn your names.

Learning each other's names is important because there is a universal longing to be known. One of the reasons I love life in a small town is because there is a greater experience of being known. I can go grab a donut at Susie's bakery, head over to Chief for some groceries, and stop by Pastor Dwayne's BBQ stand for lunch and many of the people I run into know me by name. Being known by others can be quite a blessing.

It is also a blessing I have found in my family. Our son, Samuel, has recently turned 19 months old. Up until this last week, everything was “dada”. I was “dada”, mom was “dada”, and the lamp was “dada”. But this last week, something

happened and he now recognizes his mother as “mama” and me as “dada”. To put it lightly, we were overjoyed. He “knows our names”. It is a game of great joy in our household as Samuel points to his mother and me in turn and calls us “mama” and “dada”. Yet, all of this is merely a shadow of how God knows you and me.

In Isaiah 43:1, God reminds his people how he was the one who created them, redeemed them, and called them by name. Because of all of this, they are his. This truth is not only true for ancient Israel, but true for all of God's people. God doesn't relate to us generically but personally. This is how Jesus called the disciples and it is how God calls each of us today.

God knows us, just as he knew Jeremiah, before he formed us in our mother's womb (Jer 1:5). God is the good shepherd who knows his sheep *by name* (John 10:14-15). God knows us so well that he has the hairs on our head counted (Luke 12:7). And we will be saved because our *names* are written in God's book of life (Rev. 20:15). God knows us by name and, as you can see, this is deeper than

knowing the word that identifies us. To say that God knows you by name is that he knows you deeply.

This world can be a lonely place. We can feel isolated through social media, broken relationship, or the passing of a loved one. Also, living in a small community like ours can be difficult when we fail in some way and everyone knows. We feel like our name is ruined and people only know us by our short comings. Know this, God knows you better than anyone else in this world and he is calling you *by name*. He knows you and loves you. This is cause for great rejoicing. Have a Merry Christmas.



December 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Communion	3	4	5 1st Wednesday meal 5:30 Service at 6:15 Choir at 7:00	6 Blood Mobile 10- 5:30 Women's Ecumenical meal and program 6:00 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:00	7	8 Fellowship hall rented for the day
9	10	11 Session 7:00	12 Choir 7:00	13 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30	14	15
16	17	18	19 Choir 7:00	20 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge 7:30	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve Service 11:00 pm	25	26 Choir 7:00	27	28	29
30 Fellowship hall reserved for the afternoon	31 New Year's Eve					

December Birthdays

4th - Matt Reineck
 7th - Julia Fife
 13th - Cara Lou Strahley
 14th - Todd Searing
 17th - Cindy Koenig
 17th - Madison Verfaillie

18th - Alissa Ferguson

20th - Matt Stoller
 20th - Ryan St. John
 21st - Christine Fife
 23rd - Terra Via
 23rd - Alex Weibe
 24th - Paul Searing

Anniversaries

13th - Jeremy & Christine Fife
 17th - Jim and Doris Smith
 28th - Barb and Stan Searing

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 November 20 Session meeting, elders:

*approved Pastor Ian to further explore an adult mission trip to Juarez, Mexico in early February (see separate article).

*learned that our denomination is holding a webinar about church security "Secure in Worship" on Nov. 29 at 4 pm. Pastor Ian will be watching this on the screen in the Fellowship Hall, and anyone is welcome to join him.

*set Sunday, Dec. 9 during worship as the date to ordain and install recently-elected church officers.

*thanked Bud for his presentation on the needed brick repair and boiler replacement at the Congregational Meeting. These two pressing items need to be tackled in 2019, and a fund is being created to receive contributions.

*heard a comprehensive report from the Finance committee, and concurred with the following: to hold the 2018 excess carryover in the General Fund pending further information on the mission trip and the needed building and heating repairs; to close the Solid Rock checking account and hold these youth-related funds in the regular checking account; to report giving in the bulletin as a single number vs breaking out the electronic giving; to create a Bricks 'n' Boiler fund, and to report giving to that fund; and to re-name two funds, the Memorial Bible Fund to Monroe Bible Fund and the Undesignated Memorials Fund to the Memorials Fund.

*voted to approve the proposed 2019 budget, which includes a 2.3% increase. The budget will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting in January.

*learned that there may be two 5th Quarters during basketball season, pending agreement with the school.

*agreed that the clerk may send informal notes to 3 families removing them from the active membership roll before the end of 2018. A more comprehensive review of the rolls will be done later.

*were told that Randy Bostelman will again do snow removal. The 'trigger amount' is 2". The pastor and secretary also have his contact information for church

programs during the week that would call for snow removal. Also, a railing is being made for the alley door.

*heard that 20+ boxes were filled for Operation Christmas Child and delivered to the Nazarene Church collection point.

*approved dates for Fellowship Hall use by Sue Rhodes (rental for a birthday), the Red Cross (Bloodmobile 12/6), the Ferguson's request (12/30), the 4H club (monthly meetings Dec. - April), and the Reineck family (Joe's graduation).

Submitted by Barb Searing, Clerk of Session



CHRISTMAS EVE

Worship Service

Monday December 24th

11:00 P.M.



FIRST WEDNESDAY

worship. prayer. inspiration.

Wednesday December 5th 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.



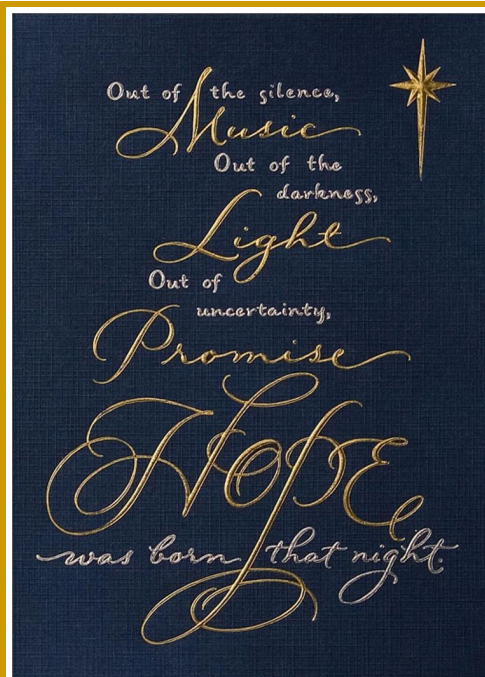
Angel Tree

Once again, our church will provide Christmas gifts for the children of Drug Court participants. Look for the Angel Tree in the hall. 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.



Poinsettias for Christmas

The church will be selling 12 red poinsettias this year. The cost is \$7.00 each. Please reserve one by putting a check or cash in the offering plate, or



Christmas Blessings,
Susan Crossland, Sue
Paulus and Carol Razo

Merry Christmas



Rosalie
Todd



Phyllis
Crossland



Ian Ferguson, Betty
St. John, Phyllis
Crossland, Sue
Crossland and Jill
Straley

Again this year the sanctuary is beautiful as we anticipate the birth of Christ. A huge thank you to all who helped decorate, several others were here and not pictured. Thank you to Jill Straley for organizing the work and keeping us going, as well as all the extra hours she was here.

Pastor Ian is 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 is 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, if you missed a class or two come anyway.



Wednesday December 5th

The meal will be simple, pizza, cookies, beverages. 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!



Warm Hearts/Warm Homes



Help our less fortunate Paulding neighbors afford their utilities this winter. Contributions will be rolled into one check by the church, and forwarded to the Paulding County office of Northwest Ohio Community Action which will administer the funds to Paulding families for utilities, rent, or emergency services. Checks should be made out to the church, please put Warm Hearts/Warm Homes in the memo line. 100% of these funds will be used in Paulding County.

This has been a project of the Women's Fellowship since 2006.

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



Ann Furrow & Betty St. John



Diana Coy & Mary Woodard



Jill Straley



Robin Chamberlain pinning her "Scraps to our quilt board"



Sharon Tubbs



Two prayer shawl recipients



Susan Paulus, Deborah York, Barb Searing, Rhonda Smalley and Sharon Tubbs.



Susan Kayser, Jillene McMichael, Susan Crossland



Time of prayer

This 37th Retreat was exceptional, from start to finish we were aware of His presence. And we are grateful!



Fabulous music by Robin Chamberlain and Susan Kayser

Memories of 2018 Women's Retreat: Big Mama's Quilt is on the right.

Upper left, quilt is Barb Searing's,
quilt on table is Rhonda Smalley's



Photo # 1: Brad with Janet and Ken Wagner, #2: Brad with Kathy Reinhart (one of the women that also attended the retreat that weekend), #3: Brad with Sue Paulus.



Photos from the Brad Hurtig weekend: Friday night concert shots and Sunday after worship

Day of Memorial for Phyllis Lutz

A few pictures from the memorial lunch served in honor of Phyllis Lutz. Phyllis would have enjoyed all the conversation and laughter.





Dear Friends,

The past two months have been a challenge, but with your prayers, cards and well wishes I am finally on the road to recovery, I had great plans for the weekend of the RETREAT and hated to miss it. Someone was very kind and recorded it for me. Thank you. Thank you, also, for the prayer shawl. I'll cherish it. Thank you, Pastor Ian, Alissa, and Samuel for your visits. Samuel makes the visit interesting, especially if you have something for him to eat.

Hope to see you soon.

God Bless, *Ruth Eschbach*



Lighthouse Library

Listed below are a few more new arrivals:

End Times Survival Guide
by Mark Hitchcock

Chosen People by Robert Whitlow

Promise of Dawn, Book #1

Breath of Hope, Book #2

Season of Grace, Book #3

When We Were Young

Catching Christmas by Terri Blackstock

By Karen
Kingsbury

We would like to thank the person who donated four books to the Lighthouse Library within the past few weeks.



Women's Ecumenical Potluck

Thursday December 6, 2018

6:00 pm potluck dinner (Doors open at 5:30)

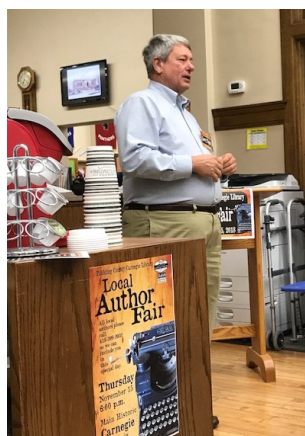
7:00 pm program

Location: St. Paul Lutheran Church,
Flat Rock Drive, Paulding Ohio 45879

Women, save the date for the 40th annual Ecumenical Christmas potluck and program hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church. This event is open to women of all ages and church ministers of any denomination.

Bring a food dish to share (Meat, vegetable, salad, or dessert)
Bring a friend.

Door prizes and Christmas/Christian themed program



Author Fair

Larry Tippin, author of *The Betrayal of Pearl Bryan* and brother of Jane Nice, presented information on his book at Paulding Carnegie Library Author Fair on November 15. Jane Nice and Susan Paulus were also presenters at the Author Fair.

Red Cross Blood Drive

First Presbyterian Church

Fellowship Hall, 114 W. Caroline Street, Paulding OH

Thursday December 6, 12:00 pm to 5:30 pm

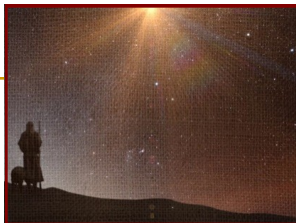
Noteworthy actions taken in October include:

October was rather uneventful. No special issues come to mind.

The finance committee will be meeting soon to begin preparations on the 2019 budget. (the committee met in November to present a budget to Session)

Submitted by Carol Razo, Treasurer





December's Gift

A brilliant star once did appear
To herald a special gift
A gift from God to all of earth
Which is celebrated Dec. 25th.

A lowly carpenter's wife was Mary
Who gave the gift of a baby boy
Both rich and poor came to the stable
To embrace this wondrous joy.

Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem
So humble yet God's chosen pair
That his Son could experience life
And all that would come to bear.

Christmas is celebrated in many ways
But its meaning is very clear
We should put aside material things
So that God's message we can hear.

Give your love and kindness to others
If nothing else you achieve
Remember God's gift of his son
To save His people who believe.

Cara Lou Strahley



Best Buds!

Samuel Ferguson and his best bud, Dave Nice: bonding and making memories.



We are offering a chance for YOU to go with us to Rancho 3M, a Christian orphanage and school in Juarez, Mexico, on February 4th -9th .

One of the important ways that we grow in our faith is through times that we set aside, away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. It is also important for us to serve others in tangible ways. This trip will offer you a chance to do both. We will be spending a week right across from El Paso, Texas. We will be working, playing with the children, and worshipping God together.

If you would like to go, start working on getting your passport NOW.

The cost of the trip is \$500 and this will include your plane ticket, accommodations, food (except for 4 meals), and a trip t-shirt.

If you would like more information, contact Pastor Ian at 0605ferguson@gmail.com or look at Rancho 3M's Facebook page.

Hello! I am Christopher Elder, and I am the 2018 Volunteer Coordinator for the Salvation Army's Christmas Kettle Campaign. The Salvation Army raises money for four weeks before Christmas to go into an emergency fund for the next year. The emergency fund is used to assist resident in Paulding county as determined necessary by the Salvation Army, County residents, and available funds. I was wondering if you could share in your bulletin/announcements that we are looking for volunteers to ring the bell from November 23 to December 22 at the Chief in Paulding. If so, please respond to this church office. Thank you and God Bless.



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life

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

Sunday School 9:00 am
Praise Music: 10:15
Worship Service 10:30



First Presbyterian Church

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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.

