

March 2019

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 5 Issue 3



Thoughts from Ian...

March, 2019

Have you ever heard of the Invisible Gorilla experiment? The experiment begins by telling the observer to watch a ball being passed between a team of players and to count the number of times the ball is passed. Once the observer is given a few minutes to count passes, the players stop and the observer is asked..."Did you see the gorilla?" And I must admit, when I watched the experiment on YouTube, I did not see a gorilla. So, I went back in the video and, sure enough, while I was counting passes, a large monkey casually walked across the screen. What happened was an amazing phenomena. Because I was not paying attention to (or expecting) anything else, the large gorilla was invisible to me. Have you ever had something similar happen to you? When Dave, Jane, and I were flying to Rancho 3M, there was another "invisible gorilla." We were flying from Indianapolis to Dallas and then to El Paso, TX. In El Paso, our plan was to meet up with my dad and the group he was leading from Illinois. They arranged their own flight to El Paso and were even landing around the same time. On the second flight, the plane was full and we were some of the last ones to board and so we walked past everyone and sat in middle seats near the back of the plane.

thought I had seen someone I had recognized but his head was turned away from me. When we landed in El Paso and got off the plane, I actually began to look around at the other passengers who had gotten off of the same flight. It was my dad and his group! The one who I had thought I had recognized was in fact Stan Huber, a parent of a long-time friend. My dad and many other had been on the flight too, but I had walked right passed them because I had thought that they were on a different flight. My dad and I laughed about this later and we talked about how one of the keys to recognizing someone is expecting that you might see them. My dad and I weren't expecting to see each other that day and so even though I walked right passed him (and probably even glanced at his face!) we didn't see each other. He was the "invisible gorilla." This sort of thing is true with God in our life. An example is the story in John 20:10-18 when Jesus, after His resurrection, appeared to Mary Magdala and she didn't recognize Him at first. Part of the reason she didn't recognize Him was she didn't expect she might see Him. God is active in this world. He is active in your life but most people never recognize God's activity because they don't expect God might

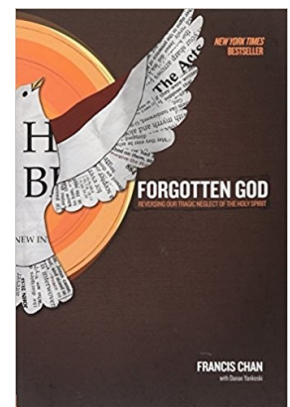
Near the front of the plane, I

be present and active. One of my dad's most oft quoted lines from poetry is from Elizabeth Barrett Browning and it reads,

"Earth's crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God,
But only he who sees takes off his shoes;
The rest sit round and pluck blackberries."

If you don't already, add to your regular prayers a request for God to help you recognize His presence and activity in your life, otherwise you may find God has often passed right in front of you without you even noticing---like an invisible gorilla.

If you would like to know more about how God works in our lives and leads us by the Holy Spirit then join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 for Sunday School as we discuss Francis Chan's book "Forgotten God."



March 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday Noon lunch by Paulding Presby Women Supper by same 5:30, service at 6:15 Choir 7:00	7 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge	8	9
10 Daylight Savings Time begins	11	12	13 Noon-Divine Mercy, speaker Pastor Richardson 5:30 meal by Ian and friends, 6:15 service Choir 7:00	14 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge	15	16
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20 Noon: 1st Christian, speaker Pastor Winters 5:30 meal by Sunday School, 6:15 service Choir 7:00	21 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge	22	23
24 Niswonger in Van Wert 2:00 Speaker today: Matt Ferguson	25	26 Writers' Group 7-9 in fellowship hall	27 Noon: Methodist Women, speaker Pastor Bonar 5:30 meal by Deacons, 6:15 service	28 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge	29	30
31 5th Sunday						

March Birthdays

1st - Becky Mayer
3rd - Marcia Brune
4th - Chris Henson
6th - Anna Karlstadt
8th - Tiffany Razo

11th - Dick Paulus
10th - Sarah Buzzell Morgan
16th - Kristen Razo
16th - Ian Ferguson
21st - Danielle Pennington
Haas

23rd - Kim Mileto
23rd - Olivia Henson
24th - Kayleigh St. John

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 February 19th Session meeting, elders:

*were asked to complete and return a Pastor Evaluation form to the Personnel committee as Pastor Ian finishes his first complete year as our ordained pastor. These forms will guide the Personnel Committee as they work with Ian going forward, and will be the basis of a salary increase after the March Session meeting, one year after Ian's ordination. Other staff pay will be adjusted at the same time. The plan is for evaluations and raises to return to a calendar-year schedule at the end of this year.

*voted to designate the funds carried over from 2018 (\$65,000) as follows:
hold in reserve per budgeting policy \$20,000;
set aside for salary/raises \$5,000;
hold for other contingencies \$3,000;
designate to Bricks n Boiler project \$37,000.

*learned that the Property committee and other interested parties will meet soon with the company that will be doing the brick/tuckpointing work. Watch for a date if you would like to hear what will occur 'straight from the horse's mouth'. The target timing for this project is late June, 2019. Also, the alley door railing and the hanging sign listing service times should be able to be done as the weather moderates.

*approved two ongoing uses of our building to continue:
Narcotics Anonymous in the basement on Thursday evenings through February, 2020,
Writers Group in the Fellowship Hall on the 4th Tuesday evenings through December 2019.

*made the Fellowship Hall available to Judge Beckman and the Drug Court on Fri., April 26, 2019 for a graduation party.

*heard a report on the recent Presbytery meeting which Paul PUNCHES and Pastor Ian attended. Of note were a teen mission opportunity in Michigan this summer; an update from an EPC World Outreach couple and their 3 young children serving in Eurasia; and a vote on a proposed change to the Book of Order regarding 'commissioned pastors'. Our Presbytery voted to support the proposed change when it is considered at the EPC General Assembly meeting in June 2019.

Submitted by Barb Searing, Clerk of Session

Yea! We're Having a Baby!



Hope you can come
and make it even more special
for the "new mom."

For Alissa Ferguson
Date Sunday, Mar. 10th
Time 1:30 pm
Place Fellowship Hall

Given by Friends
R.S.V.P. Hope You Can Come 😊

All women of the church, you are invited to a baby shower for Alissa on Sunday afternoon March 10th at 1:30 in the fellowship hall. We are looking forward to "our" new baby boy and want to celebrate his soon-to-be arrival. All invited!

Toys for Boys!

Baby Ferguson will arrive March 21st by planned c-section. Since Baby #2 is a second son, Alissa and Ian don't feel they have a lot of NEEDS. They do have some WANTS, though, which they have listed in a Walmart baby registry.

One sure NEED is DIAPERS, as they will have a toddler and a newborn in diapers for awhile. According to Alissa, Ferguson babies don't stay in newborn sizes for long, so take that into account with any diaper or clothing choices you make. :) Samuel is using a size 6 diapers now. Also, they need LINERS (Walmart is good) for a Diaper Genie lots of those.


No special ideas? Grab a pack of diapers or Diaper Genie liners, and come celebrate Baby Ferguson, version 2.0, with the ladies of the church.

Rise Up, O Men!

This play, part of the Church Basement Ladies series, is at the Niswonger, Sunday afternoon, March 24th. Of the 20 tickets we bought, only two remain. Cost is \$25 per seat. If you are interested in attending, please get a hold of Barb Searing, the keeper of the tickets; 419-399-3204 home or 419-769-0327 if you want to text her. Make checks to the church, but give them to Barb, please.



We plan to attend the play at 2 pm, and then eat together at the Van Wert Bob Evans, (where we will have space set aside for us, thanks to the PUNCHES'), afterwards.

A	B	C
FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM JANUARY		
January designated gifts:		
Amount	Purpose	
\$2,500.00	Bricks N Boiler Fund	
\$147.00	Per member asking	
\$200.00	Weaver Camp Fund	
\$100.00	Warm hearts warm homes	
		
January notable expenditures:		
Amount	Payee	Purpose
\$100.00	Dwayne Richardson	Guest speaker
\$932.63	Paulding County Treasurer	Property taxes
\$532.00	Barb Searing	Tickets to Niswonger event
\$239.00	Office Partners	Office chair
\$652.20	Hillsboro First Presbyterian	Mission trip supplies
\$384.00	CNA Surety	Surety bond
\$49.94	Bureau of Motor Vehicles	Van registration
\$131.57	Brent Fishbaugh	New roasters
\$770.50	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Per member asking
\$435.50	Midwest Presbytery	Per member asking



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.



January photo from the nursery: Anna Karlstadt took this cute photo of herself with Samantha Alexander and Samuel Ferguson. The photo includes a picture of Grandma Sue whose only job was rocking and talking while Anna played with and entertained the little ones.

More of our Beautiful Babies



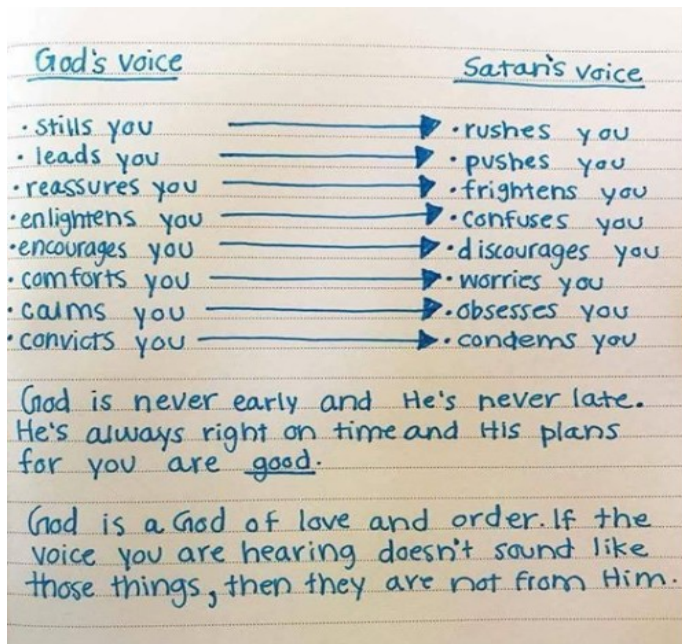
Ava Joan, daughter of Alyssa (St. John) and Joe Buchman, granddaughter of Scott and Carmen St. John, Great granddaughter of Betty St. John.



Natalie Rose, Daughter of Kim (Cline) and Dan Black, granddaughter of Darwin and Darla Cline, great granddaughter of Arline Rose Cline.



Amelia Jean, daughter of Megan Fife, granddaughter of Jeremy and Christine Fife



Borrowed from the internet!

This church is grieving the death of Charles "Doc" Weaver on February 16th. He was a long time member who served as an Elder, Sunday School teacher and superintendent, he also sang as a tenor in the church choir.



He was an optometrist in Paulding prior to retiring in 1996. While in Paulding, he also served two terms as mayor.

His wife, Martha, lives in Decatur IN, her mailing address is: 2486 W. Deerfield Court
Decatur IN 46733

Please pray for Martha Weaver, and their daughters: Loralee (Steven) Lichtensteiger, Julie (Kerry) Callow and Kim (Jeffery) Snyder plus their 11 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.



Mission trip in February 2019, Ian Ferguson, Dave and Jane Nice. You did a lot of work, God was honored and glorified. Thank you!



Mark Holtsberry is son of Justine Holtsberry



Mark Holtsberry (left) will be guest speaker at the John Paulding Historical Society's annual meeting on Sunday. Here, he and historical society president Kim Sutton look over some of his World War I collection on exhibit.

Museum exhibits WWI collection



PROJECT RECEIVES GRANT – Blessings In a Bag recently received a grant from the Paulding County Area Foundation in the amount of \$2,000. The money will help fund the program that provides take-home meals to children in pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. From left are Kristen Razo, PCAF executive director Lisa McClure, Haleigh Stallbaum and Allison Reineck.

Blessings in a Bag, Kristen Razo on left, Allison Reineck on right is the niece of Matt and Linda Reineck.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD – The 2019 Paulding County Economic Development board and officers consists of, front row from left – secretary Sarah Noggle, Deanna Schroeder, Randy Derck, Greg Reinhart; back row – Mike Kauser, Bud Koenig, George Carter, vice president Tim Copsey, president Larry Manz, Dennis Recker and treasurer Jim States. The board meets bi-monthly.

Headliners:

Presbyterians and their family members make a positive impact in the Paulding area.



Susan Crossland receives an Award for Service: She has worked with the Paulding EMS for 40 years

Jane Nice serving on PPEC board



PPEC's Operation Round Up program distributed \$12,360 in nine grants to area organizations in January at PPEC's headquarters in Paulding. Pictured above are representatives from each of the organizations (Quarry Farm Nature Preserve and Cornerstone Youth were not pictured). Among the programs being funded are summer children's program, new uniforms, smoke alarms and more.

Crosses for Lent

The Women's Fellowship Board would like to borrow some of your home decor for the Lenten Lunch tables.

If you have a free-standing cross that could be used as a centerpiece and would let us use it for 6 weeks, please label it with your name in an obscure spot and bring it to church before March 6th. There is a table in the fellowship hall where they are being collected. They will be returned after Easter.

Community Lenten lunches begin March 6th for 6 weeks, and about 80 people fill the fellowship hall from noon - 1:00 pm to enjoy a meal and a brief devotional. All the lunches are in our fellowship hall, and the meals and meditations are provided by various churches in the Paulding Ministerial Association.

Lent Begins March 6th

The Wednesday plans are in place as follows:

Wednesday March 6: Lunch Presbyterian Women
Speaker is Ian Ferguson
Evening meal is by the Women's Group

Wednesday March 13: Lunch Divine Mercy
Speaker Pastor Dwayne Richardson
Evening meal Ian and friends



Lighthouse Library

READERS: please note that we have added a few more books to the library. You can find them on the bookcase under the lighthouse picture and on the book table.

Recent additions are:

FIFTY REASONS JESUS CAME TO DIE

by John Piper

OVERCOMER by Dr. David Jeremiah

THE MASTERPIECE by Francine Rivers

And coming the middle of March is

THE PERSIAN GAMBLE by Joel C. Rosenberg

Happy Reading!

Wednesday March 20: First Christian Church
Speaker is Pastor Merlyn Winters
Evening meal adult Sunday School

Wednesday March 27: Lunch United Methodist
Speaker Pastor Del
Evening meal by the Deacons

Wednesday April 3: Lunch by St. Paul Lutheran
Speaker to be determined
Evening meal by the Choir

Wednesday April 10: Lunch Paulding Nazarene's
Speaker Pastor Jeremy Thompson
Evening meal not yet determined



Special Services

Ash Wednesday, 6:15 pm

Maundy Thursday Service,
7:00 pm

Good Friday Service here at
noon, speaker Pastor Dwayne

Easter Sunrise at 7:00 am at
the House of Love, speaker
Pastor Ian Ferguson

Adam Leever: First Band Concert



Adam is the son of Pam Paulus Leever and grandson of Dick and Sue Paulus. Adam is in Junior High School in Defiance.

Guest Speaker of February 24th

We are looking forward to having Matt Ferguson, Ian's father, fill the pulpit on this Sunday.

Thanks for being here, Matt.



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

