

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Thoughts from Ian...



January 2022 Newsletter

What do you feel as you look at your 2022 calendar? It is beginning to fill up! Do you think about the year with excitement? Do you fill in the spot for your birthday with anticipation of cake and presents? Have you marked down Easter (April 17th)

with joy as you dream of warmer weather?

Maybe you look at this year with some apprehension? Do you mark off a week or two for vacation, hoping that it will not be cancelled due to COVID restrictions? Do certain anniversaries mark times of grief instead of happiness? Do some dates give you anxiety instead of comfort? It could be the date of your next dentist appointment or an anniversary of the passing of a loved one. What do you feel as you look at your 2022 calendar?

As I (Ian) write this, I am sitting in the library of the church where I grew up, located in Hillsboro, Illinois. I am filling out the church calendar for the year. Some dates bring excitement (I can't wait till April 17<sup>th</sup>, Easter)! Some dates bring a bit of anxiety (Samuel's first day of school). Recently, I had someone come into the church to chat and at the end of the conversation she said, in a worried tone, "Considering 2021, who knows what 2022 will bring!" I get it.

Something in this church where I sit has brought me comfort for many years. It is a painting of this church (pictured above). This church building is over 100 years old and for many years this painting has hung on the wall. It is one of three paintings of the various buildings of this particular church. The painting of the current building has one thing that stands out to me. The message depicted on the church's sign reads "Do not fear tomorrow, God is already there."

I find the message on the sign leads me to remember Romans 8:28 and how God is at work in all things for the good of His people. God does not only know everything about today, but He knows everything about what will happen as well. God is not anxious, hoping that everything will work out. He will accomplish His good purposes. So, we can trust our good and wise God with the future.

We can be encouraged by remembering this truth. One year ago, we didn't know what would fill in those days of our 2021 calendar, just as we don't know what will fill in our 2022 calendar. We can plan and trust God, but we just won't know until the time comes. As someone once said, "We don't know what the future may hold but we know who holds the future."

There will be highs and lows with a lot of in-betweens. We will have some surprises for good and ill. Through it all, God will not only be with His people but He will be at work ahead of us. I find that a very encouraging thought as I look at a blank calendar.



# February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Women's Board at 7:00 (Backup Monday the 7th) Mission Team meets at 6:00PM	4	5
6 Communion	7 (possible Women's Board at 7:00)	8 Ladies do Lunch Past Time Café at Noon	9 Presby Praise Sing- ers 7:00	10 NA meets at 7:30	11	12
13 Sunday School starts	14	15 Session 7:00	16 Presby Praise Sing- ers 7:00	17 NA meets at 7:30	18	19
20	21	22	23 Presby Praise Sing- ers 7:00	24 NA meets at 7:30	25	26
27	28					

Feb. 1- Sydney Reineck  
 Feb. 2 - Mattea St. John Baker  
 Feb. 10 - Dan Karlstadt  
 Feb. 11- Charles Strahley  
 Feb. 12- Susan Paulus  
 Feb. 15- Marty Crossland

Feb. 15- Maely Crossland  
 Alexander  
 Feb. 15 - Jim Smith Jr.  
 Feb. 15 - Arlene Cline  
 Feb. 22 – Jeff Riley

Anniversaries:  
 Feb. 16—Ken and Judy Robin-  
 son

## December Session Highlights

A regular Session meeting was held Tuesday, December 21, 2021, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

### VERY IMPORTANT NEWS

- There will be a **Congregational Meeting after church January 23rd**. We will be combining two meetings- 1) to elect officers, 2) review the 2022 budget and review the work of the church during 2021. We regret no meal will be included due to the rise of Covid cases again this winter. It is vital that we have as many members as possible attend.

- **Becky Riley** has graciously accepted the role of the secretary of our church. **Sue Paulus** will be retiring at the end of 2021. We want to express our gratitude to both of these people for their willingness to work together during this transition. We appreciate you ladies so much!

- **Committee Reports** are due to the secretary's office as early in January as possible.

### Noteworthy Events Past and Future

- Our congregation welcomed Grace Meyer into our church November 21<sup>st</sup>, during the annual celebration of the church's anniversary. Other members were recognized and honored for their benchmark memberships.

- Another year of participating in the Shoebox Mission and Angel Tree Mission is completed. Thanks to the many volunteers who help with these endeavors.

-The Ecumenical Dinner hosted by Divine Mercy Catholic Church was enjoyed by many women in the community.

-There were many compliments regarding the Children's participation in the service Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.

- Individual portions of Communion will be offered at the Christmas Eve service which starts at 11:00pm.

- Communion will be served January 9<sup>th</sup> since Pastor Ian will be on Study leave Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### Old Business

- Session decided to cancel the toll-free phone number that had been established to enable people to listen to the worship service. Several factors were taken into consideration in making this decision.

- The budget for 2022 was approved and will be ready to present at the congregational meeting in January.

### New Business

- Motions were passed to allow families of the church to use the Fellowship Hall January 1<sup>st</sup> and March 11th-12th. Also,

permission was given for the Drug Court to use the building January 7<sup>th</sup>.

- It was noted that our "Per Member Asking" offering be mentioned to the congregation. (Apportionment)

- A decision was made to cancel the "1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the Month" meals (due to Covid) until at least March. At that time Lent will begin and we can readjust our decision accordingly.

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

Ian Ferguson, Moderator

## Sunday School

Sunday School will begin Sunday February 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am and continues until Easter. Pastor Ian will be leading us in the study on Hebrews.



### January Birthdays:

2<sup>nd</sup> - Dianna Karlstadt

4<sup>th</sup> - Darwin Cline

10<sup>th</sup> - Mary VanAtta

11<sup>th</sup> - Kenny Robinson

12<sup>th</sup> - Brynn Ferguson

16<sup>th</sup> - Larry Fishbaugh

20<sup>th</sup> - Kristen (Koenig) Gerber

22<sup>nd</sup> - Harry Weibe

28<sup>th</sup> - Bryce Verfaillie



Here are the birthdays for January that were missed since a newsletter was not completed in time to help celebrate these birthdays.

FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM DECEMBER		
Designated Gifts:		
Amount	Purpose	
\$17,000.00	Capital Projects Fund	
\$200.00	Daily Bread Fund	
\$400.00	Drug Court Fund	
\$10,000.00	Food pantry building project	
\$500.00	Missions Fund	
\$287.61	Nicelley investment dividend	
\$200.00	Organ Repair Fund	
\$50.00	Sale of refrigerator	
Notable Expenditures:		
Amount	Payee	Purpose
\$275.00	Lima Pipe Organ	Semi-annual maintenance
\$860.00	Tony Wobler Electric	Electrical repairs to garage
\$10,000.00	Caring Sharing Food Pantry	Anonymous donation for bldg project
\$1,000.00	Lifewise	Anonymous donation for Lifewise Academy
Budget vs Actual Income:		
\$143,618.00	Budgeted Income	
\$181,180.90	Actual Income	
\$37,562.90	Difference	



## Un-decorating Christmas

Pictured are Rick Craft, Rhonda Smalley and Jill Straley removing Christmas decorations just before New Year's. Others were there working but not pictured. Thanks to all for your hard work, you are much appreciated.



Pastor Dwayne Richardson filled the pulpit on January 16th for Pastor Ian during his illness.



## REACHING NEW HEIGHTS

Deacon Doug Radel precariously changes out a light bulb in one of the entrances.



On January 30, Patty Radel was ordained and installed as Deacon for the term ending 2024.

Brent Fishbaugh was also installed as Deacon for the same term. Larry Fishbaugh was installed as Elder for the term ending 2024.

From left to right: Pastor Ian Ferguson, Brent Fishbaugh, Larry Fishbaugh and Patty Radel.

Thanks to these members for stepping forward to serve our church and congregation.

**Ladies Do Lunch:** The ladies of our church met at the Pancake House on Tuesday January 11th. Left side is Vicki Sholl, Martha PUNCHES, Phyllis Crossland and Sue Paulus. Right side: Rhonda Smalley, Judy Wells, Barb Searing, Sue Crossland and Ruby Crossland.



Watch for plans for February 8th lunch at Past Time Café.





Sue Paulus being honored and receiving gifts for her tenure as Office Manager for the past eleven years.

Becky Riley will be taking over

From left to right -  
Becky Riley, Pastor Ian Ferguson, Sue Paulus and Barb Searing.

### **Retirement For Sue**



### **Our Children Performing at Christmas.**

Front row: Henry Ferguson, Logan Crossland, Samuel Ferguson.

Middle row: Autumn Temple, Sami Alexander, Briggs Stoller, Bristol Stoller, Carter Crossland.

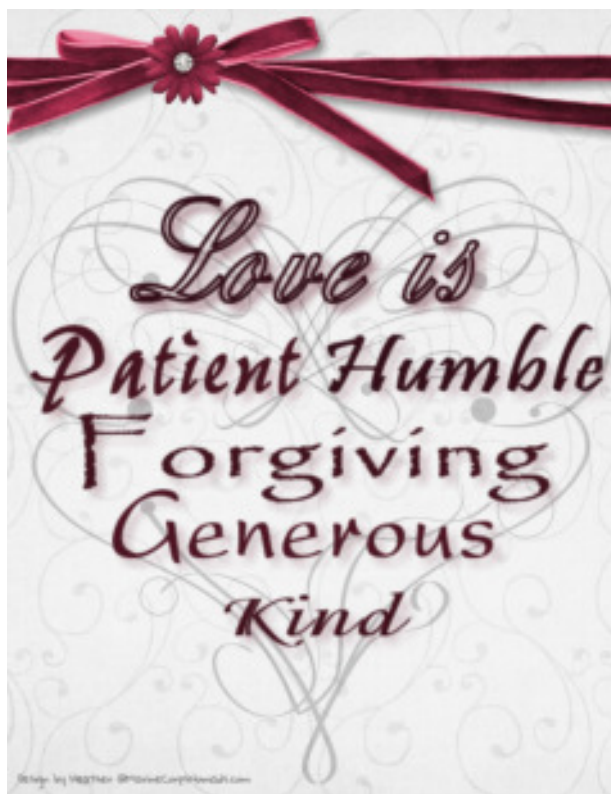
Top Row: Tucker Stoller and Nick Alexander.

The Mission Committee encourages all to read the annual year end newsletter from God's Share program which we support. It is amazing all the things they have accomplished in the past year for so many missionaries! From the newsletter: "We exist to fulfill God's call to share resources freely with frontline missionaries to meet basic needs, encourage hearts and most important of all to help spread the message of the Gospel".



## Dick and Sue Paulus

A huge “thank you” to photographer Rhonda Smalley for taking this picture of us. This is the best one of the two of us in years!



Dear Friends and Family,

We all know that life can change for any of us in an instant. That happened in the Paulus household on December 1st when Dick fell resulting in a short hospital stay and a few days in a nursing home. This has made a change in my priorities and I am spending 90% of my time at home. That being said, I apologize that we are somewhat behind-or a lot behind– in getting information to you. This newsletter is the first that Becky has attempted and she has done an outstanding job. There are still many things to pass on, but she is quick and eager to learn. She will need the same things that you gave me: encouragement, understanding, an occasional kick-start. She will be here to pray with you, to laugh and cry with you, to occasionally accept that kick-start. This change ends 11 years of a job that I have loved almost all the time. God is in control and He knows what the next step is for each of us.  
Sue Paulus

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I am taking over the job of our church’s office manager from Sue Paulus. I will not attempt to fill Sue’s shoes, I’m not sure anyone could. I will, however, do my best to fulfill the job duties and all it entails to the best of my ability. Please have patience with us both as we stumble through this transition, as Sue does her best to train me in the stolen minutes that we can get together. Thus, the reason for combining the January and February newsletters.

I ask for your support for myself and prayers and support for Sue as she takes on a new endeavor at home.

Becky Riley



## January Session Highlights

A regular Session meeting was held Tuesday, January 25, 2022, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

### Noteworthy Events

- The Annual Congregational Meeting took place as was scheduled on January 23, 2022. It was noted that during this meeting the 2022 budget was presented and approved by the congregation, Annual Reports from the various committees were also considered, and the new officers were elected.
- Larry Fishbaugh will be returning as an Elder to fill another 3-year term. Our incoming Deacons for the next 3 years are Brent Fishbaugh and Patty Radel.
- It was decided that ordination and installation of the new officers will be held during church on January 30<sup>th</sup>. **We welcome these volunteers into their new positions and give God the glory for their willingness to serve Him!! We are so grateful!**

### Old Business

- Session decided to proceed with the weekly Wednesday Lenten Lunches beginning March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Of course, plans may change if there is a noticeable rise in Covid cases, but we felt it necessary to make a decision so we could inform the other churches that are involved in these meals. As of now we are willing to go forth with this ministry held weekly in our fellowship hall. Our church will be in charge of the first lunch on March 2<sup>nd</sup> so get your aprons (and Presby shirts, if you have one) ready!!! This is such a wonderful way to fellowship with our families in Christ in our community!

### Old/New Business

- We would like to remind everyone to visit our church's website on Google. This can become a very useful tool for information and insight as to our church's activities.
- Once again, session approved having communion served the first Sunday of every month this year unless there is a conflict with Pastor Ian being absent.
- We pre-approved Pastor Ian's leaves for the year (including Study Leaves, General Assembly, and vacations).
- **Property Committee updates:** Many of us are aware we have had several major maintenance items that were dealt with this past year. Our projects are not over yet! Look for a separate article in this newsletter from the Property Committee to see what's in store for this coming year.

### New Business

- Alex Straley volunteered to be a commissioner and attend the Midwest Presbytery meeting being held in Findlay on Feb. 11-12. Pastor Ian will be attending, also. Any congregant is allowed and welcomed to go to learn more about the Presbyterian faith and how the Presbytery is structured. **Please let Pastor Ian know if you would like to attend and/or would like more information about this event!!**
- Look for the ministry of the Gideons to share their message during worship on February 27<sup>th</sup>!

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

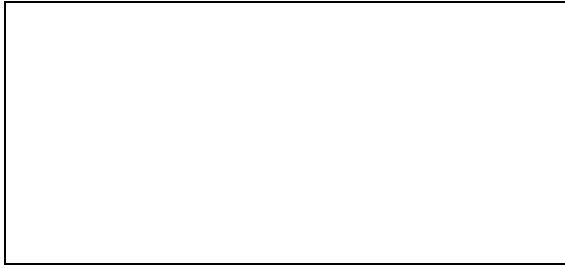


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**[firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://firstpresbyterianpaulding.com)**

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

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Church website:  
[www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com)



Sunday School at 9.00  
Worship Service 10:30

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