

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Thoughts from Ian...



Snow Mountain and Heavenly Homes



1 John 2:17 "The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

We may not have had a white Christmas, but we had a white February. The snow plows pushed snow into tall mounds on the Northeast side of our parking lot. After the plows did their work, our kids ventured out into the cold to climb the snow piles that were three or four times their height. Little Brynn, our 1-year-old, contented herself with crawling around the base while Samuel and Henry dug out steps and handholds to climb to the top.

The snow mound, affectionately called "Snow Mountain" by the boys, had space carved out for sitting at the top. A path was packed down along one side to serve as a slide. Snow Mountain was a superhero base, a lookout tower, a fire station, and the Paw Patrol tower. Snow Mountain became their little kingdom.

But as the saying goes, "all good things must come to an end." This week, the weather warmed and the rain came. The snow started to melt. The ice became slush. Snow Mountain turned into Snow Speedbump. The parking lot and the yard emerged from the ice and snow and, just like that, their little winter wonderland was gone. Snow Mountain reminded me of what we have been learning together on Sunday morning in 1 John.

In the first chapter of his letter, the Apostle John shares with us the invitation into fellowship with God and each other. God Himself had come down into history to have fellowship with us. If we would acknowledge our sin and turn from it to God, then our sins would be washed away (made possible through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross) and we enter into a relationship with Him and His people (1 John 1-2:2).


John tells us how one indication we have truly accepted His invitation is our lives. We would no longer chase after the things of this world. Our love for God would come to overshadow our love for the world. This is for our good. After all, "the world and its desires pass away" (1 John 2:17).

John is not unique in teaching that the world will pass away. Jesus taught it (Matthew 24:35). The Apostle Peter is even more descriptive in 2 Peter 3:10, "But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed."

One day, all of our little kingdoms will melt away like Snow Mountain. Sin will be exposed and judged. Part of the good news of the gospel is that it is *not* true that "all good things must come to an end." In fact, the best things in life last forever, namely, God's kingdom and God's people. So, how should we live? Peter tells us in the following verse, "Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming." (2 Peter 3:11-12).

Enjoy Snow Mountain. God's blessing in this life are gifts from God but live in light of God's kingdom because the one who does the will of God lives forever.

MARCH 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Noon- Lenten Lunch Lenten Supper 5:30 Presby Praise Singers 7:00	3 2:00- Bible Study "The Women of Easter" NA meets at 7:30	4	5
6 9:00 -Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service Communion	7	8 Ladies do Lunch Noon Holly Wood & Vine	9 Noon- Lenten Lunch Lenten Supper 5:30 Presby Praise Singers 7:00	10 2:00-Bible Study "The Women of Easter" NA meets at 7:30	11	12
13 9:00 -Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	14	15 Hands of Hope-Fundraiser 5-6:30 Session 7:00 PM	16 Noon- Lenten Lunch Lenten Supper 5:30 Presby Praise Singers 7:00	17 2:00-Bible Study "The Women of Easter"  NA meets at 7:30	18	19
20 9:00-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	21	22	23 Noon- Lenten Lunch Lenten Supper 5:30 Presby Praise Singers 7:00	24 2:00-Bible Study "The Women of Easter" NA meets at 7:30	25	26
27 9:00-Sunday School 10:30 -Worship Service	28	29	30 Noon- Lenten Lunch Lenten Supper 5:30 Presby Praise Singers 7:00	31 2:00-Bible Study NA meets at 7:30		

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1- Becky Mayer
3- Marcia Brune
6- Anna Karlstadt
8- Tiffany Razo
11-Dick Paulus

10- Sarah Buzzell Morgan
16- Kristen Razo
16- Ian Ferguson
20 Henry Ferguson
21- Dannielle Pennington Haas
23- Kim Mileto

23- Olivia Henson
24- Kayleigh St.John

If we don't have your birthday or anniversary listed, leave a note for the church office.



IT IS BETTER TO LOOK WHERE YOU ARE GOING, THAN TO SEE WHERE YOU HAVE BEEN.

February 15, 2022

A regular Session meeting was held Tuesday, February 15, 2022 in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

Noteworthy Events

- Installation of the new Deacons and Elders took place during worship on January 30, 2022.
- The Gideons will be presenting their testimonies during worship on February 27, 2022.th.
- The Schwartz family (missionaries we support) will be sharing news/updates of their ongoing work during worship May 15.
- Communion will be served March 6th.

Old Business

- Pastor Ian and Alex Straley shared information they gained by attending the Midwest Presbytery meeting held in Findlay, February 11-12, 2022.
- Wednesday evening Lenten Suppers will begin on March 2nd with the Women's Board hosting and preparing the meal. Other entities within our church have been asked to sign up for the week/meal they would like to prepare. These meals are open to the public, and a short lesson conducted by Pastor is held directly after the meal.

New Business

- Session approved the use of the Fellowship Hall for the Drug Court Graduation on February 18th.
- Session also approved the Drug Court Gift Card Drive to be held during the weeks of Lent, beginning March 2nd.
- Looking ahead to spring, the next Midwest Presbytery meeting will be held in Ann Arbor May 13-14. Please see Pastor Ian for more information if you would like to attend!!

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

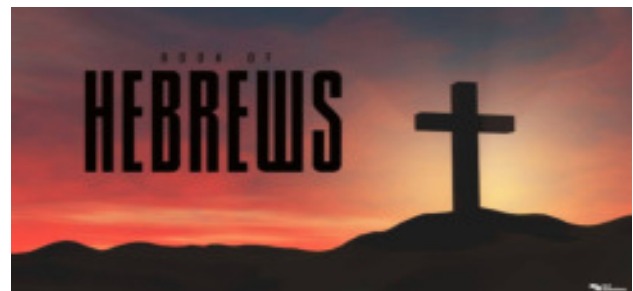
Ian Ferguson, Moderator


SNOW MOUNTAIN Samuel and Henry creating their look out tower.



Sunday School

Sunday School has began again at 9:00 AM. Pastor Ian will be leading us in the study on Hebrews with Derwin Gray through Palm Sunday.



1	FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM JANUARY		
2	Designated Gifts:		
3	Amount	Purpose	
4	\$100.00	Drug Court Fund	
5	\$50.00	Fellowship Hall Rental	
6	\$100.00	Mission Trip Fund	
7	\$1,172.24	Nicelley investment dividend	
8	\$100.00	Per Member Asking	
9	Notable Expenditures:		
10	Amount	Payee	Purpose
11	\$1,121.25	Paulding County Treasurer	1st half property taxes and assessments
12	\$384.00	CNA Surety	Treasurer surety bond
13	\$131.00	Dwayne Richardson	Guest speaker fee plus mileage
14	\$1,100.00	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	2022 mission allocation - Mindling
15	\$1,100.00	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	2022 mission allocation - Bailey
16	\$1,100.00	Wycliffe Bible Translators	2022 mission allocation - Schwartz
17	\$1,100.00	ABWE	2022 mission allocation - Taber
18	\$600.00	Caring Sharing Food Pantry	2022 mission allocation
19	\$600.00	Gods Share Program	2022 mission allocation
20	Budget vs Actual Income:		
21	\$13,153.94	Budgeted Income	
22	\$11,332.96	Actual Income	
23	(\$1,820.98)	Difference	

HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Jill Straley will lead a Bible study called "The Women of Easter" beginning on Thursday, March 3 from 2-3:30 PM for eight weeks. The lessons do not build on each other, so come each week that you can.

Lenten Lunches will begin on Wednesday, March 2 from noon till 1:00 and run for six weeks. Our church will host the first lunch and each consecutive lunch will be hosted by a neighboring church from the Ministerial Assn. Lenten Suppers will also begin on March 2. Supper is at 5:30 with devotional at 6:15. Every week these suppers will be hosted by a different group from our church.

Sunday School has resumed at 9:00 AM every Sunday with Pastor Ian leading us in the study of Hebrews with Darwin Grey. These lessons will be through Palm Sunday.

Watch for more information regarding Pastor Ian and Alissa as they will be leading us in a Bible study after Easter and in the Fall.

And if you are one of those that like to fill up your calendar way in advance, there will be Pastor Welcome Classes on June 12 and September 11.

If anyone is interested in helping with Vacation Bible School, please contact Pastor Ian or Brent Fishbaugh.



Ladies 'did' Lunch at the Past Time Café on Tuesday, February 8th. Plan on joining these ladies every second Tuesday of the month. It is always a fun time !

From left to right around the table; Barb Searing, Phyllis Crossland, Rhonda Smalley, Vicki Sholl, Martha Punches, Becky Riley, Sue Crossland, Logan Crossland (the life of the party) and Ruby Crossland.

The next 'Ladies Do Lunch' will be March 8th at Holly Wood and Vine (usually the second Tuesday of the month.)

In your offering envelope box, there is an envelope marked 'Per Member Asking'. The present PMA is \$13 for the Midwest Presbytery and \$23 for the EPC GA (total of \$36) Please help our church cover this expense of our presbytery with an additional offering, You can use the envelope provided or mark on your check where the funds are to be directed. Thanks for helping your church with this expense.

Watch for Details

The Lutheran Church is working toward a music-based fundraiser for the Food Pantry Building Fund. It is scheduled to be held on April 3rd (Sunday before Palm Sunday). Watch local newspapers for information to help support our local food pantry and maybe just have some fun at the same time.

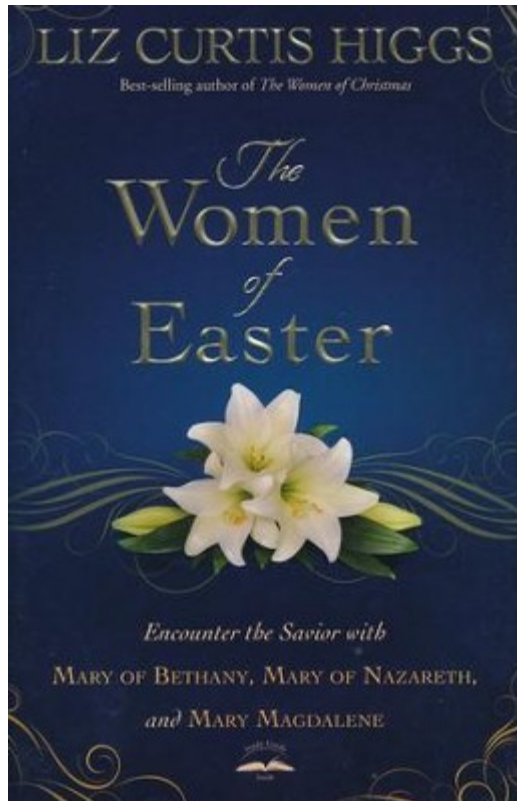


Alissa is in the midst of planning a Sunday School for the little ones to take place before church. If you have any ideas, crafts and/or PRAYERS for her, text, call, email or just tap her on the shoulder and share your thoughts with her. She will welcome your thoughts and ideas...and help.

Please don't let your little ones keep you from attending Sunday service.

The church provides sitters in the nursery during the service while Alissa Ferguson leads the older ones in Children's Church.





Liz Curtis Higgs' book *'The Women of Easter'* will be used in the Bible Study that Jill Straley will be leading. The Bible Study will begin on Thursday, March 3, starting at 2:00 PM and lasting till 3:30ish.

The Bible Study will run for 8 consecutive weeks, the last one being held Thursday, April 21st. The lessons do not build on each other, but plan on joining with them every Thursday you are available.



Lenten Lunches - Noon

3/ 2/22– Presbyterian Church
 3/ 9/22– Divine Mercy Catholic
 3/16/22– First Christian Church
 3/23/22– St. Paul Lutheran Church
 3/30/22– United Methodist Church
 4/ 6/22– Nazarene Church

Lenten Suppers - 5:30 PM

3/ 2/22– W.F.B.-soup
 3/ 9/22– To be Announced
 3/16/22– Sunday School– breakfast
 3/23/22- Deacons—baked potato bar
 3/30/22- Choir-spaghetti
 4/ 6/22- Session– to be determined

Good Friday-Paulding Nazarene-noon

Easter Sunrise-St.Paul Lutheran-7:00AM

A note from Karen and Tim Mindling:

*Dear Ian and other members of the Missions committee,
 Warm greetings to each of you. Tim and I want to thank each of you for your gracious prayer and financial support over these past many years. We are so appreciative of your partnership together with us and feel honored to be a part of your team. So we say a big heartfelt thank you to each of you.*

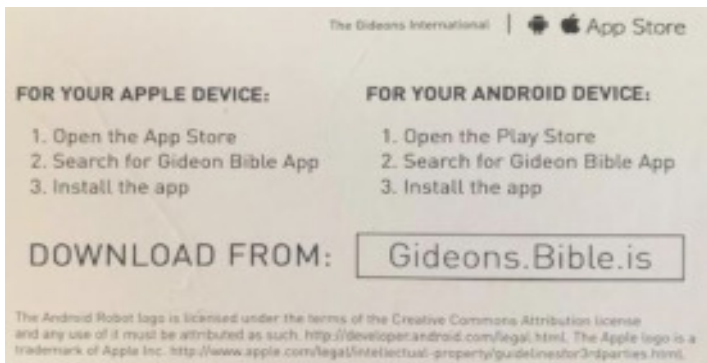


Rick and Becky Craft's son, Jason, married the love of his life, Carolyn on January 22, 2022.

At left, Jason and Carolyn, walking down the aisle as husband and wife.

Below, Craft family photo

Rick, Lauren, Jason, Amanda, Becky Craft.



Picture to the left.

Gideon speaker, Brian Neeley, spoke to the congregation Sunday, February 27th. Mr. Neeley spoke of their ministry and shared many moving testimonies. The Gideons distribute millions of Bibles across the country and world. If you are considering a donation to their wonderful ministry, there are a few flyers with envelopes included at the church or send your donation to : The Gideons International, P.O. Box 426, Paulding, Ohio 45879. If this sounds like a ministry you would like to be apart of, there are many different areas you could get involved in, including distribution of Bibles, testimonials, speaking and many more.

The above app for your phone allows you to search for different languages. It can be downloaded to your Apple device or your Android.

Hands of Hope Fund Raiser Dinner

The Paulding Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center is supported by the Presbyterian Church through budgeted Mission Committee funds.

They, the Hands of Hope, are having a fund raiser dinner on March 15th. Tickets are to be reserved for the Pulled Pork Dinner with coleslaw, macaroni and cheese, chips, cookie and water. The cost for the dinner is a free will donation. The dinner will be served from 5:00-6:30 PM. This fabulous food is from Ebel's Butcher shop and Streetlight Catering.

Anyone is welcome to reserve a ticket to attend by contacting Becky Riley or Pastor Ian by phone or email by Tuesday, March 8th.

The dinner will be held at the OSU Extension Center at the Paulding Co. Fairgrounds. Dine in or carryout is available. The Mission Committee will deliver the meal to your location if so desired. Last year twenty meals were delivered. The Mission Committee's goal is to collect generous donations for the delivered meal and bless this local ministry with continued support from this Church.

This fund raiser helps the Hands of Hope continue to provide free and essential services to our community.



Dear Church Family,

Hopefully you know how much I have enjoyed working as the church secretary for the past eleven years. It meant the world to me that you were so generous with your compliments, your gifts and your love on Sunday, January 23rd when you said "Thank You" to me for the work I had done. You have been a blessing to Dick and me, and I thank you. *"I thank my God every time I remember you."* *Philippians 1:3*

Sue Paulus



An Angel Among Us?

The Women's Board is seeking an 'apprentice' **funeral dinner coordinator** for 2022. This is a much-appreciated ministry to families in our church who have suffered the loss of a loved one.

Barb has been our **funeral dinner coordinator** the past couple of years, and there has been precious little need for funeral meals (thankfully) in that time. Covid has, of course, complicated the mix. To try to get back toward 'normal', Barb has agreed to continue in the coordinator role for now, and she would love to have an apprentice 'angel' by her side this year to become familiar with what the coordinator's job entails. The Women's Board is seeking the 'angel' out there who is already thinking about filling that role.

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.

'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 15 years now.

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 hardest part of the **funeral dinner coordinator's** job is that there is no predicting when the need for a funeral meal will arise! Or how many might arise in a year. One? Two? Five? And, when the need arises, the meal will happen in the next several days! Yikes! **The Women's Board knows that absolutely no one can commit to be available 365 days a year.** People travel; they have health issues; they have appointments that can't be re-scheduled; things come up!

To cover the 'what if's', the Board has added a 'back-up' person to the team, in case the day of the funeral just cannot fit in your calendar. Sue Paulus has been that back-up person for a couple of years but needs to relinquish that role now.....thus the need for an 'apprentice' this year.

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 _____

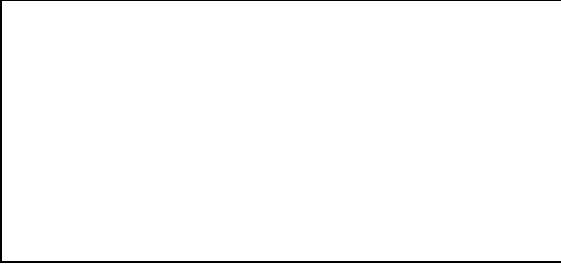


First Presbyterian Church
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Corner of Caroline and Cherry Street
Paulding OH 45879

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

firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

Phone: 419-399-2438
Secretary's e-mail: fpcpaulding@gmail.com
Church website:
www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com



Sunday School at 9.00
Worship Service 10:30

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