

# FPC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## THE GIFT OF GRACE

BY PASTOR ANDREW GILMAN

The gift of grace is a kind of redundant phrase that needs some context to become understandable. Grace itself is a gift. It's as if we were saying the gift of a gift. But this is what the Bible has in mind when it talks about grace upon grace. We read in John 1:16-17, "Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ." Out of the fullness of Jesus Christ we have received a gift in place of a gift. We have received grace and truth.

First, we have received the grace of the Law of Moses. The law was indeed gracious. It points us to God's righteous and beautiful character. It protects people from wickedness in the sense that those who follow the law will preserve and promote goodness in the world. It also highlights for us the places where we need to reform and bring into line our own behaviors. The Law of Moses was actually a tremendous grace. However, we could say that it was also a grace that left us somewhat hopeless. We had no way to ascend the Holy Hill of the Lord with the righteous demands of the Law met. (Continued on page 8)

### KEY DATES

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#### **OCTOBER 6**

Communion Worship

#### **OCTOBER 27**

Pastor Appreciation Sunday

#### **OCTOBER 28**

Youth FISH Canned Food Drive

#### **OCTOBER 31**

MSG Beggar's Night

#### **NOVEMBER 3**

Deacon Soup & Salad To-Go

# DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

THE WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

## Q. 75. WHAT IS REPENTANCE UNTO LIFE?

**A.** Repentance unto life is a saving grace<sup>1</sup> worked in the hearts of sinners by the Spirit<sup>2</sup> and the word of God.<sup>3</sup> By it sinners recognize not only how dangerous it is to commit sins<sup>4</sup> but also how filthy and hateful they are to God.<sup>5</sup> Understanding that in Christ God is merciful to those who repent,<sup>6</sup> sinners suffer such deep sorrow for<sup>7</sup> and hate their sins<sup>8</sup> so much that they turn away from all of them and turn to God,<sup>9</sup> attempting to walk continually with him according to this new obedience in every way.<sup>10</sup>

1. 2 Tm 2.25, Lk 24.47.
2. Zec 12.10.
3. Acts 11.18,20-21, 2.37.
4. Ez 18.28,30,32, Lk 15.17-18, Hos 2.6-7.
5. Ez 36.31, 16.61,63, Is 30.22.
6. Jl 2.12-13, Lk 22.61-62, Zec 12.10.
7. Jer 31.18-19.
8. 2 Cor 7.11, Acts 2.37.
9. Acts 26.18, Ez 14.6, 1 Kgs 8.47-48, 1 Sm 7.3.
10. Ps 119.6,59,128, Lk 1.6, 2 Kgs 23.25.



# READING PLAN

## WEEK 1 | OCTOBER 1-4

- Romans 1:1-17
- Romans 1:18-32
- Romans 2
- Romans 3:1-20

## WEEK 2 | OCTOBER 7-11

- Romans 3:21-31
- Romans 4
- Romans 5
- Romans 6:1-14
- Romans 6:15-23

## WEEK 3 | OCTOBER 14-18

- Romans 7:1-6
- Romans 7:7-25
- Romans 8:1-17
- Romans 8:18-39
- Romans 9

## WEEK 4 | OCTOBER 21-25

- Romans 10
- Romans 11:1-24
- Romans 11:25-36
- Romans 12
- Romans 13

## WEEK 5 | OCTOBER 28-31

- Romans 14
- Romans 15:1-13
- Romans 15:14-33
- Romans 16

## YOUR MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Romans 6:1-4

Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more of his wonderful grace? Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

# BIRTHDAYS

10/02 Jocelyn Sheldon

10/03 Richard Nord

Kim Cromwell

Amanda Hines

10/10 Dick Brown

10/11 Inara Howell

10/14 Jonathan Howell

10/20 LaJeanne Riegler

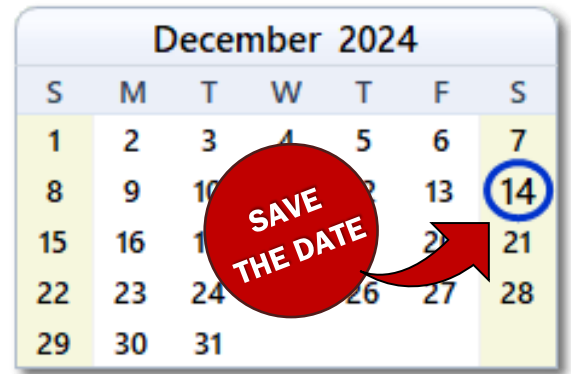
10/21 Rebecca Detling

Graham Milligan

10/30 Paige Ervin

# ANNIVERSARIES

10/14 Brandon & Kelsey Ervin



# CHRISTMAS BOX DINNER

## OCT 31 - BEGGAR'S NIGHT

During Main Street Greenville's Beggar's Night event, we will hand out cards and candy canes that inform local families of the opportunity to get a Christmas box and allow them to be the first to sign-up.

## NOV - GIFTS ARE PREPARED

Our youth group will purchase and wrap/box all the gifts for the families that sign-up. These gifts will be a \$30 value and personalized for each child. We need your help funding the 50 boxes we plan to give away! Pledge cards can be found at the Welcome Desk. You can also pledge support online on the app. When you pledge your support, the youth will send you a note about the kids you served. Pledged monies may be left in the offering boxes at any time and should be specially marked for this ministry.

## DEC 14 - DINNER W/FAMILIES

These Christmas boxes will be distributed to the families on Saturday, December 14th following a Christmas dinner we will be hosting at 5:00pm. Sign-ups to serve and ATTEND at this important ministry event will be available soon. Mark your calendars now for this special evening—where we will be able to serve our community in love, as one body.

# DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OPERATIONS UPDATE

By Paige Ervin

## GREEN VOLUNTEER T SHIRTS

You may have seen more of the green volunteer t-shirts floating around on a Sunday morning. This is new since fall kick-off and one of the hospitality ideas we brought back from General Assembly this past summer. The green volunteer shirts are being worn by those actively serving that Sunday. This includes our booth workers, hospitality team members, greeters, Children's Church teachers, toddler/infant teachers and more! These t-shirts make our volunteers easy to recognize and identify—especially to our visitors! We have shirts available in all sizes at the Welcome Desk. They are \$15 a piece and can be purchased at any time. We will also use these t-shirts for our outreach events throughout the year!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

We will celebrate Pastor Appreciation on Sunday, October 27. Donations to be put toward a special gift for Pastor Andrew and his family will be accepted through Sunday, October 20, and we encourage you to send notes of encouragement to Pastor Andrew all month long. Specially marked envelopes are available at the Welcome Desk. Donations can be given on the App, mailed-in, left in offering boxes on Sunday morning, or brought to the church during office hours (Monday–Thursday, 10:00am–2:00pm).

### DEACON SOUP & SALAD TO-GO

The Deacons consistently support the needs in our church and community. They will be looking for your support at their Soup & Salad To-Go fundraiser on Sunday, November 3rd after worship. Order forms for the meal will be available starting October 13!

### YOUTH MISSION TRIP & FUNDRAISER

The youth are headed to Nashville next year, where they'll learn Christ-like empathy and compassion for others as they meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of disadvantaged children, youth, and adults. The youth will be selling specialty popcorn all November to help raise funds toward their trip. Popcorn will arrive in time for Christmas and would make the perfect stocking stuffer!

### CHURCH APP AND ONLINE GIVING

Our church app has a calendar of all upcoming events, access to easy online giving and more! Visit [FPCGreenville.ChurchTrac.com](http://FPCGreenville.ChurchTrac.com) on your internet browser to access our app today. See Paige in the office to get help downloading the app, creating an account, or setting up your online giving.

## FALL MINISTRIES

### EVERY SUNDAY

Confirmation Class – 9:00AM  
Cover the Church (in Prayer) – 9:30AM  
Exodus Study – 11:30AM

### EVERY MONDAY

Youth Group – 6:00PM *\*(Band App for details.)*

### EVERY TUESDAY

Men's Study – 6:30PM  
Women of the Word Women's Study – 6:30PM

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 10:30AM

### EVERY SATURDAY

Forgiving (...) Women's Study – 9:00AM

### MONTHLY

Men's Study – First Saturday – 8:30AM  
Craft Night – Third Thursday – 6:30PM

*\*Contact the office for more details about any of the fall ministry's options listed above or to start leading your own class in the spring!*



# PRAYER

## September 2024 Prayer Updates:

**09/23/2024:** Phyllis Trittschuh is at Rest Haven until she is strong enough to return to Oakley Place. Please continue to keep her in your prayers!

**09/18/2024:** Please be in prayer for Phyllis Trittschuh. She is currently at Upper Valley due to problems with dehydration.

**09/18/2024:** Don was released from Indy yesterday. He's doing well and figuring out his medicine. Tom is staying with him for the time being. He thanks you for your prayers!

**09/16/2024:** Prayer Update: Don had 3 stents put in and is now back in his room and doing well, talking with his sons, Tom and Bruce. Thank you for your prayers!

**09/16/2024:** Please keep Don Stevenson in your prayers as he is currently being prepped for surgery to have a few stents put in. Your prayers are appreciated!

**09/15/2024:** Your prayers are appreciated for Barbara Stockslager, close friend of Dick Nord. She is struggling and scheduled for emergency surgery for a pacemaker tomorrow.

**09/15/2024:** Keep Don Stevenson in your prayers. He is at St. Vincent Hospital in Indy after having a heart attack early yesterday morning. Your prayers are appreciated!

**09/02/2024:** Please pray for Gloria Horner. She will be having surgery on her broken right hip today at 3:30pm. Your continued prayers for Jack are appreciated too!



# FPC LIFE (CONT. PG. 9)

## PASS THE PROMISE

On Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, we prayed for our new kindergartners, Maddox Carty and Cora Ervin, and their parents. The session gave them new resources to be using in their homes to encourage the children in learning about their faith as part of our Pass the Promise program.

## GREENVILLE HOMECOMING

Congratulations is in store for Callee Moore! Callee was elected to be a part of the senior homecoming court. You can support Callee at the homecoming parade and pep rally (Thursday, October 3 at 6:00pm) and at the football pregame (Friday, October 4 at 6:30pm).

## ILLUMINATION CONCERT

The youth and adults that attended this year's Illumination concert had a blast! Matthew West was phenomenal! Pictures from the evening can be found on pg. 9.

## EQUIP FALL CONFERENCE

Thank you to all of you who attended this year's fall retreat/conference! Friday night was a great intro to the weekend with worship from some of our own and Grace Church. Saturday was WELL attended too, and we pray that God continues to use the teachings from that day to bless each one of you! (If you happened to miss Friday's worship, the sermon is available online on our app.) It was a true treat to be able to sit and soak in Zack's teaching!

## FPC KIDS SPECIAL

By Shane Gilman

This summer, my family and I went to South Korea to visit relatives, revisit the cultural and culinary aspects of the region and sight see all the beauties the land had to behold. My favorite parts of this trip included seeing my grandparents and aunt, walking around shopping with my family and friends, without a care in the world, and trying traditional Korean BBQ and crab. Nothing though, can compare to when we visited the English-speaking church on Sundays. Although it was a tiny congregation, I could tell the Holy Spirit was strong in them. They welcomed us in with open arms. God did amazing things through these people, but that was not even the most shocking part of our trip. This congregation and church were originally preached to by my dad! For things to make a full circle in 100 years is crazy!!! I'm just kidding. (Partly). People knew me and Sienna from when we were wee babies and to me, that was mind blowing. But all in all, while I still miss South Korea and want to go back in the future, I missed Greenville and its people more. I wouldn't trade you guys for anything.

First Presbyterian Church of Greenville Ohio  
Minutes of the Session of  
August 8, 2024

**I. Opening**

**A. Call meeting to order with reading of the Word and prayer**

The August 2024 stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville was called to order on August 8, 2024 at First Presbyterian Church at 7:10 PM by Pastor Andrew Gilman. Pastor Gilman opening the meeting with prayer.

**Members Present:** Rebecca Detling, Peter Haviza, Randy Tester, Lisa Headley, Craig Leland. (5). Quorum was met.

**Members Absent:** Jan Roestamadji and Pam Bowman

**Guests:** Paige Ervin after 8 PM.

**Approval of Agenda** A motion was made to approve the docket with the addition of discussing the Investment Policy Statement by Randy Tester. This was seconded by Lisa Headley. The motion passed 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes** Peter Haviza motioned to approve the June 2024 minutes. This motion was seconded by Rebecca Detling. The motion passed 5-0.

**II. Agenda Items**

**FYI** Andrew Gilman presented a brief instruction to the session for roughly 20 minutes on the subject of Elder Training: Leadership Ladder.

**Mission Committee Report** Pastor Gilman verbally reported on visiting with Sam and Christa in Budapest, having lunch with the Brewers at Montage. He also mentioned the possibility of a mission trip in 2025 or 2026. Additionally, he will be reporting more extensively later on his trip to Kazakhstan.

**Midwest Presbytery Commissioning** Ruling Elders are needed for the upcoming Presbytery meeting in Auburn, IN taking place from September 13-14, 2024. Jan Roestamadji indicated that she would like to attend. Rebecca Detling motioned to commission Jan for this trip. The motion was seconded by Peter Haviza and passed 5-0.

**Update on Insurance Claim.** FYI - Claim remains open on damage done to the church's tower after the May Tornado. Glassco is ready to examine the damage, although they may need to hire a lift. Plexiglass will need replaced as well as brick and mortar.

**Bylaws Update** A second read-through was made of changes to the church's bylaws. After reviewing the changes with considerable discussion, a motion was made by Lisa Headley to accept the proposed revisions and present them to the Congregation. The motion was seconded by Rebecca Detling and passed 5-0.

**Congregational Meeting Docket** A motion was made by Lisa Headley to approve the docket for the upcoming congregational meeting scheduled for the end of August. This motion was seconded by Peter Haviza and passed 5-0.

**Investment Policy Statement** Randy Tester presented this Investment document including minor adjustments from its reading at our last meeting. This is a further adjustment to the church bylaws. After reading through the document again, a long discussion took place. *Sometime toward the end of this discussion, Rebecca Detling had to leave reducing the number of ruling elders to 4.* After questions and discussion points were concluded, Lisa Headley motioned to accept the new Investment Policy Statement, which was seconded by Peter Haviza and passed 4-0.

**Pastor's Report** Pastor Gilman submitted a written report and conducted a short verbal review of the document. Lisa Headley motioned to accept the report, seconded by Peter Haviza. The motion passed 4-0.

**Deacon's Meeting** A written Deacon's report was submitted this month. After reviewing the report, Craig Leland motioned to accept the report, seconded by Lisa Headley and the motion passed 4-0.

### III. Closing

**Prayer.** A closing prayer was made by Craig Leland.

**Adjournment.** Lisa Headley motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Peter Haviza. The motion passed 4-0.

John Vehre

Andrew Gilman

Clerk of Session

Moderator of Session

## UPCOMING LEADERSHIP MEETINGS

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DEACONS	MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2024	7:00PM
STAFF	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024	7:00PM
SESSION	THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2024	7:00PM

# THE GIFT OF GRACE (CONT.)

So, this is why John points out to us that we needed a grace in place of grace. Jesus Christ is that fuller, more glorious expression of grace. He was full of grace and truth. Where the truth of the law would lay us bare and leave us wanting—the grace of Jesus Christ comes to our aid. He saves us by giving us a righteousness not our own. He provides for us a salvation that we could not earn for ourselves.

I begin this article this way because we know what it means to be loved in the manner which Jesus loved us. We have been provided for in ways that we could not provide for ourselves. We have a mission given to us by Christ which we are always looking to fulfill. We are to take this grace and truth to the world. The most immediate place for us to do this is in our own community. With this being said, there is a ministry that I want to invite every member or regular attendee at FPC to take part in between the months of October and December. It is our annual Christmas Box Dinner.

The Christmas Box Dinner is a ministry to families in Greenville, Ohio. There are many in the community who cannot afford as many gifts for their children, and we hope to serve them by assisting them in having a wonderful Christmas with dignity and love for their children. There are really three parts to this ministry. First, we open 50 spots for parents from our community to “claim”, on behalf of their child, to receive a Christmas gift. Once all the spots have been claimed, our youth will purchase and wrap the gifts for each child. Finally, we host a dinner at our church in The Hall for the families. They come and eat with us, and we get to know them a bit. After dinner we have a brief presentation from the church for the families and then we give them the gifts for their children. This is where you all come in as we will have need of help at each stage of this ministry.

The date for the dinner is Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. There are a number of ways that you can be a part of giving grace to families in our neighborhood in the name of Jesus this winter. Let me lay out for you some of the ways you can practice your faith by serving others.

First, we will need to find those that God has for us to serve with this ministry. In late October, we will gather the names of people who are asking for help with gifts this Christmas. If you know someone who may be interested in

receiving gifts for their children, please let the office know so we can get them the sign-up information early because once the sign-up goes public—spots fill up fast!

Second, we will then use the months of October and November to gather sponsors for each of the 50 spots. These will come from our church membership as well as from local businesses or individuals you know. Each box will have a \$30 value. So, pledging to support 2 boxes would be a \$60 commitment. (Pledge cards will be available at the Welcome Desk and on the App.)

Third, our youth will pick out and buy the gifts for the children based off the gift ideas the parents wrote down at the time of signing up. The youth will also wrap the gifts and write a card for each with a special note. If you would like to be hands-on with the youth in this part of the process, contact the office or Brandon/Kelsey Ervin.

Fourth, we will then follow up with communication to the parents about the dinner and how to come pick up the gift. This is VERY important and a much-needed step if we are to see each family here for the dinner so we can share the gospel and the gift with them. If you are willing to help with this communication process of making phone calls, please let Paige know in the office!

Fifth, we will need help with the dinner itself. The help for the dinner service and prep will be spearheaded by our own Rebecca Detling. There will also be a need for childcare for a short time after dinner during our presentation.

Sixth, this is the most important item. We need help with people! We need all of you to sign up to eat dinner with these families. We need Christians like you to come spend time talking with and listening to the stories of these visitors. We want them to understand that FPC is a place where they can find love and support and where their life can be changed by Jesus. You are exactly the person God wants to use to communicate this to them.

So this is the idea behind the dinner. It is grace upon grace. It is the grace of giving a gift, but ultimately this is just a token of love. The real gift is Jesus Christ. It is the hope of the church that you will join together to help provide for these families. Perhaps they will find salvation and a new church home because of your bravery and kindness this Christmas.



# FPC LIFE (CONT.)



Tuesday Night Women's Study (Above)

Pass the Promise (Top Left)

Wednesday Morning Bible Study (Left)



Callee Moore & Queen Candidates (Below, second from right)

Snapshots from Illumination (Bottom Right)

Other September Snapshots (Bottom Left)



# FPC LIFE (CONT.)

## FALL RETREAT/CONFERENCE 2024

Thank you to Zack Eswine for an amazing weekend of great Biblical teaching on wisdom from above. The photos below are little snapshots from the conference on September 28. Thanks to all who attended!



# OCTOBER 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Worship Team Rehearsal</li> <li>9am Confirmation Class</li> <li>9:30am Cover the Church (Pray)</li> <li>10am Worship</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Activity (Time/location var)</li> </ul>	<p>Oct 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Men's Study</li> <li>6:30pm Women of the Word</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7pm Staff Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> </ul>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Men's Study</li> <li>9am Women's Study</li> </ul>
<p>6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Worship Team Rehearsal</li> <li>9am Confirmation Class</li> <li>9:30am Cover the Church (Pray)</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Youth Group</li> <li>7pm Deacons Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Women of the Word</li> </ul>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> </ul>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Women's Study</li> </ul>
<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Worship Team Rehearsal</li> <li>9am Confirmation Class</li> <li>9:30am Cover the Church (Pray)</li> <li>10am Worship</li> <li>11:30am Exodus Study</li> </ul>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth Activity (Time/location var)</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Men's Study</li> <li>6:30pm Women of the Word</li> </ul>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Craft Night (Bring your own)</li> <li>7pm Session Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Women's Study</li> </ul>
<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Worship Team Rehearsal</li> <li>9am Confirmation Class</li> <li>9:30am Cover the Church (Pray)</li> <li>10am Worship</li> <li>11:30am Exodus Study</li> </ul>	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6pm Youth Group</li> </ul>	<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Men's Study</li> <li>6:30pm Women of the Word</li> </ul>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> </ul>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am Women's Study</li> </ul>
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:15am Worship Team Rehearsal</li> <li>9am Confirmation Class</li> <li>9:30am Cover the Church (Pray)</li> <li>2 more</li> </ul>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth FISH Trick or Treat (Time/location var)</li> </ul>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm Men's Study</li> <li>6:30pm Women of the Word</li> </ul>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:30am Bible Study</li> </ul>	<p>31</p>	<p>Nov 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Office Closed</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8:30am Men's Study</li> <li>9am Women's Study</li> </ul>

\*This calendar can always be found on the app.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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