

FPC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



HOSPITALITY: A RENEWED FOCUS AT FPC

BY PASTOR ANDREW GILMAN

Last month at the General Assembly in Memphis Tennessee, one lesson stood out to me above most of the others. Sam Rainer was one of our keynote speakers for the week. He is an author, a statistician, and a pastor. His focus is on church revitalization, outreach and health. One thought he shared stood out above the others to me as I considered our church.

Dr. Rainer said, "The small church must be better at hospitality than the large (mega) church." He gave the illustration of walking into a stadium full of people. As we enter a large venue with many people, we expect a certain level of professionalism and clarity, but we also expect to maintain a certain level of anonymity amidst the thousands of people all around us. On the other hand, the small venue (like a restaurant) would be a place where a high degree of attention must be given to the visitor who comes through the door. To enter a small establishment and to be met with less than warm smiles and an authentic connection would be to fall short of meeting the expectations of the visitor. (Continued on page 8)

KEY DATES

JULY 7

Communion Worship

JULY 4-12

Church Office Closed

JULY 21

Testimony Sunday

JULY 22 & 27

Volleyball Tournament

JULY 29–AUG 1

Scuba Vacation Bible School

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

THE WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

Q. 73. HOW DOES FAITH JUSTIFY A SINNER IN THE SIGHT OF GOD?

A. Faith justifies a sinner in the sight of God only as a tool by which the sinner receives Christ and puts Christ's righteousness into effect,¹ not because of any other grace that accompanies faith and not because of any good works that result from faith.² Nor is it the case that the grace of faith or any action springing from it is imputed to the sinner for his justification.³

1. Jn 1.12, Phil 3.9, Gal 2.16.
2. Gal 3.11, Rom 3.28.
3. Rom 4.5-8, 10.10, Ti 3.5-7.



READING PLAN

WEEK 1 | JULY 1-5

- Psalm 113
- Psalm 114
- Psalm 115
- Psalm 116
- Psalm 117

WEEK 2 | JULY 8-12

- Psalm 118
- Psalm 119
- Psalm 120
- Psalm 121
- Psalm 122

WEEK 3 | JULY 15-19

- Psalm 123
- Psalm 124
- Psalm 125
- Psalm 126
- Psalm 127

WEEK 4 | JULY 22-26

- Psalm 128
- Psalm 129
- Psalm 130
- Psalm 131
- Psalm 132

WEEK 5 | JULY 29-31

- Psalm 133
- Psalm 134
- Psalm 135

YOUR MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 4:4-8

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

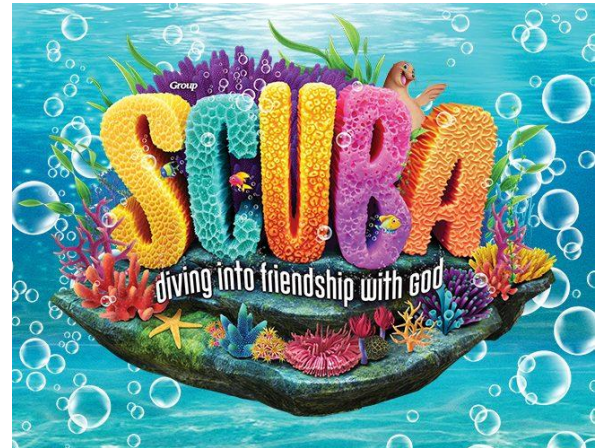
BIRTHDAYS

- 07/01 Randy Tester
- 07/03 Sandra Buschur
- 07/06 Bevin Fields
- 07/07 Didi Howell
- 07/09 Betty Graham
- 07/17 Gloria Horner
- 07/21 Justin Hines
- 07/22 Frank Gilmore
Melanie Koontz
- 07/23 Don Stevenson
- 07/25 Gene Henninger
- 07/26 John Vehre
- 07/30 Hendrik van der Walt

ANNIVERSARIES

- 07/09 Alex & Shannon Thomas
- 07/14 Ed & Cathy Cornell
- 07/23 Justin & Amanda Hines
- 07/25 Augie & Jan Roestamadji
- 07/28 Craig & Susie Leland

EVENTS



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 29 - AUGUST 1, 2024
6PM-8:30PM

Snacks | Crafts | Music | Games
Underwater Bible Adventures

VOLUNTEERS: Sign-ups to serve are now open at the Welcome Desk in the narthex. We need your hands and feet. Please prayerfully consider helping us all week long, or before/after with the setup and teardown. We need station leaders and assistants, help with registration, snacks and games. We are sure there's an area for you! Contact Paige Ervin with any questions about volunteering!

ATTENDEES: Registration is now open online to all Pre-K through 5th graders! See the app for an easy to click link or use the link/code below. (Thank you to an anonymous donor who covered the registration fee for all the participants. Every child can now sign up and attend for free.)

<https://vbspro.events/p/61ee07>



DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OPERATIONS UPDATE

By Paige Ervin

TESTIMONY WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, JULY 21ST

Fall kick-off is Sunday, September 8 and will be here before you know it. Fall kick-off will be the beginning of all our new ministry opportunities. Fall ministry options will be posted in August and will run for 12 weeks from September 8 through November 24. Please begin praying now about what ministries God might have you invest yourself/your family into for those 12 weeks. I invite you to join us for worship on Sunday, July 21st as you hear about what God has been doing and has done in the lives of some of the people who will be leading these classes. If you are interested in being a part of this service in any way, please contact Paige Ervin. Volunteers to pray over the ministries that are being shared are appreciated!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

The church office will be closed July 4 through July 12 as Paige is away on vacation. As a reminder, Pastor Andrew Gilman and his family are away for most of July as they are in South Korea. Fellow EPC Pastors, Andrew Morton and Dan Borgelt, will be filling the pulpit the next two weeks and the congregation will lead worship on the last week before Pastor Andrew returns (See update above.)

BUILDING PLEDGE UPDATE

After a year and a half of the three-year pledge period; \$135,000 of the required \$176,000 (per vote) has been given! Actual pledges came in over \$220,000. Thank you to everyone who has faithfully supported this project! We thank you for keeping your commitments and seeing your pledges through.

FALL RETREAT SAVE THE DATE

EQUIP Greenville is this year's fall retreat. This is a MUST-ATTEND event as we have award-winning author, Zack Eswine with us this year to speak. Registration is now open on the app. The entire day will take place right here at FPC. Join us for an evening worship service the Friday before to kick the weekend off! The retreat itself will take place on Saturday, September 28th from 10am-3pm.

ILLUMINATION CONCERT 2024

Illumination is a Christian music festival that takes place at the Darke County fairgrounds! Their mission is to bring church and/or un-churched people to a place where they can enjoy themselves in a Christian atmosphere while beginning or furthering their relationship with Christ. This year's headliner is Matthew West. Illumination takes place this year on Saturday, September 21st. Save the date today!

GROW OPPORTUNITIES

MEN'S STUDY

The men will meet again on Saturday, July 6th at 8:30am at the church, in The Nook. Their current study, "Transformation" is based off Romans 12:2. Contact Augie R. (906-523-4459) for more details.

WOMEN'S STUDY

The women's study is on break until the fall. However, they will once again do monthly walks together around town. Join the women Saturday, July 13th at 8:45am at the Bish parking lot. You will walk the Greenville creek as a group until about 9:30am and then Jan will lead the group in a devo time inside.

PASTOR'S STUDY

Every Wednesday at 10:30am, Pastor Andrew will continue his study through Ezra in The Nook. All are welcome to attend. (This study will resume in the fall.)

COVER THE CHURCH

In the parlor, this prayer group focuses on praying for FPC, its' Sunday morning worship service and ministries. You are invited to pray silently in the parlor or pray aloud as you feel led. They will meet every Sunday at 9:30am and pray until 9:45am, leaving plenty of time for socializing before church!



PRAYER

Please continue to pray for the following updates from last month.

06/24/2024: Amanda Hines is having a hysterectomy on August 5 with an 8-week recovery time. Please keep Amanda (and her family) in your prayers as this date approaches.

06/17/2024: Please be in prayer for Katie Light. She has been experiencing excruciating pain and is receiving emergency spinal surgery tomorrow.

06/17/2024: Jenny Nord's pain turned out to be a bad bladder infection. However, she is now back home, stable and comfortable. Thank you for your prayers!

06/16/2024: Jan Roestamadji is scheduled to have her gallbladder removed on Wednesday morning. Please keep her in your prayers. Pray for a textbook surgery and recovery!

06/16/2024: Please be in prayer for Dick Nord's daughter, Jenny. She is in the emergency room now for what she believes is kidney issues but does not know that for sure.

06/15/2024: Please pray for Andy Warner, the Assistant Stated Clerk of the Midwest Presbytery, and his wife, Mary. He has been diagnosed with Stage 3 Lung Cancer.

06/13/2024: Please keep George Pierron in your prayers. He suffered a stroke earlier this week and is currently at Wayne Hospital.

06/03/2024: Katie Watern is at the Military Evaluation Processing Station today to see if she gets into the Navy. Pray for a smooth evaluation and a yes answer at the end!



FPC LIFE (CONT. PG. 10)

NOTE OF APPRECIATION

Thank you, Pastor Andy, for the great job you did for Russ. Thanks to Paige for the wonderful job she did putting everything together, which turned out perfectly. Thanks to all the people who helped in the kitchen. Thanks to all who attended the services. I know Russ was proud to see the pews so full. Our family appreciates all of you so much. Last, but not least, we want to thank those who sent cards and gifts. God bless you all. Terri, a big thank you for the wonderful music you provided. Tish, thank you for leading the songs. Russ enjoyed your singing at the "Home" so much! Love, Phyllis (Royer) and Family

GA THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported us financially as we made our first trip to the General Assembly this year. The week was a huge blessing and encouragement to us both. We cannot thank you enough. Love, Kelsey and Paige Ervin

NEW STOVE AND OVEN

Thank you to Randy Tester for finding a new stove for the kitchen to replace our old microwave/stove combo set. It has been a great new asset to the area!

NEW BAPTISM

On Sunday, June 30th, Meeka Conley professed her faith and was baptized in front of the larger body of Christ, and we look forward to seeing her faith mature and blossom in the years to come!

FPC KIDS SPECIAL

EPC KID'S CAMP 2024

A few weeks ago, I went to kid's camp. I had a lot of fun and made some friends! I went swimming and played Gaga ball. I did archery and went fishing, and I caught an 8 1/4" long fish! I slept in a cabin with other boys. We talked and played in our free time. I learned more about God. Our theme for the week was Level Up, in which we leveled up in Christ! My favorite activity was the high ropes, in which you went on a really high up course of ropes in the air. I was scared, but it was really fun! I did a lot more at camp and in summary I had a great time!

By Jonathan Howell

****If you're a parent of any 3rd, 4th or 5th graders, talk to us about how we might help you send your kid to church camp next summer with our fellow EPC churches in the Midwest Presbytery.*

First Presbyterian Church of Greenville Ohio
Minutes of the Session of
May 9, 2024

I. **Opening**

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

The May 2024 stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville was called to order on May 9, 2024 at First Presbyterian Church at 7 PM by Pastor Andrew Gilman. Pastor Gilman opening the meeting with prayer.

Members Present: Pam Bowman, Rebecca Detling, Peter Haviza, Randy Tester and Jan Roestamadji (5). Quorum was met.

Members Absent: Lisa Headley and Craig Leland

Guests: Michele Good

Approval of Agenda A motion was made to approve the agenda with modifications including items related to storm damage by Rebecca Detling and seconded by Pam Bowman. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Minutes Randy Tester motioned to approve the April 2024 minutes. This motion was seconded by Peter Haviza. The motion passed 5-0.

II. **Agenda Items**

Michele Good Testimonial for Church membership Michele presented her testimonial and fielded a few questions from session members. Session members reviewed her request for membership and then a motion was made to accept her request to belong to our church by Peter Haviza and seconded by Pam Bowman. The motion passed 5-0.

Financial Report Jan Roestamadji presented a brief report. Jan mentioned that receipts for April 2024 were in the amount of \$10,153 and YTD receipts had reached \$47,597. Other financial items included \$3,790 for a special offering, 362.00 for benevolence, \$258 for cable advertising, \$362 for community ministry, and \$1,921 for children's ministry festival expenses. A motion was made by Jan Roestamadji to receive the report seconded by Peter Haviza and passing 5-0.

At this point in the meeting a motion was made to go into executive session by Jan Roestamadji. This was seconded by Peter Haviza and passed 5-0. After some discussion session came out of executive session and resumed business.

FYI Funeral Dinner Policy Rebecca Detling submitted possible changes for the current policy. No vote on these changes was taken tonight.

Personnel During the Children’s ministry festival, Tish Shepherd had damage to her sound equipment. She is requesting help to replace the damaged items. Session was open to this and Peter Haviza made a motion to go ahead and replace these items at a price not to exceed \$400.00. This was seconded by Rebecca Detling and the motion passed 5-0.

Education Committee Randy Tester reported on the names of scholarship recipients for this calendar year. He also had an FYI for a new scholarship application form. No vote was taken on these changes.

Pastor’s Report Pastor Gilman submitted a written report, but due to the lateness of the hour, did not orally review these items. Peter Haviza motioned to accept the report seconded by Rebecca Detling. The motion passed 5-0.

Deacon’s Meeting A written Deacon’s report was submitted to session. After reviewing it a motion was made by Jan Roestamadji to accept the report, seconded by Peter Haviza. The motion passed 5-0.

Trust Report Andrew Gilman and Randy Tester mentioned that a meeting will be taking place on May 14, 2024 to work on modifications for the Trust By-Laws. The meeting also may include discussing changes to organizational paperwork, whether or not to keep exiting brokerages and other items.

III. Closing

Prayer. A closing prayer was made by Jan Roestamadji.

Adjournment. Pam Bowman motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Peter Haviza. The motion passed 7-0.

John Vehre

Andrew Gilman

Clerk of Session

Moderator of Session

LEADERSHIP MEETINGS THIS MONTH

DEACONS	(NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024)	7:00PM
STAFF	(NEXT MEETING: TBD)	7:00PM
SESSION	(NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024)	7:00PM

HOSPITALITY: A RENEWED FOCUS (CONT.)

FPC is a small church. We are a friendly church. But we must be self-aware that we are probably most friendly with each other since we have been a part of each other's lives for so many years. We certainly are not unfriendly to the visitor, but I would like to suggest that we have a tremendous opportunity as a congregation to invest in and grow in our ability to be exceptional in our hospitality with visitors. We have already taken some important steps in this direction which will benefit us as we move forward. The Nook ministry is going well and there is a great opportunity to build on what we are doing there.

There is more to hospitality than just the coffee and donuts of course. The ministry of hospitality includes the following components.

- Greeting
- Welcome Desk
- In Service Greeting Time
- The Nook ministry with food and coffee
- Visitor Reception/Special Considerations for Visitors
- Follow Up
- Invite-able Events
- And More...

Now that is quite a list. It seems that the work of becoming a more hospitable congregation is going to take a lot of work. As your pastor, I would like to invite the whole congregation to consider praying for our hospitality ministries at the church. After returning from South Korea I would like to spend some time brainstorming how to grow and invest in this ministry that we hope to launch in Fall 2025.

Prayer is the first spiritual work in seeking to develop as Christians who are committed to being hospitable with the gospel. Here are some ways that you can be in prayer this summer as we try to take practical steps together in this area.

1. Pray for your team

- Spend time praying for the work of hospitality in our congregation.
- Take time to pray that God would give you eyes to see how you are an important part of our church becoming a more hospitable place for visitors.
- Pray that our leaders would be successful in casting that vision to greeters and to the congregation.
- Pray that our church would be able to find creative ways to meet the practical needs of the visitors who come.
- Pray for the volunteers that serve in the ministry to have God's heart for the visitor and that they would be blessed through their acts of service.

2. Pray for your church

- More specifically, pray for our church and its members.
- Pray that each person would see the importance of this work.
- Pray that everyone at FPC would welcome the visitors that God sends.
- Pray that we would have the eyes to see the visitors in their midst.
- Pray that we would get the vision of hospitality as the pastor casts it.
- Pray that we won't put up unnecessary stumbling blocks or barriers to visitors.
- Pray that we would get the vision as we do training meetings for your members.

3. Pray for the invitations your church members make (10 Ways to pray for these invitations)

1. Pray for your potential Guests (Make a list of names to pray for)
2. Pray for the opportunity to arise to invite them to Church
3. Pray for awareness of their need for Christ. They need spiritual thirst
4. Pray for awareness of the opportunity
5. Pray for the courage to invite them to church.

6. Pray for favor that they would accept the invitation.
7. Pray they would follow through and come.
8. Pray that your church would welcome them.
9. Pray that the message and worship would be awe-inspiring
10. Pray that they would hear the message and grow one step closer to God.

4. Pray for your visitors

- You can pray that they would experience the message and worship.
- Pray that they would encounter the Presence of God in the midst of all of that.
- Pray that they would hear the message of the sermon and that they would grow one step closer to God.

- Pray that they would experience the warmth of your congregation, that they would experience the sacred Presence of God as they go through the worship service, and that they would be drawn to come back for a second or third visit.

These are just some ways for all of us at FPC to begin to see ourselves as a key part of how God can reach our family, friends, and neighbors with the love of Christ. I look forward to continuing this conversation with those of you who are feeling led by the Holy Spirit to this exciting ministry. In the meantime, these are some great ways to pray together this summer.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN & BEAMSVILLE

VOLLEYBALL SCHEDULE

J U L Y 2 0 2 4

FP&B @ DAYSTAR

MONDAY, JULY 1, 2024 - 07.30 PM
10031 Hillgrove-Ft Recovery Union City

COMMON GROUNDS @ FP&B

MONDAY, JULY 15, 2024 - 07.30 PM
Hosting at North Park behind Kroger

FP&B VS. (COF OR LW)

MONDAY, JULY 22, 2024 - 07.30 PM
(Tournament Location TBD Friday, July 19)

(WIN MONDAY TO PLAY)

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024 - 09.00 AM
(North Park behind Kroger)

(WIN 9AM GAME TO PLAY)

SATURDAY, JULY 27, 2024 - 1.00PM
(North Park behind Kroger)

FPC LIFE (CONT.)

VOLLEYBALL AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY SNAPSHOTS



JULY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 ● 9am Worship Team Rehearsal ● 9:30am Cover the Church (Pray) ● 10am Worship	Jul 1 ● 7:30pm Volleyball	2	3	4 Office Closed	5	6 ● 8:30am Men's Study
7 Communion Sunday	8 Office Closed ● 7pm Youth Group	9	10	11	12	13 ● 8:45am Women's Walk
14 ● 9am Worship Team Rehearsal ● 9:30am Cover the Church (Pray) ● 10am Worship	15 ● 7:30pm Volleyball	16	17	18	19 Office Closed ● 7:30pm Volleyball	20 Office Closed
21 ● 9am Worship Team Rehearsal ● 9:30am Cover the Church (Pray) ● 10am Worship	22 ● 7pm Youth Group ● 7:30pm Volleyball	23	24	25	26 Office Closed	27 ● 9am Volleyball Tournament
28 ● 9am Worship Team Rehearsal ● 9:30am Cover the Church (Pray) ● 10am Worship	29 Vacation Bible School	30	31	Aug 1 Office Closed	2 ● 6pm First Friday Office Closed	3 ● 8:30am Men's Study

*This calendar can always be found on the app.



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
114 EAST FOURTH STREET
GREENVILLE, OH 45331

PHONE: (937)548-3188
EMAIL: INFO@GREENVILLEPRES.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.GREENVILLEPRES.ORG

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