

FPC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



HOW TO ENJOY YOUR PRESBYTERY EXPERIENCE

This February our First Presbyterian Church has the opportunity to host Midwest Presbytery for the first time since 2017. The Presbytery of the Midwest spans Indiana, Michigan and the Western half of the state of Ohio. There are over 50 member congregations. Each church can send representatives to the Presbytery meeting. Those who are commissioned to vote are called 'Presbyters'. They are made up of Teaching Elders (ordained pastors) and Ruling Elders (the elected elders of each congregation). To keep the assembly within the bounds of balanced representation there should be 2 ruling elders present to vote for each teaching elder. Visitors are welcome and that's where you come in. Keep in mind that only those who have been commissioned by the Session of each church and are on the list as official Presbyters are allowed to vote.

(Continued on page 8)

KEY DATES

FEBRUARY 3

BFB Revitalization Dinner

FEBRUARY 4

Communion Worship
Renovation Reveal Lunch
Officer Ordination/Installation

FEBRUARY 9 & 10

Midwest Presbytery Meeting

FEBRUARY 14

Valentine's Day Dinner
Ash Wednesday Worship

MARCH 16

Renovation Ribbon Cutting

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

THE WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

Q. 66. What union do the elect have with Christ?

A. By their union with Christ, the elect are effectually called¹ by the work of God's grace² so that they are spiritually and mystically, but truly and inseparably, joined to Christ as their head and husband.³

1. 1 Pt 5.10, 1 Cor 1.9.
2. Eph 1.22, 2.6-8.
3. 1 Cor 6.17, Jn 10.28, 15.1-5, Eph 5.23,30.

Q. 67. What is effectual calling?

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's almighty power and grace,¹ by which he (freely motivated only by his special love for the elect and not from anything inherently in them)² at the right time invites and draws them to Jesus Christ by his word and Spirit.³ God enlightens their minds with a saving understanding,⁴ renews their wills⁵ and by his power makes them (even though they are dead in sin) willing and able to answer his call voluntarily and to accept gladly the grace he offers and actually gives.⁶

1. Jn 5.25, Eph 1.18-20, 2 Tm 1.8-9.
2. Ti 3.4-5, Eph 2.4-10, Rom 9.11.
3. 2 Cor 5.20, 6.1-2, Jn 6.44, 2 Thes 2.13-14.
4. Acts 26.18, 1 Cor 2.10,12.
5. Ez 11.19, 36.26-27, Jn 6.45.
6. Eph 2.5, Phil 2.13, Dt 30.6, Jn 6.45.



READING PLAN

WEEK 1 | FEBRUARY 1-2

- Psalm 6
- Psalm 7

WEEK 2 | FEBRUARY 5-9

- Psalm 8
- Psalm 9
- Psalm 10
- Psalm 11
- Psalm 12

WEEK 3 | FEBRUARY 12-16

- Psalm 13
- Psalm 14
- Psalm 15
- Psalm 16
- Psalm 17

WEEK 4 | FEBRUARY 19-23

- Psalm 18
- Psalm 19
- Psalm 20
- Psalm 21
- Psalm 22

WEEK 5 | FEBRUARY 26-29

- Psalm 23
- Psalm 24
- Psalm 25
- Psalm 26

YOUR MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 5:4-8

For you are not a God who delights in wickedness; evil may not dwell with you. The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers. You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But I, through the abundance of your steadfast love, will enter your house. I will bow down toward your holy temple in the fear of you. Lead me, O Lord, in your righteousness because of my enemies; make your way straight before me.

BIRTHDAYS

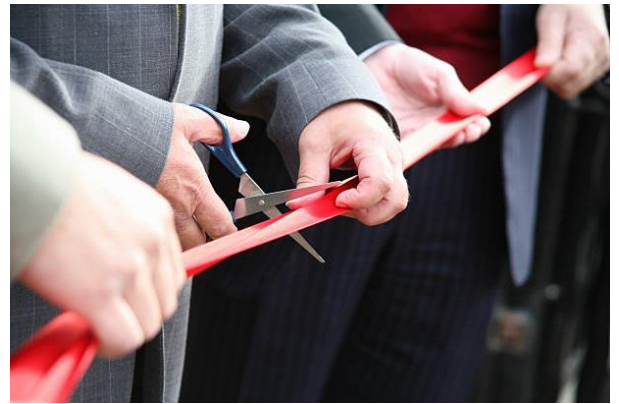
- 02/03 Ruth Gilmore
02/04 Lilly Hayes, Suzi Fischer
02/05 Ally Hayes, Kenny Turner
02/07 Margaret Hayes
02/09 Anna Lee Dickerson
02/14 Michele Good
02/17 Kelsey Ervin
02/22 Ethan Henry
02/23 George Luce
02/24 Alex Vehre
02/25 Betty Small
02/27 Don Boyer, Gloria Boltin

ANNIVERSARIES

- 02/04 Ryan & Bevin Fields
02/09 Donn & Charlene Thornhill



RENO EVENTS



RENOVATION REVEAL

DATE: Sunday, February 4, 2024

TIME: 10am-2pm

Worship with communion will begin at our usual time of 10am. Following worship, we will have the building opened for everyone to tour before lunch. Lunch will be served between 11:30 and 11:45am after a few brief announcements from those involved in the project. We will then ordain and install our new officers for 2024 following lunch (about 1:00pm.) We hope you will join us for a day filled with celebration and bring a friend or two with you too! Our newly elected officers for 2024 are Rebecca Detling, Lisa Headley Kelsey Ervin, Jenna Gilman and Nikki Gilmore.

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY AND OPEN HOUSE

DATE: Saturday, March 16, 2024

TIME: 10am-2pm

This is our BIG community open house. Everyone who did the construction (painting, technology, graphics, cabinets) will be here, along with local representatives and the newspaper. This is the perfect opportunity to invite someone to our church to check it out. After the ribbon cutting, there will be light refreshments served and we invite everyone to tour all the new spaces. Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss it!

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OPERATIONS UPDATE

By Paige Ervin

Starting in 2019 we began to set up a regular calendar of outreach events to young families in our community. This began with bringing back a full week of Vacation Bible School. The following year we made plans for our second annual outreach event to take place every spring, The Festival of the Risen King. However, that had to be postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. In 2022 we finalized our third and final annual outreach event when we kicked off our Christmas Box Dinner. Now, we are in 2024 and this is the first time we will be able to do all three in the same year! We are excited to see how our newly renovated spaces foster better community and relationship building at these events. Please mark your calendars now so you can play a part! Festival of the Risen King: Saturday, April 27th; Scuba VBS: Monday, July 29th - Thursday, August 1st; Christmas Box Dinner: Saturday, December 14th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MIDWEST PRESBYTERY MEETING

Business will begin on Friday, February 9th at 1pm. It will begin again on Saturday, February 10th at 8:30am. We encourage you all to attend dinner (5:30pm) and worship (7:00pm) with us Friday night. (There is an additional worship service Saturday morning you are invited to as well.) The sign-up to serve over the weekend is available in the hallway and on the app. Dinner is free for all volunteers or \$15 for anyone just coming for dinner and worship. (Please RSVP.) More details about Presbytery and how to make the most of this weekend can be found in Pastor Andrew's article on pages 1 and 8.

ASH WEDNESDAY DINNER

Ash Wednesday is on Valentine's Day this year and the youth have something special in store for you! They would like to treat you to a very sweet dinner cooked with lots of love. Reservations are required for the dinner and can be made in the hallway behind the sanctuary and on the app. (No reservation is required if you are just attending worship.) You will be seated with those you sign-up, and this event isn't exclusive to couples by any means! So, chat with your friends/family first, so the proper number of seats are reserved with your names. Mark your calendars now for dinner and worship on Wednesday, February 14th. Doors will open at 5:30pm. Worship begins at about 7pm. All donations for the night will go towards the Youth's mission trip fund for 2025!

CAST YOUR CARES CHALLENGE

The challenge is for you to submit a weekly, personal, prayer request via the app (or the offering boxes) to Pastor Andrew. We encourage you to use the offertory time to submit your request each week.

GROW OPPORTUNITIES

MEN'S STUDY

The men will meet again on Saturday, February 3rd at 8:30am at the church, in the parlor. Their current study, "Transformation" is based off Romans 12:2. Contact Augie R. (906-523-4459) for more details.

WOMEN'S STUDY

The women will meet again on Saturday, March 9th at 8:15am at the church in the parlor. Contact Jan Roestamadji (937-692-6404) for more details. (*There will be no study in February due to Presbytery.*)

PASTOR'S STUDY

Every Wednesday at 10:30am, Pastor Andrew will continue his study through II Kings. All are welcome to attend. This study takes place in the church parlor.

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.

January 2023 Prayer Requests:

01/22/2024: Sandra Jean Brawley, age 87, of Greenville, Ohio passed away on Friday, January 19, 2024, at the BRC. A celebration of life will occur Saturday, January 27, 2024, at 3:00 PM, Greenville, Ohio with Pastor Todd Reish officiating. A visitation for Sandra will be held Saturday, January 27, 2024, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM at Zechar Bailey Funeral Home, Greenville, Ohio 45331. A burial will occur at Silent Home Cemetery, Reynoldsburg, OH at a later date.

01/21/2024: Please keep Elaine Hawley (and Dan) in your prayers. She goes in for total knee replacement surgery tomorrow just after 1pm. Your prayers are appreciated!

01/17/2023: Please be in prayer for Mark Howell's grandma, Karen. She fell and is at the hospital recovering. She already has many health issues and has trouble getting around. And her husband, Jim, has a hard time caring for her.

01/17/2023: Please be in prayer for Dale and Anna Lee Dickerson as they begin the process of downsizing.

01/11/2024: Baby Noah Sheldon was admitted to the hospital today. He can be better treated for his symptoms there. Your continued prayers as he fights off RSV are appreciated.

01/11/2024: Please be in prayer for Beth Vehre. She currently has Covid. She would also appreciate your prayers for Don, Bev, John, and Paul, that they do not catch it.

01/09/2024: Please be in prayer for Russ Royer as he currently has Covid. Your prayers are also appreciated for Barb Lachat as she is battling Shingles.

01/08/2024: Please be praying for Noah Sheldon, Jocelyn's grandson, as he has tested positive for RSV. He is very vulnerable having just been released from the NICU.

FPC LIFE

OFFICER THANK YOU

We want to extend a special thank you to our elders and deacon who finished their terms at the end of January 2024. Thank you, Wes Jetter (elder), Helen Miller (elder) and Patti Jetter (deacon) for your service to the Session and Board of Deacons.

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

Thank you to our elders, deacon officers and staff who submitted reports for this year's Annual Meeting. The reports were well written and did a great job of recapping 2023 at FPC. Thank you again and thank you to everyone who stuck around and attended the meeting as well.

FURNISHINGS COMMITTEE

Thank you to Pam, Kelsey, Paige, Amanda, and Jan for all their work in preparing the final look for the reno. It'll all come together Feb 4th!



FPC KIDS SPECIAL

By Randall Ervin

Look to hear from another one of our FPC Kids next month!

MY FIRST TIME SKIING

My name is Randall, and I am 2.5 years old! After Christmas I went on vacation with my family to Boyne Mountain in Michigan. There wasn't much snow this year, but that didn't stop me from hitting the slopes! I did my first run ever with the help of Uncle Gaber and some encouragement from Pops. It was fun, but exhausting for my little legs. I plan to try again next year!



First Presbyterian Church of Greenville Ohio
Minutes of the Session of
December 14, 2023

I. **Opening**

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

The December 2023 stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville was called to order on December 14, 2023, at First Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM by Pastor Andrew Gilman. Pastor Gilman opening the meeting with prayer.

Members Present: Pam Bowman, Wes Jetter, Jan Roestamadji, Peter Haviza, Craig Leland, and Randy Tester (6)

Members Absent: Helen Miller

Guests: None

Approval of Agenda A motion was made to approve the docket by Pam Bowman and seconded by Peter Haviza. The motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Minutes Wes Jetter motioned to approve the November 2023 minutes with a few minor revisions This motion was seconded by Jan Roestamadji. The motion passed 6-0.

II. **Agenda Items**

Presbytery Meeting This meeting will be taking place in our church, early in February. Pastor Gilman canvassed the session to see who might be interested in representing our session at the meeting. All current members still on session in 2024 indicated being able to attend, while Rebecca Detling and Lisa Headley will be contacted later to see if they desire to attend as well. A motion was made to commission these elders for the meeting by Jan Roestamadji and seconded by Randy Tester. Motion passes 6-0.

FYI Vision Casting for 2024 Pastor Gilman presented a 4 point written agenda of possible future 2024 options for the church. The 4 points included Inviting family and friends, equipping the saints, event preparation and participation and discipling the next generation of leaders. These points were orally presented at the meeting and a more detailed written version was included in the agenda.

Financial Report Craig Leland presented a financial report that included a budget for 2024. He also mentioned that the first of four payments to Bruns construction had been made in November. This amount was \$149,500. He also indicated that \$95,314 had been withdrawn from investment funds to cover these costs, with the remainder being made up from funds collected for the project. He indicated that currently pledges for the project have reached \$206,000, although of course not all these funds are immediately available since some pledges are coming in over a period of 3 years. Turning away from renovation costs, the church took in \$10,193 in November and year to date receipts now stand at \$130,036. There were no other unusual costs in November. Randy Tester motioned to accept this report, seconded by Pam Bowman and passing 6-0.

2024 Budget After the financial report Craig then discussed the budget for 2024. The proposal is for \$275,542. After some discussion on various fine points in the proposal, Jan Roestamadji motioned to accept this budget, seconded by Pam Bowman and passing 6-0. *At this point (8:30 PM) Pam Bowman had to leave for other obligations leaving 5 session members to vote on remaining items.*

Building Randy Tester will be undertaking an evaluation of our current vendors and will be consulting with Ben, Don Lockhart and Justin Hines on this and other future projects as a panel. Randy anticipates that these panel discussions will take place in February, May, August, and November.

Calendar Andrew presented a calendar of possible events at our church in 2024. Events listed on it will occur in February, June, July, and August.

Pastor's Report (Andrew Gilman – written submission) Pastor Gilman submitted a written report of his activities for November. Again, due to the lateness of the hour, he skipped a detailed oral summation. Peter Haviza motioned to accept the report, seconded by Wes Jetter, and passing by a margin of 5-0.

Deacon's Meeting No Deacon's report was submitted this month.

III. Closing

Prayer. A closing prayer was made by Randy Tester.

Adjournment. Jan Roestamadji motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Craig Leland and the motion passed 5-0.

John Vehre

Andrew Gilman

Clerk of Session

Moderator of Session

LEADERSHIP MEETINGS THIS MONTH

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| DEACONS | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 | 7:00PM |
| SESSION | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 | 7:00PM |
| WORSHIP | THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 | 10:00AM |

HOW TO ENJOY PRESBYTERY (CONT.)

The meeting will begin at 1PM on Friday February the 9th. Most members of the assembly will begin to filter in between noon and 1 o'clock. Upon arrival you will want to stop by our new welcome desk in the narthex. There, you can sign in as a guest and receive a nametag. If you would like to see an agenda of the business items for the day you can sign in on our new church Wi-Fi (throughout the building) to view the itinerary. The itinerary will have various committee reports scheduled for the day.

These reports follow the four strategic initiatives of the denomination. They are as follows: Church Planting, Church Health, World Outreach, and Effective Biblical Leadership. These reports are given by the committee representatives.

Generally there are not many issues to vote on in these reports. They are primarily to update the churches regarding all of the various ministry initiatives taking place in the denomination and throughout the world. Each report will begin with prayer before proceeding with the relevant material for the presbyters. During these reports people are free to get up and move about. Sometimes they are invited to ask questions of the committees as well. The people who come up to the microphone to speak in the way, will first identify themselves as an official presbyter by stating their office (TE or RE) and then what church they have been commissioned from.

If you do find yourself wanting to step out for a breather you can fill up on coffee in the nook just outside of the sanctuary or have a seat in the fellowship hall. The feed from the meeting will be playing on the screens throughout the building so that you can follow and choose when to rejoin the proceedings. The volunteers from our church will be involved in keeping the coffee urns overflowing and the snack baskets full. Feel free to enjoy as many beverages or snacks as you like.

While you are hanging out, feel free to strike up a conversation with other Christian brothers and sisters from the various churches who are in attendance. Many of them will be enjoying their day in conversation with each other.

There will also be a few tables set up with materials from various ministries and mission organizations. These are there to keep the pastors and elders informed as to what ministry opportunities are available. The meeting takes place between 1PM and 5:30 PM with the occasional recess for refreshment. After the business for the day is completed we will prepare for a meal together in the fellowship hall.

Our own Rebecca Detling is working with various members of the church to put this meal on. The cost of the meal is \$15 per person, and we hope you will sign up ahead of time to join us. You can sit with others from church or with new friends you meet at Presbytery. The time is quite enjoyable and God often forges wonderful friendships over food and drink. We don't get meals and evenings like this often so please take advantage of this wonderful evening God is setting before you as you can.

After dinner, we will return to the sanctuary for evening worship. This is the highlight of the day, no offense to Rebecca's amazing skills in the kitchen. The chance to worship with pastors and elders from across the region is truly a blessing. You may want to get a seat early if you plan on claiming your normal Sunday morning spot. Terri Fryman will begin a prelude 10 minutes ahead of the service.

After evening worship, the assembly adjourns for the day and the pastors and elders retreat to their hotel rooms. A smaller contingent of friends may go out for some fellowship before heading to bed. The weekend continues the next morning at 8:00AM. There will be fruit, pastries, coffee and juice available at the church for breakfast. Thank you, Deacons, for your service to the group on behalf of the church.

Our day will begin with worship at 8:30am. A candidate for ordination will take his turn preaching before the assembly. It is a nerve racking experience for some young ministers to speak in front of colleagues in this manner. After morning worship, the meeting resumes. There will

HOW TO ENJOY PRESBYTERY (CONT.)

be a few more reports and some votes to take before we finish at noon.

All in all, this is an opportunity to participate in an assembly that has its roots in the 1700s (in the earliest days of Presbyterianism in America) and even before back in Scotland. The experience of being at Presbytery is one that God will use to open our eyes to the work He is doing in the church across the region, in the denomination, and all over the world. We know this is happening as we say it out loud, but when we see it in action

through the voices of the elders it takes on special significance and a tangible quality of God's hand working in our world.

We hope you will join us on February 9th and 10th for the Presbytery of the Midwest's winter meeting. It will be an excellent time to see the updates to the building in action, but more so a time of joy, rest, worship and learning in the church. Thanks again to all of you for signing up to help as well. With great love for all of you; your proud pastor Andrew Gilman.

The collage consists of six distinct promotional graphics arranged in a 2x3 grid:

- Top Left:** A hand holding a smartphone displaying a QR code. Text: "DOWNLOAD OUR App" (with "App" in script), "STAY UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHURCH", and "FPCGreenville.ChurchTrac.com".
- Top Right:** A hand playing a guitar. Text: "SHARE YOUR GIFTS" and "SIGN-UP FOR AN OFFERTORY ON THE APP TODAY".
- Middle Left:** A communion cup on a table. Text: "COMMUNION" and "FIRST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH".
- Middle Right:** An open Bible on a wooden surface. Text: "Bible Study" and "Wednesdays at 10:30am".
- Bottom Left:** People shaking hands in a chapel. Text: "CHAPEL" (with a location pin icon), "Cover the Church" (in script), and "SUNDAYS 9:30AM".
- Bottom Right:** Hands clasped in prayer. Text: "CAST YOUR CARES CHALLENGE" and "DON'T FORGET TO SUBMIT YOUR WEEKLY PRAYER REQUEST".



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

LIVE THE

Story of Redemption

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



COME



GROW



BECOME