

# PresbyTidings

June 2018

*Our mission is to be an extension of God's hands, helping and nurturing all of God's people.  
We worship together as brothers and sisters of the First Presbyterian Church,  
joined by the word of Jesus and the limitless love of God.*

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From the Pastor's Desk,

I dared everyone in my last Newsletter to get the book *Transforming Church* and read it. How'd you do?

Those of you that haven't read the book or are waiting for them to return back to the office; I am going to highlight the book as we go through the process. As I might have told some, I spoke with Kevin Graham Ford and expressed to him that he had written about my last 18 years in ministry in his book. I asked Kevin jokingly, if he had GPS and was following me, because what he wrote about in this book, I have experienced in ministry in the four churches I've served.

In the first chapter of the book there is a list called *Transforming Church Checkup* in the beginning of the chapter. As you read the list below think about how we might grow beyond where you might think we are in regards to this list.

The first chapter in Kevin's book gives us five indicators that help us evaluate the health of our church.

1. Are members at your church experiencing authentic life change?
2. Does our church have a clear sense of mission while embracing it, and a compelling vision for the future?
3. Does our church embrace change to fulfill its mission more effectively?
4. Are your leaders successfully mentoring and mobilizing your members for ministry?
5. Is your church effective in transforming your local community, town, or city?

Reading this initial checkup list, I felt it important that those at First Presbyterian know and review these key indicators. We must be able to answer them affirmatively. Can we do that presently?

The next question is—will our leadership relish the chance to help lead our members with the guidance of the Holy Spirit? Will we embrace transformation and be open to what it brings? I believe we will. TAG said they discovered that the survey statement: "Changes are readily embraced by our congregation" received the sixth lowest affirmative score out of the 110 questions asked on the survey.

TAG will enable us to identify the underlying causes of the problems we will face. We must be open to challenging the norms of culture, which have embedded themselves in the church. The norms need challenged so that hidden values emerge. This is what TAG will help us discern in our next retreat.

However, this endeavor is just the tip of the iceberg of all we will have to do as leaders and members of our church.

So may the Holy Spirit guide us in all that we say and do to understand the imperatives that welcome change for us to experience transformation and enable us to live into and work our mission, through a discerned compelling vision we develop. The courage to change, to be mentors and mobilizers, so we will be able to effectively transform our community will be done through the guide of the Holy Spirit our Helper.

I'll see everyone in worship. Godspeed.  
In His Enduring Love, Hal

## MAY 2018 SESSION DEVOTIONAL

AN OLD HASIDIC tale summarizes the need to move from solitude to community in the spiritual life in order to find our true home in the world.

### —*Darkness and the Dawn*—

The rabbi asked his students: “How can we determine the hour of dawn, when the night ends and the day begins?”

One of the rabbi’s students suggested “When from a distance you can distinguish between a dog and a sheep?”

“No,” was the answer of the rabbi.

“It is when one can distinguish between a fig tree and a grapevine?” asked a second student.

“No,” the rabbi said.

“Please tell us the answer then,” said the students.

“It is then,” said the wise teacher, “when you can look into the *face* of another human being and you have enough light in you to recognize your brother or your sister. Until then it is night, and the darkness is still with us.”

Henry Nouwen goes on to say in his eight chapter of his book *Spiritual Direction*:

”The spiritual journey moves us from solitude to community and to ministry as we follow Jesus.”

- What does the reflection say to you as a spiritual leader?
- Where as a church/session do we need to move spiritually?

Thought for this month: How church members relate to each other. Unhealthy churches are a collection of people acting individually, while healthy churches relate as a community. We call this *consumerism vs. community*.

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## PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Maumee Valley Presbytery has set the Per Capita at **\$30.98** per member for 2018 ecclesiastical expenses, which is apportioned as follows:

General assembly	\$7.73
Synod of the Covenant	\$3.25
Maumee Valley Presbytery	\$20.00

If you would like to pay your per capita for 2018 please mark your check, or envelope, to reflect the per capita amount paid and put it in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Thank you!

This

Do In Remembrance of Me... Luke 22:19

## Communion Sunday

June 3, 2018

Holy Communion will be served during our Worship Service

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Join us this **Sunday, June 3**, and the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, in bringing the love of Jesus to those who cannot come to our services. A small team from First Presbyterian Church goes with Pastor Hal to share God's Word, love, and compassion with the residents at **VanCrest** at **2:30PM**. This is a great opportunity to share your faith through action, and the residents are so appreciative!

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### Just some of the **Special Events** coming up in June:

- 3 – **Special Music – Karen Koch**
- 10 - **David VanTilburg will be playing the organ  
Special Music**
- 17 – **Special Music**
- 24 – **Special Music – Will Hawkins**

Our Daily Bread devotional booklets for June – July-August are located at our three entrances. Please feel free to take one for yourself and one for a friend.

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## Personnel Committee News

With sadness we are announcing the resignation of Cheryl Gigler, Choir Director. We appreciate Cheryl's direction over the past nine months and wish her well.

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# JUNE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Budget** - **Tuesday, May 8 at 12 pm**
- Deacons** - **Thursday, May 10 at 7pm**
- Missions** - **Tuesday, May 8 at 5pm**
- Session** - **Tuesday, May 22 at 7pm**
- Trustees** - **Wednesday, May 9 at 5:30pm**
- Worship** - **Wednesday, May 2 at 6pm**

# MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

## **May 9, 2018, Van Wert Salvation Army Wed Noon Meal**

The Van Wert Salvation Army Mission, 120 N. Cherry St, free Wednesday noon community meal was on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Thirty four meals were served. The meal menu was: Spaghetti, Garlic Bread, Tossed Salad, Applesauce, Cheesecake, Beverage.

Volunteer servers from the First Presbyterian Church were Earl Green, and Fred Early, along with 3 other volunteers from Van Wert.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to enjoy Christian fellowship and share Christian love with our hands.

We have committed to help serve the Wednesday noon meal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. 4 volunteer servers from the First Presbyterian Church are needed to serve 10:30AM – 12:30 PM.

Our next serving day is Wednesday, June 13, 2018. The signup sheet for June servers is located on our Missions bulletin board in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early  
Missions Committee

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## **Our April 2018 support of the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen**

### **Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Mission 125 S. Central Ave, Lima, Ohio**

Our April 2018 serving day was Wednesday, April 26th.  
Meals were served to 115 people.

Seven Volunteers from Van Wert who served were: Joyce Harrow, Lois Harrow, Leslie Wilkin, Janet Crummey, Earl Green, Dianna Early, and Fred Early. Other volunteer helpers in the kitchen and dining room included a group of critical care nurses from the Lima hospitals, and a couple from a Lima church.

A short Scripture lesson and prayer of thanks was followed by a meal of delicious choices: Turkey & Noodles, Hamburgers, Green Beans, Corn, Tossed Salad, Cucumber Salad, cupcakes, beverage.

The noon meal is served from 10:30AM until 12:00Noon. Bible study is offered at 1:00PM every Wednesday.

We took 4 packages of cooked, frozen shredded turkey, and two bags of clothing.

After serving, the volunteers enjoyed fellowship and lunch at the Kewpee Restaurant.

Our next serving day is Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The signup sheet for May is posted in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early  
Missions Committee

## Our May 2018 support of the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

Our May 2018 serving day was Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
Meals were served to 152 people.

Seven Volunteers from Van Wert who served were: Leslie Wilkin, Janet Crummey, Earl Green, Louie Crow, Dianna Early, and Fred Early.

A short Scripture lesson and prayer of thanks was followed by a meal of delicious choices including: Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Tossed Salad, Baked Beans, Corn, Green Beans, Banana, Cup Cakes, Beverage.

The noon meal is served from 10:30AM until 12:00Noon. Bible study is offered at 1:00PM every Wednesday.

After serving, the volunteers enjoyed fellowship and lunch at Panera Bread Restaurant.

Our next serving day is Wednesday, June 27. The signup sheet for June is posted in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early  
Missions Committee

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## Mission Committee Garden Highlights

One of the more visible missions of our church is the community garden. The church garden has been planted with both plants and seeds. Once again there are vegetables, herbs and flowers. It is looking very good – as long as the squirrels stop digging!! Am sure Seth & Anna can relate to the squirrels too.

Again, this year the children from the YWCA Summer Food Program will visit at 10:30 a.m. on Thursdays beginning June 21<sup>st</sup> thru July 26<sup>th</sup>, a total of five visits this summer. The program director and I would like to have a volunteer at the garden to speak to the children about growing their own food and about the nutritional value of growing vegetables. If you would like to volunteer or have a suggestion, please contact me.

The YWCA Summer Food Program will be extending their days on Tuesdays and Thursdays to allow the children pool time and instruction in conjunction with the YMCA. If you are interested in financially donating to the Summer Food Program, you may contact the YWCA at 419-238-6639.

The vegetables not taken by the Summer Food Program are given to the Salvation Army for distribution. If you would like anything from the garden, please help yourselves – it is there to feed all of God's children.

Blessings to each of you for your support,  
Dianna Early

**Be the hands and feet of Jesus within our community, see you at the garden.**

# In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- ~ Vern Adams
- ~ Carrie and Cherrie Evans
- ~ Cheri Exline
- ~ Ethel Johnson
- ~ Susan McNeill

*To keep our list current, names will be listed for six weeks unless notified. Please call or email the church office.*

## Serving in our Military

### ★ Captain

Cassandra Bullock, US Army, San Antonio, TX (daughter of Tom & Leslie Wilkin)

★ SPC Spencer Creekmore, US Army Reserves (son of Chirs & Diana Creekmore)

★ Lt. Colonel Eric Doctor, Air Force, Colorado Springs (son-in-law of Louie & Diana Crow)

★ Airman Jarrett Krick, Air Force, stationed in Korea (son of Brett & Annette Krick)

★ 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Ashley Mohr, US Army, stationed in Germany (daughter of Jim & Rhonda Mohr)

★ Lucas Myers, United States Navy, stationed in Bahrain (grandson of Larry & Linda Stutz)

★ Chaplain Matthew Purmort, United States Navy (nephew of Laurie Purmort)

★ Philip Schwartz (nephew of Jean Ringwald)

★ Lieutenant Colonel Jason Toole, US Army, Anchorage, Alaska (husband of Heather Wilkin-Toole and son-in-law of Tom & Leslie Wilkin)

*If you have a family member serving in the military, please submit their names to the church office.*

## THE READ & REVIEW BOOK CLUB

The books for the 2018-2019 Book Club have been selected and revealed. If you would like to get a head start and enjoy some summer reading, check out these books:

September 13	<i>Wonder</i> by RJ Palacio
	<i>The Miracle Season</i> by Kathy Bresnahan
October 4	<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i> by Celeste Ng
November 1	<i>One Thousand White Women</i> by Jim Fergus
December 6	<i>Winter Garden</i> by Kristen Hannah
January	NO MEETING
February 7	<i>Dandelion Summer</i> by Lisa Wingate
March 7	<i>The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper</i> by Phaedra Patrick
April 4	<i>The Buddha In The Attic</i> by Julie Otsuka
May 2	<i>A House In The Sky</i> by Amanda Lindhout

Mark your calendar to join us at noon for the monthly book club discussions.

# June Birthdays!

01	<b>Steve Harter</b> PO Box 444, VWO		636 S. Washington St., VWO
02	<b>Ann Ayres</b> 1106 S. Walnut Street, VWO		<b>Colin Smith</b> 1045 Elm St, VWO
03	<b>Richard E. Evans</b> 10922 Liberty Union Rd VWO		<b>Kyra Welch</b> 809 S Washington St., VWO
	<b>Nick Ragan</b> 7975 Kreisler Rd. Ohio City 45874	21	<b>Ashley &amp; Jordan Mohr</b> 10963 US Rt.127 South, VWO
06	<b>Barbara Everidge</b> 14769 Clayton Rd., Ohio City OH 45874	22	<b>Nathan Adams</b> 5549 Convoy Rd. Convoy 45832
08	<b>Richard Lewis Eberle III</b> 615 N Washington St., VWO	23	<b>Louis Allen Crow III</b> 12664 Middle Point Wetzel Rd Delphos OH 45833
	<b>Felicia Quaintance</b> 5660 Mercer Rd. Mendon 45862		<b>Nina Ragan</b> 1009 Indian Hill Drive, VWO
09	<b>Susan Ringwald</b> 608 S Washington St., VWO	26	<b>Jacob Logan</b> <b>Chris Sheehan</b> 825 State Street, VWO
10	<b>Elizabeth Purmort Saldutti</b>	27	<b>Stanley Sheehan</b> 825 State Street, VWO
13	<b>Christine Heizman</b> 650 S. Washington St., VWO	28	<b>Nathan Conrad</b> 1317 Kathy St., VWO
14	<b>Leslie Wilkin</b> 1121 S. Walnut Street, VWO		<b>Allan Runser</b> 1009 S Walnut Street, VWO
16	<b>Randy Baer</b> 415 S Chestnut St., VWO	29	<b>Kaden Baer</b> c/o Stacey Baer Shultz Huber Assoc. 595 Fox Rd., VWO
	<b>Matthew Heizman</b> 650 S. Washington St., VWO		<b>Jade Ellen Osenbaugh</b> 845 Allingham Street, VWO
20	<b>Mary Dietsch</b> 10409D McConahay Rd., VWO		
	<b>Shane Early</b>		
20	<b>Kendra Parrish</b>		

## Celebrating June Anniversaries!

4	Rick & Nancy Eberle 615 N. Washington St., VWO	13	Ken & Marilyn Merkle 8322 Richey Rd., VWO
8	Tim & Sandy Adams 10715 Liberty Union Rd., VWO	23	Seth & Anna Baker 401 S. Washington, VWO

***Please contact the church office (419-238-3670) if there are any changes to be made on the birthday list, have a change of address, etc.***

# June 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Liturgist: Billy Knoll					1  Girl Scout lock-in 6pm	2  Girl Scout lock- in until noon AA 8pm
3 <b>Communion</b> Special Music – Karen Koch  Van Crest 2:30 p	4  AA 8pm	5	6  Trustee Mtg 5:30	7  Deacon Mtg 7p  AA & AI Anon 8p	8	9  AA 8pm
10 Organ: David VanTilburg Special Music	11  AA 8pm	12 Missions Mtg 5p	13 Salvation Army 10:45-12:30  Memorial Committee Meeting 12p	14  AA & AI Anon 8p	15	16  AA 8pm
17  Special Music  HAPPY FATHER'S Day!	18  AA 8pm	19	20	21  AA & AI Anon 8p	22	23  AA 8pm
24 Special Music – Will Hawkins	25  AA 8pm	26 Session 7pm	27 Soup Kitchen Serving Day 9am (Lima)	28  AA & AI Anon 8p	29	30  AA 8pm