

# Presby Tidings

**MAY 2017**

*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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First Presbyterian Church  
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## **From the Pastor's Desk:**

We are in a period of the Christian year that is spectacular—the Sundays after Easter. Our Scripture lectionary passages disclose the verses that witness to the risen Christ and to the disciples, those 500 who Jesus witnessed to, and us as we read the accounts. What a wonderful period for us all—that is if we are not too busy to also have those—God moments in prayer, reflection and witness.

I was talking to a Christian friend of mine and wished him happy Easter after Easter Sunday's celebration. I don't hear that greeting too often after Easter during the Sundays of Easter. Not many say Happy Easter after the celebration of Easter day is over. My friend said back to me after my Happy Easter greeting, "Happy belated Easter". He is a Christian, and his response made me think that maybe he didn't understand that Easter's joy, in the resurrected promise of Jesus's appearance, follows us for 40 Days.

Why did Jesus take forty days after His resurrection to show Himself to His disciples and others? One could say that is how long it took. But that might be too simple. There was more to it. As scripture states, there are ten accounts of Jesus showing Himself to His followers. I believe, as do many commentators, that these forty days coincide with the forty years the

Israelites were in the wilderness. Anytime the Bible depicts forty days, like the time Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, the days relates to God's support to the Israelites, and those forty years it took them to get to the promised land. Jesus took His time to appear, but He also associated Himself with the festival of Harvest that led up to the sacrifices on Pentecost Day in the Old Testament.

It was a time of thanksgiving for the Jews to their God Jehovah, for all they were given, that not only in the 40 years, but in the forty days of resurrection promise. Only God could have done for the Israelites in the desert so they could live and exist. And only God can save us today as His children.

Thus, Jesus came at a time when the people were to associate Him in His resurrected body as the one that defeated sin and death—again only that which God could have done. As our Lord led the Israelites, He leads us to understand that if we live in Him, our reward in heaven is great. Because it is in Christ we receive the promise of eternal life.

The comment from my friend was concerning. It initiated this newsletter. The comment, coming from a Christian, tells me that he had no idea that Easter continued for forty days after Easter.

My friend thought I was giving him a belated Easter when I said Happy Easter to him. He didn't understand that my greeting of Happy Easter was a remittance of the continuance of the resurrected Jesus in our lives and in us. Many today might not understand the greeting in the weeks of Easter is not a belated greeting, but the joy of our reward in Heaven.

My friend told me he didn't know that that greeting was continued on in the forty days after our Easter celebration. It made me feel good I could open up to him and convey that Easter does not end until Pentecost, and as Christians, it continues in us every day of our lives with the Holy Spirit and Christ in us.

Happy Easter is never belated; it is always related to our everyday living with each other as we witness God-moments in fellowship.

May God continue to bless you and keep you in His Easter hold and may the resurrection of our Lord live in you today and always.

I'm looking forward to spectacular worships together as we praise our Living God. See all in service.

In His Loving Embrace,  
Hal

Please enjoy the following devotion that was shared in Session's meeting in April:

## Upcoming Meetings:

- |                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| ✓ Worship Committee       | Wednesday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup> @ 6PM     |
| ✓ CCE                     | Thursday, May 4 <sup>th</sup> @ 7PM      |
| ✓ Missions                | Tuesday, May 9 <sup>th</sup> @ 5PM       |
| ✓ Trustees                | Wednesday, May 10 <sup>th</sup> @ 5:30PM |
| ✓ Deacons                 | Thursday, May 11 <sup>th</sup> @ 7PM     |
| ✓ Presbytery Meeting (MI) | Tuesday, May 16 <sup>th</sup> @ 3PM      |
| ✓ Sessions                | Tuesday, May 16 <sup>th</sup> @ 7PM      |

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Loose Collection will now go to the Audio/Video Fund until the end of 2017.

*One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offering* was received on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your giving of \$133. By your giving, you joined God's call to feed the hungry, to aid and shelter people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression.

## **66<sup>th</sup> Annual National Day of Prayer May 4, 2017**

The **Read & Review First Presbyterian Church Book Club** shall take a field trip this Thursday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, to visit Gene Stratton Porter's home/museum in Geneva, IN. The group shall depart from the First Presbyterian Church's parking lot at 10AM, head to Berne for an early lunch and a little shopping, then on to Geneva to see the birds at the prairie area, weather permitting, and conclude with a cabin tour at 2PM. Price for this 45-minute escorted cabin tour is \$5. Please make a reservation by this Wednesday to the church office at 238-3670 or please call Karen Koch at 238-5135.

***Our Daily Bread*** devotional booklets for March-April-May are located at our three entrances. Please feel free to take one for yourself and one for a friend.

This Do In Remembrance of Me . . .

Luke 22:19

Holy Communion will be served in our  
Worship Service on Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

We invite you to join us this Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, in our special **Covenant Service**. Pastor Harry Tolhurst, a member of our church, will be delivering the message.

**Let us break bread together!** Our **carry-in** is this Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, after service. Bring a dish and join us in the Fellowship Hall to share food for the body, just as our souls will be fed during the worship service, and to enjoy a time of fellowship! This will be our last carry-in, as there will be no carry-in during the summer.

Join us this Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, and the first 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** @ 2:30PM. This is a great opportunity to share your faith through action, and they are so appreciative of our efforts!

*Voice Class every Tuesday at 11AM*

*(Please note last day of Voice Class before Summer is May 16<sup>th</sup>.  
You may see David Van Tilburg, Chancel Choir Director, for details.)*

*Rehearsals every Wednesday:*

*Bell Choir @ 6:45PM (please see Anna Baker for details)*

*Chancel Choir @ 7:30PM*

*(Please note last evening of choir rehearsal is May 17<sup>th</sup>.)*



## Christ's Ministry – 14

St. Stephen was selected by his community for chores at the prompting by the Apostles. Stephen later preached boldly of Christ, with some accusing him of blasphemy before the council. At the hearing, Stephen stated “You stiff-neck people, un-circumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the holy spirit, just as your ancestors used to do.” Stephen became the first Christian martyr to die for his faith.

*Presby Tiding Feature: May 2017*

Audio not working?:

<http://vwpresby.org/tour/north/8leftaudio.htm>

Apple download:

<http://www.apple.com/quicktime/download/>

We have on our church website both a web and printable version of our church history.

Web version:

<http://vwpresby.org/tour/history.htm>

Print version:

<http://vwpresby.org/tour/history.pdf>

Be sure to check out our website:

[church@vwpresby.org](mailto:church@vwpresby.org)

Our church hosted the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Trio on March 26<sup>th</sup>. To view the 5-minute video:

<http://vwpresby.org/concert.htm>



Have a Facebook account? Be sure to “Like” **First Presbyterian Church of Van Wert, Ohio** on Facebook!

## **MISSION COMMITTEE NEWS**

### **April 12, 2017 Van Wert Salvation Army Wednesday Noon Meal Mission**

The Van Wert Salvation Army Mission, 120 N. Cherry St., Wednesday noon free meal on April 12<sup>th</sup> served over 35 people. The menu was large with toasted cheese sandwiches, potato salad, fruit serving, and cake and cupcakes for dessert.

Volunteer servers from the First Presbyterian Church were: Fred Early, Shirley Hillier, Doug Parrish, Pam Purmort, and Michelle White.

We enjoyed fellowship with the clients and each other while serving.

We have committed to help serve the Wednesday noon meal on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month. 5 volunteer servers from the First Presbyterian Church are needed to serve 10:30AM – 12:30 PM.

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

Our next serving day is Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The signup sheet for May servers is located on our Missions bulletin board in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early  
Missions Committee

### **VAN WERT SALVATION ARMY FOOD PANTRY**

One of the many ways the Van Wert Salvation Army helps people in the area by maintaining a well organized food pantry. Families and individuals in need of groceries assistance are served with Christian blessings and bags of food containing balanced meal supplies.

We are told that a couple items most popular and needed are boxes of breakfast cereal and packages of Ramen Noodles.

Our Missions Committee has determined during the months of May, June, July, and August to ask for contributions of boxes of breakfast cereal and packages of Ramen Noodles for the Salvation Army Food Pantry. A donation container and sign are in the south hallway.

Thank you for helping with this Van Wert mission.

-Missions Committee

### ***Report of our April 2017 support of the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen***

Our April serving day was Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup>. 124 meals were served. Donated was 1 bag containing 1 shirts and 2 cans of coffee.

People serving and donating were: Dianna Early, Fred Early, Barbara Everidge, Dan Everidge, Michelle White

We were deeply saddened last week with the sudden passing of Carolyn Mathews of the Lima Market Street Presbyterian Church who faithfully served with us during the past years. She served with us yesterday in our hearts and in spirit.

Volunteer recognition, scripture lesson, and prayer preceded the serving of the meal.

We were told that the number of clients served was below the normal daily average because of a serving day at a new part time noon soup kitchen on the east side of town. We saw quite a few new faces that we have not served before. The Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen Mission is effectively serving an increasing need in the community.

After serving at the soup kitchen, before returning to Van Wert, all enjoyed fellowship and lunch at Rigali's Restaurant.

Our next serving day is Wednesday, May 24th. The signup sheet for May is posted in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early  
Missions Committee

**Daddy/Daughter Dance**  
**May 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**

(Please see Felicia Quaintance for details)

*Mother's Day ~ May 14<sup>th</sup>*

Armed Forces Day May 20<sup>th</sup>  
THANK YOU to all Defenders of Freedom!

High School Graduation Recognition Day  
Sunday May 21<sup>st</sup>

**Memorial Day May 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**(Church office closed)**

## *Happy Birthday!*

- 03 Michele Mooney**  
909 Elm St., VWO
- 03 Grayson James Baker**  
401 S. Washington St., VWO
- 04 Juanita Ringwald**  
701 Virginia Ave., VWO
- Sue Wettig**  
1100 S. Walnut St., VWO
- 05 Dewaine Johnson**  
930 George St., VWO
- 09 Robert Exline**  
1131 Rosalie Dr., VWO
- 14 Lynda Ragan**  
7975 Kreisler Rd., Ohio City, OH 45874
- Aimee Nicolai**  
9760 US 224, VWO
- 16 Lelia Mouser Sunday**  
The Feridean Commons #407  
6885 Freeman Rd., Westerville, OH 43082
- 19 Jo Conover**  
195 Kenwick Dr., VWO
- 21 Dan Everidge**  
14769 Clayton Rd., Ohio City, OH 45874
- Sarah Lindemann**  
1177 Willow Ridge, VWO
- 22 Ashton Baer**  
c/o Stacey Baer  
Shultz Huber & Assoc.  
595 Fox Rd., VWO
- 24 Alec Thomas**  
6588 Pollock Rd., Convoy, OH 45832
- 25 Charles Purmort**  
1024 Maplewood Dr., VWO
- 26 Chris Hendricks**  
5538 Pinehurst Apt F, Hilliard, OH 43025
- 28 Lois Harrow**  
133 Boyd Ave., VWO
- 31 Ed Conover**  
195 Kenwick Dr., VWO
- Bobbi Crow**  
12664 Middle Point Wetzel Rd., Delphos, OH 45833

## *Happy Anniversary!*

- 28 Brad & Kim Doidge**  
10575 Upp Rd., VWO



## In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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

- ~ **Ben Harris**
- ~ **Dewaine Johnson**

### **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)
- ~ **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 Wally & 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.*