

Presby Tidings

JULY 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.*

First Presbyterian Church
419-238-3670

110 W Crawford Street

Van Wert, Ohio 45891
church@vwpresby.org

From the Pastor's Desk:

Commitment is a word that seems to be disappearing in our culture today. I mean that people today seem to have lost the joy of coming to church and being there to enhance their spiritual being. I loved this one saying on our bulletin front the other week: "Don't forget that you didn't have to go to church today. You GET to go to church today!" Going to church is a commitment. But living in Christ is an even greater commitment.

I listened to a radio preacher whose name is Jay Vernon McGee. He passed a few years back, but his message is still relevant today. What caught my attention was the statement he made about the church's being the problem for the way in which America has gone.

Jay Vernon stated that the churches today seclude themselves in their own understandings of how they want to walk with the Lord, rather than enhancing each other's spirituality and fighting with love for those who need to hear the Gospel.

We need to spend time studying and praying. The joy the church should evoke has diminished into what culture professes. We don't want to feed our spirituality and live in the word of God, but want to secure for ourselves our own agendas and aggrandizements that culture convinces us we need.

Thus, we don't stand up to culture, and teach against cultural norms that counter the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We don't stand firmly against what our culture professes because, again, spirituality is lacking for us to do so. In other words, there is no commitment to stand up to, that which

disables culture to run rampant and control people's lives. Jesus told us it wouldn't be easy, but to take his yoke upon us, for it is easy.

When I got into ministry, nothing stood in my way that would inhibit my walk spiritually with my Savior and that still stands true today. I wanted to grow to the potential I knew God wanted me to grow toward. My joy was being made complete in my journey.

Yet, as one of my favorite writers of Homiletics — Bob Kaylor says, It's no wonder, then, that you don't see much joy in Christianity; there's a lot more moralizing, complaining, criticizing and hand wringing. Instead of people of joy, we tend to be known as a cranky and anti-social lot. Clergy are burning out at an increasingly higher rate. Denominational meetings are conventions of pessimists. Churches are filled with religious consumers who jump from church to church based on what's in it for them. Gossip and backbiting fill parking lots and blog posts. We scramble to find ways to soothe our personal needs and desires. Joy is in short supply.

The truth hurts. But the ultimate joy of truth sought is in one's commitment to their Lord Jesus. There is NO OTHER WAY!

I'll see everyone in church. May your Summer be filled with rest and spiritual commitment.

In His Enduring Love, Hal

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

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup,
you do show the Lord's death till He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

Holy Communion will be served in our
Worship Service on Sunday, July 2nd

**Special Music has been wonderful, and
A Special treat this Sunday, July 2nd,
with the Summer Choir?
More upcoming Special Music
in July also includes
Sheila Collins
James Steensma**

Join us this Sunday, July 2nd, and the 1st 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 the residents are so appreciative!

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.

Upcoming Meetings:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ✓ Worship Committee | Wednesday, July 5 th @ 6PM |
| ✓ Budget Committee | Tuesday, July 11 th @ 12PM |
| ✓ Missions | Tuesday, July 11 th @ 5PM |
| ✓ Trustees | Wednesday, July 12 th @ 5:30PM |
| ✓ CCE | Thursday, July 13 th @ 6PM |
| ✓ Memorial Committee | Wednesday, July 19 th @ 12PM |

On Sunday, June 4th, **Pentecost Special Offering** was received. Thank you for your generous giving of \$236.00. This offering will help nurture and guide young people as they lay the foundation for their futures—providing opportunities to deepen their faith, find the joy in serving others, and seek God's will for their lives.

A bequest from the **Nellie Balyeat Hoghe Estate** to First Presbyterian Church has been received in the amount of \$10,000.

Happy Independence Day!
Thanks to all who served
and to all who is serving
our great country . . . God bless the USA!
(Church office closed July 4th)



The New Beginning – 8R

John stated, “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me: I am not worthy to carry his sandals.

At Jesus direction, John did baptize Jesus, at which moment the heavens opened up, the spirit of God descended like a dove and alighted on Jesus with a voice from heaven stating, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.

Based on Matthew 3:11-17

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

Have a Facebook account?

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

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

June 14, 2017 Van Wert Salvation Army Wed Noon Meal Mission

The Van Wert Salvation Army Mission, 120 N. Cherry Street, Wednesday Noon Free Meal on June 14 served 55 people. The menu was fish sandwiches, cooked corn, melon, pie, and drink.

Volunteer servers from the First Presbyterian Church were: Fred Early, Rex Fortney, Mary Kay Purmort, Leslie Wilkin, Dottie Zabicki

We delivered the large amount of boxes of breakfast cereal and Ramen noodles donated during May. We will continue to ask for breakfast cereal and Ramen noodles each month this summer.

Interesting note on the generosity of Van Wert People: Two weeks ago, the Salvation Army advertised that their food pantry was almost empty. The response from the community has been outstanding. The food pantry is once more stocked full.

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

We have committed to help serve the Wednesday noon meal on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. 4 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, July 12. The signup sheet for July servers is located on our Missions bulletin board in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early
Missions Committee

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

Our June serving day was Wednesday the 28th. Meals were served to 231 people, which is a record high number. Donated were 5 bags of personal hygiene supplies.

People serving and donating were: Dianna Early, Fred Early, Mary Kay Purmort, Leslie Wilkin, Dottie Zabicki

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

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

Our next serving day is Wednesday, July 26th. The signup sheet for July is posted in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early
Missions Committee

We restructured the community garden this year. The idea of composting the straw bales was tossed around. We wanted the church lot to look nice, so thought that a compost structure would distract from that. Louie Crow and Fred Early worked together building the new square foot garden frame. About half of the decomposing straw was removed and the wood frame was placed over the remaining straw, then additional soil was added.

Earl Green spent an afternoon, a very hot afternoon at that, planting. We have eight tomato plants, several varieties of pepper plants, both red and green cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, cucumbers and squash along with some flowers. Stakes with chicken wire were placed at one end of each of the frames for plants that need to climb.

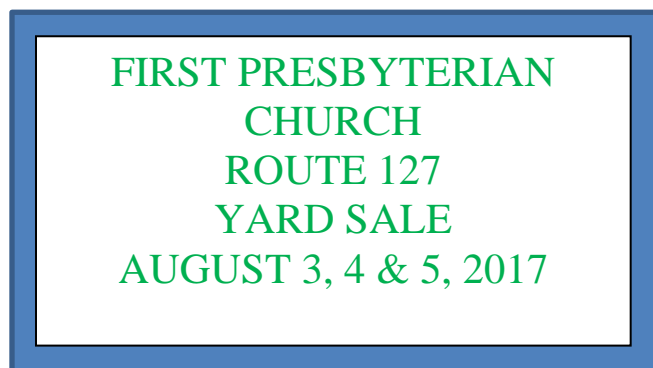
The YWCA Summer Food Program participants water the garden every Monday. The children also planted radishes, carrots, beets and green beans. A soaker hose runs down the middle of each of the square foot frames and is used the other days of the week when necessary. We can always use volunteers from church to help water.

We have had many comments that the garden is planted late in the season. We try to have the children help as much as possible, and the YWCA Summer Food Program does not begin until the first of June. The YWCA Summer Food Program will end the second week of August. So the food raised in our garden after the children return to school will be given to the Salvation Army food pantry, First United Methodist Church food pantry and/or Trinity Friends food pantry.

This past week the children picked peppers and tomatoes.

The Mission Committee wants to thank those who have helped make this garden a success, both by physically helping and with your prayers.

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



The Mission Committee is again accepting donated items for the **Route 127 Yard Sale** (August 3rd, 4th, and 5th). Items are being collected in the annex behind the church. You may bring your donations on Mondays or Wednesdays from 5PM-7PM and Saturdays 9AM-11AM. Please contact the church office if it is necessary to put items in the annex during weekday office hours (8AM-12 noon). **The last day to donate will be Saturday, July 29th. Please do not leave any items outside the annex, the annex front porch or the church. Please do not donate clothing.** If you have large items or furniture to donate, we ask that you make arrangements to have it

delivered to the church on Wednesday, August 2nd. We simply do not have the room or resources to handle them.

Sanctuary Lighting Project

As the sanctuary lighting project nears completion, our balcony and steeple are now being lit for a little under two hours each evening starting at 9:30.

The motivation for the project started after bulbs for a number of fixtures within the sanctuary ceiling were no longer being manufactured.

Nineteen bulbs and/or fixtures located above the congregation and choir were changed. Except for two new LED 60 watt fixtures above the chancel, bulbs as high as 500 watts, were replaced with 36 watt LED bulbs. Eight bulbs which shined on the balcony window decades ago were also replaced, along with four non-functional fixtures being reduced to a single 15 watt bulb within the steeple.

The former system had included a high amperage dimmer system located in the attic above the Youth Director's office. While the dimmer system had not functioned for decades, the unit still had electric running through it up until April of this year. The update includes new light switches, with the ceiling lights above the congregation again controlled by dimmer switches. The lighting within the sanctuary ceiling now uses about 750 watt per hour in comparison to the 6,000 to 7,000 watts per hour of the former system or roughly 15 percent of the electric required in the past. An application was also submitted to AEP to see if the project would qualify for their rebate program.



The project will conclude with supplemental lighting to brighten shadow areas within the back pews of the choir.

Submitted by Terry Dietsch

Vacation Bible School

July 9th-13th

5:30PM-8PM

All children 4 years of age to 6th grade
Free T-shirt for every student
that turns in registration form
on or before July 3rd!
Registration forms are now available
in the Church Office
or you may see Felicia Quaintance.

Crafts, critters, and Bible Adventures!

Dinner is provided for children and staff every night!

Vacation Bible School Meal Schedule 2017

The following committees/groups in the church have agreed to furnish the meals for **VBS** July 9th-13th. Meals will be served at 5:30PM. Each committee is asked to also serve and clean up:

	<u>Contact</u>
Sunday, July 9 th – Deacons	Jo Conover
Monday, July 10 th – Session	Christine Heizman
Tuesday, July 11 th – Trustees/CCE	Bob Exline
Wednesday, July 12 th – Choir Members	Trena Proffitt
Thursday, July 13 th – CCE	Christine Heizman

If anyone not serving on a committee at this time would be willing to help donate food or desserts, please contact Christine Heizman (419-238-4554) or one of the committees. Thank you.

Sunday, July 16th, there will be a family picnic following worship service sponsored by CCE.

Help Needed!!!!

Vacation Bible School

We are in need of help on Saturday, July 15th, at 10AM to help bring tables and chairs up from the basement for the picnic on Sunday. All CCE members and anyone from the church family are asked to come and help. Please come and support us. Please contact Chris Heizman if willing to help. Thank you.

Vacation Bible School Family Picnic

Sunday, July 16, 2017
After the Sunday Service

Everyone is invited to stay after church for a family picnic
on the church lawn

Need only bring a smile!

Menu

Grilled Hamburgers & Cheeseburgers

Grilled Hotdogs

Grilled Bratwursts

Salads

Desserts

Beverage

First Presbyterian Church Scout Troop Program News

The leaders of our Boy Scout Troop make the value of "Service to others" an important part of the scouting experience. Scouts are encouraged to each day look for opportunities to be of personal help to others. We encourage the values of personal responsibility, earning your own way in life.

Our Boy Scout program is an unusually busy program of constant character building activities.

Scout Troop 35, Scout Master Warren Straley, Committee Chairman Larry Taylor

1. Scout Taylor Braun was awarded the Eagle Scout Badge in Court of Honor ceremonies May 23rd in Heistons Woods.
2. Eagle Scout Ronnie Kimmey who was awarded the National Medal of Honor for Saving Life at risk to his own life was featured in the "Scouts in Action" section of the May issue of Boys Life Magazine.
3. Service projects performed this spring included cleaning the church outside window wells and the air conditioner pit; cleaning over 400 miles of township and county road sides during April and May.
4. During May, the troop participated in the District Camporee along with scouts from 3 counties. Friday, May 19th, they attended a FT. Wayne Tin Caps Baseball game and camped out on the field overnight. Breakfast with team members Saturday morning.
5. June 15th the troop enjoyed a day at the Fort Wayne Air National Guard Base, with a tour and time with Air Force Personnel.
6. The week of June 18th-24th, thirteen Scouts and 3 leaders were at summer camp at Camp Lakota, outside of Defiance, Ohio. Many merit badges were earned in addition to daily swims, plus canoeing, archery, rifle training, and woods skills.
7. June 28th-July 2nd Troop 35 Scouts will conduct Flag Raising at the Old Fashioned Farmers event in the Van Wert Fairgrounds.
8. Friday June 30th our Troop 35 will be serving the food at the Van Wert City Concert in the Park. This is a fund raiser to help finance the troop program.
9. July 19th-23rd they will be camping and white water rafting near Durbin, WV.
10. July 25th they will service project at the Fairgrounds packing bags for "Operation Back to School Bags".
11. August 1st they will set up the tents for our Church Mission Committee Route 127 Yard Sale.
12. Aug 3rd, a fund raiser of setting up 100 tables and 1,500 chairs for the "Rib Fest" at the Fair Grounds. Pick up trash during the Rib Fest and tear down on Aug 4th-5th.
13. Aug 18th-20th Camping on the island at Put In Bay, Lake Erie.

Submitted by Fred Early, Chartered Organization Representative

Community News:

Old Fashioned Farmers Days will be held at the VW County Fairground June 29th-July 2nd. Many attractions! On Sunday, a Ham & Turkey Dinner will be

served in the Jr Fair Bldg from 11AM-1:30PM. The meal will be served for a free-will donation and the gate entry for that day will be free (flyer on the bulletin board).

Lincolnview Bible Board has asked we share their newsletter, *Lincolnview Bible House News* (please see the bulletin board) and to please pray for them as they plan for the next school year.

2017 Railroad Heritage Weekend ~ Model Railroad Show & Swap
Saturday, July 29th 10AM-4PM & Sunday, July 30th 10AM-3PM
VW County Fairgrounds
Vendors / Operating Layouts / Food
Admission: \$4 Adults ~ Children: 12 and under free
Sponsored by the VW County Historical Society
(flyer on the bulletin board)

July Birthdays!

- | | | |
|-----------|--|--|
| 01 | Leah Treece
15088 Richey Rd.
Ohio City, OH 45874 | |
| 02 | Billy Knoll
423 Gordon Ave., VWO | |
| 05 | Evan Crosby
1472 State Route 114
Payne, OH 45880 | |
| 06 | Steve Conrad
Ed Rentz
2883 Sherwood Dr.
Lima, OH 45805 | |
| 08 | Ryan Darrah | |
| 14 | John Carr
714 Perry St., VWO | |
| 15 | Dillon Baer
c/o Stacey Baer
Shultz Huber & Assoc.
595 Fox Rd., VWO | |
| 16 | Kimberly Adams
10715 Liberty Union Rd., VWO | |
| 25 | David Heizman
650 S. Washington St., VWO | 28 Katelyn Clair Welch
809 S. Washington St., VWO |
| 26 | Ryan Lindemann
1177 Willow Ridge, VWO | 30 Will Hawkins
1015 Elm St., VWO |

Celebrating their Anniversary on July 12th

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Baer
415 S. Chestnut St., VWO

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Please contact the church office if there are any changes to be made on the birthday list, have a change of address, etc.
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In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- ~ **Ed Conover**
- ~ **Joyce Harrow** (Recovering from foot surgery, and she would love to receive a call (238-2207) or visit, as she is homebound.)
- ~ **Julie (Thomas) Kuhlhorst** and family in the passing of her beloved husband,
Walter Lee Ernst Kuhlhorst
- ~ **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)
- ~ **1st 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.