

Presby Tidings

APRIL 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.*

First Presbyterian Church
419-238-3670

110 W Crawford Street

Van Wert, Ohio 45891
church@vwpresby.org

From the Pastor's Desk:

Wow, what an exciting month! TAG Consulting and our first Retreat was fantastic. The basis for our retreat was to begin the phase of knowing where our True North is in regards to who we are as a church and what we will promote in the future and who we are in our culture.

What does this mean? Our True North is the means by which we, as a church, will realize who we really are, and what we are really good at doing. We will not only promote this in a brief mission statement, but enact our mission by fully adhering to it. As an example, this is who I believe we are, "We are the loving hearts and hands of God to others." This is basically stated in our present mission statement. I have summarized it. Not that this will be what we use itself, as it is not yet discerned, it is just my example. Yet, the new mission statement will be something the groups in the Retreats come up with, as well as you all, when you help us by answering the questions at the end of this report. We ask you all to please answer them. From these questions answered we will realize just who we are, what we're about, and where our hearts lie. The questions were put forth to the congregation on Palm Sunday. These questions are the ones that we were asked to do in our groups at the first Retreat. We ask you all to answer them to help discern these questions helping point to our True North.

The True North will be something that we never take our eyes and hearts off. Our True North will be the statement we work from. Others who come in contact with us will realize our church to be excellent at adhering to who and what we are. Thus, we will be placed at the forefront of churches in our community as an example of that type of church our True North points us to, and be known immediately as the example I gave respectively—"The loving hearts and hands of God to others." We will be inspired to be and do just that for those we meet and those who come to worship with us. It will be the way in which we promote ourselves and exhibit our core values.

Again, the future mission statement for our church is just my example to give my readers an idea of what we are doing in these retreats, in order to find out what we are good at, and to pinpoint the design from which we will work.

Kevin Graham Ford and Todd Hahn are the key players from TAG Consulting that will help us to unfold our True North, however we are those that will do the discerning in this process with their guidance. TAG is key because both these men have been around the United States helping bring the changes necessary for church and businesses to grow.

In our next retreat we will unfold and reveal the core values that will be key helping us to further aspire to keeping ourselves on our True North. The established core values will enable

solidity, in order to never assume that is what we believe and promote, we'll know and better be able to speak boldly. For example, when we choose integrity, ethics, and respect as our main core values, we integrate doing the right thing, in that moment, in an honest, fair, and responsible way with respect for one another, keeping our True North in the forefront. Therefore, we accomplish being able to better promote and implement our mission in the

limitless love of God being the loving hands and heart of God to others.

Let us realize that the loving hands and heart of the Lord are upon us to move our church in the uniquely superb way He wants us to in the future, being the gift to other's God intended us to be. Until our next newsletter, Godspeed!

In Christ's Loving Embrace, Hal

Hal

Please take a moment this week to answer the questions below and return this form to the church office by next Sunday, April 1. Thank you for helping us as we distinguish our core values at First Presbyterian Church (FPC).

1. Describe your most meaningful memory at FPC: _____

2. What positive stories have become "larger than life" at FPC: _____

3. Which unsung "heroes" in our past best embody our story? _____

4. Which historical decisions have defined us in a positive way? _____

5. What else makes FPC different from other churches, in a positive way? _____

If you need more room to write your answers please attach an additional sheet. Thank you.

This

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

Communion Sunday

April 1, 2018

Holy Communion will be served during our Worship Service

Join us this **Sunday, April 1**, 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** at **2:30PM**. This is a great opportunity to share your faith through action, and the residents are so appreciative!

Just some of the Special Events coming up in April:

- 1 – EASTER, Chancel Choir
 - 8 - David VanTilburg will be playing the organ
Special Music
 - 15 - The Chancel Choir
 - 22 – Chancel Choir & Bell Choir
 - 29 – Ladies Chorus
-

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.

APRIL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Budget - Tuesday, April 10 at 12 pm
 - Deacons - Thursday, April 12 at 7pm
 - Missions - Tuesday, April 10 at 5pm
 - Session - Tuesday, April 24 at 7pm
 - Trustees - Wednesday, April 11 at 5:30pm
 - Worship - Wednesday, April 4 at 6pm
-

Notice - Pastor Hal will be away on vacation from April 2 through April 16. Please contact the church office with any pastoral needs during his time away. Thank you.

Please enjoy the devotional that was shared with Session at the March meeting.

Committee Study

March

March 13, 2018 Van Wert Salvation Army Wed Noon Meal

The Van Wert Salvation Army Mission, 120 N. Cherry St, Wednesday noon free community meal was on March 13. Forty-seven meals were served.

The meal

Opening Prayer:

Gracious God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

We are here to serve you, opening our hearts and minds to your guidance.

Help us to have the meekness of mind

to seek your thoughts over our own thoughts;

to have the humility of heart to seek one will—Your will;

to have the Serenity of the Spirit to let your peace be our peace,
no matter what transpires.

Help us to be your servants in this time.

Hear us as we pray the prayer Christ taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven...

menu was: Soup beans/with ham; corn bread; cole slaw; mixed fruit; green whipped cream jello; cucumber/ cream cheese/crackers; iced green cake; beverage.

J. Heinrich Arnold, Discipleship

Never forget that an act of love to one's fellowman is the only important act of the day. Everything else is of no value before God and may even tear us from him or separate us from our brothers. How strongly Jesus impresses this on our hearts in his prophecies about the Last Judgment! The question is never whether we are well-organized or act correctly, but whether we feed the hungry, take in strangers, clothe the naked, or visit those who are sick or in prison—in other words, whether we act out of love and compassion. Let us never pass by the need of another or forget the words and actions that strengthen love.

Questions for Reflection:

- ❖ What thoughts or insights stand out to you in this passage?
- ❖ What does this quote say to us about both what's important in a church, and how we are to lead a church?

Volunteer servers from the First Presbyterian Church were: Louie Crow, Earl Green, Carol Blair, David Blair, and Fred Early, along with 4 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 2nd 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, April 11, 2018.

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

Submitted by Fred Early
Missions Committee

Our February 2018 support of the Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

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

Our February 2018 serving day was Wednesday, February 28th.
Meals were served to 107 people.

Volunteers from Van Wert who served were: Louie Crow, Terry Dietsch, Joyce Harrow, Lois Harrow, Leslie Wilkin, and Janet Crummey.

A short Scripture lesson and prayer of thanks was followed by a meal of fried chicken, salad, peas, mixed fruit, cake, 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 Lu Lu's Restaurant.

Our next serving day is Wednesday, March 28. The signup sheet for March is posted in the church south hallway.

Submitted by Fred Early
Missions Committee

APRIL Birthdays!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 06 Vern Adams
10603 Upp Road, VWO | 14 Beth Brumback
1023 Maplewood Dr., VWO |
| 07 Elizabeth Adams
10715 Liberty Union Rd., VWO | 19 Kirby Doidge
506 Manzanita Dr
Sedona AZ 86336 |
| Alexis Grace Runser
5936 Walnut Creek Rd.
Reno, NV 89523-2506
or
1045 Backer Way
Reno, NV 89523 | 25 Don Thomas
751 Susan Dr., VWO |
| 09 Arrin Thomas
6588 Pollock Road
Convoy, OH 45832 | 26 Keaten Welch
809 S Washington St., VWO |
| 12 Rebecca Runser | 29 Davis Munroe
303 Linda St., VWO |

Celebrating April Anniversaries!

- 4 Hal & Tici Shafer
127 Boyd Ave., VWO
- 15 Don & Mary Ellen Thomas
751 Susan Dr., VWO
- 21 Bob & Cheri Exline
1131 Rosalie Dr., VWO
- 28 Steve & Susan Munroe
303 Linda St., 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.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- ~ Vern Adams
- ~ Carrie and Cherrie Evans

- ~ Bob and Cheri Exline
- ~ Ethel Johnson
- ~ Mike Kirkendall
- ~ Chuck Sheets
- ~ Marlene Warnecke
- ~ Jacque Welch
- ~ Keaton Welch

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

Captain Cassandra
Bullock, US Army,
San Antonio, TX

Serving in our Military

(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)
- ★ 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 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

Join us on **Thursday, April 5 at noon** in the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. The group will participate in a book discussion of *The Letter* by Kathryn Hughes led by Judy Sampson. Drinks and deserts will be provided. A \$2.50 offering shall be collected for the group's mission projects. All are welcome to bring a sack lunch and participate in this book review.

April 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 EASTER Chancel Choir Bell Choir VanCrest 2:30pm Special offering	2 Cub Scouts 6:30p AA 8pm	3 Boy Scouts 7p	4 Worship Mtg 6p Rehearsals – Choir 7:15pm	5 Read & Review Book Club 12pm AA & AI Anon 8p	6 Girl Scout 6-8	7 AA 8pm
8 Organ: David VanTilburg Special Music	9 AA 8pm	10 Budget Mtg 12p Missions Mtg 5p Boy Scouts 7p	11 Salvation Army 10:45-12:30 Trustee Mtg 5:30 Women 6:30p Bell Choir 6:45p Choir 7:15pm	12 Deacon Mtg 7p AA & AI Anon 8p	13	14 Cub Scouts banquet 1-4p AA 8pm
15 Chancel Choir Girl Scout 3-5	16 Cub Scouts 6:30p AA 8pm	17 Boy Scouts 7p	18 Women 6:30p Bell Choir 6:45p Choir 7:15pm	19 AA & AI Anon 8p	20 Girl Scout 6-8	21 AA 8pm
22 Chancel Choir Piano Recital 2 – 4pm	23 Piano Guild 11a – 8p AA 8pm	24 Piano Guild 11a – 8p Boy Scouts 7p Session 7pm	25 Soup Kitchen Serving Day 9am (Lima) Women 6:30p Bell Choir 6:45p Choir 7:15pm	26 AA & AI Anon 8p	27	28 AA 8pm
29 Ladies Chorus	30 Cub Scouts Banquet 6:30p AA 8pm					Liturgist: Pam Purmort