

Volume 10 - Issue-2 **First Presbyterian Church,  
Paulding Ohio**

### Thoughts from Ian...



#### February 2024

*"It's almost time to stop, so, choose one more thing to do,"* sang Daniel Tiger. In the other room, Alissa and I danced along with the songs from Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood as we made supper in the kitchen. Daniel, a cartoon tiger from a show on PBS kids based on Mr. Roger's Neighborhood, has been a favorite for our children. He sings catchy songs like *Thank You*, *Goodnight Daniel*, and *Keep Trying*. And, best of all, each song portrays an important message.



The song above, *It's Almost Time to Stop*, is often sung in our house as we help Samuel, Henry, and Brynn transition from one activity to another. It can be difficult for them to be done with an activity and start something else—to stop playing and eat dinner, to stop reading and start bedtime, or to stop a game and start schoolwork. Slowing down, signaling a change, and getting ready for something different has been a game changer in parenting our kids.


To be honest, I sometimes need help to transition as well. In the morning, I am grateful for a slow transition waking up. A cup of coffee, dim lights, and a quiet breakfast help my day start right. When my wife needs to talk, I need help transitioning to conversation. I find it greatly beneficial if we wait for the kids to go down, I put away distractions, and I am prepared to communicate. Transitions are a blessing. Have you found this to be true?

Lent is a season of transition. Starting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, the season of Lent will last 40 days (not including Sundays) to the Saturday before Easter. Many Christians will be preparing for the celebration of Easter through reflection, prayer, fasting, or acts of charity in light of Jesus' work on our behalf on the cross. It is a season to transition from whatever we may be in the habit of doing to refocus on what Jesus has done for us.

On Wednesdays during Lent, we will be hosting free Lenten Lunches for the community. From noon to 1:00pm, churches will take turns bringing food for everyone and local pastors will take turns giving a devotional message. On Wednesday evenings at 5:30pm, we will be having a free meal together followed by a devotional time. Along with Sunday school at 9:00am and our service at 10:15am every Sunday, we hope you will be able to join us this Lenten season.

Transitions are important. How much more should we be taking advantage of transitioning into the celebration of Easter. After all, this is the core of our faith. As we are told in 1 Corinthians 15, if Christ has not been raised, our faith is futile; we are still in our sins. But Jesus did rise from the dead and triumphed over the grave! Let's prepare together.

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7PM Women's Board NA meets 7:30 PM	2 Drug Court	3 8 AM Men's Breakfast Past Time
4 9AM-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service COMMUNION	5	6 9am Deacons Grounded Noon-LDL Fiesta	7 7PM Choir	8 NA meets 7:30PM	9	10
11 9AM- Sunday School 10:30- Worship Service	12	13	14  Noon- Lenten Lunch 5:30Lenten Supper 7PM-Choir	15 NA meets 7:30 PM	16	17
18 9AM Sunday School 10:30- Worship Service	19	20 10AM- Care- giver Support Group-Senior Center	21 Noon- Lenten Lunch 5:30-Lenten Supper	22 NA meets 7:30 PM	23 Drug Court	24
25 9AM Sunday School 10:30- Worship Service	26	27	28 Noon- Lenten lunch 5:30Lenten Supper	29 NA meets 7:30		

## January Session Highlights

A regular Session meeting was held Tuesday, January 16, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

### Noteworthy Events

- On December 17<sup>th</sup> 2023, a Congregational Meeting was held to elect Elders and Deacons to begin terms in 2024. We graciously accepted this slate of officers:

#### Ruler Elders:

Larry Fishbaugh	Class of 2024
Sue Crossland	Class of 2025
Marcia Wiebe	Class of 2025
Ruby Crossland (3-year term)	Class of 2026
Bud Koenig (1-yr term)	Class of 2024

#### Deacons:

Patty Radel	Class of 2024
Brent Fishbaugh	Class of 2024
Mary McMaster	Class of 2025
Martha Panches	Class of 2025
Becky Riley	Class of 2026
Doug Radel	Class of 2026

- The Midwest Presbytery meeting will be held in Greenville, Ohio, February 9-10<sup>th</sup>.

- A Congregational meeting will be held January 21, 2024, after worship to present the budget for 2024. A potluck dinner will be held after the meeting with the Women's Board providing sandwiches for all.

### Old Business

-The Fifth Quarter parties which took place after 2 home basketball games were not well attended this season. The churches who helped with these are to be commended, although decisions will need to be made as to how (or if) to pursue other ways of reaching out to the youth in our community.

### New Business

- Session agreed that Communion will be the first Sunday of each month in 2024 unless there is some conflict with scheduling on specific dates.

- Lenten meals to be served in our Fellowship Hall beginning Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, were discussed. Pastor Ian will be in contact with community churches as to the schedule of lunch providers. Our congregation will be in charge of February 14<sup>th</sup>, both lunch and supper meals. Session decided to serve supper March 20<sup>th</sup>. We are hopeful other entities in our church will schedule their dates!

- New committee assignments were agreed upon for 2024:

Property – Sue Crossland  
Christian Education – Bud Koenig  
Finance – Larry Fishbaugh/Bud Koenig  
Personnel – Bud Koenig  
Nominating – Marcia Wiebe/Larry Fishbaugh

Worship – Sue Crossland  
Congregational Life – Ruby Crossland  
Missions – Marcia Wiebe/Larry Fishbaugh  
Clerk of Session – Ruby Crossland

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

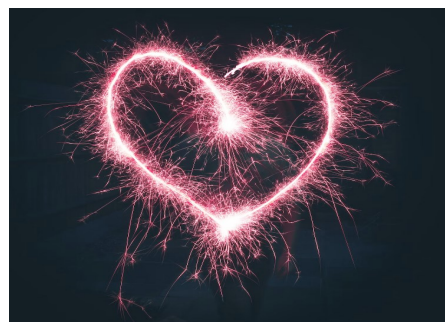
Ian Ferguson, Moderator

### FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1-Sydney Reineck  
10-Dan Karlstadt  
11-Charles Strahley  
12-Susan Paulus  
15-Marty Crossland  
15-Maely Crossland Alexander  
15-Arlene Cline  
22-Jeff Riley

### FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

16- Ken & Judy Robinson



X

financial tidbits 12 2023.xlsx

	A	B	C
1	FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM DECEMBER		
2	Designated Gifts:		
3	Amount	Purpose	
4	\$300.00	Drug Court Fund	
5	\$200.00	Missions	
6	\$500.00	Fellowship hall rental	
7	\$1,000.00	Gift for Fergusons	
8	\$500.00	To offset property maintenance costs	
9	\$36.00	Per member asking	
10	\$300.00	Presbyterian Womens Fund	
11	\$227.22	Nicelley investment dividend	
12	Notable Expenditures:		
13	Amount	Payee	Purpose
14	\$653.66	Ohio and Indiana Roofing	Roof repairs
15	\$400.00	Lima Pipe Organ Company	Pipe organ maintenance
16	\$4,717.00	ComDoc Inc	New copier for church office
17	\$1,000.00	Ian Ferguson	Gift for Fergusons
18	Budget vs Actual Income:		
19	\$160,843.00	Budgeted Income	
20	\$170,663.07	Actual Income	
21	\$9,820.07	Difference	



From  
Treasur-  
er Carol  
Razo

## HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- \*Deacons will meet on Tuesday, February 6th 9AM at Grounded Coffee Shop.
- \*Ladies Do Lunch are gathering at the Fiesta Habaneros on Tuesday, February 6th at noon.
- \*Women's Board will meet on Thursday, February 1st at 7PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- \*Men's Breakfast on Saturday, February 3rd, at 8AM at the Past Time Café.
- . \*Drug Court will meet this month on February 2nd and 23rd.
- \*There are N.A. open meetings on Tuesdays at 6 PM at the Antwerp Community Church, as well as in our Presbyterian Church basement every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM.
- \*The designated Deacon for February is Becky Riley. However, any Deacon may be approached for questions or concerns.



Alpha is a series of 11 sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Each session will include a 30-minute video around one of the big issues around faith followed by questions and discussion on the basics of Christianity. Sunday @ 9am





Ladies did lunch at the Past Time Café in January. Seems it was a busy time a year for the girls.  
Catch the ladies on the 6th of February at Fiesta Habaneros.

## **SCHEDULE FOR LENTEN LUNCHEAS AND SUPPERS**

### **LUNCHEAS**

*(All lunches will be held at the Presbyterian Church)*

2/14/24-First Presbyterian Church  
2/21/24-First Christian Church  
2/28/24-Divine Mercy Catholic Church  
3/6/24-St. Paul Lutheran Church  
3/13/24-Nazarene Church  
3/20/24-United Methodist Church

### **SUPPERS**

2/14/24-Women's Board  
2/21/24-Sunday School  
2/28/24-Deacons  
3/06/24-Ferguson Family  
3/13/24-Choir  
3/20/24-Session



3/29/24— Good Friday—NOON— First Christian Church  
3/31/24 - Easter Sunday Sunrise—7AM - St. Paul Lutheran



On January 21st, the Annual Congregational meeting was held after Sunday Service. All committee reports were reviewed and accepted.

After the meeting, the Women's Board offered sandwich makings to serve along side the dishes prepared by the congregation.

Food and fellowship are always a good thing.



**Just a few of the different funds that you can designate a gift to within your church.**

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| *Session-          | * Capital Projects |
| General fund       | PPC fund           |
| Meal Ministry      | * Memorials        |
| *Monroe Bible      | * Music fund       |
| *Deacons-          | * Nursery fund     |
| Agape              | * Women's Board    |
| Alter Ministry     | Ice cream tent     |
| Daily Bread Pantry | prayer shawls      |
| * Nursery fund     | *Women's Retreat   |
| * Missions         | *Organ Repair      |
| Drug Court         |                    |
| Mission trips      |                    |
| Outreach           |                    |

IF YOU WISH TO GIFT ONE OF THESE FUNDS, PLEASE DESIGNATE ON YOUR CHECK ON THE MEMO LINE.



**Above-**Henry grabbing some last minute hugs before daddy Ian gives his message.





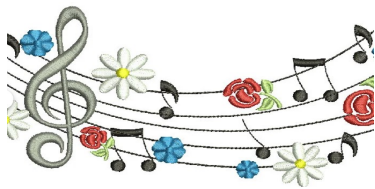
Deacon Doug Radel dropping off donations from our Warm & Fuzzy tree to the Elementary School in Payne.

Donations were also given to Grover Hill, Antwerp, Paulding and Oakwood.

Thank you all for your generous donations!



The first Sunday of the New Year found the choir having fun singing reggae style aka Jimmy Buffet style with "*Sing a New Alleluia*". Jill and Don even dressed for the occasion.





For those whose favorite decorations are the Christmas lights and frills, it was time to take them down way to soon. Thanks to all who came out to help.

Pictured **above left** is Samuel giving a helping hand to Rick Craft.

**Above right**-Barb Searing is getting a whole lot of little hands help from Henry and Brynn with momma Alissa making sure nothing gets broken.

### **SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANING**

(1.) Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.

(2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.

(3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.

(4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.

(5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.

(6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience'. That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember—Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace !



## HIGHER

(Our prayer for 2024 by Susan Paulus)

### Higher

Spirit, lift me to heights unknown to me  
to where I can see what you see  
love from people to people  
understanding from tribe to tribe  
forgiveness from generation to generation

Jesus, raise me to peaks never experienced  
to where I can feel the compassion you feel  
not pity nor sympathy  
but an understanding kindness  
true thoughtful concern

Father, enhance my ability  
to love  
to understand  
to forgive  
I want to see as you see  
to accept as you accept  
to refuse sin yet love

Father, Son, Spirit  
make me so full of you  
that every day is a celebration  
may I drink your wine  
sing your song  
dance your dance  
on earth as it is in heaven



**Sunday School at 9:00**

**Worship Service 10:30**

**First Presbyterian Church  
Corner of Caroline & Cherry  
Paulding, OH 45879**



**firstpresbyterianpaulding.com**

**In Essentials, Unity,  
In Non-Essentials, Liberty,  
In All Things, Charity.**

**Phone: 419-399-2438  
Church website:  
Secretary's e-mail: fpcpaulding@gmail.com  
www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com**

**PO Box 366  
Corner of Caroline and Cherry Street  
Paulding OH 45879**

**First Presbyterian Church**