

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 7 Issue 3

Thoughts from Ian...



PSALM 139:7-10

"Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."

One new song we have been singing this year during our contemporary worship time is *He Will Hold Me Fast*. It may be a new song for us, but did you know that it was originally written over 100 years ago by Ada Ruth Haberson? (pictured)

Ada Ruth Habershon (1861-1918) was a Christian hymnist, probably best known for her 1907 hymn "Will the Circle Be Unbroken?" Ada was born in England in



1861. She was raised in Chelsea, London, in a Christian home. In her twenties, she was a member of the circle surrounding Charles Spurgeon. She met Dwight L. Moody and Ira D. Sankey in 1884 during their preaching tour of England. At their urging, she visited the United States, delivering a series of lectures on the Old Testament that were later published.

The most recent rendition of this song is played by Matt Merker. In 2012, Matt was struggling with doubt and questions. A few of his friends were turning

their backs on Christ. During this time, he came upon Habershon's old hymn and it spoke powerfully to him and brought him great comfort.

The theme of the hymn finds its scriptural root in Psalm 139:10. King David, inspired by God, wrote this psalm, telling us how intimately God sees and knows us. He begins by telling us that God not only sees where we are but can perceive our thoughts. Nothing is hidden from God. In verse 7, David tells us that there is not a place in all of creation where we can run from God's presence. From the greatest height in heaven, to the lowest pit in the ocean. From the wings of dawn, meaning the East, to the far side of the sea, meaning the West. Height or depth, East or West, we cannot run from under God's eye. In verse 10, David tells us that God is always there to guide and to uphold us (hold us fast).


I shared this psalm at a funeral in early February. I had a one-hour car ride home and it was snowing hard. As the snow came down, I found myself driving very slowly. I could barely see the road and I knew it was slick. With the pressing danger of the snow and traffic, all my attention was glued to the little blue triangle on my GPS. When I finally got home, a car pulled in behind me. It was the Stollers. They had recognized my car and were making sure I got home safe. I had been so focused on the immediate dangers to realize that someone was watching over me. It was a great comfort and I was reminded of the psalm I had just shared and Habershon's old hymn.

Let us remember that in our difficult times, God is watching over us. His loving eye is on us even when we are too distracted to notice. He is watching over us and guiding us as we make our way to our heavenly home. He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast; For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast.



March 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Lenten service 7:00	NA meets at 7:30		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion			Lenten service 7:00	NA meets at 7:30		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
			 Session 7:00	Lenten service 7:00	NA meets at 7:30	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		Writers' Group 7:00	Lenten service 7:00	NA meets at 7:30		
28	29	30	31			
Palm Sunday 						

1st - Becky Mayer
 3rd - Marcia Brune
 6th - Anna Karlstadt
 8th - Tiffany Razo
 11th - Dick Paulus
 10th - Sarah Buzzell Morgan

16th - Kristen Razo
 16th - Ian Ferguson
 20th - Henry Ferguson
 21st - Danielle Pennington
 Haas
 23rd - Kim Mileto

We have new people that I have no birthday or anniversary information for, we love including everyone. Please give info to the office.

Please give me all birthdays and anniversaries! Sue P.

Session Highlights

The February 16th, 2021, regular Session meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall of Paulding First Presbyterian Church (EPC), in Paulding, Ohio at 7:00pm.

Present were Ruling Elders: Sue Crossland, Matt Reineck, Larry Fishbaugh, Alex Straley, Ruby Crossland, and Teaching Elder Ian Ferguson.

The meeting was opened and closed with prayer by Pastor Ian.

A motion was seconded and passed to approve a request from the Missions committee to hold a Lenten Gift Card Drive (\$5 increments) for Drug Court participants.

Communion will be served March 7 th .

A motion was moved and passed to use Paulding County's weather advisory to determine the closing of church services. We will cancel all church services and activities automatically if we are on a Level 2 weather advisory. In other cases we will continue using our email list to "pass the word" if we must cancel planned activities.

It was reported the second PPP loan has been applied for, approved, and deposited already!

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session
Ian Ferguson, Moderator

Organizational Matters for 2021

At the January 17th Session meeting Ruby Crossland was appointed as clerk, and Carol Razo as treasurer.

Committee assignments for elders are:

Personnel: Alex Straley

Missions: Larry Fishbaugh

Congregational Life: Ruby Crossland

Property co-elders: Sue Crossland and Matt Reineck

Christian Education: Alex Straley

Nominating co-elders: Alex Straley and Larry Fishbaugh

Finance: Matt Reineck

Worship: Sue Crossland

Women's Board: Ruby Crossland

If you have an interest in various area and wish to contribute or serve on a committee, these are the people to talk to! Any committee would welcome your participation.

Thank You!

We have received two "thank you" notes recently from agencies that we support.



The Caring and Sharing Food Pantry says "thank you for your financial support. The t-shirt bags are great!" Jodi Schneider, Executive Director.

The second one is from NOCAC for the donation from our Warm Hearts/Warm Homes project. While I have heard nothing official this winter, some of the congregation have taken this project as their own and donate without being asked. The last line in their thank you reads as follows: "Your commitment to helping needy people in our community is appreciated by those who help them and, most importantly, by those who benefit from our service." Amber Simmons, Community Service Director

Both of these notes are on the bulletin board in the hall.



Prayer Requests

Pray for all Paulding County essential workers and first responders COVID is spreading like wildfire in Paulding County, as well as nationally. Keep praying and stay healthy

Pray for the many dealing with COVID (I am no longer putting in names, there are too many. You already pray for the ones you know personally, and we pray together for all)

Kyle Schlatter, cancer treatment

Nick Martinez

Jim Stewart, staying with his daughter, a registered nurse, in Columbus

Larry Colley, heart issues

Jim, Tim Mindling father's, is now on hospice.

Philip, Karen Mindling's brother, had a heart attack last month. It is less serious than originally thought, but please pray for physical healing that will lead to a walk with the Lord

Dave Foltz, waiting for double lung transplant, plus heart transplant

Paul Punches, has two appointments at Cleveland Clinic

Arlene Cline

Jim Smith

Eileen Thomas: Ruby Crossland's mother
June Koenig

The family of Tom Balser, father of Christy Stoller

The family of John Ankney

So many battling various cancers:

Ken Wagner	John Relyea
Page Gillett	Scott St. John
Bob Egler	Mary Becker
Patty Radel	Joe Bowyer
Nancy Stoller	Bob Noneman
Patty Radel	Joe Bowyer
Bob Noneman	Kyle Schlatter

Rachel Bowyer Paradiso

Pray this week for:

Our national leaders

Vincent, Paulding Drug Court participant

Front line essential workers

Praise:

Randy Larson, Stallkamps's brother-in-law, lives in AZ, had his surgery and is on the road to recovery.

Ken Wagner is recovering from surgery, went home of Friday the 12th.

Thank you for praying.



Update on live-streaming services:

Pastor Ian will be sending out more information regarding all of our services that you are watching or listening to on line. Streaming will now be going straight to youtube as facebook continually kicks us off. You will still find a link that he will post on facebook, and can get on there, but you will be on youtube. A message will be coming soon from Pastor Ian in regard to this small, but significant, change.

FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM JANUARY		
Designated Gifts:		
Amount	Purpose	
\$100.00	Daily Bread Fund	
\$200.00	Drug Court	
\$944.64	Nicelley investment dividend	
\$400.00	Per member asking	
\$33.65	Vendor refund	
\$1,700.00	Warm hearts warm homes	
\$100.00	In memory of Everett Nickels	
\$100.00	In memory of Jerry DeLong	
\$100.00	In memory of Douglas Hyman	
\$100.00	In memory of Jerry Manson	
\$100.00	In memory of Danny Monroe	
\$100.00	In memory of Class of 1960	



Notable Expenditures:		
Amount	Payee	Purpose
\$384.00	CNA Surety	Surety bond for treasurer
\$135.00	Dwayne Richardson	Guest speaker fee plus mileage
\$1,100.00	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Missionaries Tim & Karen Mindling
\$1,100.00	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Missionaries Benjamin & Monica Bailey
\$1,100.00	Wycliffe Bible Translators	Missionaries Brian & Beth Schwartz
\$1,100.00	ABWE	Missionaries Don & Karen Taber
\$600.00	Caring Sharing Food Pantry	Mission allocation
\$600.00	Gods Share Program	Mission allocation
\$600.00	Compassion International	Sponsor Henry Herrera Herrera
\$500.00	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Tim & Karen Mindling kitchen set-up boxes
\$233.00	Snows Fire Protection	Fire extinguisher
\$565.00	Custom Audio Concepts	Install CD player in sound system
\$1,022.38	Paulding County Treasurer	Property taxes and curb assessments
\$12,950.00	JW Taylor Construction	Attic renovation project
\$1,944.00	Don & Perrys Furniture Inc	Carpet for attic renovation project
\$51.42	Bureau of Motor Vehicles	Registration for church van
\$1,700.00	NOCAC	Warm hearts warm homes
Budget vs Actual Income:		
\$12,197.69	Budgeted Income	
\$12,410.73	Actual Income	
\$213.04	Difference	

From treasurer, Carol Razo

One of the agencies that we support with our mission giving is the local Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center. They have an annual fund-raising dinner which for the second year, has to be cut back due to COVID 19.



Our mission committee here at First Presbyterian would like to support the Hands of Hope Center, and help out our shut-ins by personally delivering a meal to anyone asking for one. The meal is scheduled for Tuesday March 23rd. The menu consists of pulled pork, cole slaw, macaroni and cheese, chips, a cookie and water. A ticket is required, but can easily be reserved for you by telling Pastor Ian or Sue Paulus. We will keep a list going and tell the Mission Committee on Sunday March 14th how many meals to order. A mission committee member will deliver your meal to your door. We ask that you tip your personal server. The tip will then be donated to the Center as part of the free will donation given to them for the meals.

This is your opportunity to have a tasty meal personally delivered to your door, help a local agency by tipping your delivery person, get a chance to see and talk to someone (Yay! That happens seldom at this time)

The Mission Committee's goal is to collect generous donations for the delivered meals. Those donations will bless this local ministry with continued support from this church.

Think about it, then call the church office at 419-399-2438 or e-mail fpcpaulding@gmail.com

More information of back of this page!

For delivery, please do not order your ticket through Hands of Hope, but do so through this church.



Connecting Hands

A Newsletter for Hands of Hope Pregnancy Services

Volume 9, Issue 1
January 2021

Pulled Pork Dinner



We hope to hold another pulled pork dinner on Tuesday March 23, 2021 served from 5-6:30 PM.

Dine-in or Curbside Pick-up at the east door.

Menu: Pulled Pork, Coleslaw, Macaroni and cheese, chips, cookie, water. All will be served in divided take-out containers. We will accept a free will donation at the door.

For tickets, please email handsofhope.director@gmail.com, call 419-399-2447, stop in, or talk to a board member. Let us know if you want dine-in or curbside pick-up tickets. We do have a limit on how many can be in the building at once. Covid guidelines will be observed.

2020 In Review

This past year, despite Covid, we were able to continue services to many women and families. Our numbers are down a little from last year, but not by too much. A few of the stats from this past year:

259 visits total
51 clients
173 classes
33 pregnancy tests
38 ultrasounds
118 visits to our baby store for materials or diapers
8 abortion vulnerable clients seen

Here are a few paraphrased quotes from clients to give you a sense of some of the stories we have heard this year. We have heard these stories many times.

"I'm not sure who the father is."
"The father wants me to get an abortion."
"I need to come back here for some normalcy."
"I'm ready to give my life to Christ."
"This was definitely not planned."
"I don't have any baby items. I need help."
"I need help finding a doctor that speaks my language."
"I need to start going back to church."
"I would like a Bible."
"I have abuse in my past."
"I don't know if the father will be in the picture."
"My mom's going to be really upset."

We were thrilled to get a good amount of updated classes this year, and Paulding-Putnam Electric Co-op covered the \$1900! We are so thankful they chose to grant us money from the Operation Round-up fund. We feel blessed to be able to keep our many classes fun and relevant!

Thank you to our monthly donors! We are so grateful for the blessing of the steady in-coming funds. Thank you also to the Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church of Antwerp for your kind donation.

Address: 1030 W Wayne St Suite A Paulding, OH 45879 Phone number: 419-399-2447 Email: handsofhope.director@gmail.com
Board Members: Judy Robinette, Candace Hawk, Traci Koehn, Ann Walker, Doug Roop, Pam Dempsey, Joe Marx, Tam Stoller

Gift Cards for Drug Court Rewards

Once again, our church will be collecting \$5 gift cards for the drug court reward basket throughout Lent. Cards should be purchased from local businesses only: Chief, McDonald's Dairy Queen, etc.

Gift cards can be placed in the box at the top of the stairs. Thank you for contributing to this important local ministry! If you have any questions, contact Pastor Ian or Dave and Jane Nice.



Pastor Dwayne Richardson brought us the message on February 14th; *Occupy Love* based on the love chapter in 1st Corinthians 13



Alex Straley and Ruby Crossland, Ruling Elders, terms beginning 2021



Doug Radel and Becky Riley, new Deacons terms beginning 2021



Mary McMaster, Deacon, term began 2020

Service of Ordination and Installation

Pictured at right, we see Pastor Ian leading the ordination portion of our service, as well as several in attendance that morning.

Thank you to those willing to take on the role of leadership in our congregation.



Benjamin and Monica

Many of you will remember a visit from Benjamin and Monica and their children to our congregation a few years ago. They had been living and working in a Muslim country as missionaries who ministered to individuals as they encountered them in their every day lives.

They still do so, and we continue to support them financially. We do not know where they are in the world, but we can keep praying for them.

In August they corresponded by email to their supporters. Benjamin related that the pandemic has been hard for them. The government imposed strict curfews, starting at 8 p.m., then 5 p.m., then 3 p.m., and finally 24/7 when they had to ask permission to even go to the grocery store. By August, those had been lifted.

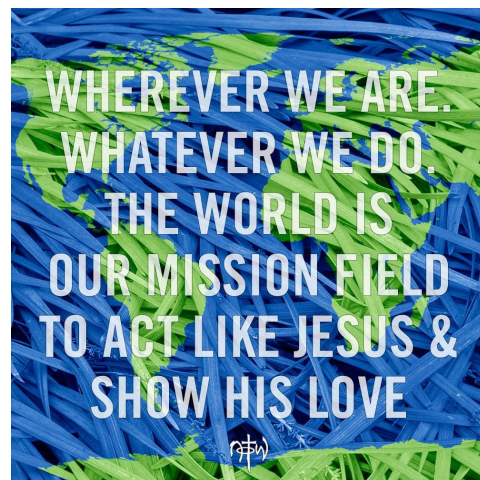
Benjamin writes, "We have not been immune to government austerity, which has had a direct impact on every facet of our lives."

Benjamin said that Monica struggled with homeschooling and keeping their children occupied during the lockdowns. Like us, they knew people who had the virus, and were particularly saddened when a young father in their community had died from it.

Benjamin wrote about the economic impact of

job losses and a slowed economy where they are, as well as the rest of the world. As a result, financial support for missions like theirs are down, and people in general are under more stress.

"These recent trials have opened the door for some amazing conversations with our local Arab friends," Benjamin writes. "Questions of life and death, faith through trials and the sovereignty of God have all come up in recent conversations. We've also talked about fate, a strong facet to Islamic belief. It affects every area of a Muslim's life and is constantly on their mind, whether they are thinking about wearing a face mask or a seatbelt. Please continue to pray that the lord will use us to share about Jesus and his message to the kingdom of God."



Wednesday Evening Services

During Lent, we are returning to Wednesday evening services. You can attend in person or on-line. The choice is yours.

The services are short, a song, a meditation, a prayer. Just enough to remind us of why we, as Christians, recognize the Lenten Season.

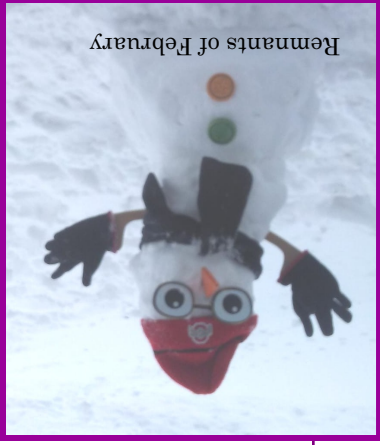
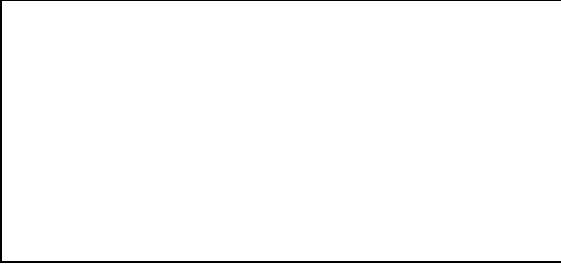


First Presbyterian Church
PO Box 366
Corner of Caroline and Cherry Street
Paulding OH 45879

firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

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

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



Sunday School at 9:00 by Zoom
Worship Music 10:15
Worship Service 01:30:30
First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Caroline & Cherry
Paulding OH 45879