

Thoughts from Ian...



March 2023, Win at Love

My family is competitive, and we love to play games. My wife, Alissa, and I have 3 kids—Samuel (5), Henry (3), and Brynn (2). One of our recent favorites is Dragonwood. It is a “card game of dice and daring” according to the box. Players play cards to roll dice and capture creatures like fire ants and giggling goblins to score points. Every game has fierce competition.

One strategy Alissa and I discourage is switching teams. Henry may begin on Alissa’s team but if he senses she is going to lose, he will try to switch. He may snuggle up to me and say, “if you let me on your team I will tell you what mom has in her hands!” Henry and Samuel have a few things to learn about being good teammates.



Learning to be a good teammate is not only important for our family’s card games around the kitchen table. It is an important skill for life. At the job and in our relationships, being a team player is important. The same is true in the church.

In 1 Corinthians Chapter 3:1-9, the apostle Paul is writing to a church in distress. He says they are acting as spiritual babies by bickering with each other. They are divided. Then in verses 5-9, we read:

“What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”

When we see ourselves in the church as a team, we are on our way to maturity. The great Apostle Paul sees himself as a humble farm hand. The well-respected teacher, Apollos, is a lowly waterboy. They are co-workers. Christians in Corinth were puffing themselves up as followers of Paul or Apollos or Peter and he is saying “You want to follow me? Roll up your sleeves and be a humble field servant! We are all fellow servants in God’s field.” In other words, all Christians are on the same team.

When our family gets a little too competitive with each other, my wife always reminds us “Win at Love!” I have not asked her, but perhaps she gets this from Romans 12:10 “Love one another, outdo one another in showing honor.” If you want to be competitive, outdo others in honoring them! Or maybe she gets it from Matthew 23:11, where Jesus teaches that if we want to be the greatest, then we should be the servant of all.

Let us continue to have a mature perspective. All Christians are on the same team. If you want to be competitive (I know I do!) then “Win at Love.”

Lenten lunches and suppers have begun. It is one way we live out this truth. Christians coming together for a FREE meal. Every Wednesday in our Fellowship Hall at Paulding First Presbyterian from noon to 1 for lunch and 5:30 to 6:30 for supper. Everyone is invited.

MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 *Noon Lenten Lunch U. Methodist *5:30 Lenten Supper 7:00 PM-Choir	2 Women's Board 7:00PM NA meets at 7:30 PM	3	4 8 AM-Men's Breakfast Past Time
5 9:00-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service Communion	6	7 9:00 Deacons Meeting- LDL -noon Fiesta Habaneros	8 *Noon Lenten Lunch Divine Mercy *5:30 Lenten Supper *7:00 PM-Choir	9 NA meets at 7:30	10 Drug Court	11
12 9:00- Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	13	14	15 *Noon Lenten Lunch St. Paul Lutheran *5:30 Lenten Supper *7:00 PM-Choir	16 NA meets at 7:30	17	18
19 9:00-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	20	21 Session	22 *Noon Lenten Lunch First Christian *5:30 Lenten Supper *7:00 PM-Choir	23 NA meets at 7:30	24 Drug Court	25
26 9:00-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	27	28	29 *Noon Lenten Lunch Nazarene *5:30 Lenten Supper * 7:00 PM-Choir	30	31	

*Please note that all the Lenten Lunches are being held in our Fellowship Hall and being hosted by different area churches.



February 2023 Session Highlights

A regular session meeting was held Tuesday, February 21, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

Noteworthy Events

- Pastor Ian provided an update on the topics covered at the Midwest Presbytery meeting held February 10-11.
- Communion will be served the first Sunday of each month except during the summer months of 2023 as Pastor Ian will not be preaching the first Sunday of June, July, and August. He was approved 2 vacation days and 1 study leave for those Sundays, therefore communion will be the second Sunday of those months.
- General Assembly will be held in Denver this year June 21-23. Pastor Ian is planning to attend.
- Lenten season is upon us bringing with it the Lenten lunches in our fellowship hall provided by:
 - February 22 - Presbyterian Women's Board
 - March 1 - United Methodist
 - March 8 - Divine Mercy Catholic
 - March 15 - St. Paul Lutheran
 - March 22 - First Christian
 - March 29 - Paulding Nazarene

Lenten suppers will be accompanied by a video series with Ray Vander Laan after the meals provided by:

- February 22 – Presbyterian Women's Board
- March 1 – Pastor Ian
- March 8 – Adult Sunday School class
- March 15 – Deacons
- March 22 – Choir
- March 29 - Session

- We will be hosting Maundy Thursday services April 6th at 7:00pm and Sunrise services Easter Morning, April 9th at 7:00am. The United Methodist church will host Good Friday services April 7th at noon.

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

Ian Ferguson, Moderator

MARCH BIRTHDAY

1st– Becky Mayer
3rd– Marcia Brune
6th- -Anna Karlstadt
8th- Tiffany Razo
11th–Dick Paulus
10th– Sarah Buzzsell Morgan
16th- Kristen Razo
16th- Ian Ferguson
20th– Henry Ferguson
23rd- Kim Mileto
23rd– Olivia Henson
24th– Kayleigh St.John

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NONE



Drowning written by Sue Paulus

Drowning in sorrow
Sadness
Shame
Drowning in despair
Disappointment
Discontent
Drowning in anger
Annoyance
Aggravation
Drowning...
Drowning in choices made
Lack of trust
Lack of confidence
Lack of faith
Drowning...
Lord, pour your Spirit out
Wrap me in your forgiveness and mercy
Give me so much of You that I'm
Drowning in your joy
Drowning in the wonder of you
Drowning

	A	B	C
1	FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM JANUARY		
2	Designated Gifts:		
3	Amount	Purpose	
4	\$20.00	Agape Fund	
5	\$52.00	Fellowship Hall rental	
6	\$200.00	Missions	
7	\$1,292.30	Nicelley investment dividend	
8	\$248.00	Per member asking	
9	Notable Expenditures:		
10	Amount	Payee	Purpose
11	\$384.00	CNA Surety	Employee surety bond
12	\$400.00	Paulding County Senior Center	Meals on wheels for congregants
13	\$6,893.00	Fenter Flooring	Final payment on carpet project
14	\$1,650.00	Window Creations	Down payment on window project
15	\$2,400.00	Highland Center Electric	Lighting upgrade in sanctuary
16	\$490.15	Deluxe Business	New checks and envelopes
17	Budget vs Actual Income:		
18	\$13,660.64	Budgeted Income	
19	\$11,975.25	Actual Income	
20	(\$1,685.39)	Difference	



From
Treas-
urer
Carol
Razo

HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Women's Board will meet on Thursday, March 2nd at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Hall
- *Men's Breakfast is Saturday, March 4th. Meet them at 8:00 AM at the Past Time Café.
- *Deacons will meet on Tuesday, March 7th at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- *LDL will meet on Tuesday, the March 7th at Fiesta Habineros at noon.
- *Lenten Lunches are being held every Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall serving at noon. The Lenten Lunches will be hosted by different area churches. The Wednesday Lenten Suppers are being hosted by different groups within the church starting at 5:30, listed on page 5.
- *Drug Court will meet this month on the 10th and the 24th.
- *The Deacon for March is Mary McMaster. However, any of the Deacon's may be approached for questions or concerns.
- *If you have a newspaper article or item for the hall bulletin board (pertaining to our church or church members), please give it to Marcia Wiebe, or put it in Marcia's mailbox in the church office. Thank You !!





Left– Pastor Ian, Samuel, Henry and Brynn listen to the Presby Praise Singers (**middle left**) warm up the Sanctuary on a cold February morning.



Right–Deacon Doug Radel shares Scripture on Sunday morning with the congregation.



Our church will be collecting blank journals during the Lenten Season to be given to prisoners at the Paulding County Jail to write in while they are listening to constructive podcasts. Please place new, blank, lined journals in the basket at the top of the stairs. Thank you!

Lenten Lunches and Suppers began last month. First Presbyterian Church is hosting Lenten Lunches and Lenten Suppers. All lunches are noon to 1pm and are hosted by a local church. You will see this list below. All Suppers are hosted by a group within our church (Women's Board, Session, Sunday School, Choir, etc.) and begin at 5:30 followed by a devotional. All meals are FREE and everyone is welcome.

Lenten Lunch Schedule—Noon

March 1st - United Methodist
March 8th– Divine Mercy
March 15th - St. Paul Lutheran

March 22nd - First Christian
March 29th - Nazarene

Hosts for Lenten Suppers-5:30 PM

March 1st– Fergusons
March 8th– Sunday School–
March 15th– Deacons

March 22nd– Choir
March 29th– Session

Board of Directors

Doug Roop-President
 Candyce Hawk
 Traci Koenig-Secretary
 Ann Walker
 Pam Dempsey
 Judy Robinett
 Joe Manz
 Stacy McGarvey
 Chuck Schroeder
 Tricia Osting
New Treasurer- Bruce Rosswurm

Thanks for joining us, Bruce, and blessing us with your expertise! Thanks to Pam Dempsey for her previous time & efforts as Treasurer.



HANDS OF HOPE
 — PREGNANCY SERVICES —

Annual March Pulled Pork Fundraiser

Please join us & sponsor!

Details: Fundraiser will be Tuesday March 10 at the OSU Extension Center at the Paulding Co. Fairgrounds. Meal runs 5-6:30 pm Dine-in or Drive-thru. Free will offering accepted. Please get your meal tickets to reserve your meal. Money will be accepted at the fundraiser. Email us, drop in during open hours, or contact a staff/board member for tickets.

If you wish to be a named sponsor, please fill out the form on the back side.

handsofhope.director@gmail.com



2022. A Big Year

We were blessed to serve 54 clients last year. This is higher than the past 2 years, where we had seen less clients due to the COVID slow-down. We had the opportunity to counsel two who were abortion determined this year, and 10 who were abortion vulnerable. Of the two abortion minded, one ended up being not pregnant, the other's decision remains unknown. We were able to share the gospel over and over, and pray with, and for many of our clients. May God multiply the seeds sown.

We went through a big re-branding process, and are very happy with our fresh look. This included getting an expanded new website. We've been advertising more through the community. Let us know if you have a highly visible piece of land where we could place a Hands of Hope sign!

We announced that the board of directors here has been working with the Paulding Co. Hospital to get a baby box installed at the hospital. We have news that the Baby Box has been approved at the state level and has arrived! We believe your prayers have been working, as this was approved by the state shortly after we announced this venture to our supporters last year. The hospital does not have a date yet for completion but you will hear when it happens. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to stay updated.

Roe vs. Wade overturned! Sadly, abortions are still rampant.

We rolled out a new service in '22, our Birds and the Bees Book Bundles. These books aid parents in teaching their children about the birds and the bees, pornography and safe touch, in a faith-based and excellent way. Please reach out to us if you want to check out these books. You can find more information at handsofhopepaulling.org under Services. This service is for the whole community, not just our clients. Already we have seen God working through these books.

We are in the process of ordering a new ultrasound machine! The Knights of Columbus was instrumental in helping with the purchase of our first one, and we thank them for their financial and physical help as we go through the process again! Our ultrasound machine gives us excellent pictures. Because of this, we are getting a newer version of it. It is planned that our current machine will be donated to a pregnancy center in the Columbus area. We are excited for this machine to continue to be used by God to showcase His masterpieces.

Our landlords have revamped the building!

We wouldn't want to forget to thank every one of you who has contributed time and money to this ministry during 2022. There has been tremendous support from our community, neighbors, strangers, and churches. We had support from 15 area churches in 2022. Thank you for the part you play in this work.

419-399-2447

Website: handsofhopepaulling.org

Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center here in Paulding is supported by our Presbyterian Church through annual budgeted Mission Committee funds.

Tickets for the March 14th fundraiser are to be reserved for the Pulled Pork Dinner with coleslaw, macaroni cheese, chips, cookie and water. The cost of the dinner is free will donation to raise funds for the organization. The dinner will be served from 5– 6:30PM.

Anyone is welcome and encouraged to reserve a ticket and attend in person at the fairgrounds. The Mission Committee would like to offer to anyone not interested in getting out a personally delivered meal to your location. Another generous idea would be to sponsor a delivery to someone else.

You need to RSVP to Becky Riley or Pastor Ian by phone or email by Saturday, March 10th 12:00PM. A Mission Committee member will then deliver the meal to your doorstep. Please contribute your freewill donation at the time of delivery.



The above babies' grandmothers were presented with prayer shawls at the beginning of January during a Sunday Service.

From left to right are Sylar Jay Retz, Grandma Rhonda Smalley, Juliet Ruth Edwards, Grandma Becky Riley and Vivienne Josephine Craft, Grandma Becky Craft.

Thank you to our prayer shawl warriors Becky Craft, Martha Punches and Cindy Koenig who craft these special pieces and pray over them (along with others) with every stitch.



Lent started on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd. At that time, the Lenten Lunches and Lenten Suppers began. The First Lenten Lunch was hosted by the Women's Board from the Presbyterian Church. Pastor Ian (**middle left**) giving an inspiring message on *Unity*.

Middle right– Lenten Supper on Ash Wednesday.

Left - Ash Wednesday Lenten Lunch– parishioners from local churches gathered to enjoy several kinds of creamy soup.



At a recent Drug Court graduation celebration in the Fellowship Hall, Drug Court participants had a chili cook-off. The winning team of Alexis, Cyndi and Kacie (**above left**) revealed that their secret ingredient was real maple syrup. Jane Nice, Judge Tiffany Beckman and court assistant, Melissa Daeger (**above right**) had to count the votes twice. The voting was close! The Drug Court participants and judge really appreciate the church allowing them to use the fellowship hall for their celebrations.



Left- Gideon Mike Jackson speaking to the congregation on February 26th Sunday Service. If you wish to contribute to the Gideons, please send your check to The Gideons International. P.O. Box 426, Paulding, Oh 45879.



Below-Ladies did Lunch at the Past Time Café in February.
Left to Right: Patty Radel, Becky Riley, Jane Nice, Phyllis Crossland, Sue Crossland, Marcia Wiebe, Barb Searing and Alissa Ferguson. Please take an hour this month on March 7th to join these fabulous ladies at Fiesta Habaneros for a bite to eat and wonderful conversation.



The real measure of a man's wealth is how much he would be worth if he lost all his money.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



On Sunday, February 12th, Sue Paulus celebrated a milestone birthday with her family. Sue has been part of the foundation of our church for many years. We are all grateful for the time and energy Sue continues to give.

Above: Part of Sue's family filled the pew for Sunday Service.

Right: Dick and Sue with their grandkids.

Lower left: Sue and Dick Paulus

Lower Right: Sue and Dick with their great-grandkids.



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.**

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Secretary's e-mail: fpcpaulding@gmail.com
www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com**

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First Presbyterian Church