

**Thoughts from Ian...**



**May 2023 Newsletter**

Have you ever had to say “goodbye” to a friend? Maybe your parents were moving and you needed to change schools. Maybe you were graduating from high school and you were moving to a different part of the country. Maybe your friend was passing away and you had a chance to speak one last time. It is true that Christians never need to say “goodbye” because we will see one another in the new heavens and new earth, but even these temporary “goodbyes” can be difficult.

I had to say “goodbye” to a friend this week. Adam Papin, the editor of the Paulding Progress, is moving away. Adam and I have been able to get to know each other through Kiwanis. Most Thursdays, we ate lunch together and learned what was happening in the community. I often saw him around town or at sports games. I remember taking my sons to a Paulding high school wrestling match and my kids were so excited to see Adam there covering the matches. Adam would come over and play board games with Brent, Alissa, and I on Friday nights. He may not have always liked the games, but he was willing to learn. He would draw pictures of animals for my kids, which they still cherish. He cared about the community, and he worked hard to see the paper improve. He loved the village, and I can say that with confidence because he sought its good. I think it pleased God.



In Jeremiah 29, God’s people were in exile. Nebuchadnezzar had taken many Jews into exile in Babylon from Jerusalem. The question was, how did God command them to live? Does he command his people to undermine the city, stir up trouble, or try to flee? No. God commanded them to build houses, plant gardens, settle in, and seek the welfare of the city! God says, “Wherever I have put you, seek the good of that community.”

In God’s time, God promises that he will fulfill his promises to his exiled people and bring them out of Babylon. Jeremiah 29:11 is often misquoted to directly apply to Christians. But this promise is only a part of God’s promise fully seen in verses 10-14, that he will bring exiled Jews back from exile. Yet, the character of God is the same. God desires that we would be a blessing to the communities where he places us, and we should remember that he is faithful.

In the New Testament we see a similar command. Paul instructs us, “make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody.” 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12.

I am proud that many people in our church have the same ambition. I love that we have a church that seeks to be a blessing to our community. Many of you live quiet lives, minding your own business, working with your hands, earning respect by your hard work. Many of you serve and volunteer in our community to make it a better place. Many of you give generously to improve our community. You are a blessing to Paulding County, and I love you for it and it pleases God.

# MAY 2023

| Sun  | Mon   | Tue   | Wed                       | Thu  | Fri              | Sat  |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|--|------------------|--|
|  | 1   | 2<br>9:00 Deacons<br>Meeting<br>LDL –NOON<br>Holly's cafe | 3<br><br>7:00 PM<br>Choir | 4 Day of<br>Prayer<br>7PM<br>Women's<br>Board<br><br>NA 7:30 | 5                | 6<br>8 AM<br>Men's<br>Breakfast<br>Past Time<br>Cafe |
| 7<br>9:00—Sunday<br>School<br>10:30<br>Worship Service<br>Communion  | 8   | 9   | 10<br><br>7:00 PM Choir   | 11<br><br>NA meets<br>7:30                                   | 12<br>Drug Court | 13   |
| 14<br>9:00-Sunday<br>School<br>10:30-Worship<br>Service<br> | 15  | 16  | 17                        | 18<br><br>NA meets<br>7:30                                   | 19               | 20   |
| 21<br>9:00 Sunday<br>School<br>10:30-Worship<br>Service  | 22  | 23<br><br>Session<br>7PM                                  | 24                        | 25<br><br>NA meets<br>7:30                                   | 26<br>Drug Court | 27   |
| 28<br>9:00-Sunday<br>School<br>10:30-Worship<br>Service  | 29<br> | 30  | 31                        |  |                  |  |

## April Session Highlights

A regular session meeting was held Tuesday, April 18, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

### Noteworthy Events

- Pastor Ian was able to make good use of our new portable sound system during the performances of Jane Nice's "No Compromise" play performed in Antwerp the weekend of April 14-16. Session members thanked him for volunteering our system and taking the responsibility of operating it during rehearsals and performances.
- Pastor Ian asked for volunteers to attend the 179<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Presbytery of the Midwest with him which will be held May 12-13 in Clarkston, Michigan. Session would need to nominate and pass a motion for any of us to attend as a commissioner. As of this time no Session member was interested in attending.
- On April 23, 2023, Session members, including Pastor Ian, met with Lisa Klinebriel and approved whole-heartedly, her desire to be baptized during worship service April 16<sup>th</sup>. What a blessing!
- Session was reminded of the National Day of Prayer, May 4, on the courthouse lawn.
- Pastor Ian reminded Session of his vacation time on May 21, 2023.

### New Business

-Session approved a few calendar items involving permission to use the Fellowship Hall:

- Rhonda Smalley asked for the hall April 22 from 2:00-5:00pm.
- Carol Razo asked to use the hall April 26 from 6:00-7:00pm on behalf of the Crane Township Bicentennial Committee.
- Brent Fishbaugh will once again be in charge of the 127 Yard Sale coming up August 2-6, 2023. During this event Carol Razo usually holds a sale for the raising of funds toward the building of the Food Pantry, but this summer with a bridge closed for repairs on US 127 south of Sherwood, we have been asked if these 2 sales could be combined. Session heartily agreed and furthermore decided all proceeds will go to the Food Pantry this year instead of other missions.

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

Ian Ferguson, Moderator

### MAY BIRTHDAY

2-Martha Punches  
7-Mike Pennington  
7-Susan Kaysor  
12-Reba Hurtig  
15-Erin Karlstadt  
16-Brenda Clark  
19-Erica Smalley Temple  
20-Brody Verfaillie  
21-Sue Crossland  
22-Logan Crossland  
23-Jace Crossland  
23-Abigail Katherine Haas  
24-Becky Craft  
25-Bud Koenig  
30-Becky Riley



### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5- Bill and Jillene McMichael



Spring is blooming in *Nathan's Garden* next to the parking lot. This beautiful little corner of our church is in honor and memory of Nathan Griffith who brought joy to everyone who knew him. Nathan was the grandson of Ken and Judy Robinson.





From  
Treasurer  
Carol Razo

|    | A                            | B                              | C                          |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1  | FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM MARCH |                                |                            |
| 2  | Designated Gifts:            |                                |                            |
| 3  | Amount                       | Purpose                        |                            |
| 4  | \$150.00                     | Gideons International          |                            |
| 5  | \$50.00                      | Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center |                            |
| 6  | \$200.00                     | Missions                       |                            |
| 7  | \$171.70                     | Nicelley investment dividend   |                            |
| 8  | \$40.00                      | Per member asking              |                            |
| 9  | \$100.00                     | PPC Project                    |                            |
| 10 | Notable Expenditures:        |                                |                            |
| 11 | Amount                       | Payee                          | Purpose                    |
| 12 | \$50.00                      | Gideons International          | Offering for Gideons       |
| 13 | \$50.00                      | Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center | Offering for Hands of Hope |
| 14 | Budget vs Actual Income:     |                                |                            |
| 15 | \$39,659.92                  | Budgeted Income                |                            |
| 16 | \$42,205.24                  | Actual Income                  |                            |
| 17 | \$2,545.32                   | Difference                     |                            |
| 18 |                              |                                |                            |

### HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- \*Women's Board will meet Tuesday, May 2nd in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM.
- \*Men's Breakfast is Saturday, May 6th. Meet them at 8:00 AM at the Past Time Café.
- \*Deacons will meet on Tuesday, May 2nd at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- \*LDL will meet on Tuesday, May 2nd at noon at Hollywood and Vine.
- \*National Day of Prayer– Thursday, May 4th at the Gazebo at 8AM.
- \*Session meets Tuesday, May 16th at 7 PM.
- \*Drug Court will meet this month on May 12th and May 26th.
- \*Sunday School is meeting at 9 AM every Sunday morning. Alissa Ferguson is leading us in a study titled *Sacred Pathways, Nine Ways to Connect with God*.
- \*Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 28th for the Women's Fall Retreat. Then watch for details through out the summer.
- \*There are N.A. open meetings on Tuesdays at 6PM at the Antwerp Community Church.
- \*The designated Deacon for May is Becky Riley. However, any of the Deacon's may be approached for questions or concerns.

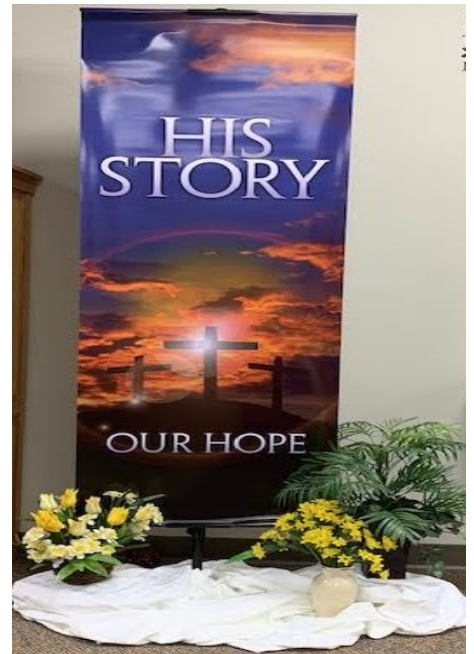


# SUNRISE SERVICE

The Presbyterian Church hosted Sunrise Service this year for the Ministerial Association.

**Left top**– The churches came together to worship early Easter morning.

**Left Middle**– Patty Radel, Becky Riley and Becky Craft putting the finishing touches on the breakfast.



**Right**- As always, our the church was adorned with beautiful decor by our own Jill Straley.



**Left and Above**-The Ladies presented a superb table of mini-egg quiches and an over-abundance of baked goods for a 'light' breakfast after Sunrise Service.





**Right-** Ladies did Lunch in April at the Senior Center. Food was delicious!

**Left to Right-** Becky Craft, Martha PUNCHES, Phyllis Crossland, Sue Crossland, Barb Searing, Sue Paulus, Marcia Wiebe, Becky Riley, Patty Radel and Cara Strahley.



**Left -**Dick Paulus' funeral dinner was held at the Senior Center.

Dick will be greatly missed by his family as well as his church family.

The Paulus family wishes to thank everyone for their prayers, visits and memorial donations. The love that surrounded them was the warmth they needed during this time.

**Below-** The Palm Sunday Service found the children's progression of Palms into the Sanctuary.

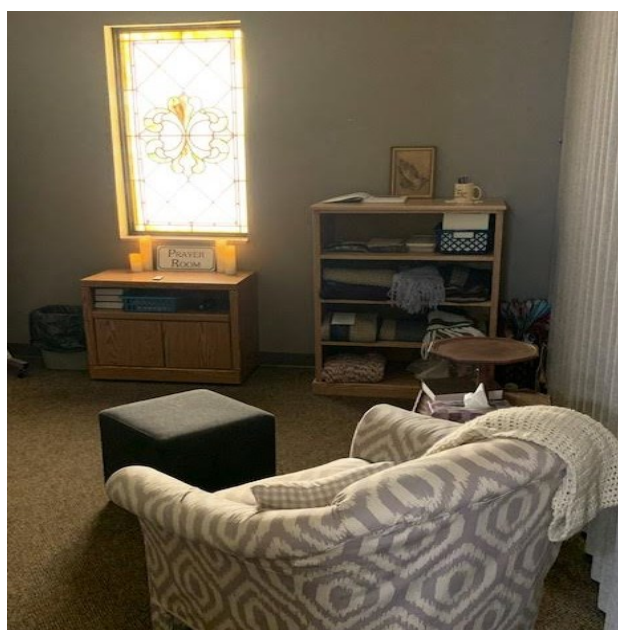


**Above-** Lisa Klinebriel was baptized during a Sunday Service in April.





If you were lucky enough to score tickets to Jane Nice's play, *No Compromise! Dinner Theater*, (The Reservoir War) the third weekend in April, you would have observed Don and Ruby Crossland playing Joseph and Elzeda respectively, Rhonda Smalley (bottom right) playing the Bargain Bin lady (tough role for her) and Pastor Ian in a dual role of Francis (right) and once again reviving his John Paulding character (lower right). You would also have noticed several village and county dignitaries donning 1887 costumes. There was also a rumor that Deacon Doug Radel made a cameo. Jane Nice (middle left) overseeing the production.



**Left** – The Deacons have created a Prayer Room in a side room off the Fellowship Hall. The door can be closed and a worshipper will have a private corner to communicate with our Lord. There are also prayer boards with prayer requests from the congregation, if one so desires. You may add to the prayer requests or utilize the card basket to send a note or get-well wish to a shut-in.







**Left-** During Children's Church one Sunday, Rhonda Smalley lead the children on the Story of Gideon.

**Below-** Alissa Ferguson is leading Sunday School down the *Sacred Pathways, Nine Ways to Connect with God*.



#### **Prayer shawls find a Home! (Sue C.)**

After many years of bags of things from our knitting/crocheting group being placed in the hallway, the library, the annex and various other places, they now have a home! Many thanks to Rich Craft for building a beautiful solid oak shelf unit which is located the Prayer Room in the fellowship hall. They can now be beautifully displayed and prayed over as well as promoting our prayer shawl ministry. Thanks to those who continue this ministry. For more information contact Martha Punches.

#### **Church has Intruder !** (by Sue Crossland)

Over Easter weekend we had an intruder which found it's way in to our church through the kitchen stove vent. It was reported to be very large by the noise it was making. All I could think of was the song by Ray Stevens-*The Mississippi Squirrel Revival*-about a squirrel getting loose in a church, (check it out on YouTube-hilarious!).

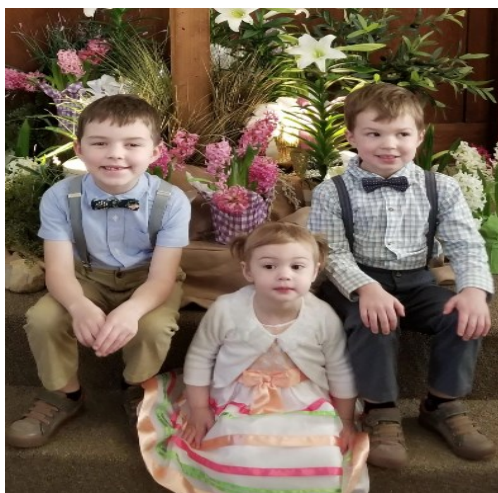
We couldn't take the chance of it getting loose with Easter service and breakfast after community service so we waited for the extrication. On Monday everything was removed from the kitchen counters and all the doors closed. Tuesday morning Doug Radel and Pastor Ian removed the filters above the stoves and found a very large dead bird! Sorry the bird died but at least the culprit was found! The clean up began to scrub the filters and return everything to its proper place. God had a hand in this teaching us patience and the joy of laughter !

*(Editor's note - We need to give Sue C. credit for scrubbing down the kitchen and spearheading this search and recovery event).*





If you attended church on Easter morning, you would have seen the Choir take their place in the loft, Amber, Jeremy and daughter (left), the Ferguson kids (left), Seth Constein and family (right), Martha and Autumn (bottom left) and Henry assisting Deacon Patty (right) to extinguish the alter candles.



**Glimpses around the Sanctuary on Easter Morning.**

**Sunday School at 9:00**

**Worship Service 10:30**

**First Presbyterian Church  
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**firstpresbyterianpaulding.com**

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

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