

Thoughts from Ian...



Napoleon, Ohio, has a curious claim to fame. It is home to Ohio's first corn maze! Over the past 27 years, Leaders Farm has grown into quite the fall festival of Northwest Ohio. Last year was our family's first experience at Leaders. This year, the kids were begging to return. Samuel ziplined and challenged himself to a dexterity game with ropes and pulleys. Henry bounced on a large inflatable pumpkin and tested his strength on a "ring the bell" challenge. Brynn milked a pretend cow and played in the corn box. The kids had great fun, but one activity stood out. The corn maze.

A large corn field on the north side of Leaders Farm holds the maze. Samuel, Brynn, and I entered the maze with optimism. After all, Leaders Farm is geared towards families. Surely the corn maze would not be that difficult! I was wrong.

Samuel, in his excitement, ran ahead giggling. I carried Brynn in my arms, winding our way through the field. Samuel would pause at most of the intersections, making sure we were following. At times, he would hit a dead end and be forced to double back and go another way. Brynn laughed and yelled at her older brother as he would again dash away.

After 10 minutes of navigating the maze, we had hit so many dead ends and loops that even I was disoriented. It seemed like we were much further from the exit than we needed to be. The journey was taking much longer than I thought it would. Doubling back was frustrating. Looping around to where I had been just a few minutes before was discouraging. Soon, Brynn let out a cry, "Maaaaaaaaa!"

Navigating the corn maze reminded me of something I had read the previous week in a book called "I Once Was Lost" about the journey to faith in Jesus. Compiled from hundreds of people's experiences, the authors commented how the path to faith in Jesus was a lot like us in that maze. There was a path to faith, but it was not straight and simple.

From their research, the authors found God often brought a Christian into an unbeliever's life who they learned to trust. Because of the Christian's life, they became curious about Jesus and open to change. After a period of seeking, they put their trust in Jesus. Simple right? Nope!

There was clearly a process of trust, curiosity, openness, seeking, and making a decision of faith. But in this journey, people often regressed, hit dead ends, doubled back, and needed guidance. What a non-Christian on this journey needs most is someone willing to be patient, honest, and loving during the journey to faith in Jesus. It can be tempting to think, "Just accept the good news of Jesus, already!" but it is often not that simple.

In Mark 4, Jesus tells a parable about how faith grows. There is a process of seed, then stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head before a harvest. Heeding this lesson, we are able to recognize the different stages of growth and seek to love our non-Christian friends wisely and sensitively, adjusting to where they are in their growth. Are we willing to walking with our non-Christian friends through the process?

Eventually, we made it out of the corn maze. I am glad I was able to experience it with my kids. At times on the journey, I thought "This is not worth it. I am done!" but I hung in there. May we have the same patience as God works through us in the lives of those who are on the journey of faith.



NOVEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm Choir	2 NA meets 7:30 PM	3 Drug Court	4 8 AM Men's Breakfast Past Time
5 9:00 Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service COMMUNION	6	7 9AM Deacons <u>Holly's</u> Noon-LDL Fiesta Habaneros	8 7PM Choir	9 7:00 Women's <u>Board</u> NA meets 7:30	10	11 
12 9:00 Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	13	14	15 7PM Choir	16 NA meets 7:30	17 Drug Court	18 7PM Lutheran Church Siberian Sol- stice
19 10:30- Worship Service	20	21 10AM- Caregiver Sup- port Group- Senior Center SESSION-7pm	22 7PM Choir	23 	24	25
26 10:30- Worship Service	27	28	29 7PM Choir	30		

WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO UPDATE AND REPRINT THE DIRECTORY. PLEASE GIVE BECKY RILEY ANY INFORMATION THAT NEEDS TO BE UPDATED AND/OR JUST MAKE SURE YOUR INFORMATION IS CORRECT. SEND THIS INFORMATION TO fpcpaulding@gmail.com, LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 419-399-2438, OR LEAVE A NOTE ON THE OFFICE DESK.

ALSO, IF YOU NEED TO ADD YOUR PICTURE OR UPDATE YOUR CURRENT ONE, EMAIL IT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS. NOT LISTED AT ALL? LET BECKY KNOW YOU NEED TO BE ADDED.



The fall leaves stand out against the blue sky and the brick on our beautiful church building.

The different colors of mums along the ramp add to the splendor of the autumn decorations adorning the railings.

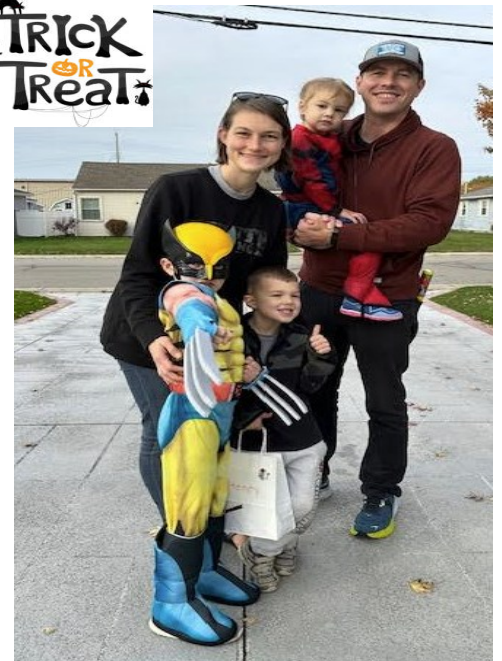
Thanks to those individuals who helped create this scene.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7-Audrey Stechschulte
8-Art Razo
15-Megan Reineck
21-Linda Reineck
27-Judy Robinson
28-Brent Fishbaugh
28-Jeff Summers
29-Jane Nice

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

8-Darwin and Darla Cline
13-Paul and Kari Searing
16-Doug and Rhonda Smalley



	A	B	C
1	FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM SEPTEMBER		
2	Designated Gifts:		
3	Amount	Purpose	
4	\$500.00	To offset property maintenance costs	
5	\$200.00	Missions	
6	\$180.75	Nicelley investment dividend	
7	Notable Expenditures:		
8	Amount	Payee	Purpose
9	\$150.00	Rebecca Riley	Gift cards from Agape Fund
10	\$1,300.00	Randy Crawford	Mowing, trimming
11	\$158.04	Sweetwater	Choir music
12	\$691.00	History Studios	Frame historical pictures
13	Budget vs Actual Income:		
14	\$120,301.75	Budgeted Income	
15	\$112,624.41	Actual Income	
16	(\$7,677.34)	Difference	



From
Treasurer
Carol Razo

HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Women's Board will meet at 7PM on Thursday, November 9th in the Fellowship Hall.
- *Men's Breakfast on Saturday, November 4th at 8AM at the Past Time Café.
- *Deacons will meet on Tuesday, November 7th at 9 AM at Holly's.
- *Ladies Do Lunch are gathering at Fiesta Habaneros Tuesday, the 7th at noon.
- *Drug Court will meet this month on November 3rd and 17th
- *Caregiver Support Group will meet Tuesday, November 21st at 10 AM at the Senior Center.
- *Session will meet Tuesday, November 21st at 7 PM at the church.
- *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 November is Martha Panches. However, any Deacon may be approached for questions or concerns.
- **Watch for details regarding the First Presbyterian Church's Christmas play to happen in early December. Practices are already underway.
- **St. Paul Lutheran Church is hosting *Siberian Solstice, A Trans-Siberian Orchestra* on Saturday, November 18th. Doors will open at 5:30 for a d'oeuvres buffet and a raffle, with the performance beginning at 7 PM. This is free-will donation to benefit the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry.
- **The Relay for Life Chocolate Walk is coming up on Thursday, November 2nd from 4-7 PM. Check in at Herb Monroe Park for your map to visit and support your local businesses. You will also be funding the cure for cancer. Tickets are limited, visit a participating business or go online to purchase your ticket.

OCTOBER SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

A regular Session meeting was held Tuesday, October 17th, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM.

Noteworthy Events

-The Mission Team's visit to the Mindlings, a missionary couple, in Detroit went well. They were happy to host Dave Nice, Jane Nice, Carol Razo and Ian Ferguson and share with them their ministry to the Afghan community.

-Anticipating the Women's Retreat on 10/28. Many in our community have been working hard to see this impactful event happen. 'Thank you' to all involved.

-5thQ Football parties are done for the year. It was encouraging to see 4 local churches partner together to reach around 80 students. Plans are being put in place for Paulding basketball parties this winter. Keep an eye out for more information in November!

-Christmas play practices have begun. A big thank you to all families involved to make this a memorable Advent season. Look for the Children's Christmas play to happen in early December.

Business

-Session approved the last 2 weeks of vacation and study leave for the year (November 20-26 and December 25-31).

-Sunday School in 1Thessalonians continues at 9:00AM in the Fellowship Hall on Sundays. All are invited.

-Sue Crossland continues to work hard to maintain the church property, making sure snow removal contracts are signed and boilers are checked. (Thanks, Sue!) Also, Rick Craft is working to make beautiful baseboards in the church annex. (Thanks, Rick!)

Pastor Ian Ferguson, Moderator

Ian Ferguson



41st ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT



Above Left– Becky Craft, Barb Searing and speaker Pheba welcomed us. **Above Right**– Sue Paulus registers the guests. **Right**– Ruth Eschbach and her daughter, Mari-
anne Riley.



Below– Susan Kaysor and daughter, Jillene McMichael

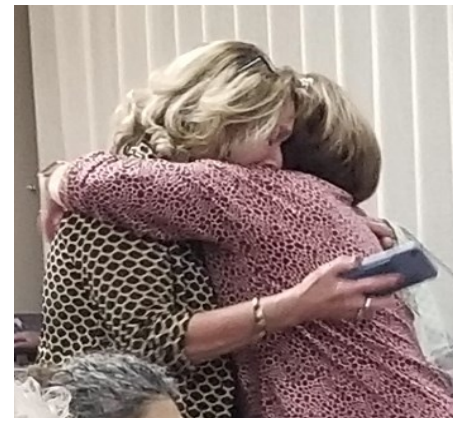


Middle Left– Barb welcomes the ladies and introduces speaker, Pheba Banerjee. **Middle**– Speaker Pheba shared an amazing testimony.



Above, Right and next page– a bird's eye view of the group of ladies from the pulpit.





Above-The three recipients of the prayer shawls. Jill Breedlove, Leslie, (friend of the Radels) and Becky Riley's sister, Pam.



Left and Right-
The duets that were created by Sue Kaysor and Sue Crossland were absolutely breathtaking.



Left- ladies listening to speaker Pheba –**Above-** as she continues to share after brunch in the Fellowship Hall about her 'travel' from Hinduism to Christian life.



Pastor Dwayne, Jeff Riley, Cody Roesser, Rick Craft, Doug Radel, and Pastor Ian served the ladies brunch at the Retreat.



Ladies do Lunch met at the Past Time Café in October.

Left to right– Barb Searing, Becky Craft, Marcia Wiebe, Sue Paulus, Sue Crossland, Phyllis Crossland and Patty Radel.

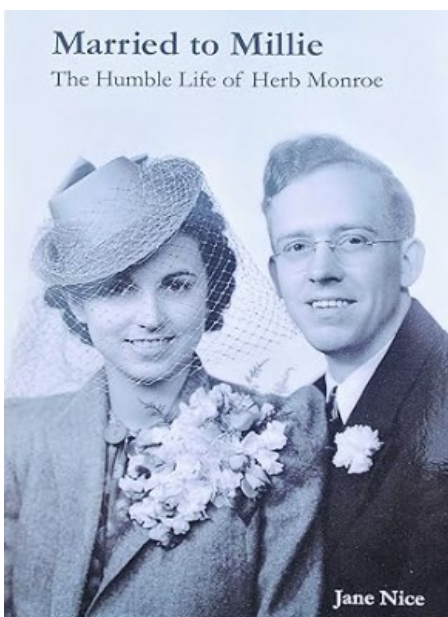
Meet them on November 7th at the Fiesta.



Part of our church's ministry with Paulding County Drug Court is to provide gifts for the children of drug court participants each Christmas. This helps alleviate some of their financial stress, and it aids them in building bridges with their children and their families. It is truly a way to show them love from our church and they are so grateful.

The people in drug court will soon be filling out their angels with their children's ages, clothing sizes and what they like. We will wrap the gifts in the fellowship hall the week before they are to be delivered to Drug Court on the last session in December.

Please see Jane Nice to get an angel if you would like to shop for a child this Christmas. Thank you for participating in this ministry.



The Paulding County Carnegie Library is hosting book club on Monday, November 13 at 6:30 PM in the main branch of the library.

The featured book is *Married to Millie: The Humble Life of Herb Monroe*. Author Jane Nice is leading the discussion and Herb's granddaughter Liz is joining by Zoom from Boston.

The book features lots of history about our church and Paulding. Whether you read it previously or want to pick up a copy from the Paulding library or our church library, everyone is welcome to join us.

You Say...

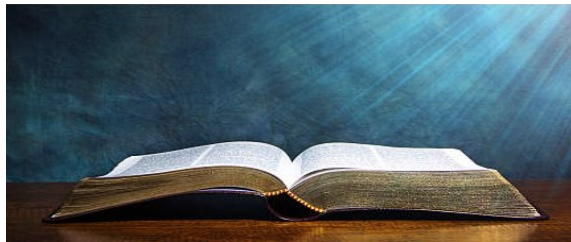
I can't figure it out.
I'm too tired.
It's impossible.
Nobody loves me.
I can't forgive myself.
It's not worth it.
I'm not smart enough.
I'm not able.
I can't go on.
I can't do it.
I can't manage
I'm afraid.
I feel all alone.

God Says...

I will direct your steps.
I will give you rest.
All things are possible.
I love you.
I forgive you.
It will be worth it.
I will give you wisdom.
I am able.
My grace is sufficient.
You can do all things.
I will supply all you need.
I have not given you fear.
I will never leave you.

Bible Verses

Proverbs 3:5-6
Matthew 11:28-30
Luke 18:27
John 3:16
Romans 8:1
Romans 8:28
I Corinthians 1:30
II Corinthians 9:8
II Corinthians 12:9
Philippians 4:13
Philippians 4:19
II Timothy 1:7
Hebrews 13:5



Pictured is Pheba Banerjee, who was our featured speaker for the 2023 Women's Retreat in October. Pheba is the Director of Pastoral Care at this homeless shelter in Bryan, Ohio. During the retreat, guests brought needed items to donate to the shelter. The Presbyterian Church Mission Committee also donated to this worthy cause. Pheba told stories of the people and families that land on their doorsteps. They are not funded by the state or any government agency. If you feel the desire to donate to The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter, please contact them in Bryan, or get in touch with Barb, Becky R. or Becky C. and they will assist you.



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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