

## The Cornerstone News

### First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 5 Issue 10



## Thoughts from Ian...



Last month, I baptized our son Henry. We had so much fun having family in town and being able to baptize our son with our church family. Henry was all smiles and Samuel was excited to have his uncle “Chuck” there to

play. We are thankful for having such a welcoming church family with whom to celebrate. It was a holiday weekend and so we understand some of you were unable to make it. During the service, I shared with the congregation why we, in our local church and in our denomination (the Evangelical Presbyterian Church) baptize believers and their children. Even though baptizing infants is a common practice (Presbyterians, Lutherans, Catholics, Anglican / Episcopalians, Methodists and others), many people don’t know why we do it. In short, we baptize believers and their children because God commands it.

Before I go any further, let me state this is not an essential of the faith. People can be members of our church family, even be Elders in our church, and not hold this view on when to baptize. I have friends and family who hold a different view on when to baptize. What I hope to do is help people who don’t understand why we baptize infants to know we don’t do it based on tradition but based on our understanding of what God tells us in the Bible.

Throughout the Bible, believers and their children are included within the covenant community and should receive the sign of the covenant. In Genesis 15, God established a covenant with Abraham and his offspring. Abra-

ham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness. In other words, Abraham was saved by faith (See Romans 4). Then, in Genesis 17, God established the sign of this covenant as circumcision. Circumcision was a sign of the righteousness Abraham received from God by having faith in God (v.10-14; Romans 4:11). God said this sign of faith was to be administered to his children. So, Abraham received the sign of the covenant, which was a sign of his faith, AND his children received this same sign of the covenant even though they did not have faith when they received the sign!

This does not mean children were saved by circumcision. All are saved by what God accomplished on the cross and we receive it by faith. No one is saved by works, this includes not being saved by the work of being circumcised (Gal. 2:16). God saves and we receive God’s gift by faith. If a Jew, who was circumcised, did not have faith they were said to have an uncircumcised heart. Having a circumcised heart meant they had faith in God (Deut. 10:12-16, 30:6, Lev. 26:40-42, Jer. 4:4, Rom 2:28-29). Instead of seeing children as being saved by circumcision, children were entrusted to God-- anticipating saving faith to be later realized as the child grew in the covenant community.

Does the inclusion of children in God’s covenant community change from the Old Covenant to New Covenant? No. In fact, the inclusion of children in the New Covenant community is affirmed. For example, in Acts 2:39 Peter tells the crowd that *“the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*

In the Bible, we see God has always included children as part of the visible covenant community—Old and New Covenant. And what is the sign of

the New Covenant? The sign of the New Covenant is baptism—a sign and a seal on members of the covenant community, believing adults and their children.

God has always included children in the covenant community. If God intended His people to depart from doing so, God would have clearly instructed His people in the New Testament not to give children the sign of the covenant but God did not. Instead, we find household baptisms being practiced (Acts 10:38, 16:15, 16:32, 1 Cor. 1:16). Thus, in obedience to how we understand what God teaches in the Bible, we baptize believing adult and their children.

What does this whole thing mean for us? First, children are to be baptized and taught the Christian faith. Jesus commands us to baptize and teach others in order to make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). This command includes our children, we are to baptize and teach them. Second, children are part of the visible covenant community and so let’s remember to speak God’s promises over them, and entrust them to God’s care. We do all this in faith, that when it is time, they will confess faith personally.

I hope this helps any who do not understand why we baptize infants. If anyone still has questions, please contact me and I would be glad to talk more about it over a cup of coffee. A pastor-friend of mine put together a chart I found helpful. I have included it in this newsletter. (See page 7)

# October 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	6	5
			Choir practice 7:00	N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge		
Fergusons on vacation						
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Dave McMaster speaking			1st Wednesday meal and service	N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge	5th Quarter Party	
Vacation			Choir practice			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Communion		Session 7:00		Help Me Grow play group 9:30 to 11	Parc-lane using kitchen and din- ing room for a BBQ 8-3	
Fall Family Fun Fest at Searing's 4:00 to 8:00			Choir practice 7:00	N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
		Writers' Group 7:00	Choir practice 7:00	N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge		Women's Retreat 9-2:30
27	28	29	30	31		

October  
 1<sup>st</sup> - Marlene Buehler  
 1<sup>st</sup> - Chantz Verfaillie  
 4<sup>th</sup> - Terry Buehler  
 10<sup>th</sup> - Adam Leever

12<sup>th</sup> - Tim Cline  
 12<sup>th</sup> - Don Crossland  
 21<sup>st</sup> - Jennifer (Mayer) Thompson  
 23<sup>rd</sup> - Justine Holtsberry  
 24<sup>th</sup> - Bill Hurtig

26<sup>th</sup> - Marcia Wiebe  
 29<sup>th</sup> - TJ Wiebe  
 30<sup>th</sup> - Jeremy Fife

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

Oct. Anniversary  
 12<sup>th</sup> - Jason and Andrea (Smalley)  
 Retz  
 30<sup>th</sup> - Harry and Marcia Wiebe

## Session Highlights

At the September 17 Session meeting, elders:

-were reminded that Pastor Ian will be on vacation Mon., Sept. 30 through Sun., Oct. 6. Related to that: the 1st Wednesday meal that would have been Wed., Oct. 2 will be held Oct. 9; there will be no Sunday School on Sun., Oct. 6 and Dave McMaster will preach that day; and communion, which would have been Sun., Oct. 6, will be served on Sun., Oct. 13.

-approved Pastor Ian to purchase Breeze church management software.

-learned that Pastor Ian's community involvement now includes volunteering at JEBZ coffee shop from 7-9 am Wed.-Fri. in addition to volunteering with Junior High soccer and Kiwanis membership. The Leadership in Action class that he was signed up for is not taking place in the 2019-20 year.

-accepted the Nominating committee's recommendation for officers, Class of 2022: for elders, Matt Reineck (second term) and Susan Crossland; for deacons, Rhonda Smalley and Mary McMaster; for congregational representative on nominating committee, Linda Reineck. These officers will be elected at a Congregational meeting in early December.

-okayed four add-on contracts in relation to the bricks project. These items related to gutter repair, rotted wood, and other needs discovered by E. Lee Construction during their brick work. Thanks to the property committee's work with the contractor, the total project including these add-ons will cost ~\$55,000, under the original target of \$60,000.

-heard that Fitzenrider is evaluating all the thermostats to optimize efficiency in conjunction with the boiler replacement project. The new boilers will use many fewer BTU's and function at much higher efficiency. Revised quote for this part of the project is ~\$24,000.

-reviewed the new Pastor Evaluation timing for this year: elders complete evaluation forms during early October; personnel review with Pastor Ian at October personnel meeting; review results with elders at October meeting; Personnel makes salary recommendation to Finance com-

mittee during November for budgeting purposes; budget presented for approval at November Session meeting; congregational approval of budget and election of officers for class of 2022 at a Congregational meeting in early December.

-learned that the Strengthening Families meals were cancelled again. This approval process will need to start with a new request to Session if needed in the future.

-talked about church security in relation to recent national news. Pastor Ian will be setting up a Deacons meeting and speaking with Sheriff Landers about possible measures our church should consider.

-approved Drug court double graduation Fri., Sept. 27; Fall Family Fun Fest, Sun., Oct. 13 (rain date Oct. 20); a diaper drive for a drug court mom; an angel tree for children of drug court families near Christmas; and for Alissa Ferguson to use the church to tutor a math student.



### FALL FAMILY FUN FEST

Think hot cider, pumpkins, campfire, s'mores, a wagon ride.....

**Sunday, October 13 4:00 - 8:00 pm**  
 4:45 wagon ride  
 6:00 potluck supper

**Searing's pond/farm**  
 16829 Twp. Rd. 168 northeast of town

Come when you can; leave when you must.  
 Invite some friends!  
 Enjoy a lovely fall afternoon in God's creation!

#### ESSENTIALS:

-yourself and a lawn chair  
 -long pants, socks and shoes highly recommended

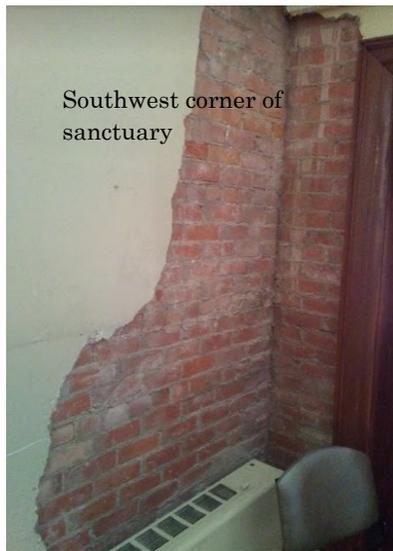
#### NON-ESSENTIALS:

-bring a potluck dish  
 -bring a pole for some catch-and-release fishing  
 -bring marshmallow forks or other campfire tools  
 -plates, soup bowls, utensils, hotdogs and coffee provided

#### RAIN DATE

Sunday, October 20

Map with driving directions provided at church



Southwest corner of sanctuary



## Outside and inside work on our building:

Stop by and check it out! It's fascinating to watch the progress.



Our church will once again be collecting diapers for a Drug Court mother who is expecting a baby this fall. Bags or boxes of diapers or diaper wipes can be placed in the hall by the bulletin board throughout the month of October.

### Change in First Wednesday Meal!

During October the First Wednesday meal is actually the second Wednesday because of Pastor Ian's vacation.

Wednesday October 9th, Supper at 5:30  
Service at 6:15, followed by choir practice

Our goal is to strengthen the lives and ministries of Christian missionaries on the front lines fulfilling the Great Commission. Through God's Share Program, Inc. we provide quality items missionaries need for their family and ministry.

We don't settle for "Oh, missionaries will be happy with whatever they get." We are good stewards, but we also strive to meet, if not exceed, our missionaries' expectations.

Missionaries are people and families stepping out in faith into a strange land and a culture different than any they have ever known. They must learn a new language, deal with multiple currencies, a continually fluctuating budget, and a government system unlike that of their homeland. They are on-call 24/7.

Romans 12:13 states: "Share with God's people who are need. Practice hospitality." Together, we can practice hospitality toward our missionaries by remembering to pray for them, encouraging them, helping them, and sharing with them. We can share our time, talents, and resources.



**God's Share Program** was founded in 2003 by Kim Short, Phyllis Crossland's niece. The thrift shop is there to support missionary work, and is much to crowded. They are in the process of purchasing a new building so that the missionaries can be better served. We have supported God's Share Program for several years, financially and be sending items to Kim for mission work. Now they are in financial need as they raise funds to purchase this much larger facility. Donations can be given put in the collection plate marked God's Share Program or mailed to 38435 North Ave. Zephyrhills, FL 33542. (a 501(c) non-profit corporation)



Henry's grandparents, Matt and Cathleen Fergusons and Greg and Brenda Kirsteatter, as well as his uncle Jared Kirsteatter

were here. Henry is surrounded by many who love him, including Mommy, Daddy, Samuel and all the congregation.



## *Baptism of Henry Ferguson*

September 1, 2019

## General Assembly Representatives

Paul Panches Elder, Pastor Ian Ferguson, Dr. Larry Fishbaugh Ruling Elder, and Rhonda Smalley, Ruling Elder were our representatives at GA in Angola IN during September



## FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM AUGUST

### Designated Gifts:

Amount	Purpose
\$300.00	Historical Fund
\$374.00	Mission Trip Fund from 127 Garage Sale
\$207.00	Ice Cream Sales
\$50.00	Outreach Fund for 5Q Events



### Notable Expenditures:

Amount	Payee	Purpose
\$242.62	Fresh Encounter Corporate	Ice cream tent supplies
\$443.61	Barb Searing	Coffee bar cart w/assembly
\$397.00	Custom Audio Concepts	Over the ear microphone
\$306.00	Ian Ferguson	Pastor mileage reimbursement
\$109.50	JW Pepper	Choir music

Information from Carol Razo, Treasurer



### 5th Quarter Prep

Samuel and his helper work to prepare for the first 5th quarter party. There were 100 + kids in our parking lot later this same night.



Tutti Johnson sharing a birthday lunch with Grandson Travis and son Mark **Happy Birthday Tutti!**



What: 5th Quarter party for 7th thru 12th grades  
Fire pit, music, games, and food

Where: Parking lot of the First Presbyterian Church  
W. Caroline Street, Paulding

When: Friday October 11th, hosted by Presbyterian 8:30 to 11:00

# Circumcision and Baptism

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Sign and seal of the Covenant of Grace (Gen. 17:9-14, Deut. 30:6, Rom. 4:11)      | 1. Sign and seal of the Covenant of Grace (Rom. 4:11, Col. 2:11-12)                 |
| 2. Union with Christ (Gen 17:9-14, Jer. 4:4)   | 2. Union with Christ (Col. 2:11-13, Gal. 3:27, Eph. 2:11-12)                        |
| 3. Symbolizes Regeneration (Deut. 10:16, 30:6, Jer. 4:4)                             | 3. Symbolizes Regeneration (Col. 2:13, Tit. 3:5)                                    |
| 4. Remission of sins (Deut. 30:6, Col. 2:13)   | 4. Remission of sins (Col. 2:13, Mark 1:4)  |
| 5. Obliges recipient to walk in newness of life (Gen. 17:9, Deut. 10:12-16)          | 5. Obliges recipient to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-4, 1 Cor. 7:14)           |
| 6. Initiates membership in the covenant community (Gen. 17:14, 21:4, Lev. 12:3)      | 6. Initiates membership in the covenant community (Eph. 2:12, 1 Cor 12:13)          |
| 7. Given to entire households (Gen. 17:10)   | 7. Given to entire households (Acts 16:15, 16:33)                                   |
| 8. Mere outward reception of the sign is of no benefit (Jer. 9:25, Rom. 4:11-12)     | 8. Mere outward reception of the sign is of no benefit (Heb. 6:4-8, 10:29)          |
| 9. A great sin to contemn or neglect (Ex. 4:24-26)                                   | 9. A great sin to contemn or neglect (Luke 7:30, Acts 10:47)                        |
| 10. Can be saved without it (Rom. 4:10)  | 10. Can be saved without it (Acts 10:2-47, Luke 23:43)                              |
| 11. Permanent/to be administered only once   | 11. Permanent/to be administered only once (1 Cor. 7:18, Titus 3:5, Acts 8:22-23)   |
| 12. Given to offspring (Gen. 17:12)  | 12. Given to offspring (Acts 2:39, 16:33)   |
| 13. Given to non-elect in the covenant community (Gen. 17:25, Gen. 25:34, Rom. 9:13) | 13. Given to non-elect in the covenant community (Acts 5:1-11, 8:9-24, 1 Tim. 1:20) |

**See the difference?  
NEITHER DO WE.**

Continued from Pastor Ian's article on page 1



Thank you to all who helped make our chili booth a success at this year's Flat Rock Creek Fall Festival: Rick and Becky Craft, Ruth Eschbach, Ian Ferguson, Martha Punches, Stan and Barb Searing, Matt and Christy Stoller, Jeff, Sherie and Zane Summers, Harry and Marcia Wiebe. All Profits go to church missions.

In photo on left are Dave Nice and Ian Ferguson, serving chili and water, photo on right is Henry Ferguson testing the ingredients.



We have to commend Jane Nice, as well as Dave Nice, for all the hard work that went into this event. Thank you to the Nice's.



## LIGHTHOUSE LIBRARY

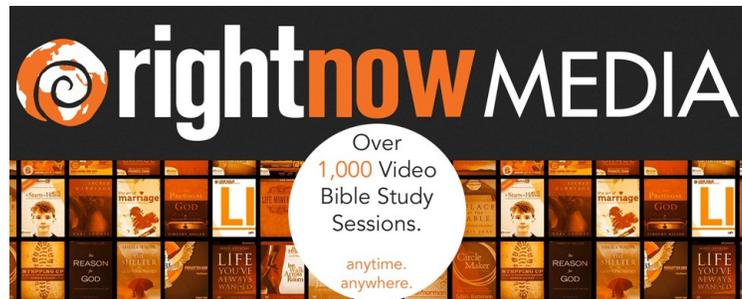
Coming Soon!



1. Men of Valor Series, 1 through 3  
By Irene Hannon
2. Tides of Truth Series, 1 through 3  
By Robert Whitlow
3. Baxter Family Series, book # 5  
By Karen Kingsbury

4. Left Behind Series, book # 13  
By LaHaye and Jenkins

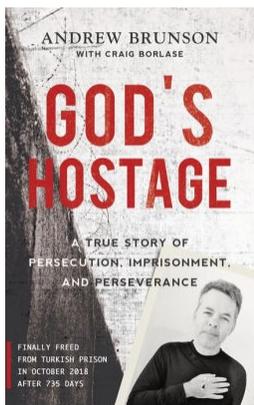
5. Smoke Screen By Teri Blackstock



**Say "Hello" to the streaming library of Bible Study videos that inspires faith every day of the week.**

In order to provide the best resources for our congregation to live a full Christian life, the church has enrolled in RightNowMedia. This streaming library is here to help us live out our faith daily. Congregants are able to access 100's of videos at no personal cost as First Presbyterian has enrolled for us.

Your e-mail account was sent information on how to sign up and access Christian videos of all types for all ages. If you can't locate this or need help signing up, contact Pastor Ian.



Here now to encourage your faith: you will want to read this!

God's Hostage: A True Story of Persecution, Imprisonment, and Perseverance

Praise and Worship:  
**Susan Kayser** on piano  
**Robin Chamberlain**,  
worship leader  
**Jim and Rita Stewart**,  
special music

Catered lunch

**\$20.00**

Child care available

What:

Presbyterian  
Women's Retreat

When: Saturday

October 26th, 2019

9:00 am to 2:30 pm

Doors open at 8:30

Register by Wednesday

October 16th

Call 419-399-2438 or

419-399-5533

Or e-mail to

fpcpauling@gmail.com

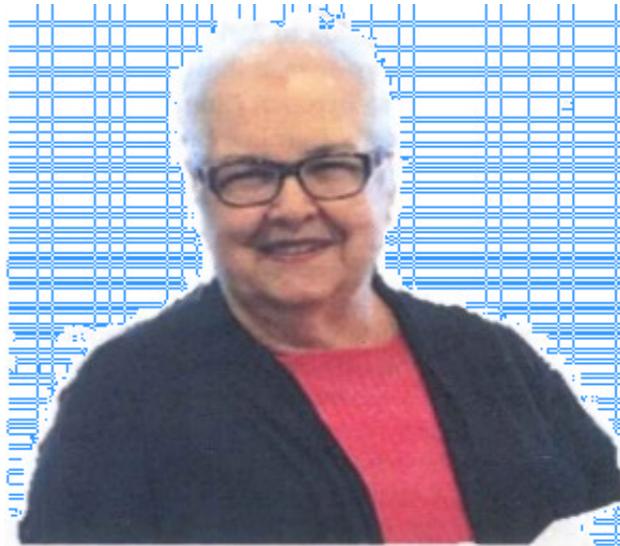
Paulding OH 45879

You may register on line:

Firstpresbyterianpauling.com

go to *in our community*, scroll down

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 38TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT



**RITA STEWART**

CHRISTIAN MOTIVATIONAL  
SPEAKER:

EVERLASTING ARMS MINISTRY

Session 1: Did He really mean it when  
He said "I love you?"

Session 2: Recognizing your miracle

Session 3: Yes, He meant it!

You may also mail a check to:

First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 366

Paulding OH 45879

Put Retreat in the memo line

*God has  
a plan  
for you.*

Jeremiah 19:11

AND IT WILL BE USED TO BLESS  
THE WORLD AROUND YOU.

Please take this page with you, give it to a friend or hang on a bulletin board

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

Sunday School 9: 15  
Worship Music 10:15  
Worship Service 10:30

## First Presbyterian Church

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

Phone: 419-399-2438  
Secretary's e-mail: [fpcpaulding@gmail.com](mailto:fpcpaulding@gmail.com) (new)  
[www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com) (new website)

[firstpresbyterianpaulding.com](http://firstpresbyterianpaulding.com)

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

