



October 2023: God Camps Out With His People

John 1:14 "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

My sons are learning to camp. A few weeks ago, when the weather was nice, my family pulled out our new tent and set it up for the first time in our backyard. The tent was given to us by an aunt and uncle who have aged out of tent camping and graciously passed it on to us.

The boys helped me set it up: separated the poles and stakes, put the poles together, unfolded the tent, and assembled the structure. The tent set up was hours of fun and we slept in it that night (after watching Toy Story together). We are very grateful for our new tent.




This tent reminded me of another tent we read about in Scripture. After God rescued His people from slavery in Egypt, he instructed them to set up a tent which is called the wilderness tabernacle. The wilderness tabernacle represented God's presence in the midst of His people and the place where He would meet with them. God has not stopped "tent camping" with His people.

In the New Testament, we read how Jesus is God (John 1:1) and, in John 1:14 (quoted above) he "made his dwelling among us." The word translated "flesh" does not merely mean skin and bones, but humanity. In Jesus, God the Son took on a human nature. By taking on flesh, God "made his dwelling among us", literally it says he did tabernacle among us. You could translate that phrase as "pitched his tent among us". And now that Jesus has ascended into heaven, God the Holy Spirit has made his dwelling within us (Romans 8:9).

The next day, the tent was folded up and put away. The kids were sad to see it go, but it was only meant to be a temporary structure. Eventually, the wilderness tabernacle was packed up as well. But God is still with us. Jesus promised as much (Matthew 28:20). So does Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13), who not only dwells in us individually, but as the church (1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 2:22; 1 Corinthians 3:16). God camps out with His people.

OCTOBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00 Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service Communion	2	3 9AM Deacons Grounded LDL-noon Past Time	4 7pm Choir	5 7:00 Women's Board NA meets 7:30 PM	6 Drug Court	7 8 AM Men's Breakfast Past Time
8 9:00 Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	9	10	11 7PM Choir	12 NA meets 7:30	13 9:00PM 5th quarter parking lot	14
15 9:00 Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	16	17 10AM- Caregiver Sup- port Group- Senior Center SESSION-7pm	18 7PM Choir	19 NA meets 7:30	20 Drug Court	21
22 9:00 Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	23	24	25 7PM Choir	26 NA meets 7:30	27	28
29 9:00 Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	30	31 				

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.

Right- How many Ferguson's does it take to drive around the Searing's pond?



A 10-year old little girl was asked by another classmate, "What is it like to be a Christian?" The 10 year old little girl replied, "it's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts open the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1- Marlene Buehler
- 4- Terry Buehler
- 8- Nick Alexander
- 10-Adam Leever
- 12-Tim Cline
- 23-Justine Holtsberry
- 24-Bill Hurtig
- 26-Marcia Wiebe
- 29-TJ Wiebe
- 30-Jeremy Fife

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 12-Jason and Andrea (Smalley) Retz
- 30-Harry and Marcia Wiebe



	A	B	C
1	FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM AUGUST		
2	Designated Gifts:		
3	Amount	Purpose	
4	\$4,577.05	Missions from 127 garage sale	
5	\$200.00	Missions	
6	\$175.58	Nicelley investment dividend	
7	Notable Expenditures:		
8	Amount	Payee	Purpose
9	\$4,622.05	Caring Sharing Food Pantry	Proceeds from 127 garage sale event
10	\$202.50	Snows Fire Protection	Annual fire system maintenance
11	\$6,000.00	Tom Moreno	Sidewalk repairs final pmt
12	\$500.00	Randy Crawford	Mowing August
13	Budget vs Actual Income:		
14	\$107,081.78	Budgeted Income	
15	\$102,069.29	Actual Income	
16	(\$5,012.49)	Difference	
17			
18			
19			
20			



From
Treasur-
er Carol
Razo

HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Deacons will meet on Tuesday, October 3rd at 9 AM at Grounded Coffee Shop.
- *Ladies Do Lunch are gathering at the Past Time Cafe Tuesday, the 3rd at noon.
- *Men's Breakfast on Saturday, October 7th at 8AM at the Past Time Café.
- *Women's Board will meet at 7PM on Thursday, October 5th in the Fellowship Hall.
- *Caregiver Support Group will meet Tuesday, October 17th at 10 AM at the Senior Center.
- *Session will meet Tuesday, October 17th at 7 PM at the church.
- *Drug Court will meet this month in October 6th and the 20th.
- *Saturday, October 28th is the Women's Fall Retreat. See article on page 7.
- *There are N.A. open meetings on Tuesdays at 6PM at the Antwerp Community Church, as well as in our Presbyterian Church basement every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM.
- *The designated Deacon for September is Doug Radel. However, any Deacon may be approached for questions or concerns.

Sunday School: The Book of 1 Thessalonians with Ben Stuart

Living for Christ in a Culture that Doesn't What is God's will for our lives, and why is it important to know? In this eight-session series, Pastor Ben Stuart shows us that Jesus calls us to live our faith openly, letting the world see our allegiance to him. When we are being faithful, pressing against culture, others can't help but notice. As we live confident of our good future in God's kingdom, we show the world where—and in whom—their hope lies.

September Session Highlights

A regular Session meeting was held Tuesday, September 19, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

Noteworthy Events

- Stay tuned for announcements regarding the Women's Retreat coming up October 28th! Our Women's Board is actively working to organize this wonderful day of worshipping with our friends in and around our community.
- Get ready for the revival of the "5th Quarter Parties"!! A few things might seem a little different than the last time we were able to provide these for Paulding teens, but our parking lot will be the meeting place as it was before. Changes from the last time we were able to do these include: only high school students are invited, First Christian Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church are actually doing the hosting, and there will only be 2 parties this year. These dates are September 29th (after the Homecoming game) and October 13th (another home game). Times run from 9:00-11:00. **If anyone would be willing to help with either of these events, remember... extra adults helping out in any way are always welcome regardless of which church is hosting!!! Contact Pastor Ian for more information.**
- With the coming of fall we turn our thoughts to the Christmas Season to help prepare for the celebration of Jesus's birth. **We will try to have another Christmas Program involving our youth. Exactly what that will look like ...we're not sure! Please, please, let Ruby Crossland know if your child would like to be a part of this event (419-399-7528). Thank you so much in advance!**

Old Business

- We collected over 3,000 pounds of food for the Food Pantry during the Caring and Sharing drive!!
- Pastor Ian and Ruby attended the Midwest Presbytery earlier in the month.
- The cupola windows are completed now, as is the cement work outside. The air conditioning is even repaired! Many projects are nearing completion.
- The Nominating Committee has begun their search for members willing to serve our church as an Elder or a Deacon. If you are a member of our church and you feel God is calling you to fulfill one of these positions, please prayerfully consider saying "Yes" if a committee member asks you to be placed on the ballot.

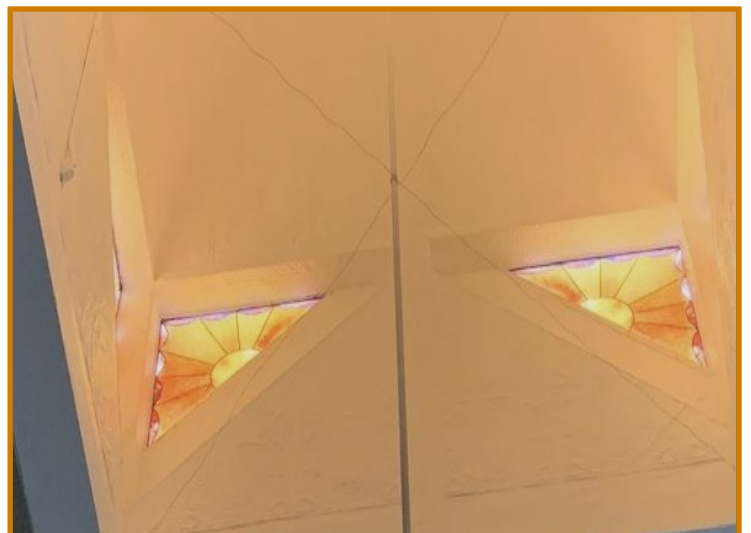
New Business

- The Missions Committee is looking forward to visiting with the Mindlings, one of our missionary families, the first week of October.
- We are looking forward to many community events involving our church and others during the winter and spring holidays. The organizing and planning of these events have already started!

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

Pastor Ian Ferguson, Moderator

Below-- The new windows in the cupola are absolutely beautiful ! Come see for yourself !



From the Inside Out

Sue Paulus, January 2021

*when I sit here in anger
when my mind runs in tangents
when I know that I am upset over
situations that I cannot control
I ask how can I claim to know You?*

*common sense tells me that the
only person I have control over
is myself, right now I am blowing It!
there is no one to go to
how can I claim to know You?*

*may I sit with You a while?
will you soothe my aching head?
I hurt from the inside out
will you heal me?
will you remind me that I know You?*

*will you convince me that I can't fix it?
any of it...
You can fix it
all of it...
some day, some time, some how*



Above picture is Pheba Banerjee, our featured speaker for the Paulding Presbyterian 2023 Women's Retreat on Saturday, October 28th. She is pictured in front of her ministry, The Sanctuary Homeless Shelter in Bryan, Ohio, where she is Director of Pastoral Care.

Please find all the details regarding the Retreat on the following page. If you wish to contribute to the donation of goods to The Sanctuary, bring them to the church before the Retreat and we will make sure they are donated.

September was a good time for visiting our church.

Bottom left-Becky and Jeff Riley welcomed her sister Mary and husband Nick from Florida. **Bottom right**- Dan and Jill Strahley's friend, Linda, also from Florida.



41st ANNUAL WOMEN'S RETREAT

Our 41st Annual Women's Retreat, "From Faith to Faith to Faith", is on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 9 am until 12:30 pm. Doors open at 8:30 am.

This year, our featured guest, Pheba Banerjee, will speak about her journey from India to northwest Ohio, and from Hinduism to faith in Jesus Christ.

The core verse of her message is Romans 5:8: "... God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Pheba shares that, through this verse, "the Lord opened my heart to the truth of the gospel and I came to believe that Christ who is the creator God, took my sins and was crucified, buried, and resurrected on my behalf to make me a child of God."

Pheba came to us through a chance discussion with the Gideon speaker who was with us several months ago. Arlene Cline and Pastor Ian both heard Pheba speak at the Gideon banquet and found her inspiring. We are delighted that God brought us into each others' paths, and that she is willing to share with us.

Pheba is currently the Director of Pastoral Care at The Sanctuary in Bryan Ohio, where she and her husband have been "sharing the love of Christ with the homeless in a practical way" for about two years. Becky Craft and Barb Searing visited her there for a tour and to invite her to speak, which she enthusiastically agreed to do. Becky Riley and Barb were able to attend the 30th anniversary banquet for The Sanctuary and learn more about that ministry, too.

"Pheba's enthusiasm and warmth make her a dynamic speaker for our retreat this year," shared retreat co-planners Becky Craft, Becky Riley, and Barb Searing. "The story of her faith journey as a teenager in India with Hindu culture all around her, including her own family of origin, to a strong faith in Jesus Christ, plus her youthful spark have been a total inspiration to our planning team."

If anyone considering attending this year's retreat has a teenage daughter/granddaughter/youthful church friend, Pheba's message of determination and faith would be most suitable for young people to come and hear.

In addition to thought-provoking teaching, we look forward to marvelous music from pianist Susan Kayser and organist Susan Crossland. Brunch will be served by the men from the Presbyterian Church. While the retreat ends at 12:30 pm, ladies are welcome and encouraged to linger and visit as long as they wish.

Nursery care is available for children from infants through age 4. Be sure to mention this need when you register so we are adequately staffed. You are asked to bring a sack lunch for your child.

Pre-registration is requested by Friday, October 13, 2023.

Registrations can be made by mail or phone call to the church office (419-399-2438) or online at <https://www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com/womens-retreat/>. Ladies may call or text retreat coordinators Barb (419-769-0327), Becky C. (419-786-0021) or Becky R. (260-385-0505) with any questions.

The cost for this retreat is \$20.00. Checks made out to First Presbyterian Church, with 'women's retreat' in the memo line, can be sent with mail-in registrations. Fees may also be paid at the door the morning of the retreat if registration was made by phone or online.

If attendees wish to make a donation of goods to The Sanctuary in support of Pheba's ministry there, these items are always needed: individual serving non-spicy chips; individually wrapped sweet snacks (cookies, breakfast bars, fruit snacks, etc.); bath towels; dryer sheets; \$5 Walmart or Chief cards.

Pheba has suggested we invite the churches of her board members and other churches that support The Sanctuary to our event, so we are hoping for a robust crowd! We know God will send just the right people to come and hear this wonderful speaker.



Left-The Presby Ladies did lunch in September at Holly's. **Left to Right**-Martha Punches, Phyllis Crossland, Alissa Ferguson, Sue Crossland, Barb Searing, Sue Paulus, Becky Craft and Patty Radel. Make plans to join Ladies Do Lunch the first Tuesday of the month. October's lunch will be at The Past Time Café.



Last month, one of our 50 year members, Phyllis Crossland celebrated her 95th birthday.

Left- The Crossland family filled a couple of pews one Sunday in between their celebrating. **Left to Right**- Rob and Cindy Constein, Sue Crossland, Phyllis, Don and Ruby Crossland.



To Be Happy, you Must:

Let go of what's gone, be grateful for what remains, and look forward to what's coming next.

Daily Vibes

148th ANNIVERSARY OF PAULDING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jane Nice

A Journey of Faith

Our church celebrated its 148th anniversary on September 19th, and honored its 50-year members on Sunday, September 24th.

We reflected on our beautiful church building and our stewardship of it, while being reminded that for the first 25 years, our congregation met in the old courthouse, people's homes and finally a humble wooden building.

We have posters with the signatures of church members at two different times in the life of our congregation, at the first Sunday in 1900, just one year after the current church was built, and the first Sunday in 2000. These were recently reframed and now hang in the annex by the door to Pastor Ian's office. They established "I Was Here" at the turn of both centuries, giving us a glimpse into the passing of our time here on earth.

While we enjoy our wonderful church building, we know that it is the people who make up the body of Christ as they travel on their journeys of faith. The choir sang, *"The Church of God will stand through all the ages, a light of hope to shine so all may see."*

50- Year Members - Below-Seated left to Right-Paul PUNCHES (1961), Phyllis Crossland (1956), Kenny Robinson (1959), Susan Paulus (1971), **Standing left to Right**-Susan Crossland (1966), Don Crossland (1964), Mary McMaster (1967), Russell McMaster (1967)

Not Present— Judy Robinson, Terry Buehler, Becky Hurtig, CaraLou Strahley, Rosalie Todd, Becky Mayer and Bill Hurtig.



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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