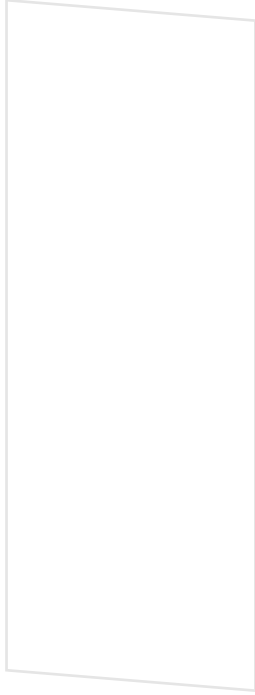


Oct. 2024



First Presbyterian
Church of Parkersburg
GATHERING. GROWING. CARING. GOING

1341 JULIANA STREET
 PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

Phone: 304-422-5426

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Visit us at:
www.fpcpborgwv.org
 facebook.com/fpcpborg

WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT
 CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT
 TO THE COMMUNITY AND
 STANDING AS A BEACON
 OF CHRIST'S LOVE
 AND PROMISE.

Sunday Worship:
 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
 livestream on Facebook - 10:30 a.m.
 Children's Church
 & Sunday School 10:30 a.m.



Article Deadline: 15th of each month

If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information: 304-422-5426 or office@fpcpborgwv.org.



first things
FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 2024



WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY
 AND STANDING AS A BEACON OF CHRIST'S LOVE

First Presbyterian
Church of Parkersburg
GATHERING. GROWING. CARING. GOING



Two years ago, my brother and sister-in-law gave us an herb AeroGarden for Christmas. After the holiday craziness, we put the apparatus together, filled the basin with water, and plugged it in. It came with pods which had a special spongy cone in them and some seeds that had already been sown into it. We set the pre-seeded pods into the hydroponic system, poured a capful of plant food into the water, and went on with life. With only water and plant food, these herbs started to grow. After a few weeks, we could see green sprouts coming up. I was amazed at how big some of the herbs got: the mint spread across multiple sections. The parsley and Thai basil grew so that I often had to cut them lest the leaves burn on the special lights. Once it got started well, the dill quickly shot up. For months, we had more mint, Thai basil, parsley, and dill than we knew what to do with. When I got tired of the mint, I attempted to replant it, but the roots were so big that I had to significantly cut them with scissors to be able to even remove the plant from



the AeroGarden. And they weren't easy to cut.

As I thought about our stewardship campaign coming up later this month, I was reminded of this AeroGarden. Our theme for this year is based on **Jeremiah 17:7-8**, which compares those who trust in the Lord to trees planted by water. My little herbs weren't trees, but their leaves would stay green a long time. They produced much "fruit" in terms of flavorful leaves which could be harvested for dill sauce and mint tea and pesto. Their roots became big and sturdy.



So our faith affects us. A deep connection with God can strengthen and sustain us, enabling us to live generously even in challenging times. Being connected to Christ leads to a fruitful life and one of generosity. As I say every Sunday, God loves you more than you can imagine. So let us grow in Christ over this season, deepening our spiritual roots and continuing to share the love of Christ as we share our blessings beyond our church walls.

Blessings and Peace!

Pastor Annie

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE



GATHERED IN MY NAME,

THERE AM I AMONG THEM."

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV



No Lone Ranger Christians

World Communion Sunday, celebrated this year on **October 6**, reminds us there's no such thing as solitary Christianity. "As Christians we're called to belong, not just to believe," writes Rick Warren. "We are not meant to live lone-ranger lives; instead, we are to belong to Christ's family and be members of his body."



World Communion Sunday

After all, Christian fellowship can't occur without fellow Christians. We can't learn the intricacies of the Bible and theology without preachers and teachers. We

don't baptize ourselves. We don't take Holy Communion alone; in fact, the sacrament's very name refers to interaction with God and others.

The New Testament clearly states that one cannot be Christian all alone. We are members of Christ's body (Ephesians 5:30). We belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10). We are "a

royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people" (1 Peter 2:9, NRSV). So don't be a lone ranger or a stranger — to worship or to Holy Communion!

Communion Servers



October 6th

Deb Karr Amy Leach
Ann Leach Becky McGinnis



Ushers Needed

**SIGN UP
in the foyer!**

Happy Birthday!

Paul Brooks	1st
Danny Douglass	4th
Sunny Percy	4th
Noah Kaufman	5th
Gregg Emrick	7th
Lloyd Cowell	10th
Bill Niday	11th
Rose Ann Spencer	17th
Wayne Duncan	20th
Ron Vaughan	22nd
Dan White	22nd
Sally Emerick	28th
Ron Kerns	30th



Happy Anniversary!

Todd & Jamie Meckley	4th
Darren & Juli Springer	9th
Ben & Cate Shuman	17th
Daniel & Morgan James	21st
Matt & Katie Buchanan	24th
David & Clare Kaufman	26th

Thursday, October 17 11 a.m.

Women's FELLOWSHIP

The Lydia Circle will meet at **Mary B's Restaurant** on Garfield Avenue. We invite any woman who would like to join us. We will eat, have a lesson and socialize. If you'd like to join in, let **Barbara Lucas** know via text or a phone call. This will let us know how many seats are needed at our table. You may contact Barbara at: **304-580-1274**.

WELCOME TO ALL WOMEN!

Special Dates in October

- World Communion Sunday - 6th
- Pastor Appreciation Sunday - 13th
- Columbus Day - 14th
- Indigenous Peoples Day - 14th
- Reformation Sunday - 27th
- Reformation Day - 31st



Ina G. Brookover - September 15
William "Wayne" Sanders - September 21



If you tell the truth,
you don't have to
remember anything.

Heritage Sunday - October 20



On **Sunday, October 20**, we will honor those who have been members of First Presbyterian for 50 years or more. The Deacons invite you to join them at a reception in the Harris Room following 10:30 Worship to celebrate these very important folks who have faithfully served the Lord and this church during their lifetimes. We owe them a great deal and are grateful for their legacy, their example of steadfastness, and what they have taught us.

Paul Brooks	Joe Foley	Joe Husbion	Sunny Percy	Carol Sanders
Bob Dunn	Ray Foss	Ann Leach	Jean Percy	Donna Shaver
Elizabeth Ellis	David Gibson	Bill Niday	William Peters	Bob Tebay
Sally Emerick	Karen Grimm	Anna M. Oehlmann	Nancy Pillichody	Sarah Townsend
Vicki Ferry	Ruth Ann Huddle	Frieda Owen	Rosalie Rogers	Ron Vaughan



Wednesdays @6 p.m.
Harris Room
led by Pastor Annie
October 2, 16, 23 & 30

THE BIBLE

"Six Themes Everyone Should Know"

by Barry Ensign-George

Books **RECOMMENDED**, and may be
ordered @Amazon.com.

"How beautifully leaves grow old," wrote 19th-century essayist John Burroughs. "How full of light and color are their last days."



Society doesn't think highly of old age. Beauty products tout the supposed virtues of maintaining a youthful appearance. Older adults' wisdom, born of much life experience, is often disparaged, ignored or not sought. But God says this about the righteous, whose lives are rooted in him: "In old age they still produce fruit; they are always green and full of sap, showing that the LORD is upright" (Psalm 92:14-15)

The aging leaves of autumn can prompt us to look for beauty in the seniors among us, to notice the light and color that still abound. From all the fruit they still produce — service, prayer, love — may we learn about living faithfully until our own last days.

—Heidi Mann



Here and on the next page is the latest update on church finances from our Treasurer. Keep in mind, reports are a month behind due to the publishing date of the newsletter. If you have any questions, you may contact Chris Alfred at finance@fpcburgwv.org

An Ancient Stewardship Message

Some Christians actively avoid church on Stewardship Sunday because giving is a private matter “between me and God.” New pastors are even sometimes advised never to preach about money, lest certain people get riled up. Yet Jesus talks frequently in the Gospels about giving and sharing our material goods — and he wasn’t the first in Scripture to do so.

A thousand years before Christ’s birth, King David prepared to hand over the kingdom to his son, gathering tons (literally!) of gold, silver and other materials for Solomon to use in building the temple. Revealing his take on stewardship, David prayed: “But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand” (1 Chronicles 29:14, NIV).

Financial Statement as of August 31, 2024

2024 Budget	Budget	Actual
Income		
Sunday Offerings		
<i>Pledges</i>	\$ 126,175.00	\$ 74,516.00
<i>Contributions</i>	\$ 44,624.00	\$ 29,343.61
<i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 604.20
Sunday Offerings	\$ 172,299.00	\$ 104,463.81
<i>Facility Rentals</i>	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 23,514.22
<i>Other Income</i>	\$ 175.00	\$ 234.17
<i>Misc. Income</i>	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Interest from F. Trust</i>	\$ 50,000.00	20,000.00
Total Income	\$ 263,474.00	\$ 148,212.20
Expenses		
<i>Discipleship</i>	\$ 2,048.00	\$ 783.28
<i>Mission</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ 275.74
<i>Worship & Music</i>	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 3,989.81
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 149,698.00	\$ 92,813.83
<i>Facilities</i>	\$ 81,630.00	\$ 34,675.39
<i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 3,273.00	\$ 510.42
<i>Communications</i>	\$ 1,225.00	\$ 322.23
<i>Office Expenses</i>	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 12,374.30
Total Expenses	\$ 263,474.00	\$ 145,745.00
Difference	\$ -	\$ 2,467.20

ASSETS

FPC CHECKING	
Operating Fund	\$ 3,863.68
Restricted Funds	\$ 44,753.98
Deacons Fund	\$ 3,183.09
Total Checking	\$ 51,800.75
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUNDS	
Checking	\$ 829.25
Savings	\$ 1,627.84
Total PW Funds	\$ 2,457.09
INVESTMENTS	
Deacons CD	\$ 6,058.01
Morgan Stanley Stocks	\$ 632.29
United Bank Founders Trust	\$ 52,680.23
Wesbanco Founders Trust	\$ 1,468,302.66
Presbyterian Women Investments	\$ 154,831.54
Total Investments	\$ 1,682,504.73
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,736,762.57



GROWING IN GENEROSITY
ROOTED IN FAITH

2025 Stewardship Campaign
Growing in Generosity - Rooted in Faith

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

—Jeremiah 17:7-8 NRSV

Stewardship Kickoff is Sunday, October 13



The Mission Committee will host their third community-wide Trunk-or-Treat in our rear parking lot on October 12. If you would like to decorate your vehicle and hand out goodies to the kids during the event, please sign up in the foyer. They also need donations of individually-wrapped candy and treats. You may leave your donations at the table outside the Sanctuary.



The Gathering - October 9

The Gathering in October will be Wednesday, the 9th, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. We will be roasting s'mores over an open fire (weather permitting), so please come and join in the fun.



Each month's Gathering is hosted by a different church group or person(s). Currently we need volunteers to host The Gathering for the following months: November, January, February and April. If you would be interested, please contact Carl Gheen, 321-527-8859, for more information.



In their effort to better communicate with the congregation, the Session has listed below the highlights from their SEPTEMBER meeting:

- Thank you to the Deacons for a wonderful Kickoff picnic.
- The Stewardship Campaign starts on October 13. The theme will be "Growing in Generosity - Rooted in Faith" and the focus scripture will be Jeremiah 17:7-8.
- Mission Committee is planning a few events for the rest of this year. This includes Trunk-or-Treat on October 12 here at the church, as well as Cookies with Santa on December 15 at Friendship Park.
- Heritage Sunday will be October 20.



On Sunday, November 10, during our 10:30 a.m. Worship, we will honor all living veterans who have served or are serving in our nation's armed forces. (Deceased veterans are remembered near Memorial Day in May.)

If you would like to have a veteran's name listed in our bulletin that day, complete the form below and place in the offering plate, or return it to the church office. If you are unsure if you have added a name previously, submit it again; all duplicates will be removed from our database.

Deadline is Thursday, October 31.



★ VETERANS DAY 2024 ★

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Submitted by: _____

October 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<p><i>What distinguishes the Christians is not the ills they suffer, but the way they suffer their ills.</i> —St. Augustine</p>		1	2 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	3 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 8:30 AM Facilities Mgmt. 9:15 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.																																										
6 Communion 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 	7 6:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 6:00 PM KOM Knitters	8 6:00 PM Financial Mgmt.	9 6:00 PM The Gathering 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	10 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 12:00 PM HA Mtg. 3:00 PM Trunk or Treat 																																										
13 Stewardship Kickoff 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 	14 <i>No School</i>  COLUMBUS DAY	15 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	16 12:00 PM Founders Trust Mtg. 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	17 11:00 AM Lydia Circle Lunch at Mary B's 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19 12:00 PM HA Mtg.																																										
20 Heritage Sunday Cents-Ability Offering 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM 50-Yr. Member Reception	21 6:00 PM Session	22 6:00 PM Worship & Discipleship Comm.	23 <i>No School</i> 2:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	24 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26 12:00 PM HA Mtg.																																										
27 Reformation Sunday 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM Mission Committee	28 2:00 PM Henderson Hall Docents 7:00 PM Parkersburg Pride	29	30 6:00 PM Bible Study <i>Six Themes of the Bible</i> 6:00 PM Girl Scouts	31 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts	<p>November 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1 2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> 		S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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