

WINDOW

MARCH 2018

The Monthly Newsletter
of First

Presbyterian Church
Athens, Ohio



March 2018

Sunday, March 4th 3rd Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. - Bells and
Communion during
Worship
Following Worship -
Potato Bar Mission
Fundraiser

Sunday, March 11th 4th Sunday in Lent



Daylight Savings Time Begins

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Sunday, March 18th 5th Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Sunday, March 25th Palm Sunday

Trail Mix Sunday

10:30 a.m. - Kids
Processional and Bells
during Worship
Following Worship
After Church Organ Recital
(see page 3)

Thursday, March 29th Maundy Thursday

7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thurs-
day Service

Friday, March 30th Good Friday

12:05 p.m. - Good Friday
Service, FPC

From the Pastor....

What your minister wants you to know is that every day of the week he or she works on a sermon, that the sermon usually did not start on a Saturday, but it is given time and care and love on a Saturday, and the point of a sermon is to share it with you on a Sunday morning. Your minister wants you to know that he or she hopes you will be in church the next day. I know it sounds simple but it's true.

The minister who writes a sermon does so because he or she believes people need to hear it, feel it, and be shaped by some theological idea or story. And it's not just the sermon, but it's the whole service that has been planned with care and attention. You may think that your presence doesn't really matter on a Sunday morning, and ministers certainly understand how busy life is for everyone, but your presence does matter to your minister. It matters more than what any of them will ever say to you. Your minister doesn't say it to you, because he or she doesn't want to come across as needy, and for goodness sake, your minister doesn't want you to attend church out of obligation to him or her. It's just that, well, it's just that it really inspires your minister to see you. It's about the whole service, and seeing one another before church and after church that makes such a huge difference. Your minister wants you to know that 99% of being a church is showing up.

Something special happens when people show up. Can you be a good person and not attend church? Of

course! No minister in his or her right mind would say otherwise. It's just that, well, it's just that churches either work or don't work. They work when people show up and they don't work when people don't show up, and to your minister, perhaps young, perhaps old, perhaps tired, it doesn't really matter, but your minister wants desperately for the church to work.

Here we are in the Lenten season. Six weeks leading up to Easter. Every minister harbors a secret hope, namely, that church members will show up every Sunday during Lent. Again, he or she may not say it like that, but today he or she is thinking it.

Sometimes ministers struggle because, again they never say this out loud, sometimes they feel like they want something for the church more than the church wants something for the church. Churches don't belong to ministers. Churches belong to the members of the church. It seems odd, and truth be told, it's a little exhausting, when the minister wants the church to be the church more than the church wants the church to be the church. In all likelihood your minister, right now, is trying to find a story or word to conclude a sermon he or she hopes you will hear. Your minister is doing this because he or she thinks it matters. I think I'm saying what every minister would like to say to his or her church while working and thinking about a Sunday. I could be wrong, of course, but I don't think so.

~ Pastor Rob

"We are a Christian community of faith that shares the love of God with all people everywhere."

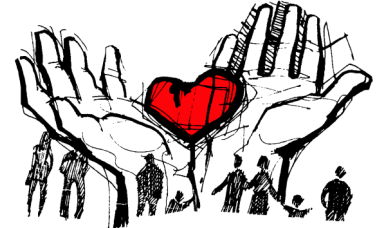
Windows ON: Outreach Mission Committee
MISSION TRIP 2018 - WEST VIRGINIA MINISTRY OF ADVOCACY AND WORKCAMPS (WVMAW)

Excerpts from a letter received from Joan Stewart, Executive Director, WVMAW:

“In 2017 WVMAW hosted 82 teams representing 1,147 individual volunteers. These angels helped to build or rebuild destroyed or severely damaged homes, serving over 200 people. Many replaced flooring, walls, porches, built ramps, put on

roofing, siding, cleaned out and underpinned, insulated, sheet rocked, painted, trimmed, plumbed, wired - whatever was needed. Many of you got to know the families you served and found out that was as much mission as driving nails! From the little things to the big things, every one made a difference in the lives of each family you touched.”

Would you consider joining the FPC mission team when FPC volunteers will return to Webster Springs from May 26–June 2, 2018? If interested, please contact Carla Boyle.



Church Office Volunteers Needed

Would you like to be a church office volunteer? Basically the only duty is someone in the office to answer the phone and take messages. You can volunteer for a whole day or a half day (mornings 8:30-Noon and afternoons 1:00-5:00). If you would be interested, please phone Jane at the church office (593-3351) or email (office@athensfpc.org) to more info. It is easy, really!

The Children's Chime Choir

The Chime Choir has rehearsals on Sundays, at 10 a.m. downstairs in the bell room. Please contact Kirsten Trachsel (ktrachsel1@gmail.com) if your child would like to join the ensemble.

Placing Events on the Church Calendar

All occasions/events should be listed on the church calendar to avoid conflict over use of the facilities. The sponsoring group must cover out-of-pocket expenses. Please phone the church office (593-3351) to request a form for placing your event on the calendar.

Christian Education Schedule - 2018 - Theme: Deep and Wide

Weekly Schedule: Sunday morning schedule:

- 9:30 a.m. - Childcare available, nursery / Adult Sunday School, lounge
- 10:00 a.m. - Children's Chime Choir rehearsal, hand bell room (begins September 10th)
- 10:30 a.m. - Worship and Children's Church, Sanctuary and classrooms
- 11:30 a.m. - Children's Craft Time, classroom / Coffee and Fellowship time, fellowship hall

Tuesday - 12:00 Noon - Bible Study, church library

Need a ride to Church? Know someone who does?

Contact Harold Robison, Deacon of the Month



Phone - 740-592-1450
 Email - hrobison@columbus.rr.com

Communion

Communion at FPC offers gluten-free bread along with regular bread for communion.



2018 Per Capita - \$33.00

Please consider donating the per capita assessed by the Presbyterian Church USA per member. The 2018 per capita is \$33.00. Your donation helps stretch the FPC budget dollars. It can be mailed to the office or placed in the offering plate.

Thank you!

**Mission Trip Fundraiser
Baked Potato Luncheon
March 4th during Fellowship Hour**

This is a fundraiser for FPC's mission trip to Webster Springs from May 26th- June 2nd.
Please come and support the mission of the church!
If you are interested in finding out more about the trip or joining us, please contact Carla Boyle.

**Palm Sunday
After-Church Organ Recital**

Janice Robison will play an organ recital immediately following the worship service on Palm Sunday, March 25th. The program will be A Musical Journey Through Holy Week - Palm Sunday to Easter. All are invited to stay for this thirty-minute recital.

**An Acceptable Fast: An Adult Lenten Study
Tuesday evenings during Lent**

5:30 p.m. Soup Supper - 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. program

March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th

This study examines the Old Testament lectionary passages of Lent (Year C) for six themes of Christian discipline and reflection: voicing gratitude, taking the long view, choosing well, accepting responsibility, welcoming the future, and trusting God through times of conflict. Such practices cultivate a life of contentment, honoring God and God's creation, and living generously toward neighbors. The study was written by Old Testament scholar and teacher Patricia K. Tull and designed for use over six weeks.

Tull begins each session by locating the biblical verses in their original context and then exploring a key Lenten theme related to the text. Themes include: voice gratitude, take the long view, choose well, accept responsibility, welcome the future and trust God in times of conflict. Each session ends with a meditation on how the text speaks to our modern situation. A take-home question for reflection is also provided each week for participants' home Lenten meditation. This study explores the Old Testament readings for lectionary year C, although the themes explored through these scriptures are appropriate to address at any time during the Christian life.

Easter Schedule

Tuesdays, March 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th - 5:30-7:00 p.m. - Lenten Soup and Study

**Sunday, March 25th - 10:30 a.m. - Palm Sunday Service with Kids Processional and Bell Choir
11:45 a.m. - After-Church Organ Recital**

Thursday, March 29th - 7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 30th - 12:05 p.m. - Good Friday Ecumenical Service, FPC

**Sunday, April 1st - Easter Sunday Service with the OhioBrass and Bell Choir
One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday**

Windows ON: Capital Campaign News

NEWS UPDATE

FPC's 2018-2021 \$200,000 Capital Campaign is focused on three areas: retiring the accessibility loan from the PC (USA) Investment and Loan Program which was used to repair FPC's elevator last year (\$70,000); restoration of the 1985 Holtkamp Organ (\$70,000) this summer; and mission projects (\$60,000). This article describes the process for selection of mission projects.

The Mission and Outreach Committee plans to entertain proposals from FPC's mission partners and two sister churches in Amesville and Thailand as well as suggestions from the congregation to support special one-time mission projects. To this end the Committee has developed

a process for collecting background information and needs for each mission group. This will involve a questionnaire and a meeting between representatives of the Committee and a representative(s) from the Mission partner organizations.

Mission and Outreach also plans to survey the congregation to understand mission priorities they support. The Committee will continue to provide "Minutes for Mission" with the church's mission partners and share the findings of the mission partner review in Windows to alert the congregation about new programs and needs of FPC's partner organizations.

Current members of the Mission and Outreach Committee are: Carla Boyle (Session member and chair), Mike Boyle, Bobbi Conliffe, John Hauser, Danny Moates, Carol Perry, and Debbie Perry (Session member) and Keith Wiens.



College Lunch News

College lunches have moved to Thursdays. Lee Gregg is the coordinator. Wendy Toadvine will be contacting people. If you are interested in cooking or volunteering in any way - contact Lee Gregg or the church office.

Windows ON: Amesville/New England

THIS MONTH'S NEWS

A team of twelve (including the translator) has finished their work in the community of Niquinohomo, Nicaragua. The group stayed at Rancho Ebenezer where they have stayed for the last 15 years, offering all kinds of projects...inside the gates of the farm and outside in the community.

This year, using the theme, "The Joy of Serving," the activities of the group were a bit different because the group was smaller. One group worked in pre-schools were the team has worked in other years. Along with four men from the community they built table tops for the pre-school. They did small electrical repairs in all six pre-schools where they have worked before and offered service, doing projects requested by the pre-school

teachers. The team was headed up by Dan Dobbelaer and Zachary Dobbelaer (United Church of Christ in Granville).

Three electrical workshops were held in three different communities. The first one was held at the home of Javier Barrio, where eight members of the community...four women and four men...came together to learn how to do simple electrical repairs. Each person who attended received a small repair kit consisting of pliers, screwdrivers and black electrical tape. All eight wanted another workshop on electricity and the women wanted a sewing workshop. This workshop was headed up by Bruce Hare (Calvary United Methodist Church, Lakewood) and Javier Barrio (Nicaragua).

A third workshop was held in the educational building at Rancho Ebenezer. The sewing workshop led by Nancy Dobbelaer and Linda Mossholder (Granville United Church of Christ), helped the women with basic sewing skills using a machine, as well as how to repair small problems with a sewing machine. Two other sewing workshops were held at the Farm.

Carol Hare (St. Marks United Methodist, Belpre) headed up the activities for children who came with parents to the workshops.

All members of the mission team deemed it a most successful ten days, where they learned working with friends from Nicaragua!

**Windows ON: Mission / Outreach Committee
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS**

Athens County Nails It Competition - sponsored by Habitat. Teams of four people compete with teams from other congregations to see which team can drive a set of nails into a 2x4 the fastest. Teams fall into two categories: Youth (17 years and younger) and Adult (18 years and older). The event is set for Tuesday, April 17th, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at Eclipse BBQ. Registration is \$200/team. All receipts go toward Habitat house repairs. Want to join a team? See Danny Moates.

Rummage sale - Habitat is sponsoring a rummage sale on Saturday, May 19th from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Christ the King Church. If you would like to donate items, please deliver them to the church the Thursday or Friday before. Here is a good chance to make some space in your closets!

Know Someone that Needs a Home? - Become a homeowner in Amesville, OH. Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio (HFHSEO) is look-

ing for a family or individual who has a need for shelter, the ability to pay, and the desire to partner with HFHSEO (meaning willing to help with the construction of the house and attend education classes). The home is a three-bedroom, one bath home and comes with an affordable mortgage. To see if you qualify, visit <http://www.habitatseo.org/our-programs/homeownership/>. Questions? Call Megan at (740) 251-4633.

**Windows ON: Outreach and Mission Committee
MINUTE FOR MISSION - HABITAT FOR HUMANITY**

Kenneth Oehlers, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio, gave a Minute for Mission about Habitat on February 11th. He reported that they have completed 85 houses to date and will finish the Amesville build this spring.

Habitat is changing its focus from building houses to building

neighborhoods. Many partner families don't have the skills to maintain their new houses. Habitat will build a workshop in Millfield beginning this spring that will have all the equipment for making repairs to people's homes. There will be five training modules for new homeowners to learn how to make exterior repairs, furnace and crawlspace repairs, bathroom

repairs, etc. Habitat will provide the trainers.

Once the training is going smoothly, Habitat will invite neighbors of partner families to come in for the same kinds of training to their own homes. Doing so will provide good relations among neighbors as well as improving homes in the neighborhood.

Thank You!

The McGeoch Family is grateful for the prayers, kindness and support extended in the weeks of Lyle's illness and then with his death.

We appreciate also the effort and work that went into the memorial service and the reception that followed.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

~ Florence McGeoch and family

Easter Flowers

Deadline to order flowers is Monday, March 26th

Would you like to purchase a spring flower (lily, tulip, and hyacinth ---- choice of plants will be on first come-first serve) in memory or in honor of someone for Easter Sunday? If so, please notify the church office - email: office@athensfpc.org, phone: 740-593-3351, mail: 9 N. College St., Athens, OH 45701) Price per flower is \$10.00. An insert with "in memory of" or "in honor of" will be in the bulletin. Please specify if you want to pick up the flower after Easter Service, or have a deacon deliver it to a church family member.

Deadline to order flowers is Monday, March 26th

Worship Information for March 2018

March 4th	Psalm 19 and Exodus 20:1-17	<i>God Speaks</i>
March 11th	Ephesians 2:1-10 and John 3:14-21	<i>One Short Pause</i>
March 18th	Jeremiah 31:31-34 and John 12:20-33	<i>Seeing Jesus</i>
March 25th	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 and Mark 11:1-11	<i>Save Us, O God</i>



Windows ON: Church Support Committee FINANCE REPORT

Income and Expenses, 2018			
Offering Budgeted for 2018	\$ 263,000	Offering Received to Date	\$ 65,276
Other Income Budgeted for 2018 (endowment, parking lot lease, Putnam apt. rent, interest)	\$ 137,085	Other Income (Received to Date)	\$ 11,577
2018-2021 Capital Campaign (\$200,000)	\$67,000	Campaign donations to date	\$34,485
Total Income Budgeted 2018	\$ 467,085	Total Income (Received to Date)	\$ 111,338
Current Assets (checking & petty cash)	-----	Total Cash on Hand	\$ 77,683
Expenses Budgeted in 2018	\$ 466,868	Expenses to Date	\$ 41,031
PCUSA \$90,000 Accessibility Loan for Elevator Repair		Current balance	\$66,830
Other Endowment and Contribution Activity in 2018			
Special Offerings (Christmas Joy, Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peacemaking)	\$1,524	Sent to Presbytery (40% -of Pentecost is retained for local use and 25% of Peacemaking offering is retained for local use)	
Offering Gifts (Athens Co. Food Pantry, Good Works, My Sister's Place, Planned Parenthood, Habitat for Humanity, etc.)	\$880	Disbursed to appropriate agency or group	
Memorial Gifts (honoring Nick Dinos and Lyle McGeoch)	\$3,035	Disbursed as designated by donors.	
Offering gifts designated for the Discretionary Fund (Local Emergencies)	\$2,117	To be distributed by the Pastor for local emergencies	
Local Emergencies - Special	\$2,520	Designated community donations (a refugee family and other specific individuals). Flow-through account for Athens FPC to pay family bills.	
Gifts supporting AFPC Mission Projects	\$125	Used for Athens FPC mission work projects	
Gifts Supporting Trail Mix Ministry	\$110	Used to buy supplies.	

Windows ON: Church Community Committee COLLEGE LUNCH

Many observers say political participation by ordinary citizens is very important in this time of polarization and divisiveness. Unfortunately, a lot of people hardly know where to begin when it comes to running for office. This month's featured diner at the free FPC college lunches, now on Thursday, ran for Athens city council in 2017 to show others that the process is not so expensive or difficult. And he found the experience rewarding even though he lost the race.

Brian Cristi, a Chicago native, kept his job at the Athens Public Library while campaigning. He feels he lost partly because he didn't knock on enough doors around town – and because he ran as an independent

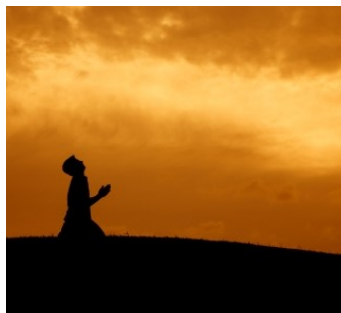
without party support. However he enjoyed the process.

“I met a lot of interesting people,” says Brian. “And I gained a new appreciation that local politics involves genuine service to the community rather than a lot of name-calling and self-centered bragging.”

Brian left his job at the library last summer to attend a conference on permaculture in India. This branch of agriculture involves use and promotion of locally grown food – a strong feature of the Athens Farmers' Market. He hopes to produce video documentaries celebrating this field along with related areas of social justice and economic development.

The college lunch switched to Thursday, after 39 years of being offered on Wednesday, seems to be progressing quite well.

During the four Thursdays beginning on January 25th, main-course food was provided by Lee Gregg, Susan Loughridge, Pastor Rob Martin, Carol Perry and Deborah Perry. Dessert contributors were Xan Jordan, Marla Longenecker, Susan Loughridge, and Wendy Toadvine. Workers at lunch included Hugh and Charlene Culbertson, Lee Gregg, Helen King, Betty Lacy, Susan Loughridge, Carol Perry, Annie Poore, Wendy Toadvine and Emily Wood.



Prayer Concern Requests and Visitation

Prayer request slips are available in the narthex. If you would like others in the church to pray for a person or for a concern near to your heart, place the slips in the Prayer Request box in the narthex. If you or someone you know would enjoy a visit from Pastor Rob and a Deacon, or appreciate receiving communion at home, phone the church office (593-3351), place a note in the collection plate, or email: office@athensfpc.org

Caring For the Congregation

Pastor Rob and the Deacons place a priority on visiting hospitalized members of the congregation. Hospitals no longer provide information on admissions and dismissals. Please notify the church if you know of someone who should be visited in the hospital or while recovering at home or at a nursing facility.



March 11, 2018

March Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 – Joy Creighton | 17 – Michael Prudich |
| 2 – Jeremy Haybron | 20 – Janice Robison |
| 3 – Marley Wright | 21 – Andrew Stuart |
| 4 – Susanne Boyd | 24 – Marla Longenecker |
| 5 – John Gutekanst | Karen Graves |
| 7 – Candy Stewart | Carol Perry |
| 8 – Joe Bianco | Stephanie Stephenson |
| 9 – Nicholas Jordan | 26 – Covington Hauser |
| 10 – Kali Knudsen | 28 – Nicholas Brown |
| David Schatz | 30 – Lindell Holtzmeier |
| Bailey Stephenson | Lilian Mitchell |
| 11 – Pamela Schatz | 31 – Emma Bianco |
| David Sutherland | |

March Anniversaries

- 2 – Stephen / Kimberly
McKinley

The FPC Worship Service is aired on Athens City Community TV Channel 9
Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m.
Saturday/Sunday - 5:00 p.m.

Bible Study - Noon, Tuesdays, Library

Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m., Wednesdays, Bell choir room
Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m., Wednesdays, Sanctuary

Church Office Hours
9 North College Street
Monday-Friday - 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Did you know... you can find recordings of the sermons, music, and puppet skits each week on the church's Facebook page. It is a public site so you do not have to be a Face book user to access the recordings and content. Simply go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>

Newsletter Helpers

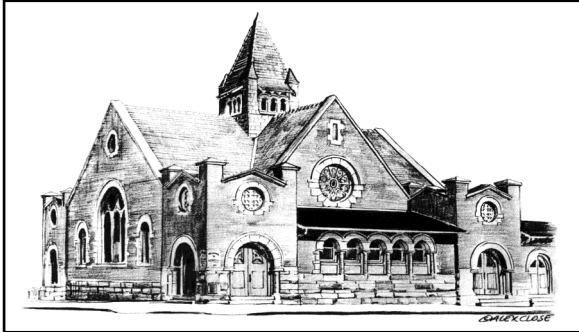
Jane Baker, Carla Boyle, Hugh Culbertson, Ann Fox, Catherine Hare, Betty Lacy, Susan Loughridge, Robert Martin, Danny Moates, Janice Robison and Kirsten Trachsel.

Food Pantry Sunday

Food Pantry Sunday is the fourth Sunday of each month.

www.athensfpc.org

March 2018



First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701



Phone: 740-593-3351

Fax: 740-593-3352

E-mail: office@athensfpc.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AthensFPC/>

Pastor: Rev. Robert E. Martin
Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart
Choir Director: David M. Tadlock
Organist: Janice Robison
CE Coordinator / Bell Choir Director: Kirsten Trachsel
Adm. Assist.: Jane A. Baker

Office hours: Monday-Friday-8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Church: Corner of Court and Washington Streets
Office: 9 North College Street

Phone: (740) 593-3351 **FAX:** (740) 593-3352
E-Mail: office@athensfpc.org **Web:** www.athensfpc.org

Worship Service and Children's Church - 10:30 a.m.
Coffee/Fellowship - 11:30 a.m.
The Worship Service is aired
on Athens Community TV Channel 9 -
Monday-Friday - 9:00 a.m. and Saturdays-Sundays - 5:00 p.m.

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon in the church library

Deadline for April 2018 Newsletter: Noon March 20th

First Presbyterian Church, Athens, Ohio - AFPC has occupied its site in the center of Athens, Ohio since 1809. Among the founding fathers was Ohio University's first president, a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Jacob Lindley. Dr. Lindley served this congregation as Moderator and Pastor until 1824. Over the years, thirteen pastors of the church have been either university presidents or members of the faculty. Dr. William Holmes McGuffey, author of the McGuffey's Readers, was called to serve as President of Ohio University and served as pastor of the church in 1839.

Presbytery of Scioto Valley - The Presbytery of Scioto Valley encompasses twenty-six counties in south central Ohio. From Ironton in the south to Ibera in the north: Hanover in the east and London in the west, FPC's presbytery consists of 112 congregations many of them historic where Presbyterians today are carrying on a long tradition of witness and service in their communities. All over FPC's presbytery, Presbyterians reach out to welcome the stranger, sharing the Gospel and God's love as Christ bids us to do.

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) - The PC (U.S.A.), with denominational offices in Louisville, Kentucky, has approximately 2.3 million members, more than 10,000 congregations and 14,000 ordained and active ministers. Presbyterians trace their history to the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation. Its heritage, and much of its doctrine began with John Calvin (1509-1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking that preceded him.