



WINDOW

JULY 2024



The Monthly Newsletter
of First Presbyterian Church
Athens, OH

From the Pastor....

July 2024

Sunday, July 7th

10:30 a.m. - Communion
during Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Hour

Sunday, July 14th

10:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Hour

Sunday, July 21st

10:30 a.m. - Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Hour

1:00 p.m. Lindley Inn
Hymn Sing

Sunday, July 28th

10:30 a.m. - Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship
Hour

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



The twenty-third Psalm is by far the most popular psalm of the 150 psalms. It is the psalm most committed to memory. We recite it at memorial services. I have held hands and said these words as loved ones were dying—on the threshold of heaven. Old Testament Bible scholar William L. Holladay calls Psalm 23 "an American secular icon."

The book of Psalms is the collection of songs of the Hebrew people. It is the songbook. Every shabbat service, a psalm is sung. The 23rd song attributed to King David begins with a simple yet clear proclamation: "The Lord is my Shepherd." In the ancient world, kings were known as shepherds so to profess that "the lord is my shepherd" is to declare that God is our sovereign. God is our king. It was the responsibility of kings to provide for and protect the people entrusted to their care.

"You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies." The Common English Bible says: "You set a table for me right in front of my enemies." The understanding here is that God protects us so much so that we can sit down at table with our enemies all around us and not worry.

But here's what I am wondering. What if King David sang not "in the presence of" my enemies but "in the presence with my enemies." What if we change the preposition is to say not that "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies" but "You prepare a table before me with the presence of my enemies."

In 2002, Diane McWhorter won the Pulitzer Prize for her book, "Carry Me Home." She wrote about her hometown, Birmingham, Alabama, during the civil rights movement when some of you may remember, her city earned the horrible name of 'Bombingham' for all the violence there and the killing of four little girls on a Sunday morning at the 16th Street Baptist Church by the white supremacist

Ku Klux Klan. McWhorter tells the story of a young white woman, a high-school student, who unbeknownst to her family, fell in love with a young man who was Black. They had a child together much to her parents' horror and shame. When the baby was born, he was immediately placed in an orphanage where he was cared for along with other Black and multi-racial children by several wonderful older Black women.

This young woman loved this child although she could not openly claim him as her own. She visited the orphanage nearly every morning to care for him and hold him. She would bring him presents and new clothes. She would always leave just before the ladies and the children got ready to sit down and eat lunch together. After months had gone by, as the young woman was about to leave, one of the Black women turned to her and invited her to lunch. The young woman was startled and clearly offended by the invitation. "You know this," she told the Black woman indignantly, "I cannot eat with you. That wouldn't be proper." As a white young woman, she could not eat with Black women and Black and multi-racial children—even the child who was her own. She could fall in love with a Black man. She could have a child with him. She could care for that child every day at the orphanage, but she could not eat with a group of Black women and children because that would not be right. What may have changed in her had she accepted that invitation? Something powerful happens when we sit down at table with one another.

God prepares a table before us with our enemies to show us that they really are not our enemies. And then, when we sit at God's table, we will be anointed with oil and our cup will overflow. And surely, goodness and mercy will follow us all the days of our lives and we will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

~Pastor Rob



Salt Lake City – The 226th General Assembly (GA) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) affirmed 420-2 the nomination of Jihyun Oh as stated clerk of the General Assembly, succeeding J. Herbert Nelson, who filled the seat for seven years and concluded his term in April 2023. Oh, a 1.5

generation Korean American born in South Korea and raised in Kansas, is the first woman of color to serve in the highest ecclesial office of the PC(USA). Bronwen Boswell has served as interim stated clerk since Nelson’s June 2023 departure. When Oh takes the reins on August 1, 2024, Boswell will return to her duties as the general presbyter and stated clerk for the Presbytery of Shenandoah, from which she was given leave.



Habitat is in need of volunteers to join the team on the home being built in Glouster, Ohio-at 61 Summit Street.

July 2024 Worship
(**Bold, first reading - italics, sermon text**)

**Sermon text*

July 7 Blueprint for discipleship
First Reading 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10
Psalm 48
Second Reading 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
**Gospel Mark 6:1-13*

July 14 Redeemed and Restored
First Reading 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Psalm 24
**Second Reading Ephesians 1:3-14*
Gospel Mark 6:14-29

July 21 Breaking down and building up
First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Psalm 89:20-37
**Second Reading Ephesians 2:11-22*
Gospel Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

July 28 Rooted and Grounded
First Reading 2 Samuel 11:1-15
Psalm 14
**Second Reading Ephesians 3:14-21*
Gospel John 6:1-21



Address & directions provided once scheduled.

Description: Come join Habitat for Humanity of Southeast Ohio as we build a home for a family in need in the Village of Glouster! No experience necessary. You can sign up on their website located here:

[Habitat for Humanity.](https://www.habitatforhumanity.org/athens-county)

Engaging our faith opens us to being formed in new ways. Gratitude is both a practice and a product of our faith. So often the world around us speaks of scarcity and our shortcomings.

And yet, when we pause to recognize and give thanks for God’s goodness around us, we are reminded of the abundance of God’s blessings. Faith formation is the practice of bravely walking with others through the depths of loss and the heights of joys.

Through faith, we navigate life through union with God. When we pause in our everyday experiences, we’re open to the divine among us. Thank you for sharing yourself in so many ways with your church family.

FPC Church Elders:

2024: Harvey Ballard, Anne Kemmerle, Katie Tadlock, and Keith Wiens

2025: Adrienne Nagy, Andrew Stuart, and David Tees

2026: Sharon Huges, Linda Parsons, Jane Woodrow, and Hugh Woods

FPC Board of Deacons:

2024: Joyce Beauvais, Margaret Bourke, Bobbi Conliffe, Nancy Hartley, and Carol Perry

2025: Alan Boyd, Mary Costello, Kim Jordan, Becky Pankratz and Ellen Sostarich

2026: Helen King, Joyce Mullins, Harold Robison, Riley Smoot, and Aysie Suer

Mission Outreach Committee Diaper Project

The Mission Outreach Committee decided to start a Diaper Project for some of the Mission Partners here in Athens: Athens County Food Pantry and Cat's Cupboard. There will be a box in the Narthex for your donation of diapers. Many donate food, but the Committee realizes that diapers can be expensive when a person is food insecure.

Christian Education News

Children's Sunday School

Grade school and pre-school children are invited to attend Sunday School during Worship. If you have questions or would like to help with a class, please contact Barb Martin at barbaramartin729@msn.com or phone the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans and materials will be provided for all volunteer teachers. Class sizes are usually small in number.

Make a Joyful Noise Music Camp

July 22-26th and July 29-31st

10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

School age children of all levels of music experience will be welcome. Registration is first come, first served. Register at the church office, 9 North College Street, or call the church office at (740) 593-3351. Instruction by Lara Suer, voice and piano teacher in Athens who is pursuing a master's degree in Voice Performance at New England Conservatory in Boston. She received her undergraduate degree in Voice Performance from Arizona State University, and a master's certificate in voice performance from Ohio University. She was accepted to sing and perform in Italy with an opera program called Si Parla, Si Canta just before this camp starts. This is the second year she is holding a singing and hand-chime camp at AFPC. She has been teaching private piano and voice lessons for the last 8 years, working with children and adults. She cannot wait to teach music to your kids!

Copperheads Faith Night Baseball Game

July 13th

The Copperheads are hosting a Faith Night baseball game at the ballpark. Tickets are \$15 per person and includes game ticket, two Larry's Dawg House hotdogs (or veggie option), a bag of chips, and a soft drink. To order tickets, please contact Richard Nease, christianed@athensfpc.org or call the church office at (740) 593-3351.



Upcoming Events

Independence Day - July 4th

Sunset Canoes - August 17th @ 5:30 p.m.

Welcome Back Sunday/Rally Day - August 25th

Presbytery Fall Youth Retreat at Camp Akita in Logan, Ohio - November 16th-17th

Windows ON: Remembering AFPC Member Burt Stumpf

Folden “Burt” Stumpf was born August 18, 1928, in Lansing, Michigan to Ruby and Gordon Stumpf. They raised Burt and his younger sister, Amelia, in North Canton, Ohio. Burt received his undergraduate degree from Kent State University, his graduate degree from the University of Michigan, and his doctorate in physics from Illinois Institute of Technology.

Burt went on to become a professor at Ohio University in 1963 and spent his life dedicated to his research in Acoustics, publishing research and

receiving accolades for his novel insights. Upon his retirement, he spent his time creating art and poetry based on nature, physics, and his deep reverence for God.

Burt lived in Athens until his death on May 13, 2024. He was preceded in death by his wife, Margaret, and is survived by his daughter Elizabeth, son John, daughter-in-law Laurie, and three granddaughters, Alexandria, Katrina, and Annelene. Burt is remembered by his family as a man of very corny jokes, endless high-fives, and unwavering academic support. A

service celebrating his life was held June 17th at First Presbyterian Church.



Armstrong and Larson elected Co-Moderators of the 226th General Assembly

South Carolina pastors bring humor and love to their remarks prior to securing the win
Darla Carter | General Assembly News - July 1, 2024

Commissioners to the 226th General Assembly have chosen two South Carolina pastors, the Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, to be the next Co-Moderators. They will serve a two-year term and are the fifth straight team of Co-Moderators to win election.


Armstrong and Larson were elected Sunday night by a vote of 249 to 171 during an evening plenary in the Salt Palace Convention Center in Utah. Soon afterward, they were installed by their predecessors, the Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace and the Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis, who received a standing ovation for their service and gave the victorious team a glimpse of what lies ahead.

“You will have the privilege and the burden of representing the Presbyterian Church, at home and abroad, speaking with the church and to others outside the church, all of this that Christ might be glorified and made more fully known,” Santana-Grace said.

The team had enthusiastically stumped for votes the previous night at a downtown reception and pledged to continue serving their local congregations while also serving the greater church as Co-Moderators. Larson is pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church of Southside Beach and Armstrong is associate pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church on St. James Island.

Windows ON: Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will resume Bible Study on September 18th, location to be determined. Study title for 2024-2025 is *Let Justice Roll: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creatures*. Lesson 1 is based on scripture from Ezekiel. If you would like a study book, please call the church office by July 31st. The cost of the book is \$10.00 plus shipping. For more information, call Martha Johnson at (740) 677-0034. Everyone is welcome!

The wedding feast at Cana is really a pretty cynical story at heart. Wedding feasts in the ancient world were days-long affairs, where the whole community was invited. There are some places around the world where this is still true and those weddings stand in stark contrast to the ones you and I are probably used to. We all understand that sometimes you have to choose between your Great Aunt and your college roommate because the caterer is charging \$80 a head, but this wedding was an unlimited feast for all. It would have been considered outlandish, unacceptable even, not to invite the whole town—and even more outlandish not to have enough food for days on end. And however different our weddings might be, there is one faux pas that translates across time and culture and that's running out of alcohol. We don't know how Jesus and his

disciples knew the bride and groom and their families, but it seems clear to me from Mary's reaction that their families may have been close. Mary, at least, was concerned for their social well-being. She wanted them to be able to save face once the wine ran out. And so she goes to Jesus, who's there with his friends, and tells him he needs to do something. And Jesus might as well have said, "Mom you're embarrassing me in front of my friends!" But ultimately, ever the dutiful son, he obliges his mother and turns barrels of water into wine. And it wasn't just any wine. It wasn't the cheap stuff. It was good wine. The best, even, that some of the wedding guests had ever had. This is the first miracle in John's gospel and it's striking for a number of reasons. It's not a miracle in the traditional sense. He doesn't move mountains or heal a paralytic or give sight to the blind. In changing water into wine, he helps a couple of neighborhood families save face. There's

no point to the wine besides the wine itself and the enjoyment of it. There's no point to it, besides the kindness, compassion, and mercy Jesus shows to these families. There's no point to it but the grace. That's what we'll be exploring this year at First Presbyterian: What do we do with the table—all of our tables? Our communion table, the tables in the fellowship halls, the tables around which we gather at our homes. How might God be calling us to be together, as God's people, receiving and sharing grace? Cynics and saints, doubters and believers, heretics and holy rollers—there's something at this table for all of us. It's not just a little thing, nor is there just a little bit of it. God doesn't mete out just a little, just enough for each of us, just enough to sustain us until the next moment. What God offers at this table—a true offering, joyfully and freely given—is extravagant. It's an embarrassment of riches. There is enough for days and days and days without end.

Windows ON: Church Support Committee FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses, 2024			
Offering Budgeted for 2024	\$240,000	Offering Received to Date	\$125,303
Other Income Budgeted for 2024 (endowment, parking lot lease, Putnam apt. rent, interest)	\$172,432	Other Income Received to Date	\$93,042
Total Income Budgeted 2024	\$412,432	Total Income (Received to Date)	\$218,346
Current Assets (checking & petty cash)	-----	Total Cash on Hand	\$58,712
Expenses Budgeted in 2023	\$403,454	Expenses to Date	\$144,134
Other Endowment and Contribution Activity in 2024			
Special Offerings (Christmas Joy, Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peacemaking)	\$5,381	Sent to Presbytery (40% of Pentecost is retained for local use/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.)	\$650	Disbursed to appropriate agency or group	
Gifts supporting AFPC Mission Projects	\$3,521	Used for AFPC mission work projects including Cat's Cupboard	
Offering gifts designated for the Discretionary Fund (Local Emergencies)	\$2,437	To be distributed by the Pastor for local emergencies	
Church World Service (Blanket Fund)	\$993	To be sent to Church World Service	
Koo/Borchert Endowment Fund Donations	\$400	Sent to Endowment Fund	
Memorial Gifts (Harold Swisher)	\$50	Disbursed as directed by donors	

Concert Under The Elms

The final Concert Under The Elms takes place Thursday, July 4th at 7:00 p.m. on the College Green. *An Independence Celebration* featuring Rod Miller as J.P. Sousa will be a great way to celebrate the 4th! An ice cream social will be held immediately following the concert at the church office, 9 N. College Street.



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, contact the office 740-593-3351 or office@athensfpc.org

BACKPACK OUTREACH 2024

Once again, we are partnering with the Harrisonville Presbyterian Church for their backpack giveaway. The first giveaway was held in 2009 and served about twenty children. The giveaway has continued annually since with increasing demand from the community. In 2023, 200 children attended. Dr. Jared Sheets, member of the Harrisonville Outreach committee said: "Today we have 19 members of the church that engage in two major mission projects, the school supply giveaway, and keeping our blessing box stocked with food for the needy of the community. We support both projects through our church budget and encourage individual members to contribute special gifts to both projects."

Four years ago, it was decided to augment the giveaway by providing children with coupons to buy school shoes or boots at the Shoe Show store in Mason, WV. For the past three years \$25.00 coupons have been offered. These coupons are funded by special offerings taken every two months from February to August. Last year 200 coupons were given out and 191 of them were redeemed.

School supplies are given away in pre-filled backpacks containing paper, notebooks, tablets, pens, pencils, crayons and other items on the list of supplies provided by the Meigs Local Schools. Last year FPC provided 200 backpacks. Hopefully the same amount can be given out this year.

Church members and friends are asked to donate whatever supplies you can provide. Items will be collected until Tuesday, July 30th. Items or monetary donations can be dropped off at the church office during the week, or in the box provided in the foyer of the church building on Sunday's.

In each backpack FPC hopes to provide:

K-2nd Grade Backpacks

- 5 Boxes of Crayola Crayons: 24 count
- 1 Pair Fiskar Scissors
- 1 Pkg of #2 Pencils (Dixons Ticonderoga Black preferred)
- 12 or more small Glue Sticks
- 1 Container of Clorox or Lysol Disinfectant Wipes
- 1 Coloring Book
- 1 8-or 10 Count box broadline (fat) Washable Markers, Crayola Classic Colors
- 1 Pink Eraser
- 1 Art Box: small, plastic

3rd & 4th Grade Backpacks would also include:

- 1 Pack Highlighters
- 1 (1") Binder: plastic sleeve on front
- 2 Packs of loose leaf paper
- 1 Pkg. of Dividers
- 2 Folders (three hole punched) for Science & Social Studies

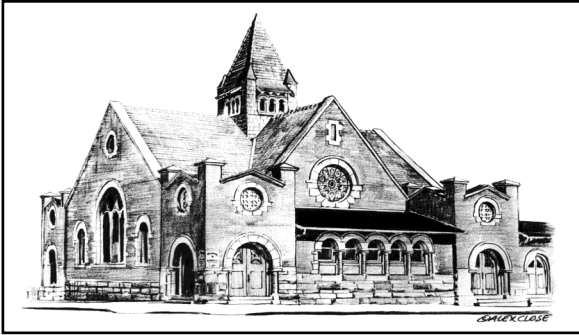
Junior High & High School

- 3 Ring Binder with dividers
- Composition Notebook
- Colored Pencils
- Loose leaf Paper
- 2 Pkg of #2 Pencils (Dixons Ticonderoga Black preferred)



First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701

JULY 2024



Phone: 740-593-3351

Fax: 740-593-3352

Parking Lot Cell 220-252-6500

Email: office@athensfpc.org

Web: athensfpc.org

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



Pastor: Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin

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

Summer Office Hours: Monday - Friday - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart

Choir Director: David M. Tadlock

Organist: Janice Robison

CE Co-Directors: Richard and Joan Nease

Administrative Assistant: Debbie Perry

Church Custodian: Tom Medley

Phone: (740) 593-3351

FAX: (740) 593-3352

Parking Lot Cell Phone: (220) 252-6500

E-Mail: office@athensfpc.org **Web:** www.athensfpc.org

Worship Service: In person service and can be seen live on YouTube. It is also recorded and under Worship Archives.

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon in the church library and via Zoom.

August 2024 Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, July 20th

First Presbyterian Church, Athens, Ohio - FPC 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 95 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.