



September, 2024 Newsletter

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Dear Friends,

Schools are back in session. Prairie Lincoln across the street had their open house. Ruth, Karen, Lynne and Jim picked some of our produce and herbs to pass out at school. They took over forms with a QR code so parents could register their children for the Fall Afterschool Program (Sept. 11th-Nov. 20th). What a great outreach to our neighbors, sharing the love of Jesus with others. Thank you to our volunteers!

Do you remember your excitement going back to school when you were little? Or do you remember the dread of having to meet a new group of friends?

When have you learned something new about another person? Did you discover you shared a common interest? When have you learned something new about yourself? Shani McIlwain, an elder at Faith Presbyterian Church, was attending a conference in Charlotte. She describes herself as an introvert. When the 600 women were gathering around tables for dinner, Shani headed for an empty table. When the table began to fill up, a fellow writer named Kim sat down beside her. They talked. Kim said "Right before I walked downstairs from my hotel room, I prayed I would meet someone who had lost a child." She met Shani, who had also lost a child. "Gathering often happens by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Look around the pews. What is one thing you have in common with someone else here? How would you finish this sentence "We both..."? We both? You have known each other a long time and would have many answers. And still you don't know everything about another person.

Sharing a part of ourselves and asking others to share a part of themselves is what ties us together. Paul writes "Share one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ," (Galatians 6:2). Our identities, experiences and values overlap. Even with someone of a different political persuasion!

Each time we gather together we listen to more about each other. Our August 21 gathering of elders, deacons and anyone else who wanted to meet, was a time of listening. Sixteen people shared their views of our church purpose and the needs for a minister. I am privileged to continue as your Gap Pastor through the end of the year. I have some exciting challenges for us for these months.

Let us continue to pray for one another, for our thanksgivings and for our concerns... and so fulfill the law of Christ, to love one another.

Blessings and joy for your days, *Jon Carlisle*, Gap Pastor

August Session Meeting

Group Discussion

Session appreciated the participation of sixteen people who responded to the open invitation to discuss what God is calling us to do in the next five years as a faithful church of Jesus Christ and what qualities and actions are needed from a minister. Hopeful, helpful, insightful and realistic comments were made from a variety of perspectives. One person commented "We are a small church and a big family." New ideas were given as we continue to partner with the Galloway congregation with different activities.

Presbytery Report

Our Presbytery's Commission on Ministry has set up liaisons for all areas of churches. Ten congregations make up the "Metro West" group: Columbus, Highlands; Columbus, Hoge Memorial; Columbus, Westminster; Dublin; Galloway; Grove City, First; Hilliard; London, First; Plain City; Worthington. "Our liaisons will serve to make connections with both clergy and other churches in your region through gatherings and conversations. We will work to develop shared outreach opportunities for which members of churches can participate."

Presbytery is starting programs to reduce the costs of a minister by making Presbytery health insurance optional so a minister can choose to get health coverage through an employer or a spouse's employer. Some churches in financial need can get help with their Board of Pensions expenses for a few years.

OSU Kirk needs volunteers to provide meals for students on Sunday nights to get them to come to church. Generally they need meals for 20-30 students. OSU Kirk is only 20 minutes from Westminster.

The Presbytery is offering up to \$2000 for Neighborhood Mission Grants to churches for first time or continuing mission projects in their neighborhoods.

Session Actions

A motion was made to accept Chris Stein's resignation from Session, from the Revitalization Task Force and as Committee Chair of Worship and Music. She said her family needs her. With regret, Session passed the motion. Pam Johnston and Melinda Rowe will Co-Chair Worship and Music; both Worship & Music and Session now have only three members. If you would like to join Session, contact Karen Flowers. See Pam or Melinda if you are interested in Worship & Music. Lynne Kelly has agreed to serve as Chair of Christian Education.

Session voted to renew Gap Pastor Jon Carlisle's 19 hrs/week contract through December 29, 2024. We are happy he is willing to stay with us!

Session reviewed a list of our 37 members and referred several for the Deacons to contact.

Administrative Committee

Through July, our income exceeds our expenses by about \$10k largely due to savings from not having an installed pastor or secretary, being adequate to cover cost over-runs in other areas such as insurance costs which doubled. We are thankful for our good fortune and pray it continues.

Mission and Outreach

Our next date for feeding the hungry is Saturday, September 14 at 4:30-6:30 pm at Hoge Memorial Presbyterian Church on West Broad Street. Kevin Dye will post a sign-up sheet in the narthex for volunteers to work that evening and/or make a cake for dessert. We fed more people than at any recent time and ran out of dessert even though we had provided five cakes!

Property

A Fall Flea Fantasia is planned for Friday, September 20 and Saturday, September 21. We are looking for volunteers and donations and thinking about a bake sale.

Trent Rowe reported that the Franklin County Engineer's office has received \$570k in federal funding to help schools get kids to school safely. Buttons for stopping traffic at the corner crosswalk will be installed on poles sometime between June and August of 2025.

-Lynne Kelly, Clerk of Session

Sunday School Plans

The adult Sunday School would like to discuss plans for the year. How would they like to see the class in the planned? Come join us at 9:30am on Sept 8th for discussion. Afterwards, at 10 a.m. we'll enjoy Sundaes for Sunday School provided by the deacons.

Worship and Music

Melinda and Pam will be co-chairing the worship committee. The plan is to divide duties, each of us taking on different responsibilities. Our fall meeting will be Sept 8. We have several requests about what people would like in the service. What we need is help. If you would like to see something in particular, please assist us in finding that special musical group or be willing to make calls. We all are wearing many hats to keep the service and other operations going! You do not need to be a part of the committee to help. In the future, look for requests for your assistance.

In addition, we are hoping to switch to watching and recording our services through YouTube. You will still be able to watch the service as usual, but can also access past services on our channel for Westminster. A link to the channel will be available through our website.

Thank you, Pam and Melinda

Property

Let me tell you a Property story.....

"THE PEWS"

There once was a little church on the lane that installed brand new pews in their sanctuary. These pews looked beautiful for about 10+ years. Then, one day, the fabric on 4 of these pews started to tear. The Property Committee asked "Why are these pews tearing?". "Was someone sitting on them funny?" "Were there children wiggling all around on them during the service causing the tears?" What was interesting about the location of these pews was that they were tearing only near sanctuary windows. It was determined that the pew tears may be being caused by ultra violet rays from the sun because this little church on the lane, sadly, did not have the new fangled windows that blocked ultra violet rays. The Property Committee contacted the installers because we were still under warranty. The installers informed the little church on the lane that the warranty covered everything but when the windows do not have the ultra violet rays protection. Property read the warranty and sure enough, there it was in the fine print "warranty does not cover sun damage". Well, the Property Committee did not want to leave these pews to look bad in their nice new sanctuary so they contracted with the installers to repair them at a cost of around \$1200. In the meantime, this Property Committee started to look into getting new windows that had the ultra violet rays protection to prevent this issue in the future (next month's story). Once the repair was completed, the little church was beautiful again.

It was not long, maybe a year later, 3 more pews started to show tearing. These pews were all new tears in pews that had not yet started to tear earlier from the sun damage.

This Property Committee again contracted with the installers to repair these as well at a cost about the same as the first repair job. Once again, the little church on the lane was looking beautiful. Some time had passed and there was a pandemic and low and behold, 3 more tears started on 3 other pews. Once again, we contacted the installers about coming out to do the repairs. This time they informed us that it would now cost over \$7000 to do the repair. We told them "we cannot pay that". The reason they informed us the cost was so much higher was they did not have local repair staff to do the job so they had to fly workers in from other states and would incur food and accommodation costs which is all passed on to the customer. What was the Property Committee going to do? They started calling around to find another company that could do the repairs for a better price but was finding other companies were charging these high prices as well. The little church would have to sit looking less beautiful than before for a while (it was about a year).

Finally, one day while a Property member was at the church to pick up the mail, because we do not have a secretary, a flyer came in from a company that does pew repairs. This Property member contacted them immediately and was happily informed that their company does a different company model to complete this type of work for churches at a lower cost. They have dedicated staff that go from city to city to complete this work for multiple churches while in that city to help save them money. We contracted with them at a cost of just under \$2000 saving the church about \$5000. We would just have to wait until they had enough business in Columbus where this little church was located. About 8 months later and sales staff changes and multiple emails and phone calls going back and forth they finally came to Columbus and repaired the pews and once again, the little church on the lane was looking beautiful. This is all to let the congregation know that the pledges and funds you provide the church is being put to good use and we are doing everything we can to be wise with your treasures.

Thanks,
Property Committee

Current assistance needed

1. The Property Committee is having a hard time keeping up with the work we need to accomplish, especially required tasks mandated by the state of Ohio, so we are asking for someone or even a couple people to take on the responsibilities of 4 of the 5 mandated inspections. The church has 5 inspections a year. Fire extinguisher inspection, Boiler inspection, Stairlift inspection, Backflow Preventer inspection, and the Prairie Township Fire Department inspection. To save money we ended the contract with the fire extinguisher inspection and Melinda and I take the fire extinguishers to a local inspection company to get them inspected saving the church \$100s so we will continue to take care of that one. There is no physical labor involved for the other 4 required inspections except unlocking and opening the door for the inspectors when they arrive and some phone calls to schedule them. Please

contact Trent Rowe 614-302-4949 if you are willing to help and he can provide the contact information, inspection schedules, and the location of the unit(s) being inspected.

Thank You
The Property Committee

2. This is a newsletter with information for and by the congregation. Anything you'd like to share, please email Melinda Rowe with announcements, poems, events you know about, or write an articles. If you can't email, please write something out on paper and give to me, I will type it up. Newsletter deadline is the 25th of each month. tnmrowe@yahoo.com If you need to call, you can reach me at 614-592-9357.

Clippers Night - Sept 14th, 2024

Join Nationwide Retirees, Westminster and family and friends for the Clippers vs. St. Paul Saints at Huntington Park at 7:05 PM. Gates open at 5:30.

Use the link below to purchase your tickets in Sections 22 and 23 which are reserved for Nationwide Retirees, families and friends.

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/Nationwideretirees2024>

Click on the "Get Tickets" button

Pick a Section and select your seat(s)

Hit "Continue"

Pick a payment option and provide the requested information

Hit "Confirm"

You will receive an email from FEVO Enterprises

Open the email and click on "Access Tickets Online"

Sign into your Ticketmaster account

Click on the three horizontal lines and select "My Tickets"

Click on the ticket to get the electronic ticket to present at the Gate for entry

You can also add the ticket(s) to your Apple Wallet

When you arrive at the Entry Gate, open your Ticketmaster account or your Apple Wallet and show your phone to the person scanning tickets

Call Jim Benney at 614-886-4568 if you have questions

Community Garden Task Force

Prairie Lincoln Participants: Dennis Ingle, Meghann Hall, Megan Feige and Sam Coulter

Master Gardeners: Karen Middendorf, Sabine Kuhn and Theresa McFarland

Westminster Participants: Lynne Kelly, Jim Benney, Barb Byrem, Pam Johnston, Abby Clark, Nancy Hopkins, Peggy Frye and Nadine Cichy

Neighborhood Participants: Sue Adcock and Ruth Mohr

The Garden continues to be funded by grants from Gantz and we have provided documentation for the \$500 grant they approved.

We installed two new raised beds and added soil to all of the existing raised beds. Two of our older rain barrels are now being used to grow potatoes.

The Summer Program finished in mid-August. Fourteen were registered and between vacations and the heat, we averaged around seven children. The presentation by a local beekeeper was well received by our young gardeners. The children made salsa and eggplant pizza for the reception for family and friends to recognize the end of the Summer Session. The Garden is producing well despite the weather. The Painted Pole that the children decorated is an attractive addition to the Garden.

The Prairie Lincoln Open House was August 19th. Members of the Task Force were on hand to pass out produce from the Garden and to sign up students for the Fall Afterschool Program. The Fall Afterschool Program will run from September 11th through November 20th.

Our next Community Garden Task Force meeting is September 17th at 2:45 at Prairie Lincoln. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings and to help out with the Garden. Please let one of us know if you want to be involved.

Blessings,

Jim Benney

Report from the Deacons

We will be doing Sundaes for Sunday School on September 8th at 10am. Please join us in the Narthex for the fellowship and to come up with ideas for Sunday School/Bible Study.

September 14th is going to be a busy day. Westminster is providing the meal at Hoge. That should be completed by 6:30pm and then we want to head to the Clippers' Game that starts at 7:05pm. See the link and information in the Newsletter.

We are again doing Trunk or Treat on October 31 from 2:00pm to 3:15pm. The time has been chosen so we can be there when the children get out of school. Feel free to dress up as that always makes it more fun for the kids (of all ages).

The Deacons are considering bringing back a Thanksgiving meal on Sunday November 24th. Please let us know if we should make this happen.

Thank you to everyone who continues to act as our “unofficial” Deacons. We can’t be successful without you.

Blessings,

Carol, Joyce, Pam and Jim

2024 Fall Flea Fantasia

Westminster is having a “lite” Fall Flea Fantasia on September 20 and 21. We will be open from 9am to 3pm on Friday and 9am to 1pm on Saturday. If you would like to act as a host to the customers, just show up and spend as much time as fits into your schedule. We’ll be accepting free will donations, so we don’t have to have cashiers or make change.

As part of our revitalization project to connect with the Community, Westminster is again sponsoring the Lincoln Village Sale. Jim and Joyce Sizemore obtained the Permit that will allow Westminster and everyone else in Lincoln Village to have sales without purchasing separate permits. We will be spreading the news on Nextdoor and Facebook Market Place. Prairie Township also puts out the word and acknowledges Westminster.

The rooms are set up already and we will use the Fellowship Hall for the Bake Sale and overflow items from the other rooms. Please put your donations in Room 3 and clothes in Room 1. Feel free to leave the clothes you donate on hangers so they can be hung directly on the clothes racks.

At the Spring Flea Fantasia, several of our customers commented on how much they looked forward to the Bake Sale. We need your help to bake items for us to sell on Saturday. Cookies, brownies and other baked goods that can be sold in small quantities do the best. Please bring your baked goods to the Church on Friday or Saturday.

Please help in any way you can. We have a lot of fun and we are looking forward to spending time with our congregants and neighbors. It’s also a great way to go down memory lane as you look at all of the things that come in for the sale. Remember everyone’s trash is another person’s treasure. Thank you.

Karen, Melinda, Trent and Jim

FROM THE FOOTSTOOL

The footstool has been relegated to the trash truck—it was totally coming apart. Packing for an upcoming move is in progress, which means nothing is where it is expected to be. Books remain in view, however, and there is a special stack meant to share with you over the coming weeks. The following book is one of the most unusual, yet captivating stories, to be found. It is best for personal reading rather than gifting to someone as a surprise. Let me know if you try it! Have a GRRRRRRreat read!!!!

BEAR by Julia Phillips Fiction (new)

Many of us had a relationship with a bear at one time --- A bear that was soft, cuddly, accompanied us everywhere and came alive through our imagination. We enjoyed stories about its friends and all the endings were happy ones. This, too, is a story about a bear, and there is a person to bear relationship which is unique and special, while also frightening.

Two sisters live with their dying mother on an island off the coast of Washington. The girls work to support the livelihood of all, but COVID and other circumstances make them deeply in debt. Life is not a bed of roses here. And though hard work and devotion to one another is plentiful, happiness is hard to find. Enter the bear.

The bear brings fear to some; hope and love to another. Sadness oozes throughout the story, and yet there is a powerful feeling of hope that keeps you turning the pages. Don't expect a fairy tale ending, but you may find satisfaction and a sense of peace at the final page.

Carolyn Moore 08/24

Galloway Presbyterian events

Tuesday, September 10th. The *See Ya Tuesday* Dinner group will meet this month at York Steak House, 4220 W. Broad Street, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 11th - Ladies' Lunch at Bob Evans in Georgesville Square at 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 17th –Join our neighbors and friends from Westminster Presbyterian Church for lunch at Ding Ho Chinese Restaurant, 120 Philippi Road, 11:30 a.m.

Additional information

Ginny Browne's new address.

Sunrise of Dublin, room 326
4175 Stoneridge Lane
Dublin, OH 43017

Jerry Ridenour temporary address. Post office is not forwarding his mail!

1115 Black Oak Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

Linda Crumley's email is: lindacrumley17@gmail.com

September 2024

Sep 2024 (Eastern Time - New York)

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 The Lord's Supper 10:30am - Hybrid	2	3 4:30pm - Deacon Meeting	4 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	5	6	7 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @
8 9:30am - Adult Sunday - Planning 10am - Fellowship Time 10:30am - Hybrid	9	10 Galloway Presbyterian Dinner @ York Steakhouse 5:30pm	11 4:30pm - Administrative 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary Ladies Group Lunch @ Bob Evans - Georgetown Square 12:30pm	12	13	14 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary
15 9:15am - Adult Sunday 10:30am - Hybrid	16	17 11:30am - Lunch Bunch Ding Ho Chinese Restaurant 120 Phillipi Rd	18 6:30pm - Session 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	19	20	21 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @
22 9:15am - Adult Sunday 10:30am - Hybrid	23	24 1pm - Book Discussion	25 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	26	27	28 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @ 5pm - SDA @ Sanctuary
29 9:15am - Adult Sunday 10:30am - Hybrid	30	1 4:30pm - Deacon Meeting	2 7pm - SDA-Sanctuary	3	4	5 9am - SDA - 9 to 1 @