

W I N D O W

MARCH 2020

Spring

The Monthly Newsletter
of First Presbyterian Church
Athens, Ohio

March 2020

Sunday, March 1st 1st Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. - Communion
during Worship

Tuesday, March 3rd

5:30-7:00 p.m. - Lenten
Soup and Study
(details on page 3)

Sunday, March 8th 2nd Sunday in Lent

Daylight Savings begins
10:30 a.m. - Worship

Tuesday, March 10th

5:30-7:00 p.m. - Lenten
Soup and Study

Sunday, March 15th 3rd Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. - Worship
1:00 p.m. - Lindley
Hymn Sing, The Plains

Tuesday, March 17th Election Day

No Lenten Soup/Study

Sunday, March 22nd 4th Sunday in Lent Trail Mix Sunday

10:30 a.m. - Bells during
Worship

Tuesday, March 24th

5:30-7:00 p.m. - Lenten
Soup and Study

Sunday, March 29th 5th Sunday in Lent

Youth Liturgist Sunday
9:45 a.m. - Pretzel
Making
10:30 a.m. - Puppets
during Worship

From the Pastor....

At Least

a poem by Raymond Carver

I want to get up early one morning,
before sunrise. Before the birds, even.
I want to throw cold water on my face
and be at my work table
when the sky lightens and smoke
begins to rise from the chimneys
of other houses.

I want to see the waves break
on this rocky beach, not just hear them
break as I did all night in my sleep.
I want to see again the ships
that pass through the Strait from every
seafaring country in the world —
old, dirty freighters just barely moving
along,
and the swift new cargo vessels
painted every color under the sun
that cut the water as they pass.

He may be talking about the Oregon
coastline where he lived, but place names
don't matter. What he wants to see is
everyday life happening before him.
He wants to lose himself in the glory of
what's right in front of him, before each
of us really. But he's not thinking about
writing. Not at all. He's thinking about
life.

I want to keep an eye out for them.
And for the little boat that plies
the water between the ships
and the pilot station near the lighthouse.
I want to see them take a man off the ship
and put another up on board.

I want to spend the day watching this
happen and reach my own conclusions.

What I think he is hoping to see and
experience in the chill morning air is
nothing more or less than the rich
character of our existence. He wants
every thrown glance to be worship.
He wants to hear all things as music--not
to write but to live.

I hate to seem greedy—have so much
to be thankful for already.
But I want to get up early one more morn-
ing, at least.
And go to my place with some coffee and
wait.
Just wait, to see what's going to happen.

When Raymond Carver was terminal with
cancer, he came to value life in a way he
never had. That's an old story line; he's
not the first to bear witness. "At least" is
a poem whose title could well be "At
Most." What he wants is so very little to
be so very much. It's a religious poem,
with no Godtalk. It's offers overflowing
thanksgiving and asks for a blessing of
yet another morning. Carver's "At Least"
feels like real Lenten meditation, asking
God this morning and every morning to
be blessed by nothing more than what's
already all around.

~ Rob Martin

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





March Worship

March 1st	Psalm 32 and Matthew 4:1-11	<i>Life in the Wilderness</i>
March 8th	Psalm 121 and Genesis 12:1-4a	<i>Off the Map</i>
March 15th	Psalm 95 and John 4:5-42	<i>Having to Go to Samaria</i>
March 22nd	Psalm 23 and John 9:1-41	<i>Invisible No Longer</i>
March 29th	Ezekiel 37:1-14 and John 11:1-45	<i>Hearing His Voice</i>

**Lindley Hymn Sings
resume this month
March 15th**

(See Lillian Dinos for more details.)



**Spring Forward!
Daylight Savings Time
begins Sunday, March 8th**



Invitation

"The Harvard Glee Club and Singing Men of Ohio are delighted to present a concert at 7:30 p.m. on March 19th, at First United Methodist Church in Athens. The performance is part of the Harvard Glee Club's Heartland Tour to New York, PA, OH, and MI, the heartland of industrial America. The Harvard Glee Club will share folk and college songs, as well as music by Schubert, Komitas, Palestrina, Rachmaninoff, and others. Come join FUM for an evening of choral music!"

NAMI Family-to-Family

NAMI Athens will offer its NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program for the spring, beginning March 3, 2020. It will be held on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. It is a free, twelve-session program for family, partners, friends and significant others of adults living with mental illness. The course is designed to help all family members understand and support their loved one living with mental illness, while maintaining their own well-being. The course includes information on several mental health conditions. Participation and all discussion is kept strictly confidential. There are several ways to register: phone 740-593-7424, info@namiathensohio.org or www.namiathensohio.org.

TV Service Broadcast

Athens Public Access TV ceased operation on January first and the broadcast of your church services also disappeared. Complete recordings of the FPC services will be posted to the church's Youtube Channel. Services may be viewed by using your internet browser or smart TV connected to the internet. Go to <https://www.Youtube.com/athensfpc> Select the "Video" tab. Services and other videos are arranged by date. Youtube will provide greater access to the public as you do not have to be an Athens cable subscriber to see the FPC services, but can view them from anywhere you have a good internet service.



Sunday School Teachers Needed

The education program is looking to expand its pool of Sunday school teachers and substitutes. A one-month commitment is ideal for teachers. Substitutes would be asked to fill in when teachers are unavailable. Curriculum is provided. Interested in this opportunity to directly impact the youth of the church? Please contact Danielle Bridges by emailing her at daniellebridges@gmail.com.

Fellowship Host/Hostesses

Are you willing to host Fellowship Hour after the church service some Sunday? If so, please sign the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. During the week prior to your Sunday, you will receive a letter with full instructions. Simple snacks will be fine. No cooking skills required! (P.S., You may save your grocery store receipt and bring it to the FPC office to be reimbursed for your expenses.) Thank you!

Lenten Soup and Study

Tuesday Evenings: March 3rd, 10th, 24th, 31st and April 7th - 5:30-7:00 p.m.

(there is no soup and study on March 17th)

Lenten Study - "Plenty Good Room: A Lenten Bible Study based on African American Spirituals" is a six-part series of reflections on scripture and the music that first arose on plantations in the antebellum South. Each 45-minute session will study a spiritual in the light of the Gospel, history, tradition, and experience. This unique short-term Bible study combines an in-depth look at Scripture, American history, and the music and lyrics of six African American spirituals. The six-session study provides biblical, social, and historical analyses of the spirituals: "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit," "This Lonesome Valley," "Bow Down on Your Knees," "Plenty Good Room," "Ain't Dat Good News," and "Were You There?" You can order a print or e-book copy of the study guide by going to Amazon for the e-book here: Plenty Good Room. The e-book cost is \$5.98. You can also order a copy by calling the church office. The paperback copy will be \$9.00.

Christian Education Calendar

Sunday, March 29th -
Lenten Pretzel Baking



Sunday, March 29th -
Youth Liturgist Sunday

Sunday, April 5th - Palm Sunday
(Children's Puppets perform)

Sunday, April 26th - Recognition Sunday

Easter Flowers for the Sanctuary

If you would like to purchase a spring flower (lily, tulip, or hyacinth) in memory or in honor of someone for Easter Sunday, please notify the church office: office@athensfpc.org; 740-593-3351 or 9 N. College Street, Athens, OH 45701

Price per flower is \$10.00, and choice of flower is on a first come-first served basis. 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 the Easter service, or have a Deacon deliver it to a church family member.

The deadline to order flowers is April 5th.

Habitat for Humanity News

Good News! Habitat has received a \$37,500 grant from Thrivent toward the building of Habitat's next house, which will be in Glouster. The funds will be used to help build the home.

Bad News...Habitat has to match the funds to get it.

Good News! Habitat has already pledged \$18,000 of that from its budget.

Bad News....The remaining \$19,500 should be raised through local congregations.

Good News! Habitat (and friends) can do it!

Groundbreaking occurs this winter, and the house will be completed in the spring.

Fundraising Events:

Rummage Sale - April 25th - 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Christ the King. Now is the time to start emptying those cupboards and closets.

Scrap Metal Drive - May 16th - Start gathering up that stuff in the garage! **Clean out, and help Habitat!**

Putnam Two Bedroom Apt. Available for 2020-2021

First Presbyterian is seeking tenants for our second floor apartment above the church offices at 9 N. College St. Private rear entrance. Two off street parking spaces included in rent. The apartment has hardwood floors, lots of large windows, air conditioning, heat pump with thermostat control, 2 bedrooms, bath, living room, and kitchen. Kitchen has dishwasher, range, microwave, garbage disposal, refrigerator with ice maker, and stacked washer and dryer. \$1,300/month rent includes water, sewer, and garbage. Tenants pay electric, cable, and internet. Available July 1, 2020 with one (1) year lease through June 30, 2021. Occupancy is limited to two (2) tenants. Non-smoking building. No pets. Security deposit required at time of lease signing. Phone Jane Baker, at 740-593-3351, 8:30 a.m.-1200 noon and 1:00-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday or E-mail office@athensfpc.org for an appointment to view the apartment.

Windows ON: Outreach Mission Committee EARTH JUSTICE - REUSE EVENT HELD ON FEBRUARY 16TH

On February 16th, Aubrei Krummert spoke with those interested during Fellowship Hour for the Earth Justice Group's Reuse event. Aubrei was able to give more information on the donation sites discussed below, and make more suggestions on other places to give your unneeded things a second life. There are locations on campus (like a food pantry, but for office supplies) where they can be donated. Art supplies can be donated to schools (though perhaps not Athens schools at the moment in view of the upheavals. Other art supplies and oddball items might be welcomed at Passion Works. Additionally, Aubrei gave more information on recycling, even gave those attending a quiz on items more difficult to know whether suitable for recycling. More information came from guests visiting from other congregations. Melina Miller from the Lutheran Church spoke about collection of medical supplies for shipping to other countries deprived of medicines and equipment.

ReStore – this is a Habitat for Humanity store for construction and home related items at reduced prices. This non-profit's net receipts all go to Habitat for Humanity of S.E. Ohio to build new homes. Restore especially wants donations of construction materials, tools (particularly for lawn and garden), appliances, furniture and bathroom and kitchen fixtures. All items should be clean and in decent condition as they do not have the staff to clean or repair items, they sell donations “as is”. For more information go to www.habitatseo.org/restore/items-accepted

Goodwill of Athens – This store's mission is to help people overcome challenges to build skills, find jobs and grow their careers. Because Goodwill is a national organization they are able move donations that don't sell here to other stores, even other countries e.g. shoes to Cuba. Items they sell most here are clothes and housewares. However, their ability to recycle is notable,

including books, clothing (to recover the fibers), salvage metal, even stuffing that go to insulation. Their major concern is that the donated items be clean. Not accepted are mattresses, box springs, tube TV's and infant car seats.

New-to-You Thrift Shoppe – This non-profit thrift store reports that they accept everything in good condition, including mattresses and box springs! At New-to-You it is possible to designate which group you wish to benefit from your donations, and they send vouchers (used mainly for clothing) to places such as Your Sister's Place, Integrated Services, the Gathering Place, Friends and Neighbors, the Athens Middle School and others. The recipients can then use the voucher to shop at New-to-You.

Kroger Rewards Program Join Today!

First Presbyterian received \$83.50 from 16 households Krogers for the fourth quarter of 2019 (down just a bit from the 3rd quarter) - JUST FROM YOUR GROCERY SHOPPING and using the Rewards Program! A total of sixteen families used the rewards program for FPC for those months. Won't you join others in the program and earn \$\$ for FPC just for doing your grocery shopping at Krogers.

How to register? Go to: www.krogerrewardsprogram.com to establish your account.

Next - click the button for “Ohio” and then scroll down to the bottom and click the “enroll” button.

You are required to have an email address and create a password.

You will need your 12 digit Plus Card number that can be found under the bar code on the back of your Plus Card.

Once you have an account established you may need to click “My Account” and then again click “Edit Kroger Community Rewards.”

If you registered last year—YOU MUST REGISTER EVERY YEAR!

To link your account, use AFPC's Kroger non-profit number [NPO] 84190 or select First Presbyterian Church from a drop down list.

[Your Plus Card can be linked to only one non-profit charity.]

Any questions? Phone Krogers - 1-800-KROGERS.



Windows ON: Presbyterian Women THIS MONTH'S NEWS

Circles - Lesson Seven - Words of Love: You shall not steal. How do we take from others? Personal property and /or honor?

- Tuesday Circle - March 24th, 9:30 a.m., home of Rita Oberholzer, 51 Eden Place
- Wednesday Circle - March 25th, 9:30 a.m., home of Charlene Culbertson, 19 Utah Place

Co-Ordinating Team Meeting - March 10th, 10:00 a.m., at the home of Marilyn Neason, 32 Meadow Lane

Annual Report sent to Charlsie Ramsey, Moderator of PW/PSV. She shared it with their CT.

Mark Hare and Family have arrived safely in Costa Rica, and at the time of last letter, were moving into their new home on January 31. Keila and Annika have made friends at the San Lorenzo Bilingual School. More news as they settle into life and work at Latin American Biblical University (UBL).

Shawl Update - #101 given, so Knitters there is a need for a few more to give to men who are home bound or recovering from surgery.

Thank You for you support of the CWS Blanket Fund. A total will be in the weekly bulletin and

April newsletter after all donations have been added.



Blessing for Lent

May God walk with us in his love and light during this time of spiritual growth and mystery. Amen.

College Lunch Providers Needed

College lunches have begun. Can you make a casserole or a pot of soup? What about a cake or cookies? The students at the College Lunch are so appreciative of homemade food. The College Lunch schedule still has some openings in April. Contact Lee Gregg if interested.

Windows ON: Church Community Committee - College Lunch/Fellowship THEATER MAJOR HAS MANY TALENTS

Few people possess aptitude in engineering, mathematics, creativity in appearance, technology and research. This month's featured student at the weekly college lunch has shown skill and a deep desire to excel in all of these areas. This skill set is essential in helping make and provide costumes for actors, the major focus of this student.

Ashley Rutkowski is a first-year master's student in theater at Ohio University. She lives in Houston, Texas and concentrates on costume making for actors. Ashley plans to travel with theater companies, perhaps in Europe as well as the United States, after graduation.

Ashley came to love traveling at a young age as her family moved around a great deal. Born in Pennsylvania, she attended high school in Woodstock, Georgia. There she profited from two

dedicated teachers in a theater class. They took her and five fellow students on a summer tour of theatrical venues in Italy, France and England along with other European nations. They witnessed auditions at the famous Globe Theater in London and the Paris Opera House.

This young lady came to love the theater as she saw it as a vehicle to encourage people to think outside their respective ethnic, national and gender boxes. This seems crucial in coming to appreciate the thoughts and actions of people unlike oneself. Education in this area seems essential to gain true empathy and compassion, important elements in living life to the fullest.

Ashley earned her bachelor's degree at Berry College in Georgia, said to be the world's largest college campus and one of its most beautiful

educational venues. She has had several summer internships while at Berry. Most recently, she helped parade participants in the Magic Kingdom at Disney World in Florida get outfitted with appropriate costumes.

She attends college lunch regularly between workshop sessions and classes at OU, along with many fellow theater majors.

Main-course meals were provided from January 23-February 20 by Lee Gregg, Marla Longenecker, Susan Loughridge, Danny Moates, and Keith Morrow. Deserts came from Martha Johnson, Susan Loughridge, Jane Nogrady, Rita Oberholzer, and Carol Perry. Workers at the lunch included Hugh and Charlene Culbertson, Lee Gregg, Jelly Huizinga, John and Helen King, Keith Morrow, Annie Poore and Wendy Toadvine.

Windows ON: Amesville-New England THIS MONTH'S NEWS

The Amesville-New England Parish continue with many of its outreach programs. They include:

“50 Days for Girls” Kits were taken by Tracee Laing, founder of the Healing Arts Mission to Haiti in January when they went for ten days to work and check on how things were going. The 50 kits were given to Junior High Girls at the Charles Jean Herrard School, supposed by the mission. 50 more kits will go in April to be passed out by nurses connected with the Mission. Along with women from the Parish, women from the Newark-Granville area help.

Bible School Mondays – almost 30 children have been to Monday Bible School at various times during the school year. Recently, one of the 9th grade helpers wrote a Valentine wrap; a fourth grader wrote a puppet show, which she and a friend

presented. The last two Mondays their craft project was making “Love Bugs.” Recently they talked about anger, heard a story “*The Green Ladybug...*” a book about kindness written by Zachariah Rippee.

Food Pantry – The Amesville Elementary School presented the Parish with a check for \$1,000 to be used for perishable items, bought with gift certificates, from the Coonskin Crossing which sells grocery items. This check was from money raised through the Empty Bowl Project. Children make bowls and they are sold for \$3.00 each at a night where a soup supper is a money raiser.

Mission Brigade to Nicaragua – a team of 12 children and adults recently returned from the community of Niquinohomo after a successful week of work, visiting, and cultural activities. Several sewing workshops were held, two

community homes were re-wired, children’s groups met, fluorescent tubes at Rancho Ebenezer where the group stays were changed out for LED tubes; a compost pit was dug and 6 raised beds filled and planted with vegetables (with the help of 19 pre-school mothers.) The birth of a baby boy was celebrated by the team. Baby Sebastian was born on the 14th of February. His Mom, Nancy, and Dad, Sebastian have been involved in all of the work brigades since the very beginning. The group is already making plans for next year.

The congregation has enjoyed hearing the messages of several people, including Kathy Elasky, Rob Martin, Keith Wasserman, James Story, David Mays, Helen King, and Leslie Fleming.

Windows ON: Church Support Committee FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses, 2020			
Offering Budgeted for 2020	\$256,000	Offering Received to Date	\$63,389
Other Income Budgeted for 2020 (endowment, parking lot lease, Putnam apt. rent, interest)	\$156,448	Other Income Received to Date	\$42,363
2018-2021 Capital Campaign (\$200,000)	\$16,000	Campaign donations this year	\$744.00
Total Income Budgeted 2020	\$428,498	Total Income (Received to Date)	\$106,496
Current Assets (checking & petty cash)	-----	Total Cash on Hand	\$35,042
Expenses Budgeted in 2020	\$428,413	Expenses to Date	\$57,620
Other Endowment and Contribution Activity in 2019			
Special Offerings (Christmas Joy, Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peacemaking)	\$0	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.)	\$720	Disbursed to appropriate agency or group	
Memorial Gifts	\$0		
Offering gifts designated for the Discretionary Fund (Local Emergencies)	\$140	To be distributed by the Pastor for local emergencies	
Local Emergencies (Special)	\$285	Community donations for a refugee family. Flow-through account for AFPC to pay family bills.	
Gifts supporting AFPC Mission Projects	\$245	Used for AFPC mission work projects	
Gifts Supporting Trail Mix Ministry	\$2	Used to buy supplies.	

Food Pantry Sunday - Trail Mix Sunday
is the fourth Sunday of each month.

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



FPC Church Elders:

- 2020:** Carl Franz, John King, Sandy Nesbitt, Debbie Perry
- 2021:** Carla Boyle, Anne Kemmerle, Katie Tadlock, Keith Wiens
- 2022:** Caroline Allen, Pamela Harvey, David Tees

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



FPC Board of Deacons: *March Deacon of the Month is Martha Johnson*

- 2020:** Harvey Ballard, Margaret Bourke, Martha Johnson, Carol Perry
- 2021:** Nancy Hartley, Marla Longenecker, Benji Martin, Danny Moates, Marge Shelton
- 2022:** Harold Robison, Andrew Stuart, Patrick Tegge

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 your event.

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.

Newsletter Helpers

Jane Baker, Danielle Bridges, Hugh Culbertson, Lillian Dinos, Ann Fox, Betty Lacy, Lee Gregg, Catherine Hare, Susan Loughridge, Robert Martin, Danny Moates, and Harold Robison

**Need a ride to Church?
Know someone who does?**



Contact the Deacon of the Month - Martha Johnson
Phone - 740-677-0034
Email - mjohnson049@columbus.rr.com

March Birthdays

- 1 – Joy Creighton
- 2 - Jeremy Haybron
- 3 - Marley Wright
- 4 – Susanne Boyd
- 5 – John Gutekanst
- 7 – Candy Stewart
- 8 – Joe Bianco
- 9 – Nicholas Jordan
- 10 – Kali Knudsen
David Schatz
Bailey Stephenson

- 11 – Pamela Schatz
David Sutherland
- 13 - Stuart Goldsberry
- 15 – Andrew Eiler
Joan Kappes
- 16 – Karyl Jones
- 20 – Janice Robison
- 21 – Andrew Stuart
- 24 – Marla Longenecker
Karen Graves
Carol Perry
Stephanie Stephenson

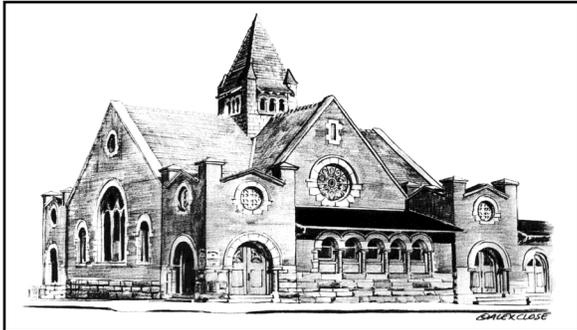
- 26 - Covington Hauser
- 28 – Nicholas Brown
- 30 – Lindell Holtzmeier
- 31 – Emma Bianco

March Anniversary

- 2 – Stephen and Kimberly
McKinley

www.athensfpc.org

March 2020



First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701



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

<https://www.Youtube.com/athensfpc>

Pastor: Rev. Robert E. Martin

Church: Corner of Court and Washington Streets

Office: 9 North College Street

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

Clerk of Session: Andrew Stuart

Choir Director: David M. Tadlock

Organist: Janice Robison

CE Coordinator / Bell Choir Director: Danielle Bridges

Administrative Assistant: Jane A. Baker

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

APRIL 2020 Newsletter Deadline:

Noon Monday - March 23rd

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 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.