

WINDOW

APRIL 2021

The Monthly Newsletter of
First Presbyterian Church, Athens, Ohio

hello
APRIL

April 2021

Thursday, April 1st
Maundy Thursday
Service via YouTube
(see box)

Friday, April 2nd
Good Friday
Service via YouTube
(see box)

Sunday, April 4th
Easter Sunday
Worship via YouTube
(see box)

Sunday, April 11th
Worship via YouTube
(see box)

Sunday, April 18th
Worship via YouTube
(see box)

Sunday, April 25th
Celebration during
Worship via YouTube
(see pages 6, 7)

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

To View the Services by YouTube

Each week FPC creates a worship video - a service featuring organist, small group of vocalists, and Pastor Rob Martin. FPC's worship services can be found on YouTube channel here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/athensfpc/search?query=sermon>.

You can access them directly on the FPC YouTube channel and on the church web site under Worship Archive.

From the Pastor....

I want to talk about my favorite passage in the entire Bible. I know. I say everything's my favorite . . . and that's kind of true. But if there's one passage that I think sums up everything we hold dear—about us, about Jesus, about God Almighty—it's this passage from Philippians 2. *"If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross."*

Here are three things you ought to know. Number one: Paul loved this church. There was just something special about them. They were a loving bunch, a generous bunch, a joyful bunch . . . much like you here at First. A good bond between a pastor and a church is not always a given. In fact, Paul struggled mightily with some of his congregations. But every once in a while, there's a special kind of fit, a deep kind of love, between a pastor and their people. Whatever that love is, Paul and the Philippians had it.

Number two: Philippi was a Roman colony, one that really celebrated its "Roman-ness." To be Roman was to be patriotic; to be "all in" for the empire; to lift up Caesar as god; and to count your

Roman citizenship as the greatest gift you have ever received. It permeated all aspects of life. You can imagine, then, the challenge of being a Christian in that environment and having to balance the two. Later on, in this very letter, Paul has to remind them, "Before you are anything, remember that you are first a citizen of heaven."

And number three: Not everything was perfect. At the time of this letter, Paul was under house arrest in Rome. Plus, a couple of the women of the church who used to be friends, had had a major, public disagreement. (Maybe they saw one too many of each other's Facebook posts.) But more than anything, this loving, joyful, tight knit church just needed some encouragement. Now, I didn't have to give you all that background, but I hope it is obvious why I would. I can't say much about other churches; I can only speak for us. I can only say that here at First, like the Philippians, we, too, have a special kind of bond, a love and a joy that holds our church together and goes deeper, better, further, beyond all other loyalties.

I can also say that, like Paul, we're all under house arrest, at least to one degree or another. Then on top of that, at least during this particular season, we, like the Philippians, are also having to balance what it means to be both a citizen and a Christian. And while I don't think we have any major fights going on between any of our church women, we here at First do have some big decisions to make about how and when to come back together for in-person worship. And on that, we probably won't all agree. Then hanging over all of that, there is the painful, overarching truth of it all that we just miss each other.

I don't know about you, but it sounds to me like we have a lot in common with our
(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

old friend Paul has to say. In this letter, Paul says, "You people bring me so much joy. "Now make my joy complete. "Be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Here is what it comes down to: If any church is going to make it, if there's going to be any hope for the Philippians, any joy for us here at First, it must look like this. It has to look like love. It has look like Jesus. It has to look like people who deep down know that no matter their politics, no matter their preferences, no matter their opinions, they will be there for each other. More than what they want for themselves, they want what's good for one another.

They know that sacrifice is more important than self; and caring for the weakest is the joy of the strongest.

You all know the Session and I have been actively working and praying and planning for how we as a congregation can get back together for some form of in-person worship. But more than that, the vast majority of you are more than willing to do whatever is required to keep one another safe, even if it's not exactly what you would choose to do on your own. That's what it means to be a Philippians 2 kind of church.

We have been Meeting on Zoom, talking, praying, balancing all our desires with the guidelines and advice given to us by the Presbytery, Church Insurance, and the dedicated physicians in our church. That, my friends, takes creativity and time. Your love and patience and support have been a gift. Please pray for us. Please pray for me and for our Session. I don't have to tell you we've never done this before, and we take this responsibility very seriously. So, keep loving one another. Keep putting one another before yourselves. And as an old pastor once said to another loving church: let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus.

~ Pastor Rob

April 2021 Worship

*Italics - First Reading and *Sermon Test*

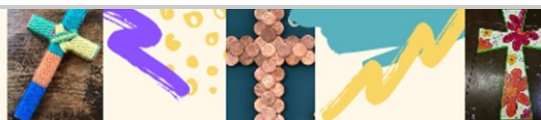


Thursday, April 1st	Maundy Thursday	
First Reading: Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14 and Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19		
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 and Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35		
Friday, April 2nd	Good Friday	
First Reading: Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and Psalm 22:1-31		
Second Reading: Hebrews 10:16-25, or alternate Second Reading Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:7-9 and Gospel John 18:1-19:42		
Sunday, April 4th	Resurrection of the Lord (Easter Day)	Something Larger than Fear!
First Reading: Isaiah 25: 6-9 and		
Second Reading: Acts 10:34-43 and *Gospel Mark 16: 1-8		
Sunday, April 11th	Second Sunday of Easter	Bearing the Marks of His Wounds
First Reading: Acts 4:32-35 and Psalm 133:1-3		
Second Reading: 1 John 1:1-2:2 and *Gospel John 20:19-31		
Sunday, April 18th	Third Sunday of Easter	Startled and Terrified
First Reading: Acts 3:12-19 and Psalm 4:1-8		
Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-7 and *Gospel Luke 24:36b-48		
Sunday, April 25th	Fourth Sunday of Easter	An Expansive Welcome
First Reading: Acts 4:5-12 and Psalm 23:1-6		
Second Reading: 1 John 3:16-24 and *Gospel John 10:11-18		

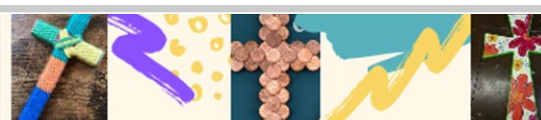
Prayer Concern Requests and Visitation

Prayer request slips are available in the narthex or contact the church office for prayer requests. 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, or let the church office know. 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





Cross Crafts



RSVP deadline is Easter Sunday, April 4th with pick up on Saturday, April 10th.

Kits include a wooden cross, paint, a paintbrush, and various decorative materials.

Decorate however you like!

To RSVP a kit, please email Nana Jenkins at cedirector.afpc@gmail.com or phone the church office at 740-593-3351.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ATHENS OH PRESENTS

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

"Singing In The Rain"

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84534034686?pwd=U0RBc1N1YzlhZnp3NnpZNktXRk5ZZz09>

Movie Night
Friday, April 23rd - 6:30 p.m.
Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 845 3403 4686
Passcode: JesuSaves!
Link on church FaceBook page



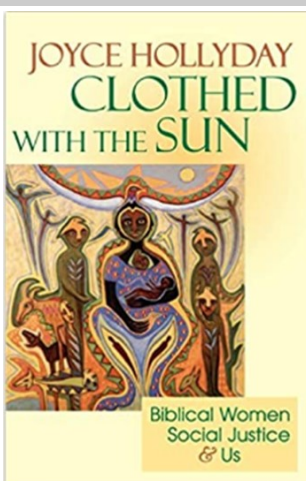
Sunday School Event

Christian Education Committee's Earth Day event for children and their families.

The Committee's hope is to have the children meet at the **West Side park at 11:00 a.m. on either Saturday, April 17th or April 24th, depending on the weather**, to decorate pots and plant flowers. All CoVid safety measures, such as masks, Social distancing, hand sanitizing, and individual materials, will be followed.

The goal of this project is for the children to enjoy some fellowship time and to brighten someone's day by placing the flowers on a porch in their neighborhood. If families would be more comfortable with this being an at-home project, supplies can be provided for pickup.

Please contact Barb Martin at barbaramartin729@msn.com or phone the church office, 740-593-3351, if you would like to participate.



Women's Bible/Book Study

Fridays 12:00 Noon via zoom

*For more information or to join
please email Nana Jenkins at cedirector.afpc@gmail.com.*

Come and join Women's Bible/Book Study as attendees continue to dive into literature by author Joyce Hollyday called "***Clothed With The Sun: Biblical Women, Social Justice, and Us.***"

The Bible holds a great treasure of amazing women. They are judges and prophets, caregivers and teachers, prominent matriarchs of large clans or quiet disciples, women who suffered alone or sang joyous praises to God amid the crowds.

Their stories come alive in these pages as they are interwoven with the lives of modern women, bound together by common threads of strength and courage in the face of vulnerability and violation. From Eve to Revelation's woman clothed with the sun--from the first creative impulse to the close of time--female energy has been and will continue to be a river of life and wisdom, of dignity and hope.

COVID Easter and Worship

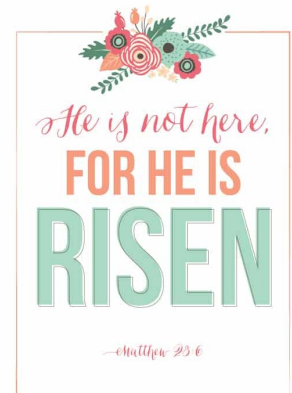
The Session on Thursday, March 18th voted to continue to follow the COVID guidelines established by the Presbytery of Scioto Valley (*see pages 10, 11*). Athens County continues to remain in the red, one of the seven levels established by the State of Ohio to determine how high the covid infection rate is for a specific county. Athens County COVID-19 test positivity rate is declining slowly but still remains high. We at FPC, are hopeful as more and more persons are receiving vaccinations. We deeply share the desire to return to in-person worship but only want to do so when we believe it is safe. We continue to think it is wise to suspend in-person worship noting that in the interim, if there is a dramatic improvement as more and more people are vaccinated, the Session may move to in-person worship.



Holy Week and Easter Rev. Robert Martin

Little did we know that over one year later we would still be trudging this path, with more than 500,000 lives lost to the COVID-19 pandemic in our country alone. Amidst the fear and anxiety of last March, we learned many things. We learned to be nimble, creative, and open. We learned that a service planned in one week could be just as powerful as one carefully crafted over the course of a year. We learned that the Holy is not in search of perfection and that wherever two or three are gathered, God truly is there. These lessons and many more have guided us through yet another Lenten season. As Holy Week approaches, we hold fast to our worship traditions reimagined: handwashing in place of footwashing, expanded musical offerings, while we still cannot join in communal singing, a Resurrection meal shared in the bread and wine we find at home.

Each of these accommodations reflects a community crying out, “We are still here!” Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ. Our journey to the cross begins on Palm Sunday, with the Triumphal Entry and waving of palm branches! On Maundy Thursday, our service will draw us into the garden of Gethsemane. On Good Friday, we will reflect on Jesus’s final hours. Easter Sunday begins with the long-time favorite Ohio Brass, AFPC small ensemble, and our organist, Janice Robison, (pre-recorded). Our experience of worship has changed in the last year, yet the story of Jesus’s death and resurrection remains the same. Thanks be to God for a different vantage point that will allow us to see and hear in new ways! We will continue to have opportunities for COVID-safe worship. **Stay tuned for details, or visit athensfpc.org for more information.**



Ohio University Recitals

with FPC’s Nana Jenkins, Mezzo-Soprano and Tyler Thress, Baritone
(On line - see attachments for posters)

Monday, April 12th - 6:00 p.m. - “*Thorns & Roses*”

Friday, April 16th - 8:00 p.m. - “*The Classical Cabaret*”

Saturday, April 17th - 8:00 p.m. - “*Such a Heart as Joys in Love*”

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

The Amesville-New England Parish has not held worship services for a very long time, but church members have been sharing worship with Athens First Presbyterian and Canaanville United Methodist Church. Members keep in touch with each other via phone calls and e-mail and prayers.

A note was received recently from Dr. Tracee Laing, founding director of the Healing Art Mission in Haiti. Because of COVID and political unrest in Haiti, Dr. Laing and her team have not been able to make a trip there for over a year.

The Parish and friends from Newark/Granville continue to make Days for Girls Kits (menstrual kits that are handed out to girls in the area). Tracee's note came with 3 pictures of the kits that had recently arrived. She says, *"I just wanted to let you know that we finally got all of the Days for Girls kits that I had to the clinic. The transport cost was \$280 shipping plus customs. Jacques had to go to the airport several times and it is getting even more dangerous around the airport, so we will wait a couple of months before sending another batch. If things are unable to be picked up*

for an extended period of time, storage fees will be charged. But the kits are there at the clinic and there will soon be some very happy young ladies. I know the nurses love giving the kits out – it is so satisfying to be helping the young ladies in such a concrete way. Thank you for all your work!"

--Tracee.

The Parish and those from Newark/Granville were happy to receive this note, and 50 more kits are ready to be shipped when possible.

2021 Per Capita \$37.75

Please consider donating the per capita assessed by the Presbyterian Church USA per member. The 2021 per capita is \$37.75. Your donation helps stretch the FPC budget dollars. Your Per Capita can be mailed to the office.

Earth Day 2021

April 22nd



TV Service Broadcast

Complete recordings of the FPC services are available on 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.



Kroger Rewards Program - Join Today

First Presbyterian received \$71.15 from 17 households Krogers for November, 2020-January 2021 - 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 shopping at Krogers, at NO cost to you!

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

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

Sign up today, and see what FPC can make just by YOUR grocery shopping!





CELEBRATING JANICE ROBISON'S 50 YEARS AS FPC'S CHURCH ORGANIST

We are set to celebrate 50 years of inspiring organ music on Sunday, April 25, 2021. We are saluting the long tenure of organist Janice Robison during the worship service. There will be gift bags for FPC members and friends available for pick-up from the church office, or the church building on that Sunday.

Janice wrote: "After finishing his degree in Spring 1970, Harold Robison accepted a position on the music faculty of Ohio University. We moved to Athens at the end of July and began searching for a church to attend. We decided on First Presbyterian Church, liking the service, and being told they had the best music program in town. Rev. Lorrin Kreider had just been hired as pastor, Eugene Dybdahl was choir director and Jim Franks, an OU student, was organist. We had known Eugene in Ann Arbor, in fact, had moved into a married student apartment he and his family were moving out of. At the beginning of OU's spring quarter 1971, Jim was scheduled to do his student teaching and was assigned a school out of the Athens area. Gene knew I was an organist and asked me if I wanted a job. And here I am fifty years later!

Jan continues: "In my time at Athens First Presbyterian I have worked with ten ministers, called and interim, several Christian Education directors, three choir directors, and more secretaries and custodians than I can name. I do remember one overly zealous custodian who once waxed the organ bench and also the pedal keys! Not a pleasant surprise!"

The organ bench is Janice's second home. She can frequently be found practicing, working on upcoming organ concerts, or arranging music for Ohio Brass and other musician accompaniment. I know that most of us appreciate Janice's skill and expertise at the keyboard and the way she fashions the mood of whatever piece she is playing. I personally love the swelling sounds of time-honored hymns with Janice's chords giving a rhythm and pattern to each Sunday's service. Many look forward as well to her postludes at the conclusion of the service which display a sample of her expansive musical repertoire.

Janice concludes her reflection with:

What have I learned from my 60+ years as an organist?

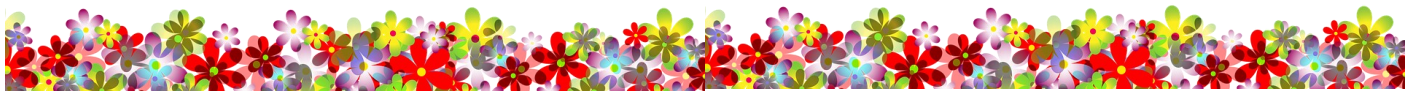
- Always take extra music to a wedding or funeral.
- Be prepared to take over if a visiting minister leaves out a part of the service.
- Be prepared to have the choir anthem switched on Sunday morning if a number of choir members are unexpectedly absent.
- Be prepared to sight read a summer soloist's music on Sunday morning.
- Be prepared to change organ registrations at the last minute if the needed trumpet stop, or any other, is horribly out of tune.
- Learn to practice with a vacuum cleaner running. Learn to play through tears at a funeral.
- Learn your way around dark churches.
- Accept the fact you will never have a free weekend. Learn to change shoes frequently.
- Buy a good pair of black jeans. Never wear slippery skirt or slacks. Always respect other staff members. Respect your congregation.
- Learn to continue playing your very soft prelude, even if the talking is drowning it out. Be thrilled by the sound of organ, brass, and congregational singing on Easter.
- Be equally thrilled by a full church singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" on Christmas Eve.
- Always time your Prelude so as to start the service on time.
- Learn to extend the Prelude by repeating parts or improvising, if the choir and minister are late appearing.
- Finally, I know I will never stop loving this glorious, majestic, magnificent, complicated, instrument called the pipe organ, that I have been so honored and blessed to play all these years.

(cont. from page 6)

In honor of Janice's ministry here at First Presbyterian Church we have commissioned a musical work for organ and choral ensemble by Richard Wetzel that will be part of the April 25th worship service. Two special presentations will also be included in the service. Come celebrate with us on April 25th.

Continue to look for more announcements in up coming email announcements from the church.

~ Rev. Robert Martin



Mission Outreach Committee

Habitat will have a **scrap metal drive** on Saturday, May 15th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at the Athens County Fair Grounds. All kinds of metal are welcome, but especially aluminum, brass, and copper. Bring your car parts, appliances, tools, fencing, roofing/siding, etc. Sorry, air conditioners and dehumidifiers cannot be accepted. The Athens County Solid Waste District is a sponsor, so you can also bring, paper, computers, mattresses, glass, etc.

The rummage sale on Saturday, May 22nd from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Christ the King church. To donate items, please bring them to Christ the King on Thursday or Friday before between 10:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.



Athens County
Habitat
for Humanity®

Windows ON: Fellowship - College Lunch Alternative CATS' CUPBOARD

It's been a year into the pandemic, and the Ohio University Cats' Cupboard project (set up to provide necessities for students staying in Athens with limited resources) is still going strong. Furthermore, FPC members and friends continue to contribute many items of food and other needed products, as well as monetary donations, to the effort.

In recent weeks, students requesting items from the Cupboard have had to fill out forms indicating their particular needs. This helps allow equitable distribution of items in a way which matches the demand with the supply. During a typical period, about 200 students have filled out these forms. Of course, not every student comes to pick things up every week.

The need has been great because, during the pandemic, many students, especially from abroad, have had to stay in Athens with little or no

chance to leave town. Some have signed leases, and many incomes have been reduced as businesses have closed and financial aid has been interrupted. VISA restrictions have also posed problems.

Spearheading the project has been a student-led coalition, The International Student Task Force. Contributors include many FPC members and friends. Some of these were involved with the Thursday free Student lunches previously held at FPC. Also participating have been Peace Corps Volunteers and residents of the Elmwood Place neighborhood on Athens' east side.

Church members and friends (and everyone) can contribute in two ways; bring items (food and personal care products) to the church office or monetary donations. Wendy Toadvine shops for items on the needs list, using those donated funds. Helen King, along with Alan

and Sue Boyd, help get the items to Baker Center. Contributors are asked to bring items to the church office because the Baker Center entrance is crowded and has limited parking.

To date, FPC family and friends have contributed \$2,455.00 and \$1,936.50 has been spent in groceries and personal care items. If you would like to donate, please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church with "Cats' Cupboard" in memo line. Food and other items can be dropped off at the church office anytime during the week. If possible, items should be smaller packages as space for storage is limited at Baker Center.

Please contact Lee Gregg for an updated list of needs -
tleegregg@gmail.com

Or phone the church office, 740-593-3351, if you have any questions.

Sarah Gaskell, member of the International Student Task Force with items donated by FPC family and friends



*Sarah Gaskell
and FPC member, Wendy Toadvine*



Note of Thanks.

Dearest friends of the First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for your support of our Cats' Cupboard food pantry. Just last fall we were feeding 400+ students and families out of the pantry per month! Your donation helps to keep the shelves stocked.

*In Community,
The Cats' Cupboard*

Windows ON: Presbyterian Women THIS MONTH

For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under
heaven:

Easter is both a season and a day to
celebrate Christ's resurrection, and
the promise of eternal life.

Can we also celebrate being raised
out of the dead places in our lives?

Discover a favorite hymn that fills
you with joy and newness in your
life.

"All glory, laud, and honor
To Thee, Redeemer King!
To whom the lips of children
Made sweet hosannas ring."

Think of a time in your life when
you felt sad or empty inside. How
did God help you through that bad
time? Another person, a helper, a
Bible verse, or a hymn?

*"Weeping may linger for the
night, but joy comes with the
morning."* ~ Psalm 30:5

As warmer weather approaches, we
look forward to gathering safely
again, perhaps outdoors ...to greet
each other and to complete the Cir-
cle study. Until then, pray for each
other, and thank God for hope, joy,
and the promise of new life.

Easter Blessing

*May God raise us out of our dead
places and into the joy of new life.
Amen.* (Nilsen Family)

April Birthdays

1 – Steve Bacak
Elizabeth Goldsberry
Carolyn McK. Jacobson
2 – Daniel Gillespie
4 – April Pollard
Brandon Stephens
5 – Elizabeth Kramer
Tom Medley
6 – Jacqui Weber
Jeremy Yehl
8 – Madison Cooley

9 – Ken Kerr III
10 – Glen Knudson
11 – Robert Poore
12 – Kelly Cornn
Whitlaw Hauser
14 – Scott Murphy
Ray Strickmaker
15 – Joan Mickelson
Dan Weber
16 – Chris Mickelson

23 – Steve Kramer
May Tobar
25 – Ben Jordan
Caroline Nagy
26 – Dan Hauser
27 – Liz Maule Gleason
Margaret Stumpf

April Anniversaries

8 – Dan and Jacquelin Weber
26 – Debra Rentz and
John Gutekanst

Lindley Hymn Sing

"God is our strength and song." Isaiah 12:2

The volunteers hope these few gestures might fill a spiritual void and sense of community that everyone is missing during this epidemic. It is still uncertain when everyone will be able to meet again, but each should take each day in trust and confidence that FPC will again be able to greet and sing with friends at the Lindley Inn. In the meantime, continue to wear your masks and practice social distancing so everyone can all be well when FPC volunteers and Lindley Inn attendees can once again openly praise God in music and the Word.

Presbytery of Scioto Valley - COVID Pandemic Guidance PSV Coordinating Team, 19 March 2021

“If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13

This updated advice regarding worship and church operations during COVID is intended as a resource for Sessions as they considered reopening buildings and resuming church operations. The Presbytery leadership urges that even as we all desire to resume physical worship in our congregations, that love for the most vulnerable in our midst be our guide. We appreciate the combined caring and science-based approach that the Presbytery of Cincinnati, and its Executive Presbyter Lisa Allgood have taken. Much of the content of this document is taken from their communications. A presentation by Allgood and other documents are available through the Presbytery website (PSVonline.org).

So, what can I do with vaccinations...?!? (and other “why can’t we just throw open the sanctuary” questions)

Latest CDC recommendations for vaccinated individuals:

- * Individuals who are fully vaccinated (at least two weeks passed last shot) may safely gather unmasked but only with family and small groups who are in low-risk categories.
- * Fully vaccinated people must still wear masks, socially distance, and avoid larger gatherings in a public setting.
- A vaccination is not a magic cape
 - * Even 95% efficacy means that statistically 19 out of 20 people are effectively covered by the vaccine but 1 in 20 is not
 - * Vaccines are less effective against variants
 - * Being vaccinated means it’s unlikely YOU will become seriously ill, but there is still a chance you can catch a variant and/or be infectious (be a virus carrier)
 - * CDC recommends that masks and distancing remain in effect until the average number of new cases in the US drops below 10,000/day – the last time that happened was March 2020. We are currently (March 2021) at 70,000 new cases per day.
 - * Herd immunity is defined as 70-90% of the entire population vaccinated (not just your congregation)
 - * 20% of the population is below 18 and therefore not eligible for vaccination yet (current vaccines are for 16 and above)
 - * Statistically that means even if all who are eligible are vaccinated, >25% is not covered until vaccines are approved for 18 and above
 - * Herd immunity won’t really come until 2022

So, what does this mean for my opening the sanctuary?

Basically, the previous restrictions should remain in place. **Vaccinations do not allow you to throw risk-limiting behavior out the window, even if everyone is vaccinated – not yet.**

- Session is responsible for the use and conditions of use for the building, and for decisions around that.
 - * Because of that Session is also then responsible to monitor and enforce any conditions of use of the building you establish. This is NOT the responsibility of the pastor.
 - * Whatever conditions of use you establish must be enforced both for the congregation, committees, and outside groups.
- Create a decision tree that takes into consideration the COVID status, vulnerable populations, the building itself, and vulnerability (if any) of your pastor and worship staff, as well as the ability of the church to conduct virtual worship.
- Pick a CREDIBLE data source on which to base decisions.
 - * In Ohio, use the Ohio government color-coded system – it’s made up of 7 medically-relevant and medical system utilization data points that are objective and unbiased. Presbytery STRONGLY urges churches to meet virtually if your county is red or purple. <https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/dashboards/other-resources/public-health-advisory-system?&id=1616090021858>
 - * CDC also has a county-by-county search tool and is very credible, objective, and unbiased.
- Pick ONE data source and stick to that – you will drive yourself crazy if you try to reconcile data from multiple sources, as reports are compiled at different times.
- Presbytery STRONGLY urges churches to stay virtual right now or consider outdoor worship as the weather gets nicer.
- Presbytery STRONGLY urges churches that elect to go back to in-person worship to do the following:
 - * Masks are mandatory and to be worn at all times.
 - * Session members should plan to either provide masks for people who have signed up in advance (see below) and don’t have one, or turn them away
 - * It is still recommended that no singing occur as evidence indicates singing spreads more virus than other activities.

(cont. on page 11)

(cont. from page 10)

- * Nothing that blows air around during worship – if your air conditioning or heater blows air over the congregation, pre-AC or -heat the room, turn the blower off during the service (encourage coats and sweaters if you must). Open windows and door to provide fresh air ventilation is great!
 - * Special filters, foggers, UV etc., only cleans the air until that air blows over someone who is infected – then the air is dirty and infectious – and remember, 40% never show symptoms but are still infectious, and a person who will go on to develop symptoms can be infectious and asymptomatic for up to 8 days
- * More than 6 feet physical distancing between family groups – estimate in advance how many people your sanctuary can realistically hold with at least 6 feet distance
- * Limit anything that is passed around or touched by multiple people.
 - * Leave collection plates in the back for people to put offerings in
 - * Leave communion elements in the back for them to pick up in advance or have them bring their own
- * Have a sign-up sheet before the service so you can estimate how many people want to come (and cut off the sign up when you have reached your calculated maximum).
- * If people try to come in who have not signed up in advance, Session members need to be at door to tell them no
- * Sign-up sheets are also useful in case you need to do contact tracing should there be an exposure.
 - * If there is an exposure, contact the local Board of Health immediately and shut the building and in-person meeting down for 2 weeks
- Exclude use of bathrooms or any other part of the building (or limit bathrooms to one person at a time and provide alcohol wipes for them to clean surfaces they have touched)

What about individuals facing a high risk of infection or in vulnerable groups?

We **strongly** urge congregations to continue to make online worship available to all members with particular attention to vulnerable groups and to discourage them from attending in person worship at this time. If you congregation cannot offer online worship, we urge you to connect vulnerable individuals with a congregation that does.

- You are not permitted to release any health-related information regarding your pastor or other employees of the church, including information regarding COVID-19 infections, without a HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) compliant written release from that individual. However, for all employees, the following rules should be implemented:
 - * If he or she is diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual must immediately notify his or her supervisor. The individual should be required to be quarantined for a minimum of 14 days and stay quarantined for a minimum of 72 hours after he or she becomes completely symptom free including, but not limited to, no fever for 72 hours. The individual must also provide either his or her supervisor with the names of any co-workers, church members or visitors with whom you have been in close proximity (6 feet) in the previous 14 days, so that those individuals may self-quarantine for an appropriate time.
 - * If he or she has been in contact with anyone who is diagnosed with COVID-19, he or she must self-quarantine for 14 days, and must also immediately notify his or her supervisor. He or she should not be permitted to come into the building during this 14-day period.
 - * If she or he experiences any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (such as fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, new loss of smell or taste, diarrhea, or vomiting) while in the building, then he or she must immediately leave the office and notify his or supervisor at the church.
 - * If he or she has traveled outside of the United States or to an area with high rates of infection in the U.S. If you live with, or have been in close contact with, anyone who has traveled outside of the United States, he or she must self-quarantine for 14 days upon return. She or he should not be permitted to come into the office during this 14-day period.
- Session does not have the authority to require a pastor to conduct worship, funeral services, marriages, or other activities if the minister does not believe such activities are safe. Any attempt by a Session to require a minister to do so can result in corrective action by the Presbytery. A minister may not be removed from office or the terms of his or her call changed without the concurrence of the Presbytery.
- Child and youth protection policies and sexual misconduct policies must be strictly enforced if a congregation returns to in-person worship. The challenges of staffing and enforcement created by COVID-19 are not a defense to harm caused by failure to follow such policies. Nor are requirements to perform background checks on childcare workers in any way excused or reduced by the pandemic.
- Any individuals providing childcare, supervision of children or at-risk populations must be strictly screened for infection.

Stay safe – we are not through this yet!

Windows ON: Church Support Committee FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses, 2021			
Offering Budgeted for 2021	\$252,400	Offering Received to Date	\$82,111
Other Income Budgeted for 2021 (endowment, parking lot lease, Putnam apt. rent, interest)	\$158,704	Other Income Received to Date	\$17,530
Total Income Budgeted 2021	\$411,104	Total Income (Received to Date)	\$99,640
Current Assets (checking & petty cash)	-----	Total Cash on Hand	\$58,233
Expenses Budgeted in 2020	\$410,936	Expenses to Date	\$63,969
Other Endowment and Contribution Activity in 2021			
Special Offerings (Christmas Joy, Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peacemaking)	\$100	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.)	\$1,300	Disbursed to appropriate agency or group	
Memorial Gifts - Ron and Mary Jane Black	\$300	Disbursed as directed by donors	
Offering gifts designated for the Discretionary Fund (Local Emergencies)	\$50	To be distributed by the Pastor for local emergencies	
Local Emergencies (Special)	\$0	Community donations for a refugee family. Flow-through account for AFPC to pay family bills.	
Gifts supporting AFPC Mission Projects	\$1,969	Used for AFPC mission work projects	
Gifts Supporting Trail Mix Ministry	\$0	Used to buy supplies.	

Easter Sunday 2021

April 4th

*Christ
is
Risen!*

FPC Church Elders:

2021: John Hauser, Anne Kemmerle, Katie Tadlock, and Keith Wiens

2022: Carolyn Allen, Pamela Harvey, Sandy Nesbitt, and David Tees

2023: Carol Franz, John King, Linda Parsons, and Susan Loughridge

FPC Board of Deacons:

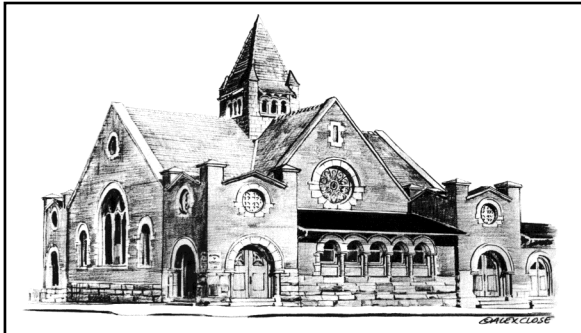
2021: Joyce Beauvias, Nancy Hartley, Marla Longenecker, Danny Moates, and Marge Shelton

2022: Mary Costello, Harold Robison, Andrew Stuart, and Patrick Tegge

2023: Martha Johnson, Helen King, Mindy King, Debi Orr-Roderick, and Wendy Toadvine

www.athensfpc.org

April 2021



First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701

Phone: 740-593-3351

Fax: 740-593-3352

Email: office@athensfpc.org

Web: athensfpc.org

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: Nana Jenkins

Bell Choir Director: Tyler Thress

Administrative Assistant: Jane A. Baker

Phone: (740) 593-3351

FAX: (740) 593-3352

E-Mail: office@athensfpc.org

Web: www.athensfpc.org

Worship Service: The service can be seen on YouTube.

Bible Study: Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon in the church library
(via "Zoom")

Newsletter Helpers: Jane Baker, Hugh Culbertson, Lillian Dinos, Nana Jenkins, Susan Loughridge, Barb Martin, Rev. Martin, and Harold Robison.

May 2021 Newsletter Deadline: Monday Noon, April 24th

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 Ibra 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.