

# WINDOW

SEPTEMBER 2022

The Monthly Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church  
Athens, Ohio



## September 2022

**Sunday, September 4th**  
10:30 a.m. - Communion  
during Worship

**Sunday September 11th**  
10:30 a.m. - Worship  
After-Church Organ  
Recital, Sanctuary

**Saturday, September 17th**  
10:00 a.m. - Bike Ride,  
meet at Athens Library  
(rain date - 24th)

**Sunday, September 18th**  
10:30 a.m. - Bell Choir  
during Worship

**Sunday, September 25th**  
10:30 a.m. - Worship

## From the Pastor....

During a recent morning run, I was listening to the Rewatchables podcast, in which old movies get revisited around a number of categories (what's aged the best/worst, most rewatchable scene, overacting award). They were discussing the Penny Marshall film A League of Their Own, which is now 30 years old and tells a semi-historical story of the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League during World War II. Barb has started watching the Amazon Prime mini-series based on the film and filling me in on why she loves it.

One of the nominees for most rewatchable scene was the one between Tom Hanks and Geena Davis when Davis's character, Dottie, decides to leave the team before the World Series because her husband has come home from the war. Despite being a star player, Dottie says, "it just got too hard." Manager Jimmy (played by Hanks) responds,

***It's supposed to be hard.  
If it wasn't hard, everyone would do it.  
The hard is what makes it great.***

It's a goosebump line for sure. Do a Google search for best lines from the film, and that one will be near the top, bested only by "There's no crying in baseball." Whether it's raising children, competing in a triathlon, or finishing a doctorate, the satisfaction we get from a task is often proportional to the difficulty. C. Thi Nguyen, a philosopher of games, says, "If you're running a marathon, you're trying to get to a particular point in space. But we don't actually care about being at that point in space in and

of itself, or we would take the easy way. We would take a lift, take an Uber, take a shortcut." The challenge, and the constraints, make the experience gratifying. They give it meaning. But I'd forgotten something important about Jimmy Dugan's speech: it doesn't start there. Here's what Jimmy says to Dottie beforehand:

***Baseball is what gets inside you.  
It's what lights you up.  
It's meant to be joyful.***

Maybe it's the legacy of the protestant work ethic. Maybe it's the fact that so many of us had to brute-force our way through the last couple of years, keeping it together for everyone else. But we focus so much on the hard-makes-it-great part that we forget the light-up part. The latter without any of the former is one of empty achievement. But the former without the latter is a recipe for burnout.

Frequently, what's out of whack isn't the quality of the to-do lists or calendar. The problem is not time management, but energy management. Tend to the inflow and outflow of energy, and burnout becomes less likely. Hard doesn't make it great unless the joy is also inside of us. Without that, hard is just hard.

Yes, every undertaking worth doing is going to have some element of drudgery to it. But I continue to love and be guided by Howard Thurman's great adage: "Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive." ~ Rev. Martin



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

### Compassion Fair

On August 21st, FPC had a Compassion Fair to introduce members to some of the ministries outside of the church that members and friends were passionate about.

One was the Hospice of Kimes. While hospice work is not for everyone, there are other volunteer activities available. One can visit with residents or come on a Wednesday afternoon to play bingo with residents who can't manage the card. One can come sing with residents on Monday morning. If one has a particular interest one can share it. One couple comes monthly to do a travelog and a couple from The Plains has a weekly Bible study. In the past, line dancers have brought a performance. It all helps to enrich the lives of people who may lack enrichment. COVID protocols are in place and training is available.

If you think you would be interested, please contact Helen King at 518-944-6158 or hbking55@hotmail.com

### Windows ON: Deacons

#### MODERATOR AND SEPTEMBER DEACON OF THE MONTH: MARY COSTELLO

The Board of Deacons serves the church in a number of ways, from welcoming people to Sunday services, ushering, and preparing the sanctuary for worship, to offering assistance and comfort to congregation members.

Each Sunday, a "Deacon of the Month" is listed in the bulletin. This is a person who serves as liaison between congregation members who need assistance, and the pastor and deacons who will respond. If you have a need, or you are aware of a congregation

member who needs assistance, comfort, or a ride to church, please don't hesitate to contact the Deacon of the Month.

Another aspect of the work of the deacons is assisting with funerals and memorial services, and providing for receptions following those services. Given that Pastor Rob has done a wonderful job of making our congregation aware of the importance of hospitality, and wanting to make hospitality part of our church mission, we want to reach out to the congregation and

extend an invitation to anyone who would like to be part of these events with us. If you are interested in providing food, or helping us to host receptions, please contact the Deacon of the Month, or any member of the Board of Deacons, so we can reach out to you when there is a funeral or memorial service.

We are glad to be able to make our church a welcoming and supportive place!

Mary Costello, Moderator  
Deacon of the Month for September

### 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.

#### FPC Church Elders:

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

**2023:** John King, Linda Parsons, and Susan Loughridge

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

#### FPC Board of Deacons:

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

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

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

### After-Church Organ Recital September 11th

Janice Robison will play an organ recital Sunday, September 11th, immediately following the worship service. The program will be "Music of Remembrance for Victims of 9/11, Covid, the war in Ukraine, and the children of Uvalde, Texas." All are invited to stay for this thirty-minute recital.



### Fall Bike Ride - Saturday, September 17, 2022

(Rain Date: September 24, 2022)

Meet at the Athens Public Library at 10:00 a.m.

Bring your own bike or book a bike through the library. Those participating will follow the bike path to the West State Street Park. For those who wish to continue further, the next stop will be the Eclipse Company Store for lunch before returning back to the library.

### Presbyterian Women

PW meeting will be at the Wyngate Clubhouse (The Plains) on Wednesday, September 21st from 10:00-11:15 am. Lesson One of HOPE will be open for discussion, with Rev. Martin leading. Write your Q&A in the booklet most of us already have. If you need a booklet, please notify Joan Nease.

### Christian Education News

**Women's Book Study - Fridays 12:00 Noon via Zoom** - Join Women's Book Study on Fridays at noon as those attending discuss *What Do Our Neighbors Believe? Questions and Answers on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (second edition)*. For more information or to join, please contact the church office at 740-593-3351 or [office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org) or Joan Nease at [christianed@athensfpc.org](mailto:christianed@athensfpc.org).

**Children's Church** - New curriculum for Children's Church in person this Fall. Lessons for 3-5 year-olds are titled *Growing in Grace and Gratitude*, and have some great activities. Lessons for 6-10 year-olds are titled *Welcome All* from the Follow me series. The CE Committee is excited about these new ideas and hope your children will enjoy them. If you would like to lead a class or more, please contact Barb Martin at [barbara-martin729@msn.com](mailto:barbara-martin729@msn.com) or phone the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans will be provided for all volunteers. Class sizes are usually small in number.

**Youth Gathering and/or Retreat** - Presbytery Youth Task Force is looking into offering three fall regional gatherings for youth in grades 6-12 on Sunday, September 18, 2022 from 2:00-4:00 p.m., to be held at Washington Courthouse First Presbyterian Church, Columbus Covenant Presbyterian Church, and Granville First Presbyterian Church. Please contact Richard and Joan Nease at [ChristianEd@AthensFPC.org](mailto:ChristianEd@AthensFPC.org) or the church office at 740-593-3351 if you are interested in attending.

Also, Presbytery Youth Retreat at Camp Akita in Logan, Ohio on November 12th-13th. (\$80 deposit by October 17, 2022). More details will be coming.

### September 2022 Worship

Leaving home is a common hunger. To head off to college, to search for a missing loved one, to find excitement, or to find ourselves and live an authentic life. These road trips take a few different forms...some stories are prodigal stories. We leave so that we can come back home again for the first time. A favorite of our time is there is no real destination, the journey is the road. Some are refugee journeys...leaving what you thought was home is search of a place to belong.

This sermon series is going to be a little different. No lectionary for September, but a sermon series reflecting FPC's theme for the year: *"Along the Way: Compassion Walks Together with Others."*

September 4th	Psalm 119:97-105	The Story that Sets Us On the Way
September 11th	Hebrews 11:32-12:2	On the Road
September 18th	Mark 1:16-20	Heading Out
September 25th	Galatians 2:19-20	Destination



### 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](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)



## Windows ON: Church Support Committee FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses, 2022			
Offering Budgeted for 2022	\$265,371	Offering Received to Date	\$187,355
Other Income Budgeted for 2021 (endowment, parking lot lease, Putnam apt. rent, interest)	\$182,127	Other Income Received to Date	\$ 90,714
<b>Total Income Budgeted 2022</b>	<b>\$447,498</b>	<b>Total Income (Received to Date)</b>	<b>\$278,069</b>
Current Assets (checking & petty cash)	-----	Total Cash on Hand	\$ 46,035
<b>Expenses Budgeted in 2022</b>	<b>\$447,498</b>	<b>Expenses to Date</b>	<b>\$253,277</b>
Other Endowment and Contribution Activity in 2021			
Special Offerings (Christmas Joy, Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peacemaking)	\$3,835	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.)	\$2,847	Disbursed to appropriate agency or group	
Memorial Gifts (Dale Hoffman, Joan Kappes, Patricia Palmer, Dawn Stout, Margaret Stumpf, Clarice Swisher, and Marlene Weinfurter)	\$2,660	Disbursed as directed by donors	
Offering gifts designated for the Discretionary Fund (Local Emergencies)	\$1,758	To be distributed by the Pastor for local emergencies	
Local Emergencies (Special)	0	Community donations for a refugee family. Flow-through account for FPC to pay family bills.	
Gifts supporting AFPC Mission Projects	\$4,385	Used for AFPC mission work projects	
Gifts Supporting Trail Mix Ministry	0	Used to buy supplies.	
Church World Service - Blanket Fund	\$1,376	Sent to Church World Service	



## Windows ON: FPC Member MARGIE PHILLIPS SHELTON

Margie Shelton of Athens, Ohio died on August 5, 2022, surrounded by family members. She was 91.

She was born to Violet and Ollie Phillips in Roodhouse, IL on January 29, 1931.

Margie attended college for one year at Southern Illinois University before marrying Ray Shelton. They met on a church youth trip to North Carolina.

In 1962, following attending seminary, Margie and her family moved to Bangkok, Thailand as Southern Baptist missionaries. In the early 1970s they returned to Bangkok. She served as the director of the Baptist Student Center from 1973 until 1976, when they returned to the U.S. In 1977, she continued her undergraduate studies, graduating in 1979 with a degree in psychology from Sacred Heart University. She

continued her studies at Webster University, receiving a master's degree in 1981 in human relations and management with family counseling emphasis.

She worked as a college counselor, started her own counseling service, taught English composition and tutored in a writing center, taught psychology, writing, sociology and ESL before retiring at age 82 and moving to Athens, Ohio.

In Athens, Margie joined First Presbyterian Church, where she had served as a deacon. She joined the Athens Reading Club and served as a board member for a senior citizen organization as well as for Athens Mediation Services, where she also was a facilitator.

Margie is survived by her four children, Becky Shelton (Mary Ellen Lutz, St. Louis), Penny Shelton

(Bob Stewart, Athens, Ohio), Jana Shelton (Merriam, Ks.) and James Shelton (Atlanta, Ga.); a brother, Gerald R. Phillips (Della Phillips, Springfield, Ill.); several grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

A local celebration of life will be held on September 10th at 2:00 p.m. at Athens FPC.

There will be a service in Roodhouse, IL earlier in the month

In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to a charity of your choice or one of the following: Athens Mediation Services, Athens, Ohio (send check to: 96 Richland Ave Athens, Ohio 45701)

Good Works Transformation Station, Athens, Ohio

(good-works.net/  
make-a-donation)



## Windows ON: Amesville/New England Parish THIS MONTH'S NEWS

Music Sunday in the Parish was August 7th with Ann and Glen Goins of the Gospel Wind Group, leading the worship service of gospel music which was enjoyed by the congregation.

In-person Monday Bible School will start again on September 12th from 4:00-5:30 p.m. The theme is "God's Love for Us and Others." Bible School Lessons will be based on Children's Literature relating the stories to appropriate Bible passages. Some of the books included will be: Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss; Dolly Parton's Coat of Many Colors; Pudgy Possum the Brave: How Pudgy got his Name by Kathy Elasky. Along with the story books, the program will include crafts, snack, music, games, bell choir.

Kathy Elasky and Catherine Hare will coordinate the sessions, assisted by volunteers including youth from sixth grade through high school.

Blessing Boxes at both the Amesville Elementary School and at the New England Church building are being supported by the Parish and community members. Both boxes are being widely used by folks of the two communities.

Mark Hare and Jenny Berly Bent McDonald, Presbyterian (USA) mission co-workers report from Costa Rica: "we are working with the Latin American Biblical University with one hundred years of tradition training pastors and other religious leaders coming from all walks of life and all types of

faith traditions throughout Central America, South America and the Caribbean. We coordinate with other members of the staff and students, helping in the university's ongoing effort to create an ethic of Earth Care through gardening, recycling, harvesting rainwater, reducing the use of paper and working towards the elimination of single-use plastics, such as plastic grocery bags. Our particular focus is on taking the work of the university out into the community of Cedros, the neighborhood in which the campus is located."

The Parish thanks and appreciates the support of the Athens First Presbyterian Church members provide for the continuing work of the Amesville-New England Parish.

## Mission / Outreach Committee OHIO UNIVERSITY CATS' CUPBOARD



Ohio University students began moving into their dormitory rooms during the week of August 15th. And Cats Cupboard, a food pantry which helps meet their needs for food and other necessities, greeted them with a hearty bobcat roar, handing out cloth masks and hand sanitizer to help combat covid.

As of August 17th, at least 150 new students, mostly freshmen, had signed up as members of Cats Cupboard, according to Merilee Meyer of the OU Dean of Students office, coordinator of the program. This membership allows them to shop at the pantry, on the fifth floor of Baker Center, at least once or twice a month.

Meyer expresses strong gratitude for the continuing donations from members of the First Presbyterian Church. She says the Cupboard would not have reached its current position of strength and growth without AFPC input. And she and her colleagues very much need and hope for continuing support.

In mid-August, open hours at the pantry run from 9:00 a. m.-7:00 p. m. Monday-Thursday, 2:00-7:00 p. m. on Fridays, and 9:30 a. m. to 2:00 p. m. on Saturdays.

So-called grab-and-go items which students can eat quickly, sometimes without putting them in microwave ovens, fly off the shelves, according to Meyer. Mashed-potato cups also are popular. Students have microwaves but not regular ovens in their rooms.

Large packages of such things as toilet paper and laundry soap are welcomed. Sometimes such packages are available at stores for low unit prices. Most students are single and do not need large cans of veggies or sauces, so staff members place large quantities in smaller packages.

Items that are especially needed include sugar, flour, peanut butter, pasta, Asian snacks, and snacks other than granola bars.

Several organizations such as the Southeast Ohio Food Bank, the Atrium Cafe in Athens, and Athens Food Rescue also contribute valuable food items.

Each month, Meyer and her staff prepare a list of needed items. Then FPC member, Wendy Toadvine shops for things on the list. Alan and Sue Boyd take these items to the pick-up point, the fourth-floor entrance to Baker Center, between 9:00-11:00 a. m. on the second Tuesday of each month. The next such date is September 13th. In addition, a box has been set up for donations on the second floor of Baker Center. Also, if it more convenient, one can bring items to the Boyds' home at 63 Elmwood Place by 9:00 a. m. on the pick-up dates.

Church members are asked to contribute cash if they can. Checks can be submitted to Jane Baker at the church office, 9 N. College. "Cats Cupboard" written on the memo line of your check. Jane can be reached at 740-593-3351. Merilee Meyer's number is 740-593-1800.

### A Few Scriptures for the Fall

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.  
Isaiah 40:8 ESV

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven  
Ecclesiastes 3:1 ESV

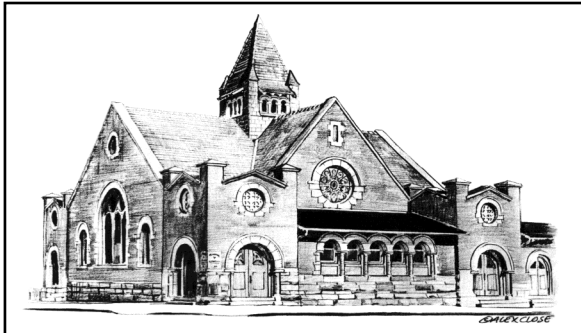
And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.  
Galatians 6:9 ESV

A Psalm of David. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ...  
Psalm 23:1-6 ESV



www.athensfpc.org

September 2022



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**9 North College Street**  
**Athens, OH 45701**



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

**Pastor:** Rev. Robert E. Martin

**Church:** Corner of Court and Washington Streets

**Office:** 9 North College Street

**Summer 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 Co-Directors:** Richard and Joan Nease

**Bell Choir Director:** Tyler Thress

**Admin. Assistant, Financial Secretary, Office Custodian:**  
Jane A. Baker

**Church Custodian:** Tom Medley

**Creative Design and Digital Media Administrator:**  
Linnea Stevens

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**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

**October 2022 Newsletter Deadline**  
**Wednesday, September 21st**

**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.