

W I N D O W

MARCH 2023

The Monthly Newsletter

of First Presbyterian Church
Athens, OH



March 2023

Sunday, March 5th

2nd Sunday in Lent

9:45 a.m. - Pretzel Making
10:30 a.m. - Communion
during Worship

Tuesday, March 7th

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

Sunday, March 12

3rd Sunday in Lent Daylight Savings Time Begins

10:30 a.m. - Bell Choir
during Worship

Tuesday, March 14th

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

Sunday, March 19th

4th Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Tuesday, March 21st

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

Sunday, March 26th

5th Sunday in Lent

Mr. Roger's Sunday
10:30 a.m. - Puppets
during Worship

Tuesday, March 28th

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

From the Pastor....

In his 1993 book, *Wishful Thinking: A Seeker's ABC*, Frederick Buechner offers this advice about Scripture: "Don't start looking in the Bible for the answers it gives. Start by listening for the questions it asks." Here are some questions the Bible asks — questions which speak powerfully to the wisdom of Buechner's advice:

"Who is my neighbor" (Luke 10:29)
"What did you go out into the desert to see?" (Matthew 11:8)
"How many loaves do you have?" (Matthew 15:34)
"What are you looking for?" (John 1:38)
"Do you want to get well?" (John 5:6)
"What is truth?" (John 18:38)

Buechner goes on to say this: "When you hear the question that is your question, then you have already begun to hear much. Whether you can accept the Bible's answer or not, you have reached the point where at least you can begin to hear it, too."

In the Gospel of Mark, and the miracle it describes - Jesus' calming of the sea - is one of the most dramatic and beloved ones in the New Testament. The setting is the Sea of Galilee, a body of water 680 feet below sea level, surrounded by hills, and prone to sudden, violent windstorms. The time is evening. After a long day spent preaching to the multitudes, Jesus is curled up in the stern of a boat - his head on a cushion - and sleeping soundly as his disciples steer the vessel to the other side. All at once, the winds pick up, the waves grow huge, and the boat threatens to capsize. Though many of the disciples are seasoned fishermen,

they realize quickly that their efforts to bail water from the boat and save their wind-whipped sails are futile; the storm is far too powerful. In desperation, they rouse the still-sleeping Jesus. Not with a gentle plea for help, but with a question so full of bewilderment, accusation, and panic, I feel its bite across the centuries: "Teacher, don't you care that we are drowning?" **Question One.** "Don't you care that we are drowning?"

I know this question; I know it far too intimately to judge the disciples for asking it. Some Christians, I'm sure, come easily to the belief that Jesus cares for them. Others, for various reasons, do not. Some of us have been wounded by bad religion. Others have cried out for help in the midst of life's catastrophic storms, and experienced a sleeping Jesus. Intellectually, I know that the answer to the question is always yes. Yes, our Teacher cares when we are drowning. But as the saying goes, the greatest distance on earth is the distance between our minds and our hearts. For me, the question is a dynamic one - I have to keep living it, asking it, facing it. I can't grab hold of the answer and then put it away; I have to hold it before my eyes day after day. For me, the "yes" of God remains a promise to grow into. The next two questions in the story come from Jesus. He asks them after he wakes up, rebukes the wind, and stills the sea. In the deep calm after the storm, he turns to face his now-even-more-bewildered disciples. **"Why are you afraid?"** he asks. **"Do you still have no faith?"** "Why are you afraid?" Is Jesus kidding?

(continued on page 2)

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

(continued from page 1)

If we extend the meaning of "drowning" to include all the ways in which we human beings find ourselves in over our heads - overwhelmed, overpowered, and terrified - then Jesus' question sounds ludicrous. Why are we afraid in the midst of earthquakes, wars, droughts, mass shootings, large-scale starvation and catastrophic disease? Why are we afraid when we face broken marriages, depressed children, unfriendly neighbors, grinding jobs, and financial uncertainty? Because we're human? Because fear is a reasonable response to a frightening world? Because God created us with the capacity to feel fear, so that we'll know to pay attention and take reasonable measures to protect ourselves? Why am I afraid? I'm afraid because I haven't made my peace with death - mine or anyone's. I'm afraid because I want God to be my life preserver, and it offends me to know that my physical well-being - and the well-being of my loved ones - is not his top priority. I'm afraid because Jesus apparently meant it when he said, "Take up your cross and follow me," and I'm not sure I'm ready.

The next question is a little easier.

"Do you still have no faith?"

Well, sometimes I do and sometimes I don't. One of the odd things about this story is that Mark surrounds it with a perplexing set of contrasts. In the chapters preceding the calming of the sea, Jesus describes the kingdom of God as small, secretive, and quiet. The kingdom is like a mustard seed, so tiny it's almost invisible. The kingdom of God is like a sower scattering seeds - seeds so vulnerable, they're often snatched by birds or choked by weeds. The kingdom of God is like a farmer whose seeds defy manipulation - they grow when they please.

To have faith is to hold these two pictures of the kingdom in tension. To allow God to be revealed in both. Yes, sometimes Jesus demonstrates his power in miraculous, Technicolor ways; we're not wrong to hope for such demonstrations. At other times, though, he wants us to trust that his Incarnation - his quiet, abiding presence in our lives - is enough. Sometimes, Jesus' power is paradoxical; it comes to us in seeming weakness, in quiet whispers and tiny gestures. The hiddenness of God, in other words, is simply

that. Hiddenness, not absence.

The last question in the story returns us to the disciples. After Jesus calms the storm, Mark writes, the disciples "fear a great fear." It's no longer the elements that terrify them; it's Jesus. "Who is this man?" they ask each other in awe. "Even the wind and waves obey him!" I hope I'll always find the courage to ask this question. That is, to allow Jesus to make himself strange to me. Strange, new, unnerving, Other. The disciples thought they had him pegged, but they didn't. He was wilder, more powerful, less predictable, and more mysterious than they had yet imagined.

If he's familiar enough to make us either complacent or contemptuous, then it's time to defamiliarize him one more time. It's time to ask the question again.

"Teacher, don't you care that we are drowning?"

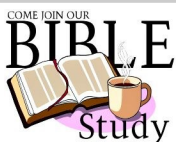
"Why are you afraid?"

"Do you still have no faith?"

"Who is this man?"

When you hear the question that is your question, you have begun to hear much. When you hear the question that is your question, press in close and listen: God is near.

~ Rev. Martin



March 2023 Worship

(**Bold, first reading** - *italics, sermon text*)

March 5th	First Reading - * <i>Genesis 12:1-4a</i> and Psalm 121 Second Reading - Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 and Gospel John 3:1-17	Put On Your Traveling Shoes
March 12th	First Reading - * <i>Exodus 17:1-7</i> and Psalm 95 Second Reading - Romans 5:1-11 and Gospel John 4:5-42	God Will Provide
March 19th	First Reading - 1 Samuel 16:1-13 and Psalm 23 Second Reading - Ephesians 5:8-14 and * <i>Gospel John 9:1-41</i>	Seeing Clearly
March 26th	First Reading - Ezekiel 37:1-14 and Psalm 130 Second Reading - Romans 8:6-11 and * <i>Gospel Matthew 6: 25-34</i>	A Question of Worry

FPC and Christian Education “Calendar at a Glance”

Sunday, March 5th - 9:45 a.m. - Pretzel Making

All children are invited to make pretzels before church starting at 9:45 a.m. The pretzels will be baked during worship and then enjoyed during Fellowship Time.

March 12th - Daylight Savings Time begins - “Spring Forward”

Sunday, March 26th - Mr. Roger’s Day Celebration and Cross Crafts

Monday, March 20th would have been Mr. Roger’s 95th birthday. Everyone is invited to wear a sweater on Sunday, March 26th to celebrate. The puppets are planning to include at least one of their Neighborhood heroes in the Children’s Moment. Please join FPC family and friends during the worship service in person or on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@fpcathensoh/streams>) to help celebrate.

Materials will be provided to decorate small wooden crosses during fellowship time. These may be done in person, or pick up materials to complete them at home.

Please contact Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org or phone the church office at 740-593-3351 if you are interested. This will help determine how many supplies are needed.

Women’s Book Study - Fridays at Noon via Zoom

Join Women’s Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom as we discuss *If God is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans* by John Pavlovitz. For more information or to join, please contact the church office at 740-593-3351 or office@athensfpc.org or Joan Nease at christianed@athensfpc.org.

Children’s Sunday School

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 *Love God, Neighbor, Enemy* from the Follow Me series. The Christian Education Committee is excited about these ideas and hope children will enjoy them.

If you would like to help with a class, please, contact Barb Martin at barbaramartin729@msn.com or phone the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans will be provided for all volunteers. Class sizes are usually small.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to purchase a spring flower (lily, tulip, or hyacinth) in memory of or in honor of someone for Easter Sunday, please notify the church office at: office@athensfpc.org; phone 740-593-3351. Price per flower is \$10.00 and choice of flower is on a first come-first served basis. An insert with “In memory” 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. Please send your check to 9 North College Street, Athens OH 45701, or place it in the offertory plate with “Easter Flower” on the memo line.

The deadline to order flowers is March 31st.

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

2023 Per Capita Remains at \$40.00

For 2023, the Presbytery of Scioto Valley per capita will remain unchanged at \$40.00 per member. This \$40 is allocated as follows: General Assembly’s share is \$9.82, Synod’s share is \$3.25 and Presbytery of Scioto Valley is \$26.93

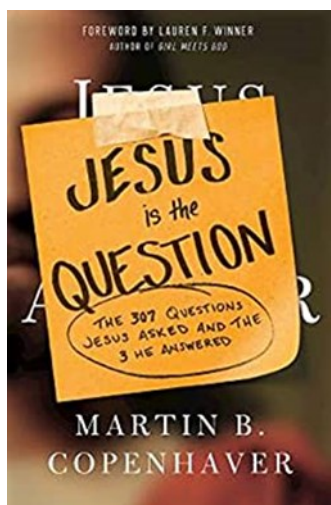
Windows ON: The Board of Deacons
THIS MONTH'S NOTE from Mary Costello, Moderator

Those attending church on Sunday, February 19th, may have noticed that the cross was sitting on a beautiful wood box on the chancel table. Normally that box is covered with a parament, to match the paraments on the chancel table and the pulpits. In the past the box was quite humble in appearance and never would have been left without a cover. But that box disappeared over the Advent/Christmas season and has never turned up.

The Deacons discussed the missing box and the need for a replacement at the January Deacons' meeting. Mindy King, a member of the Board of Deacons, suggested that her husband might be able to make a replacement box for the church. And indeed, he did! Mindy brought the box a few weeks ago, and the Deacons were amazed at its craftsmanship. Not only is it beautifully made and detailed, but it is also inscribed with the Presbyterian logo.

The Board of Deacons is grateful to Larry King for this wonderful addition to the church chancel. Some Sundays, the box will be covered, but on others it will not, and on those Sundays, you are invited to take a closer look.

Bobbie Conliffe is the March Deacon of the Month



LENTEN SOUP AND STUDY

Tuesday's in Lent. 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. - Dinner
6:00 – 7:00 p.m. - Program
March 7th, 14th, March 21st and 28th

Martin Copenhaver, author of the book that inspired this year's Lenten series, says the question "Whom are you looking for?" is a straightforward question or a profound one. . . . "It all depends. If you are wandering the halls of an office, obviously lost, and someone asks, "Whom are you looking for?" it is hardly a profound question. But when Jesus encounters his followers at the beginning of his earthly ministry and in this instance in the garden and later after the resurrection when he finds Mary at the tomb he asks the same question, "Whom are you looking for?" . . . It is not as straightforward or as easily answered. (Jesus Is the Question, p. 2). Jesus asked 307 questions and he only answered 3. Spiritual wisdom is less about having the right answers and more about the courage to wrestle with the questions that awaken our souls inviting us to live mindfully and meaningfully.

Books can be purchased in the office for \$10.00. They will be available the first week of February.



Embrace Hope

It is NOT to late to make a pledge to the 2023 Stewardship Campaign

The theme of the FPC 2023 Stewardship Campaign is 'Embrace Hope'

Jeremiah 29:11 - "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Name: _____

Address: _____

PLEASE CHECK AND COMPLETE AS APPROPRIATE: [] Below is my pledge amount for the 2023 Budget.

Amount			
Payment Interval (choose 1)	Week	Month	Year

- [] I will not formally pledge but will give as I am able throughout the year.
- [] Please provide giving envelopes.

PLEASE CONTACT ME ABOUT: [] Making a gift to a FPC Athens Endowment Fund.
 [] How to accomplish a lasting gift to the church.



Windows ON: Church Community COLLEGE LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP IS BACK!

After an almost three-year hiatus due to COVID, FPC is once again welcoming students to a home-cooked meal on Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Attendance is picking up and the “Lunch Bunch” is looking forward to hosting 20 to 30 diners each week.

One of the faithful attendees is Michele, a second-year graduate student from Bogota, Colombia. Michele is in the music department

and plays clarinet and saxophone. She has been playing for at least fifteen years and came to Ohio University in August of 2021. The challenges of playing a wind instrument during the time of required masking were enormous. Michele has one more year of study and hopes to join her boyfriend in France after graduation. People can catch Michele performing Latin music at Donkey Coffee at 8:00 p.m. on March 3rd.

Thanks to all who have made lunch or dessert for the College Lunch attendees. Those helping serve include Rev. Martin, Lee Gregg, Wendy Toadvine, and Anne Kemmerle. Hugh and Charlene Culbertson have “retired” after many years of faithful service. They are truly missed by all of the Lunch Bunch.

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

Monday Bible School continues to meet from 4:00-5:30 p.m. each Monday with a total of 15 to 16 each week. Three children/youth from Argentina who are spending February and some of March in the Amesville area, were welcomed, and everyone will be sad to see them leave.

Some of the children’s books that have been part of the study include: **God’s Dream** by Archbishop Desmond Tutu; **God’s Paintbrush** by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso; **The Creation** by James Weldon Johnson. Both “little’s” and “big’s” contribute to the

discussion following the reading of each book.

Penny, the resident dog at the Hare Household, is walked each Monday and Friday by a third-grade physical education class from Amesville Elementary School. The children are part of an exercise program directed by Beth Simpson, physical education teacher. Where else but in Amesville would this happen? Both the children and Penny benefit from this act of kindness.

The Canaanville United Methodist Church friends and Parish friends will be in charge of a Friday Night

Life dinner at Good Works on March 24th.

Members of the Parish continue to work helping friends from Nicaragua and Ukraine to legally come to the United States to escape political violence to which they have been subjected.

Mark and Jenny Hare, Mission co-workers in Costa Rica, and daughters, Keila and Annika, will attend a Mission Conference in March in Louisville, Kentucky, and will make a side trip to visit Amesville March 13th-17th.

Easter Events/Services

All Available in-person and via YouTube

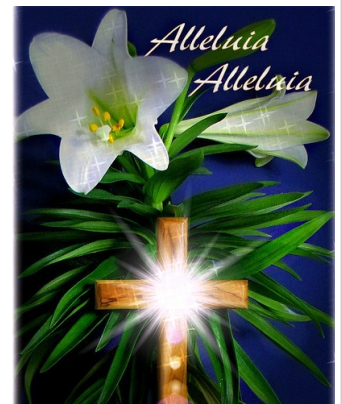
Lenten Soup and Studies - March 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, Fellowship Hall
5:30 p.m. - soup supper
6:00-7:00 p.m. - Lenten Study

Palm Sunday Service - April 2nd, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday Service - April 6th - 7:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Good Friday Service - April 7th - Noon, Sanctuary

Easter Service with Bell Choir and OhioBrass - 9th, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary



Windows ON: Mission/Outreach Committee OHIO UNIVERSITY CAT'S CUPBOARD

Many Ohio University students and their families fought off hunger during early spring semester, thanks to the Cats' Cupboard food pantry sponsored by the OU Dean of Students office. About 100 people showed up to shop for food and other necessities during January and many expressed deep appreciation for the pantry which helped them remain in school despite high food prices and Co-Vid related fears that interrupted their work schedules and travel.

AFPC members continued to contribute greatly to this effort. In addition to providing food regularly, the church donated proceeds from the "Souper" Bowl Sunday offering collected on "Souper" Bowl Sunday in February. This donation amounted to \$120.00 and fifty pounds of food, according to Marilee Meyer of the OU Dean of Students Office, coordinator of Cats' Cupboard. Also, the project received a small grant from the rocky Boots Company head-quartered in Nelsonville.

Meyer expresses deep gratitude, as do students, for AFPC's substantial contribution to Cats' Cupboard. Over 1,000 people have signed up as members - prospective

customers - of the pantry. Each member can search for food and other life necessities once or twice a month at the pantry's store on the fifth floor of Baker Center. So-called "grab and go" items which students can eat quickly, sometimes without putting them in the microwave ovens fly off the shelves, according to Meyer. Ramen noodles, canned beans, and rice are particularly popular, as is pasta.

Each month, Meyer and her staff prepare a list of especially needed items. Then FPC member, Wendy Toadvine, shops for needed items with donations made to Cats' Cupboard through the church. She then takes these items to the pick-up point, 4th floor entrance to Baker Center between 9:00-11:00 a.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. In addition, a box has been set up for donations on the 2nd floor of Baker Center.

Myers reports that the Cupboard's staff includes four community work-study volunteers, two social-work interns and a graduate assistant. A freshman worker has recently been hired, and the coordinator hopes she will continue working at the pantry throughout the individual's college career to help insure continuity. Several church

and organizations, such as Southeast Ohio Food, the Atrium Café and Athens Food Rescue also contribute valuable food items.

Hours of operation have been changed recently to fit staffing schedules:

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. on Mondays,
Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and
Fridays.
10:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m. on
Thursdays
3:00-6:00 p.m. on Saturdays

Wendy urges people to contribute monetary donations when possible, providing flexibility in shopping for needed items. Checks can be submitted to Jane Baker at the church office, 9 North College Street, Athens, OH 45701. "Cats' Cupboard" should be written on the memo line of each check. You can phone the church office if you have questions - 740-593-3351. Merilee Meyer's number is 740-593-1800.



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

FPC Church Elders:

2023: John King, Linda Parsons, Susan Loughridge and Hugh Woods

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

2025: Adrienne Nagy, Debbie Perry, Andrew Stuart and David Tees

FPC Board of Deacons:

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

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

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

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
 13 - Stuart Goldsberry
 14 - Marjorie Lloyd
 15 - Andrew Eiler
 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 Anniversaries

2 - Stephen / Kimberly McKinley
 23 - Ben Morrow / Carissa Yablinsky

**Windows ON: Presbyterian Women
 THIS MONTH'S NEWS**

Thanks to Martha Johnson for arranging the monthly meeting at Wyngate on February 15th.

Rita Oberholzer and Betty Lowe, were welcomed, along with Lillian Dinos, Catherine Hare, Helen King, Florence McGeoch, Marilyn Neason, Bonnie Savage, Wendy Toadvine, and Cyndi Wyant.

Discussion led by Martha Johnson centered on Matthew 6:34 -- and problem everyone has: Worrying.

Jesus had said, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." Isaiah 41:13 reminded everyone: "Do not fear, the Lord will help you."

Before the next meeting on March 15th, Helen King will inquire about the material for a new Bible study. Members will get a phone call so everyone can come prepared for discussion. All women of the church are invited to attend the meeting at the Wyngate Clubhouse at 10:00 a.m.

Reminder: all donations to FPC Missions go through Jane Baker at the church office.

The meeting was dismissed before 11:30... with a prayer:

"Go with us, Lord, and guide our way on this and every coming day, That in thy Spirit strong and true, Our lives may be a gift to you."
Hymnal #535



**Windows ON: Church Support Committee
 FINANCIAL REPORT**

Income and Expenses, 2023			
Offering Budgeted for 2023	\$265,600	Offering Received to Date	\$66,881
Other Income Budgeted for 2021 (endowment, parking lot lease, Putnam apt. rent, interest)	\$190,028	Other Income Received to Date	\$25,763
Total Income Budgeted 2023	\$455,628	Total Income (Received to Date)	\$92,644
Current Assets (checking & petty cash)	-----	Total Cash on Hand	\$38,837
Expenses Budgeted in 2023	\$455,203	Expenses to Date	\$50,479
Other Endowment and Contribution Activity in 2023			
Special Offerings (Christmas Joy, Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peacemaking)	\$50	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.)	\$185	Disbursed to appropriate agency or group	
Gifts supporting AFPC Mission Projects	\$1,987	Used for AFPC mission work projects	
Offering gifts designated for the Discretionary Fund (Local Emergencies)	\$125	To be distributed by the Pastor for local emergencies	
Church World Service (Blanket Fund)	\$247	To be sent to Church World Service	
Koo/Borchert Endowment Fund Donations	\$0	Sent to Endowment Fund	
Memorial Gifts (Ann Fox, Jerry Jagers)	\$300	Disbursed as directed by donors	

Windows ON: AFPC Members and Friends

CLARA JOE FISHER and JERRY JAGERS

Clara Joe Fisher - Past Athens FPC member and wife of former pastor Thomas Fisher, passed away on January 21st. She was the daughter of the late Frank S. and Clarabel Smith Minarik.

Clara Joe attended the Maryville College in Tennessee and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. She served as National Moderator of the Presbyterian Westminster Fellowship during college. Clara Joe then attended Princeton Theological Seminary where she met her husband, Thomas Fisher. They were married in August of 1958.

She was a teacher, a vital partner in ministry with husband, Tom, a lover of her pets, cook, gardener, a wonderful mother and an asset

to the churches where Tom pastored, including Athens FPC.

Clara Joe and Tom shared nearly 65 years of marriage. She is survived by Tom, daughter Jill Auger (Pierre), son Frank Fisher (Margaret Guerra) and four grandchildren.

A memorial service was held on February 11th at the South Congregational Church in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Jerry Jagers, member of Athens FPC passed away on January 28th. He was the son of the late John T. and Erma Thomas Jagers.

Jerry was a graduate of Ohio University and Cum Laude graduate of the Cincinnati College of Embalming. He was a funeral

director in business with his father, brother and son at Jagers & Sons Funeral Home for over 66 years.

He was a lifelong resident of Athens and was a member of many community clubs/associations and served as usher for many years at Athens FPC.

Jerry is survived by his wife of 67 years, Peggy Lou Withers Jagers, sons Timothy (Bethany), Christopher (Susan) and daughter Teresa (Vinson) Yates, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A funeral service was held February 3rd at the Jagers & Sons Funeral Home with Rev. Robert Martin Officiating with burial at West Union Street Cemetery.

One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity.

There are three programs supported by OGHS:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Self-Development of People

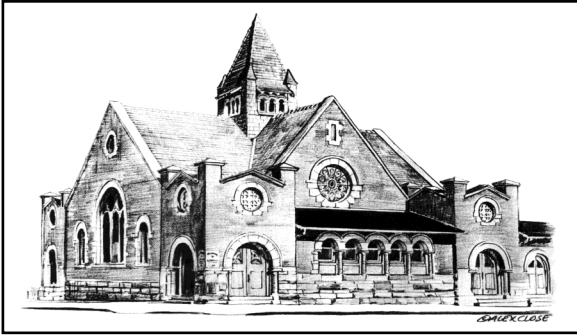
All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

OGHS envelopes will be in pews at church, or checks can be sent to the church office with OGHS in the memo line. Easter Sunday is the designated "OGHS Sunday", but donations can be made throughout the Lenten season.



First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701

March 2023



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

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

Phone: (740) 593-3351

FAX: (740) 593-3352

E-Mail: office@athensfpc.org

Web: www.athensfpc.org

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

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

April 2023 Newsletter Deadline
Monday, March 27th

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.