



WINDOW

MAY 2023

The Monthly Newsletter

of First Presbyterian Church
Athens, OH



May 2023

Sunday, May 7th

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

Following the Worship
Service - After-Church
FPC Bell Choir Concert

Sunday, May 14th Mothers' Day

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Sunday, May 21st All Recognition Sunday Presbyterian Heritage Sunday

10:30 a.m. - Worship
Following Worship
Library - learn about the
pictures on the walls.
Lounge - New Members
class

Sunday, May 28th Pentecost and Memorial Day Sunday

Everyone is invited to
wear red!

10:30 a.m. - Worship

Monday, May 29th

Office is closed in
observance of
Memorial Day

Pentecost

Christians celebrate
Pentecost today to
remember the gift of the
Holy Spirit. When Jesus
ascended, He promised
to provide a comforter.
It was in that moment on
Pentecost that believers
were empowered with the
Holy Spirit.

From the Pastor....

Years ago, I was invited to share
Passover with Jewish friends around
their family table. As we moved through
the Haggadah, the "order" of the Jewish
Seder, I listened attentively to the story
of slavery and freedom, oppression and
liberation, that is at the core of Jewish
identity — a story that one generation
passes on to the next. I appreciated the
openness of Passover. Those at the table
— including non-Jews like me! — are
invited into the story as a continuing
event of liberation. The meal presents
the Jewish past, is celebrated in the
present, and presses toward a future of
God's justice and freedom.

Maybe because my spiritual attention
had been so attuned during the Passover
meal, I was struck by a similar open-
ended quality of Easter this year.
We as Christians tend to forget that
Easter Sunday is the first day of a fifty-
day cycle that explores what it means
to be Christian — to be part of a
community, to live with a sense of
freedom from death, and to welcome
the Spirit of God into our midst.
Resurrection isn't one day. It is the
beginning of a Christian story of
liberation. Easter presents a past event,
is celebrated with joy in the present,
and presses toward a future of God's
justice and freedom.

Like Passover, Easter is a continuing
event of liberation. It goes on and on.
It is an invitation to participate in God's
unfolding work of justice. In many
church circles, we hear a familiar refrain
— "it may be Friday, but Sunday's

coming." Yes. Yes. Yes. But Monday
comes after that. Turn on the news —
both here and around the world and
Monday looks pretty much like Friday.
It is as if Sunday didn't matter.

But it is different. Because we say
Alleluia — and then we go about the
work of redemption and bending that
arc of justice until the light of God's
liberation breaks over the entire world.
Alleluia isn't the last word. It is the first
word of a renewed journey. Easter's joy
will fade. And we go on — telling the
story of a God who hates injustice of
every sort, living into love and justice,
and passing the work onto the next
generation. Sometimes we feast.
At other times, we fast. But we make
our way through this wilderness toward
that land where everyone shall know
peace of "vine and fig tree."¹

¹"Under their vine and fig tree" is a
phrase quoted in the Hebrew Scriptures
in three different places: Micah 4:4, 1
Kings 4:25, and Zechariah 3:10. George
Washington used this phrase multiple
times in correspondence throughout his
life, and one can find Washington
reference it almost fifty times. Of the
three passages, it is most likely that he
was citing Micah 4:4 in his writings.
The section states: "but they shall all sit
under their own vines and under their
own fig trees, and no one shall make
them afraid...."

~ Rev. Martin

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

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**Prayer Concern Requests and Visitation**

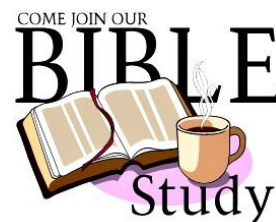
Prayer request slips are available in the narthex. If you would like others in the church to pray for a person or for a concern near to your heart, place the slips in the Prayer Request box in the narthex. If you or someone you know would enjoy a visit from Pastor Rob and a Deacon, or appreciate receiving 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.

May 2023 Worship
(**Bold**, first reading - *italics*, sermon text)

May 7th	Difficult Passages First Reading - Acts 7:55-60 and Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 Second Reading - <i>1 Peter 2:2-10</i> and Gospel John 14:1-14
May 14th	Living Compassionately Mother's Day First Reading - Acts 17:22-31 and Psalm 66:8-20 Second Reading - 1 Peter 3:13-22 and <i>Gospel John 14:15-21</i>
May 21st	Jesus Prays for Us All Recognition Sunday First Reading - <i>Acts 1:6-14</i> and Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35 Second Reading - <i>1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11</i> and Gospel John 17:1-11
May 28th	Surprised! Pentecost Sunday / Memorial Day Weekend First Reading - Acts 2:1-21 or alternate, Numbers 11:24-30 and Psalm 104:24-34, 35b Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or <i>alternate, Acts 2:10-21</i> Gospel John 20:19-23 or alternate Gospel John 7:37-39



After-Church Bell Choir Concert Sunday, May 7th

The FPC Bell Choir will present an After-Church Concert on May 7th. This program will be approximately twenty minutes long, and will feature music from through the previous year, and student conductors from Ohio University. All are invited to stay for this concert.



New Member Class, Sunday May 21st following worship

Are you interested in exploring what First Church membership means and what's involved in becoming a member? FPC invites you to join others for an Inquirers' Class. This one-session class offers you an opportunity to explore life at First Church and the history and beliefs of the Presbyterian Church (USA). While the class is a prerequisite for membership, all are welcome whether or not you are presently considering membership. The Class will meet after worship in the Lounge.



The one-session Inquirers' Class covers Reformed theology, polity, and First Church history and congregational life. Time is also given for personal introductions. Both in-person and Zoom options are offered.

FPC and Christian Education "Calendar at a Glance"

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. We are 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 and materials will be provided for all volunteers. Class sizes are usually small in number.

Women's Book Study - 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.

Mother's Day is May 14th

All Recognition Sunday - May 21st - All CE, Choirs and Graduates will be recognized in a bulletin insert. It is also Presbyterian Heritage Sunday and visitors to the church library after worship may learn about the pictures on the walls.

Pentecost Sunday - May 28th - Pentecost is the celebration of the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples after the resurrection of Jesus. Many Christians wear red to remember this day.

Other Upcoming Events

Vacation Bible School - dates to be determined.

Outdoor Worship Service - June 11th

Copperheads Church Night Baseball Game - July 15th

Windows ON: Church Community COLLEGE LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP

College lunch will go on summer break after April 27th. Students are encouraged to take advantage of Cats' Cupboard and other free meal opportunities until the FPC College Lunch returns in September.

Many thanks are due to all the people who have cooked and served this winter. FPC guests increased in number and were regular in attendance.

One of the regular diners has been Michael, a recent OU graduate who works for Sojourners Resiliency Center in Athens. Sojourners serves youth ages 12 to 21 with anti-bullying education, counselling, and job preparation. Sojourners Care Network, a nonprofit organization rooted in Appalachian Ohio,

empowers young people to become healthy, responsible, and productive citizens now and in the future.

The programs leverage grant funding with local resources to address critical issues facing young people experiencing and at risk of homelessness, poverty, illiteracy, and mental health issues. The program also provides support to families providing foster and kinship care to children throughout our region, striving to bring normalcy and stability to these vulnerable members of society.

Sojourners was founded in early 1999 by two brothers, Marcus and Richard Games, who saw an opportunity in our region to use asset-based positive youth development principles to address critical

needs. Sojourners has grown over the subsequent years, expanding its service delivery to include a variety of programs, beginning with foster care, to now include runaway and homeless youth services, employment training, diploma and GED support, mentoring, leadership development, mental and behavioral health supportive services, and service-learning opportunities. Sojourners Resiliency Center is located on Shaffer Street in Athens.

All of the "lunch bunch" have enjoyed meeting and talking with the students who have joined us.

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

The Amesville-New England Parish Camp for children 5 to 15 will be held at Geneva Hills Outdoor Education Center from June 18th-23rd. Youth who are 16-18 may serve as counselors-in-training. Work days to prepare camp are being held on Saturdays June 3rd-10th. For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Nancy Hare Dobbelaer at 740-366-0118, email: ndobbelaer@windstream.net. There are jobs for everyone!

A yard sale that supports the Parish camping program and other youth events, will be held on June 9th and 10th. Those wishing to donate items, may leave them at the church any day 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. after May 22nd. Tables are labeled, and those who are contributing items are asked to sort them on the proper tables. Some items will be priced, but a donation will purchase other

items. If you have questions, please contact Marcia Burchby – phone: 740-448-4941.

Blessing boxes containing food and other items have been set up in various places in the county. A Blessing Box has been set up in Amesville in front of the Amesville Elementary School and also at the church in New England for use by anyone in the community. Items to give or take include: unopened non-perishable foods; new personal care items (toothpaste, deodorant, menstrual products; laundry detergent, etc. Clean clothing in good repair – socks, gloves, hats, coats, The Parish Folk are supporting this project with money received from the monthly 2-cent-a-meal offering.

Kathy Nice, Transitional General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Scioto Valley, conducted the

worship service on April 23rd. A coffee hour followed the service. It is encouraged to invite Kathy Nice to come and take part in any activity that you may be having. Her enthusiasm is contagious!

Monday after-school Bible School will end on the 22nd of May. Children and youth from pre-school though 10th grade have worked, played, prayed and sung together, and community folk have followed the group on the Facebook reports found on the timeline for Catherine Hare. Check it out!

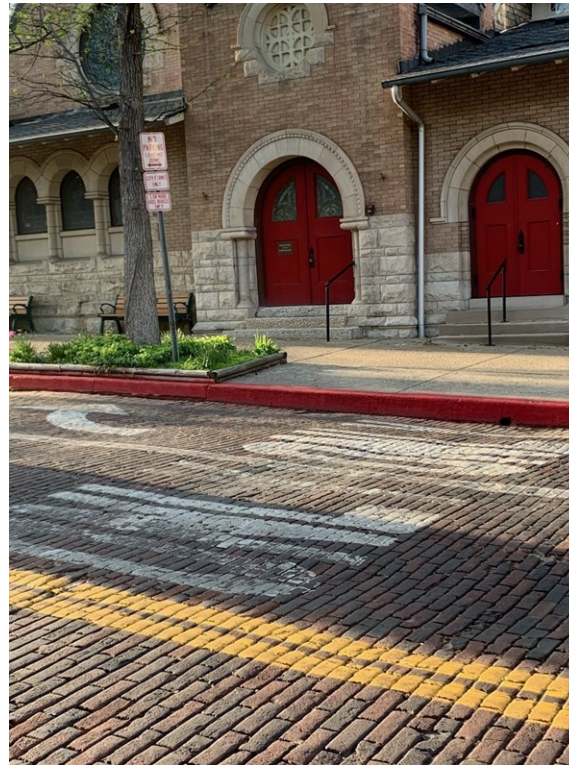
Happy Summer activities from the Amesville-New England Parish to Athens First Presbyterian Church friends. The support from FPC is greatly appreciated!

Change in Church Loading Zone Signage

The City of Athens has removed the church loading zone sign and repainted the curb red.

The intent of the change was to reduce the number of trucks double parking on Court Street to make deliveries to up town businesses by providing temporary parking on Washington Street.

Pastor Rob has spoken with Police Chief Tom Pyle who assured him that church members could continue to use the space for temporary parking to pick up and drop off passengers and items for the church.



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

Large numbers of Ohio University students and their families continue to get needed food and other life necessities from Cats' Cupboard, the food pantry run by the OU Dean of Students office. The Cupboard expects to continue operating, but at a reduced rate, after spring semester ends on May 6th.

As of late April, a total of 618 students and families have signed up during 2023 to shop at the Cupboard, which is located on the fifth floor of Baker Center. While inflation appears to have slowed somewhat, high prices continue to lead members to shop at the pantry.

Cupboard Coordinator Marilee Meyer is recruiting replacements for some student workers who will graduate and leave Athens. She and her colleagues have streamlined operations by hiring an online firm named

"Pantry Soft" to help record new memberships and keep track of orders. A member of the Cupboard can come once or twice a month to shop - more often in a few cases if special permission is granted. To date, such transactions have taken some time to be carried out and recorded.

A new Associate Dean in charge of Special Students Needs will help coordinate for next year.

Meyer and many students express deep gratitude, for the major contribution to this project by members and friends of FPC.

Each month, Meyer and her staff prepare a list of needed items. FPC member, Wendy Toadvine, shops for these items and takes them 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.

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

May Birthdays

1 – Adrienne Nagy
 2 – Kevin Gillespie
 Kimberly Goldsberry
 Samantha Hauser
 5 – Brian Mains
 Guy Philips
 Ron Strickmaker
 8 – Harold Swisher
 9 – Betsy Parks Joslyn
 Jennifer Strickmaker
 10 – Kent Knudson
 11 – Tom Fisher
 Craig Seitz
 12 – Susan Kaneshige

14 – Lillian Dinos
 15 – Bill Harkins
 Noah Heinrich
 Luke Kemmerle
 16 – Stacey Strickmaker
 17 – Dia Knudson
 19 – Jason Heinrich
 Scott Musick
 20 – Alan Goldsberry
 Samuel Goldsberry
 William Goldsberry
 Sara Hughes
 23 – Don Borchert
 Angela Yehl

24 – Fiona Mitchell Yun
 Bonnie Savage
 26 – Reece Bacak
 Sandy Nesbitt
 Jean Seitz
 28 – Miriam Garcellano
 Catherine Hare
 31 – Joe Malesick

ANNIVERSARIES

19 – John and Helen King
 20 – Jeremy and Lisa Yehl
 23 – Kevin and Terri Gillespie



Proverbs 31:31: "Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate."

Windows ON: Church Support Committee FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenses, 2023			
Offering Budgeted for 2023	\$265,600	Offering Received to Date	\$112,746
Other Income Budgeted for 2023 (endowment, parking lot lease, Putnam apt. rent, interest)	\$190,028	Other Income Received to Date	\$58,818
Total Income Budgeted 2023	\$455,628	Total Income (Received to Date)	\$171,564
Current Assets (checking & petty cash)	-----	Total Cash on Hand	\$37,396
Expenses Budgeted in 2023	\$455,203	Expenses to Date	\$139,805
Other Endowment and Contribution Activity in 2023			
Special Offerings (Christmas Joy, Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peacemaking)	\$6,488	Sent to Presbytery (40% of Pentecost is retained for local use/25% of Peacemaking offering is retained for local use (\$137 was a 2022 check/expenditure that was cashed in 2023))	
Offering Gifts (Athens Co. Food Pantry, Good Works, My Sister's Place, Planned Parenthood, Habitat for Humanity, etc.)	\$364	Disbursed to appropriate agency or group	
Gifts supporting AFPC Mission Projects	\$2,772	Used for AFPC mission work projects	
Offering gifts designated for the Discretionary Fund (Local Emergencies)	\$355	To be distributed by the Pastor for local emergencies	
Church World Service (Blanket Fund)	\$1,227	To be sent to Church World Service	
Koo/Borchert Endowment Fund Donations	\$0	Sent to Endowment Fund	
Memorial Gifts (Ann Fox, Jerry Jagers, Karyl Jones)	\$2,050	Disbursed as directed by donors	

Windows ON: Presbyterian Women THIS MONTH'S NEWS

Eleven women met at The Plains Library on April 19th to discuss Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble." Under Helen King's able leadership attendees talked about WHEN and WHERE they found comfort and safety in their lives.

The next meeting will be May 17th at 10:00 a.m. Location will be

announced depending on Wyngate's repair/construction schedule. Members will get a phone call if they miss the announcement in the Sunday bulletin.

Lillian Dinos will lead the discussion on God's gifts to us as we focus on ways to serve God and our community by using your individual time and talents.

Please come and help those attending discover new ways to serve, no matter how small you feel that gift is.



Habitat for Humanity

Habitat set two records at the April 22nd Scrap Metal Drive.

First the largest amount of scrap metal - 46 tons

Second was the most income—\$2,706.41.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!



Hocking County Recycling Day
May 20th from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Hocking County Fairgrounds, Logan, OH



**When you give to
the Pentecost Offering,
you are helping to provide
opportunities for young people
to grow and share in
their faith in Christ.**

 **PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

 **MATTHEW 25**

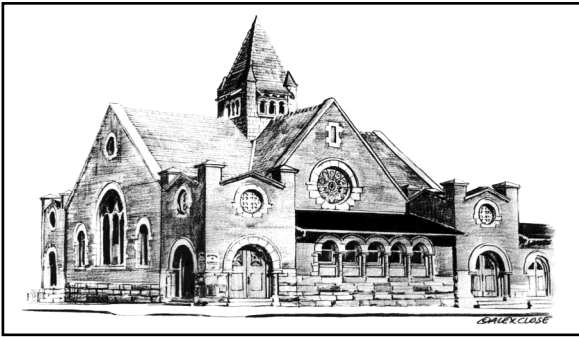
Pentecost Offering Sunday, May 28th

The Pentecost Offering provides support to young people and inspires them to share their faith, in a church-wide effort, with ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come - children, youth, and young adults.

First Presbyterian Church
9 North College Street
Athens, OH 45701

May 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

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

June 2023 Newsletter Deadline
Monday, May 22nd

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.