

# WINDOW

JUNE 2025

The Monthly Newsletter  
of First Presbyterian Church  
Athens, OH



## June 2025

**Sunday, June 1st**  
**7th Sunday of Easter**  
10:30 a.m. - Communion  
during Worship

**Sunday, June 8th**  
**Outdoor Service at**  
**Strouds Run**  
**Pentecost**  
10:30 a.m. - Worship

**Sunday, June 15th**  
**Trinity Sunday**  
**Father's Day**  
10:30 a.m. - Worship

**Sunday, June 22nd**  
**2nd Sunday after**  
**Pentecost**  
10:30 a.m. - Worship

**Sunday, June 29th**  
**3rd Sunday after**  
**Pentecost**  
10:30 a.m. - Worship

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

## From the Pastor....

Psalm 42:5-6

Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall again praise him,  
my help and my God.

One night late, years ago, a pastor friend of mine, over a few beers, began talking about what he went through when his wife left him, years before, an event that's not supposed to happen, and certainly not supposed to happen to pastors. In the end, it cost him his call at the church. He didn't blame her; he knew he'd had a hand in what happened himself, pastor or not.

At that late hour, with a bit of lubrication, I stayed with him when it appeared he wanted to talk. I sound as if I was using him, and maybe I was in a way; but what interested me was his use of a phrase I'd heard before: "It took me a long time to process that," he kept saying. "I didn't have the tools at first to process what had happened."

I'll admit I thought it was psychobabble, a cliché, an entirely strange word drawn from what we do to legislation or cheese. But the emotion he carried as he told me the story made me wonder what that pat expression meant in the context of his adultery. I wanted process unpacked.

By "process," he said, he meant becoming able to look at the wound and not cry or rage. Process, he said, meant stepping back from the immediacy of the emotions, a step that wasn't at all easy--and it took time, he said. And it took work. Like forgiveness.

It seems to me that in verse five of Psalm 42, the Psalm writer appears to have processed

something. The unforgettable opening verses of the psalm emerge from the core of his grief; but verse five steps back from the sadness that was threatening and begins speaking. "For heaven's sake," "what's with me anyway? Why am I so incredibly depressed?"

Then comes the alka seltzer and says what was obviously known for years and even sung in a whole psalter of their own thoughts and experiences, something the curtains of despair had seemingly covered: "Hope in God," the Psalmist declares, processing the sadness and grief.

And then the resolution. I picture the writer, gritting their teeth, almost a snarl, pulling intent and dedication out of the truth the knew, inside out: ". . .for I shall again praise him, my Savior and my God."

I may be wrong. Maybe there's a gap in this psalm. Maybe, like the pastor without a wife, it took some time to process the emptiness that was part of their life.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to consult some standard biography and discover that this song was finished months after it was started, that the writer of this Psalm is simply telling the story?

But we don't know that, and no one ever will. All we're left with the psalm. And in this verse—or so it seems to me, the writer seems to bottom out, to take hold of the promises of God they had relied on throughout their life, at a myriad of other moments when they stood in dire need of being rescued. "Hope in God," the writer says, in command form.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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In this verse, the story the poem tells is at its climax because the writer has stepped back to say, to shout, in fact, the truth into their own ears, and now ours. "I shall again praise him, my Savior and my God" [emphasis mine, but I think the Psalmist as well].

Sounds like a pastor friend of mine, talking to me over a beer years ago. Sounds like Job. Sounds like a lot of us.

~ Pastor Rob



### FPC Church Elders:

**2025** Adrienne Nagy, Andrew Stuart, and David Tees

**2026** Sharon Huge, Linda Parsons, Jane Woodrow, and Hugh Woods

**2027** Harvey Ballard, John King, Susan Loughridge, and Sandy Nesbitt

### FPC Board of Deacons:

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

**2026** Helen King, Joyce Mullins, Harold Robison, Riley Smoot, and Ayse Suer

**2027** Carolyn Allen, Margaret Bourke, Bobbi Conliffe, Lois Harkins, and Carol Perry



## June 2025 Worship

June 1 How the story ends

*First Reading Acts 16:16-34*

*Psalm Psalm 97:1-12*

***Second Reading Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21***

*Gospel John 17:20-26*

June 8 Outdoor Service/Pentecost

***First Reading Acts 2:1-21***

*Alternate First Reading Genesis 11:1-9*

*Psalm Psalm 104:24-34, 35b*

*Second Reading Romans 8:14-17*

*Alternate Second Reading Acts 2:1-21*

*Gospel John 14:8-17 (25-27)*

June 15 Trinity Sunday/Guided by truth

*First Reading Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31*

*Psalm Psalm 8:1-9*

*Second Reading Romans 5:1-5*

***Gospel John 16:12-15***

June 22 That all may be one

*First Readingv1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15a*

*Psalm Psalms 42 and 43*

***Second Reading Galatians 3:23-29***

*Gospel Luke 8:26-39*

June 29 We are sent

*First Reading 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14*

*Psalm Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20*

*Second Reading Galatians 5:1, 13-25*

***Gospel Luke 9:51-62***

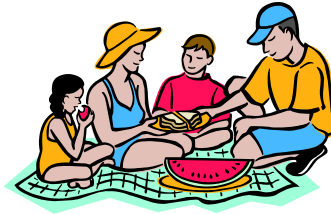


**FPC and Christian Education**  
**“What’s Going On - At a Glance”**

**Outdoor Worship and All-Church Potluck Picnic**

**Sunday, June 8th**

Outdoor worship service at the Bulldog Shelter at Stroud’s Run State Park.  
 Followed by “All Church Potluck Picnic”



First Presbyterian invites the community to its outdoor worship service and picnic on Sunday, June 8th. The event will be held at the Strouds Run State Park at the Bulldog Shelter House. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. with Potluck Picnic to follow. The Bulldog Shelter is the first shelter as you come into the park off County Road 20.

It is a 40' x 40' open shelter with paved floor, 12 picnic tables (Be sure and bring a lawn chair) and 30 parking spaces. The church will provide lunch meats, bread, buns, condiments, and drinks. Please bring lawn chairs and your table service.

If your last name begins with: A-H, please bring a salad  
 I-P, please bring a side dish  
 Q-Z, please bring a dessert

Look for more information in upcoming bulletins, Facebook page, and weekly email blasts.

**Children’s Sunday School**

Grade school and pre-school children are invited to attend Sunday School during Worship. The lessons during June will be covering Bible Basics to learn more about what is in the Bible. If you have questions or would like to help with a class, please contact Barb Martin at [barbaramartin729@msn.com](mailto:barbaramartin729@msn.com) or phone the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans and materials will be provided for all volunteer teachers.

**Children’s Vacation Bible School**

We will hold Vacation Bible School on Saturday, June 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be crafts, music, games, circle time, and of course, snacks and lunch. Contact Barbara Martin for more information at [barbaramartin729@msn.com](mailto:barbaramartin729@msn.com) or the church office at (740) 593-3351.

**Children’s Summer Events**

Fun children’s events for this summer are being planned. These could include hikes, train rides, picnics, movies, swimming, and other activities. If parents or grandparents have suggestions or know when children will be able to participate, please contact Richard or Joan at [christianed@athensfpc.org](mailto:christianed@athensfpc.org).

**Women’s Book Study**

In June, the Women’s Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom will be discussing the book *The Year of Living Biblically: One Man’s Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible* by A.J. Jacobs. For more information contact Joan Nease at [christianed@athensfpc.org](mailto:christianed@athensfpc.org)

**Upcoming Events**

*Father’s Day - June 15th*

*Independence Day - July 4th*

*Copperheads Faith Night at the Ball Park - date to be determined*



## Windows ON: FPC MISSION TRIP

Plans are underway for FPC's mission trip to West Virginia July 20-July 26th. We will be working in conjunction with WVMAW to serve the local population. Our past projects have included home repair, building decks and ramps, trash removal and clean-up, painting, renovating space for mission workers to stay while they participate in the work camps, and playground restoration, to name a few.

Volunteers are welcome to participate, whether for the entire week or a few days. We will be working out of the Point Pleasant, West Virginia outpost so it would be possible to drive down for a few days if the full week isn't an option since the location is fairly close.

The cost for the week long mission experience is \$300.00 per person, scholarships are available.

More than just working with hammers and nails, the groups have built relationships with people in West Virginia, changing their lives in the name of Jesus Christ.

For further information on the trip, contact Rev. Martin or call the church office at (740) 593-3351.



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

### ARC Camp-Geneva Hills June 28th-July 4th

Adults or children with developmental delays and who enjoy primitive camping and being outdoors, this camp is for you!

Participate in daily activities which include boating, fishing, swimming, hiking, crafts, hayrides, games and cooking. Stay for the week or just for a day. The cost is \$275 for the week or \$45 per day for day campers. This covers food, lodging, insur-

ance, t-shirt and activities.

The camp will be held at Geneva Hills, 1380 Blue Valley Road, Lancaster, Ohio 43130 from June 28th to July 4th.

We are also seeking volunteer camp staff who will oversee campers in daily living skills and participate in activities. For more information contact Nancy Dobbelaer at (740) 973-9565 or Sarah Bowles at (614) 344-8521.

You can also find us on our Face-

book page-ARC@Geneva Hills.

Don't miss the fun of ARC Camp 2025 edition!



## Windows ON: Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet from 10:00 a.m. to noon on June 18th at the Wyngate Clubhouse at The Plains. Lesson 9, *What Are These Women Doing In A Place Like This?* will be led by Lillian Dinos (we combined lessons 7 and 8 in May). Please let Martha Johnson know by August 15th if you would like a lesson booklet ordered for next year's study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*. Cost is \$15.00 plus postage payable when delivered. You are invited to join the study which meets the third Wednesday of each month (except January and February). Call Martha Johnson at (740) 707-9640 for more information.



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

1 - Michael Malesick	16 - Natalie Hunter Wittman
Naomi Mayer	17 - Ben Stewart
3 - Anne Kemmerle	Emilie Wood
Hilary Mullins Wright	21 - Don Stout
6 - Bryan Cornn	22 - Martha IZard
Don Jordan	Cathy Wright
8 - Stephanie Goldsberry	23 - Bob Stewart
Helen King	25 - Abigail Tadlock
Jane Woodrow	Carissa Yablinsky (Morrow)
10 - Guy Phillips	26 - David Tadlock
Gabriella Gaul	27 - Linda Parsons
11 - John Hauser	Tori Stephens
14 - Andrea Frohne	
15 - Marcia Key	

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

2 - John Hauser and Linda Parsons
4 - Harvey Ballard and Andrew Stuart
10 - Harold and Janice Robison
11 - Steve and Elizabeth Kramer
12 - Dan and Samantha Hauser
15 - Jeff and Pamela Brown
17 - Grant and Stephanie Stephenson
21 - Randy and Marla Longenecker
23 - Patrick and Megan Tegge
28 - Joe and Kathy Malesick

## Windows ON: Church Support Committee FINANCIAL REPORT

<b>Income and Expenses, 2025</b>			
Offering Budgeted for 2025	\$250,000	Offering Received to Date	\$121,877
Other Income Budgeted for 2025 (endowment, parking lot lease, Putnam apt. rent, interest)	\$187,000	Other Income Received to Date	\$72,855
<b>Total Income Budgeted 2025</b>	<b>\$437,000</b>	<b>Total Income (Received to Date)</b>	<b>\$194,732</b>
Current Assets (checking & petty cash)	-----	Total Cash on Hand	\$39,754
<b>Expenses Budgeted in 2025</b>	<b>\$468,739</b>	<b>Expenses to Date</b>	<b>\$143,409</b>
<b>Other Endowment and Contribution Activity in 2025</b>			
Special Offerings (Christmas Joy, Pentecost, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Peacemaking)	\$4,155	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.)	\$744	Disbursed to appropriate agency or group	
Gifts supporting AFPC Mission Projects	\$550	Used for AFPC mission work projects	
Offering gifts designated for the Discretionary Fund (Local Emergencies)	\$410	To be distributed by the Pastor for local emergencies	
Church World Service (Blanket Fund)	\$1,504	To be sent to Church World Service	
Koo/Borchert Endowment Fund Donations	\$0	Sent to Endowment Fund	
Memorial Gifts (Bratton)	\$688	Disbursed as directed by donors	



## Windows ON: Property Committee Activities THIS MONTH'S NEWS



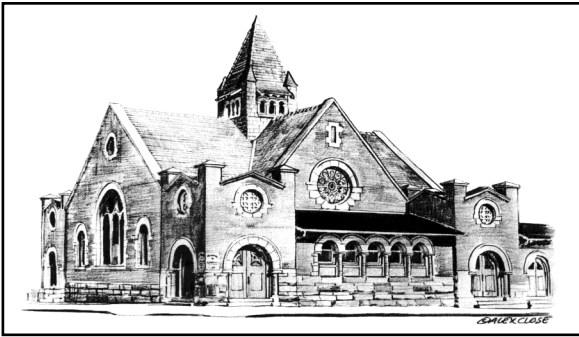
High winds in December caused damage to the church roof. Several of the ridge caps blew off. Additional damage was caused by high winds in March. Durable Slate Company fabricated and installed new ridge caps in May.



In April an HVAC contractor working in the alley between the City Building and the church accidentally damaged a storm window of the church. Pidcock Glass replaced the storm window at the contractor's expense.

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

**JUNE 2025**



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Fax: 740-593-3352

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Web: [athensfpc.org](http://athensfpc.org)

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

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



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

**Church:** Corner of Court and Washington Streets  
**Office:** 9 North College Street

**Office Hours:** Monday - Friday - 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Clerk of Session:** Andrew Stuart

**Choir Director:** David M. Tadlock

**Organist:** Janice Robison

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

**Administrative Assistant:** Debbie Perry

**Church Custodian:** Tom Medley

**Phone:** (740) 593-3351

**FAX:** (740) 593-3352

**E-Mail:** [office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)

**Web:** [www.athensfpc.org](http://www.athensfpc.org)

**Parking Lot Cell** (220) 252-6500

**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

**July 2025 Newsletter Deadline**  
**Tuesday, June 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 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.