

# PRESBYTERIAN PRESS



MAY 2023



Dear Church Family,

Pastor Steve announced that he is taking a leave of absence the entire months of May and June 2023. He will return on July 5<sup>th</sup> and will be in the pulpit on July 9, 2023. This leave was suggested by the personnel committee and approved by session. We believe this leave is important for Pastor Steve and our church. The role of pastor is not an easy one, it is a 24/7 job. The pastor is never off duty, even when he or she is off, they are still on. Ministry demands intense emotional commitment and requires on-going mental and physical energy. The continual sapping of the pastor's emotional, mental, and spiritual strength requires that the pastor continually replenish their supply. We believe this leave of absence will bring Pastor Steve personal nourishment to his soul, a deeper relationship with God, family renewal and a clearer understanding of God's vision for the church.

Pastor Steve will use this absence to spend time with his family, resting, studying, connecting with other pastors and prayer. Pastor Steve will not be present at church during this time except to attend graduation Sunday as a parent. In addition, Pastor Steve will have weekly contact with a member of Session so we can learn how he is doing.

As Pastor Steve embarks on this eight week leave of absence, the session will step in to fulfill his role in many ways. We are capable and ready to do this well. We, as a session, feel very positive about the preparation and plans that will be in place. The leadership and administrative responsibilities that fall to Pastor Steve will be shared by session members. Specifically, there will be two Elders on call each week of his absence to cover these responsibilities, and we have received commitments from ministers in our community who are willing to help if needed. The pulpit will be filled every Sunday with either Ministers of the Word and Sacrament or lay leaders from our church family. This information will be shared with you via email, the newsletter, View from the Pew and will be available to you in the office.

What can you do during this time? I would ask you to pray, encourage and support Pastor Steve and his family. Pray and think about the gifts you have been given to help the church during his absence. Perhaps you feel called to deliver the Children's message, serve as worship leader, provide special music, or work the sound board or audio-visual equipment or help in the church office. If you feel called to serve in any of these capacities, please contact Sara Stahler, who is chair of the Worship & Congregational Life Ministry Team. Please also pray for our church, attend regularly, invite others, and continue to give faithfully and generously. This is also a time that we can deepen and examine our relationship with God and our vision for First United Presbyterian Church of Bellefontaine.

**Remember you are the church. We are the church. We are the church together.**

Grace and Peace,

The Session.



## did YOU KNOW?

Birds come in so many varieties that it is only natural their species are used symbolically to describe many human conditions. Many birds are associated with certain human characteristics because of their coloring, birdsong or habits so they naturally inspire artists and songwriters.

Just as it is in other art forms – painting, poetry and dance, the imagery of birds in music has a long history. Finding inspiration and messages of hope, love, loss, happiness, joy and peace through music can lift our spirits and console us in times of trouble.

Not only have musical groups fashioned songs surrounding the avians, but some are also actually named after them! We have The Sandpipers, The Partridge Family, Counting Crows, The Black Crowes, The Flamingos, The Falcons, The Eagles, The Penguins, and A Flock of Seagulls.

Classical musicians have replicated bird sounds in their compositions using different instruments. Prokofiev used the flute and oboe to imitate a bird and a duck in "Peter and the Wolf", Vivaldi used the trilling of violins to emulate a cacophony of bird song in the "Spring" movement of "The Seasons" and "Carnivale of Animals" by Saint-Saens features an array of instruments to reproduce the sounds of swans, cuckoos, hens and roosters.

In 1942 the standard "Skylark" by Hoagy Carmichael and Johnny Mercer hit the pop charts four different times by four different orchestras, the highest reaching #5 begin sung by Dinah Shore. Mercer reportedly wrote the lyrics about his longing for Judy Garland, with whom he once had an affair.

In 1958, a Rock N' Roll Legend was born when Leon Rene wrote the song "Rockin' Robin". His wife had complained about a bird keeping her awake at night and she asked Leon to chase it away so she could get some sleep. His reply was "I couldn't unless I threw a rock at him."

Through the years many songs have continued to shine with an avian description.

"Blackbird" recorded by The Beatles, was written by Paul McCartney as a response to events in the civil rights movement, particularly the discrimination faced by nine young black students enrolled at Little Rock Central High School.

"Two Sparrows in a Hurricane" sung by country genres Tanya Tucker, was geared toward anyone who has overcome adversity. This interpretation was enhanced by an accompanying video telling a heartfelt story and dedicated to Tucker's parents.

From the soundtrack of "Mary Poppins", the Julie Andrews rendition of "Feed the Birds" wasn't a likely addition to the list of popular bird songs. However, in the context of the movie, this song is a sweet, gentle reminder of the dignity and humanity of everyone. The bird lady in the song becomes a symbol of sympathetic caring and giving.

Written in 1929, this hymn written by Albert Brumley has become the most recorded gospel song and is frequently used in worship services by many denominations of religion. "I'll Fly Away" has been recorded by more than five hundred musicians whether vocalists or instrumentalists. A standard at bluegrass jam sessions and often performed at funerals, this song evokes the topics of eternal life, heaven and acceptance.

Also a staple in the gospel world is "His Eye is on the Sparrow" whose theme was inspired by the words of David in the Psalms and Jesus in the Book of Matthew. "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than many sparrows".

Love the birds or not, it was definitely declared by The Trashmen in 1963, "The Bird is the Word".



# good news!!



Congratulations to our Youth member who were recently inducted into the National Honor Society, Bellefontaine High School Chapter. **WE ARE PROUD OF YOU Ella Costin, Emma Costin, Ellie Lloyd and Emily Taylor.**



Benjamin Logan High School student **Kelley Forsythe** is one of four budding scholars who presented individual science projects at District Science Day, earning honors and resulting in qualification for State Science Day!

Kelley earned Superior Honors with her project, "The Effects of Conservation Methods on the Distribution of Nutrients in the Soil Profile" and a full scholarship to ONUs Pathways STEM Camp: Best Chemistry project, Ohio Soybean Council. **CONGRATULATIONS KELLEY!!!**



The Bellefontaine Elementary School recently held its third Chieftain Leader ceremony. Among the students in grades K-2 is **Dori Jervis!!**

Twenty-three students were recognized for following the B-Block pledge every day. They pledge to be safe, be respectful and be a learner!

**GREAT JOB DORI!!!**



What girl doesn't love a Father/Daughter Dance??

**Matt and Nora McClelland** recently attended the dance hosted at the Indian Lake Schools.

I'm sure they danced the evening away!!



**Congratulations** to our Youth who were recently recognized at the Honda Academic Achievement Breakfast! Selected by teachers for outstanding qualities, leadership, and grades in the subjects of History, Government, Art, Music, Math, Science and Language the recipients are: Riverside High School – **Hayden McCully**-Geometry, **Rylee McCully**- Pre-Calculus, Bellefontaine High School – **Jorden Butler**-Band, **Sophie Adelsberger**- French, **Mekenzie Flora**- French, **Emily Taylor**- Spanish, **Kaeleigh Flora**- Geometry, **Ellie Lloyd**- Pre-Calculus.



Here's something to sing about!!

The **Bellefontaine High School Symphonic Choir** earned a Superior rating at the Ohio Music Education Association adjudicated event held in Tipp City.

The Choir has earned a Superior rating at this venue for eight years in a row!! **Congratulations to all!**





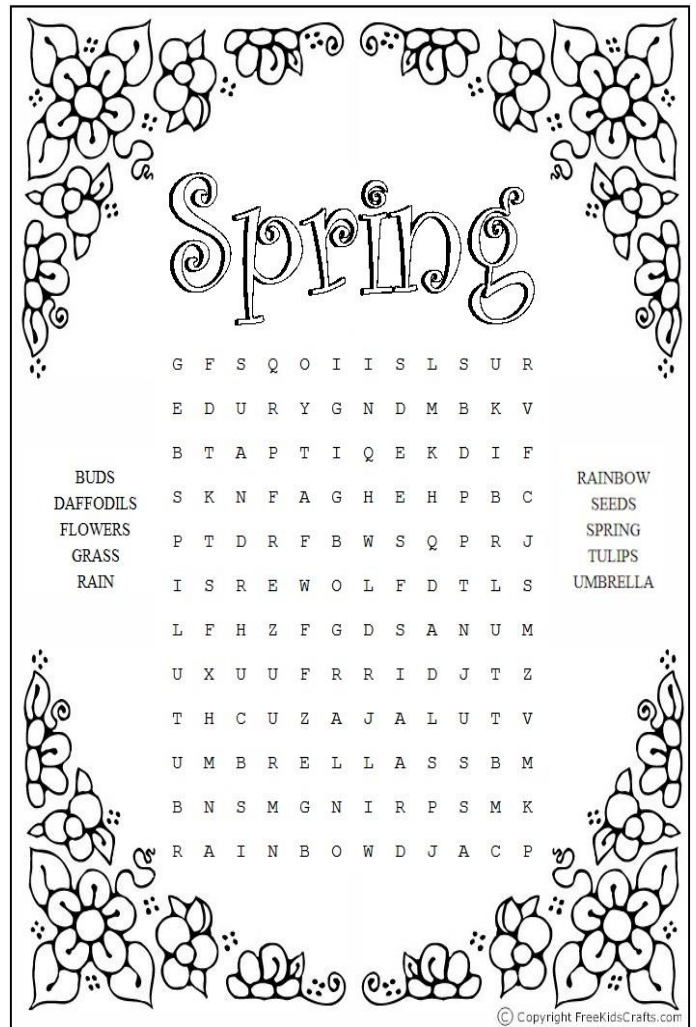
# THANK YOU'S!!

To our Dear Friends at First United Presbyterian Church,  
 It is the thoughtfulness of people like you that makes the world so bright! We are so grateful for your generous support of Soteria House!  
 -Debbie Brownlee

To First UPC PWA,  
 Thank you for your generosity! Your contribution has allowed us to further assist the clients we work with!  
 -Logan County Family Court

Thank you, First United Presbyterian Church, for your recent donation! National Safety Council Inc. takes pride in working with dedicated fire departments such as yours, who are committed to teaching your children and community vital fire safety and burn prevention. Your generosity will allow local firefighter to distribute these materials to a larger number of children and individuals in your area. On behalf of your local firefighters, parents, and their children, we thank you for recognizing the need for this type of life-saving program. Your donation may directly save the life of a child!

Sincerely, National Fire Safety Council





# THOSE NEEDING OUR SPECIAL PRAYERS!!

Evie Merrin  
Nancy Scouten  
Kim Reames

Joyce Core  
Riley Suman  
Jadyn Plaughter

Joan Smith  
Michelle Suman  
Makayla Brandyberry

The Albanos  
The Amidons



# WITH US IN SPIRIT...

Sue Albano 1409 Whispering Pines Lane Belleft. 43311  
Lois Ashworth 209 E. Glen Belleft. 43311  
Janet Brunke 4888 Co. Rd. #55 Belleft. 43311  
Barbara Bradford 221 School St. Belleft. 43311  
Bob Carter 6559 US Rt 68 S Memory Unit W. Liberty 43357  
Joyce Core 2450 Co. Rd. 118 Rushsylvania 43347  
Bud & Mona Eichholtz 1328 Omaha Belleft. 43311  
Anne Heinlen 741 E. Sandusky Ave. Belleft. 43311  
Talma Heydinger 709 Iroquois Rd. Belleft. 43311  
Vera Miller 7942 Tumblebrook Dr. Dunnellon Florida 34433  
Jo Mustaine 2739 Co. Rd. #91 \*326 Belleft. 43311  
Marcella Neeld 541 Center St. Belleft. 43311  
Nate Weber 608 Newford Dr. Belleft. 43311



They'd love to hear from you!



# CELEBRATING A BIRTHDAY!!

May 4: Suzie Neer  
May 5: Marcella Neeld,  
Riley Suman  
May 7: Joanne Ritter  
May 10: Nora McClelland  
May 12: Wanda Stahler  
May 13: Beth Powers  
May 19: Jameson Reed

May 20: Nancy Stokes  
May 21: Lynn Robinson  
May 23: Linda Costin  
May 27: Charles Oda  
May 28: Talma Heydinger  
Mary Ann Patterson  
May 29: Shawn Lloyd  
May 30: Chris Suman



# CELEBRATING A WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!!

May 4: Edson and Cindy Jenkins

May 5: Bob and Debbie Day



# COMMITTEE CALENDAR...



**Building Block Sunday** is May 7!!! Come and see what our children have been learning this year to earn themselves another block to add to their collection!!!



May 14 is **Mother's Day!** Join us to honor all the ladies of the church!



May 21 is Graduation Sunday! We will honor our four graduates!! **Sophie Adelsberger, Jordan Butler, Mekenzie Flora and Nova Merrin!** Coffee Hour, in honor of our graduates, will follow the Worship Service, sponsored by the **CE Committee!**



**Pentecost**, also known as Whitsunday, will be celebrated on May 28 this year. The word has its roots in the Greek word 'pentecoste,' which means '50th day.' Pentecost is a major festival in the Christian church and is celebrated by believers on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter. **WEAR RED!!**



**Our Daily Bread Bakers** deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the 3rd Monday of each month between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Our Daily Bread Bakers for **Monday, May 15:**

Sara Stahler..... Nancy Stokes    Celynn Taylor.... Judy Wical

Questions or concerns? Contact **Anne Brienza**



Friday May 12    6:00 – 8:00 pm

For kids ages 4 through 5th grade. **Friends are welcome.**

MS & HS teen leaders are also needed.

Dinner is provided. Suggested donation: \$4/child

This Year's Theme: *The Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5: 22-23)*





## AUDIO-VISUAL ---team---

**The Worship Committee needs YOU!!** We are looking for technicians for our sound setup and our video setup! Training will be given, as these are simple tasks!!

We are looking for people **of all ages** who will only need to commit one Sunday a month for these tasks of bringing our praises to God and to those watching at home!

If you are available to learn, please contact any member of the Worship Committee or email us at the church office [1stupc@bellefontainepres.com](mailto:1stupc@bellefontainepres.com).



The **Worship Committee** invites anyone to provide altar flowers in honor of or in memory of loved ones. If you would like to contribute to the beauty of the sanctuary with the gift of flowers, please call the church office at (937) 592-6611 or email [1stupc@bellefontainepres.com](mailto:1stupc@bellefontainepres.com) for available dates.



What is better than seeing the faces on our children each Sunday morning as they hear the Children's Message? You can be a part of that, bringing a short message or story and teaching them about the love of God. If you are available to offer a message to the kids, please contact any member of the **Worship Committee!!**



## MEETING IN MAY...

The CE Committee meets Wednesday May 3, 7:00pm in the Chapel.

The Deacons meet Tuesday May 9, 5:00pm in the Library.

The Mission Committee meets Tuesday May 9, 6:00pm in the Church Office.

The Worship Committee meets Tuesday May 9, 7:00pm in the Library.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee meets Monday May 15, 12:00pm in the Library.

The Church Growth and Member Care Committee meets Monday May 15, 5:30pm in the Library.

The Book Club meets Tuesday May 16, 6:30pm in the home of Karen Brady. This month's selection is "The Ride of Her Life" by Elizabeth Letts.

The Session meets Thursday May 18, 7:00pm in the Library.

The Property Committee meets Wednesday May 24, 7:00pm in the Chapel



## SERVING IN MAY...

**Deacons On-Call:** Pam Ark, Woody Amidon

**Welcome Team:** Mike Brady, Pat Ortli, Julie Pulfer, Andy Pulfer, Mac Smith

**Worship Leaders:**

May 7: Brad Flora    May 14: Bridget Hawkins    May 21: Holly VanBuskirk    May 28: Jack Costin





# FINANCIAL FOCUS...

April 2, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 10

Sunday School Attendance: 24

Worship Attendance: 46

Received To Date: \$49,671.38

Sunday School Offering: \$61.00

Weekly Giving: \$6,556.00

**-\$8,764.62**

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4174.00

Needed To Date: \$58,436.00

April 9, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 16

Sunday School Attendance: 22

Worship Attendance: 115

Received To Date: \$54,408.38

SonRise Service Attendance: 12

Sunday School Offering: \$83.00

Weekly Giving: \$4,737.00

**-\$8,201.62**

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4174.00

Needed To Date: \$62,610.00

April 16, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 8

Sunday School Attendance: 22

Worship Attendance: 39

Received To Date: \$56,553.38

Sunday School Offering: \$49.00

Weekly Giving: \$2,145.00

**-\$10,230.62**

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4174.00

Needed To Date: \$66,784.00

April 23, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 8

Sunday School Attendance: 36

Worship Attendance: 36

Received To Date: \$62,412.38

Sunday School Offering: \$33.05

Weekly Giving: \$5,859.00

**-\$8,5328.62**

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4174.00

Needed To Date: \$70,958.00

April 30, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 9

Sunday School Attendance: 40

Worship Attendance: 55

Received To Date: \$64,734.38

Sunday School Offering: \$52.00

Weekly Giving: \$2322.00

**-\$10,397.62**

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4174.00

Needed To Date: \$75,132.00



# FROM THE PRESBYTERY...

## Seeking Summer Camp Volunteers



In order to keep our summer camps affordable, we rely on the kindness and generosity of volunteers. Would you be interested in joining our team of wonderful volunteers and serving as a camp counselor (other positions may also be available) for a week?

For more information or to sign up, please contact us:

[kirkmontcenter.org](http://kirkmontcenter.org)  
[info@kirkmontcenter.org](mailto:info@kirkmontcenter.org)  
(937) 593-2141



All summer camp volunteers must fill out a volunteer application, provide information for a background check, and complete volunteer training. Age requirements and availability may differ from week to week.

## CALL FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

Kirkmont Center is looking for local artists who would like to display their artwork to be viewed by thousands at our beautiful Summer Camp and Retreat Center. From murals to recycled art, art in nature to graffiti art, we want it all! Text Sara at (937) 407-4437 for more information. (Additional contact information is below.)



Kirkmont Center  
6946 County Road 10  
Zanesfield, OH 43360

SUMMER  
2023

[kirkmontcenter.org](http://kirkmontcenter.org)  
[info@kirkmontcenter.org](mailto:info@kirkmontcenter.org)  
(937) 593-2141

## A Program About Dementia on May 6 from our friends at Springboro Covenant



### Effective Communication Strategies and Understanding & Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors

The Montgomery and Warren County Alzheimer's Association will present this educational program from 1:00-3:00 PM on Saturday, May 6 at **Covenant Presbyterian Church**, 415 N Main Street, Springboro.

As people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias progress in their journey, communication and dementia-related behaviors present many challenges. Families and care partners are often left to find new ways to respond and connect. Join us to learn strategies to effectively decode messages, respond and engage with diagnosed individuals at each stage in the journey as challenges with communication and behaviors arise.

This workshop is open to everyone.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

SAVE THE DATE  
Synod Presbyterian Women's Gathering  
August 4-5 in Findlay, Ohio

The Presbyterian Women in the Synod of the Covenant will hold their Annual Gathering, August 4-5 at First Presbyterian Church, Findlay. This year's theme is "Shining the Light on the PW Purpose."

The keynote speaker will be Presbyterian Women Mission Associate Cheri Harper.

More information and registration will be coming.





# LOOKING AHEAD...



**Our Daily Bread Bakers** deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the 3rd Monday of each month between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Our Daily Bread Bakers for **Monday, June 19:**

Katie Amidon .... Tara Bair     Karen Brady .... Anne Brienza

Questions or concerns? Contact **Anne Brienza**



**Coming in June!** The Church Growth and Member Care Committee will sponsor a multi-generational **PROGRESSIVE PICNIC!!**

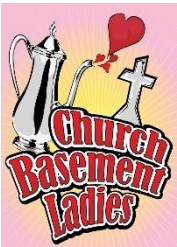
Plans are being made, so be on the lookout for more information on this fun event!!



**Coming in July!!** Vacation Bible School will be a group effort this year, between us, First United Methodist, First Lutheran and First Christian Churches!

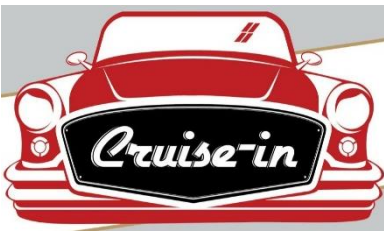
The First Christian Church will be hosting our youth beginning Sunday July 16 through Wednesday July 20 with evening sessions that will include dinner.

For any other information, please contact Kyle Lentz or any member of the CE Committee.



The Holland Theatre will present "Church Basement Ladies" beginning August 6! Plans are underway to go as a group to see this hilarious show!

We are hoping to add in lunch beforehand!! More information will be forthcoming!!



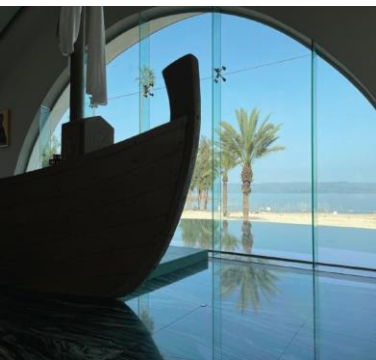
The **Mission Committee** will once again sponsor our food booth at the Top of Ohio Cruisers annual Hot Summer Nights Cruise In!!

Saturday August 9, 6:00 – 9:00pm. If you are available to help, please contact the Church Office at [1stupc@bellefontaineapres.com](mailto:1stupc@bellefontaineapres.com)!

## STUDY PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE NOVEMBER 5 – 17, 2023

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley and the Presbytery of the Miami Valley are co-sponsoring a study pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine with an optional extension to Jordan in November 2023.

The trip, which will be led by the Rev. Mary-Gene Boteler and the Rev. Dr. Rick Nutt, will involve traveling to sacred sights and engaging with church and community leaders. Participants should expect to engage in a series of study sessions in preparation for the trip. Registration will be limited to 20. For additional information, contact the Rev. Boteler at [mgboteler@gmail.com](mailto:mgboteler@gmail.com)







Each month, the **Board of Deacons** encourages you to help meet the needs of our 1<sup>st</sup> UPC family through your donation to our **2-Cents-of-Compassion Offering**. Your donation will support the Deacons in their effort to support those members of our church who are in need. Donate 2 cents (or more) for every compassionate thought you have had in the last month and place it in the "2 Cents of Compassion" envelope included in Sunday's bulletin.

**Our Lord Jesus said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."**

**DINNER AT THE PRES!** We are coming back!! A trial dinner will be held in June to see what the needs are for the community. In the meantime, Our Daily Bread will need our help with serving on the last Tuesday of each month. Four or five volunteers are needed. If you are available to help, please contact Evelyn at 937-592-6325!



**God is not unjust; he will not forget your work  
and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people  
and continue to help them.**



Through the **Community Cash Program**, shop at Community Market (2 locations, North Main St. and East Sandusky Ave.), bring in your receipts and place them in the Donation Centers outside the sanctuary (Narthex) or in the Fellowship Hall. A portion of your sale will support 1<sup>st</sup> UPC's Sharing Fund, providing assistance to our church families as needed.

**Use your Kroger Reward Card and support Youth Mission Trips!**

To make an automatic donation with your Kroger Plus Card, go to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com). Log in or set up a new account. Our "NPO" (non-profit organization) ID number is **HD313** and is listed as First (not 1<sup>st</sup>) United Presbyterian Church. Each year, 1<sup>st</sup> UPC folks who have named 1<sup>st</sup> UPC as their charity contribute \$800-\$1000 a year to support our youth mission trips.



**It only takes a little on your part – but it sure helps our community a lot!**

