

Presbyterian Press



Dog Days of Summer

August 2023



A Note from the Pastor...

¹²Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah, and named it Ebenezer; for he said, "Thus far the LORD has helped us."

1 Samuel 7:12, NRSV

Here I raise mine Ebenezer;
hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Dear Members & Friends of 1stUPC,

As I sit down to write this *Pastor's Page* for the *August Newsletter*, I have my favorite hymn on my mind: *Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing*. The second verse begins with a Biblical reference in which the Prophet Samuel raises an Ebenezer (literally meaning a stone of help) in thanksgiving for God's faithfulness in seeing Israel through a very dark time in their history. It is a little like a monument to the faithfulness of God. I love the imagery, and the language, it is poetry to me, and it makes my soul sing (as well as my voice).

I know I have preached a sermon about this sometime over the last four and a half years, but I think it is in-order to repeat myself. 1st United Presbyterian Church's building itself is an Ebenezer, testifying to the faithfulness of God to this Presbyterian flock here in Bellefontaine! It is my deepest wish and prayer that that fount of God's blessing would pour down upon you the wonderful people that constitutes this body of Christ.

Please join me in praying for the continued help, guiding, empowering, and blessing of God into the future.

In Christ,

Rev. Steve Merrin



Did You Know...

The “Dog Days” of summer are from July 3 to August 11 each year. They’re usually the hottest and most unbearable days of the season. We often hear about the “Dog Days” of summer, but few know where the expression originated. Some think it’s a reference to the hot, sultry days that are “not fit for a dog.” Others suggest it’s the time of year when the extreme heat drives dogs mad. But where does the term come from? And what does it have to do with dogs? You may be surprised to see it has to do with the stars!

The phrase is a reference to Sirius, the **Dog Star**. During the “Dog Days” period, the Sun occupies the same region of the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of Earth. Sirius is a part of the constellation Canis Major, The Greater Dog. In the summer, Sirius rises and sets with the Sun. On July 23rd, specifically, it is in conjunction with the Sun, and because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the Sun’s warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as dies caniculares, or “dog days.”

Thus, the term Dog Days of Summer came to mean the 20 days before and 20 days after this alignment of Sirius with the Sun—July 3 to August 11 each year.

While this period usually is the hottest stretch of summer, the heat is not due to any added radiation from Sirius, regardless of its brightness. The heat of summer is simply a direct result of the Earth’s tilt. During summer in the Northern Hemisphere, the tilt of the Earth causes the Sun’s rays to hit at a more direct angle, and for a longer period of time throughout the day. This means longer, hotter days.

What do the “Dog Days” of summer mean to you?

If you plan to take a vacation during this time, read some of our great ideas to stay cool:

The following foods work to help your body regulate its temperature and keep you cooler: mushrooms, cucumbers, citrus fruit, lemon balm, lettuce, and mint. Spicy foods can also help by causing you to sweat more. As the sweat evaporates, it cools you down. Snacking on frozen melon cubes or berries is also a smart way to cool down. And check out basil seeds! They’re used in drinks in India because they help keep your body cool!

Stay hydrated by sipping from a water bottle throughout the day. Aim for at least a half-gallon over the course of a day. If you sweat a lot, throw a sports drink or two into the mix to replace lost electrolytes. If you’re tired of water, natural fruit juices are a good alternative (and make great frozen drinks, too, for additional cooling benefits). Add a few mint leaves for a super-cooling treat. Just avoid excess caffeine or alcohol, which can dehydrate you.

Swimming is a great way to cool off on hot days. It works because, when we get wet, the water evaporates from our skin, taking heat with it. If you can’t get to a pool or swimming hole, you can achieve this same result with a shower or bath, or just by wetting your hair. Soaking your feet or even just running cold water over each of your wrists for 10 seconds can also help.

Your body’s main temperature sensor is located on the back of your neck. If you have long hair, wear it up to let breezes reach this area. If you’re going to sit by a fan, make sure it blows onto the back of your neck. A cool compress over this area will also go a long way to helping you feel cooler.



Good News!!!

It's a GIRL!!



Welcome to the world, Claire Miriam Kennedy!!



Congratulations to the Flora sisters!! **Mekenzie** and **Kaeleigh Flora** were recent participants at the United States Tumbling nad Trampoline Nationals held in Illinois! Representing Gloria's Tumbling and Trampoline team, these siblings earned National Champion Honors in the synchronized sub advanced trampoline portion of the meet!

In addition Mekenzie received a scholarship to help further her education!!

Way to go girls!! Keep up the good work!!

What a wonderful day for such a special lady!! There was a wonderful turnout for the Coffee Hour to honor Marge Hines on the occasion of her 90th birthday. A family tribute and a CAKE!! What more do you need??

Happy Birthday Marge!!

(I really think someone counted wrong, there is no way she is 90!!)



The Kennedy girls have once again begun their rounds of the Logan County Fair, with **Kendra** Kennedy taking home the top prize of Grand Champion Tom and Overall Turkey Champion in the Market Turkey categories! The Toms name is Greg, who is a partner to hen Marsha.

Also placing in their classes were **Lauren** Kennedy, 3rd in Market Turkey Hens, the hen is Cindy and her counterpart is Bobby. **Lauren** and **Hailey** Kennedy each placed 2nd in their classes in the Market Turkey categories!! Hailey's turkeys are Jan and Peter. That's quite a BUNCH.

In addition, Kendra was honored as an Outstanding Junior Fair Board Member, Hailey placed 1st in the Horse Skill-A-Thon, and Lauren received Reserved Best of Show in the Open Photography Class.



Kendra



Hailey



Lauren

Also from the Kennedy clan, are grandsons, Xavier and Zayden Wilson! Xavier entered his Market Turkeys "Jack" and "Jazy" and participated in the Junior Showmanship class. Zayden was 4th place in his Market Turkey class with "Noah". Both boys entered the Barnyard Olympics and helped at the Lamb and Pork stand. Great job guys!!!



Zayden



Xavier



MANY, MANY THANKS to all of our volunteers who help with this years, Vacation Bible School!!

See you next year!!

Rosco the Snake is alive (sort of) and well and living in Brown Park!! Now, Rosco is not your ordinary snake. He is a creation from the kids who are enjoying **KIDS TALK** on Sunday mornings! Led by **Pam Ark, Betty Lloyd** and **Brenda Oda**, the kids painted rocks. And not just any rocks! Rocks of all shapes and sizes, some with spots or stripes, some with singular words that encourage those looking upon them to pray! After a week of drying time, the kids took a field trip to Brown Park to install Rosco next to the new Police Memorial. The best part about Rosco?? You can add to him!! Find yourself a nice rock, paint it up and add it to Rosco's ever changing tail!!



Nora

The Lentz Family spent a week of new adventures at the Logan County Fair! Both Evelyn and Nora took a turn at showmanship with barrow hogs. What a great way to get started!!

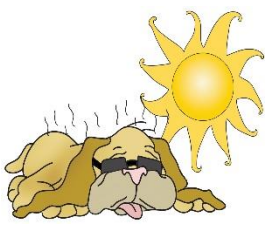


Evelyn

Scarlett had many projects! During the Pre-Fair Swine evaluation, Scarlett received an Excellent! She showed both of her pigs, Boa and Hay-Hay in the Showmanship Event. In showing her Dairy Beef Feeder "Olaf", she was 4th in her class and 8th in the General Livestock Judging, Junior Division. Her Dairy Beef Feeder "Sven" was sold at the Livestock Auction with proceeds which will help Scarlett in the future as she moves closer to her dream of being Dr. Lentz! And if that isn't enough, she was able to help a new 4-H friend with her goat!



Benny was there too!! Keeping all the girls occupied!



Thank you's!!!

I want to thank everyone that signed by 81st Birthday Poster, I was a real pleasant surprise when I came home from Lake Erie. A really nice touch to my Birthday celebration. Looking forward to seeing all of you come October.
~ Caroline Notestine

1st UPC Deacons! Thank you all for the card that you gave me! You hugs have supported me all mylife and I am thankful for the church that I have to come back to! ~Mekenzie Flora

Dear Presby Friends,
You're the best party givers I know!!! Thanks to all who helped any way (it must have been many) in making my 90th such a pleasure... from food, decorations, cards and kind words; all were much appreciated..... LUCKY ME!! Blessings to all who participated. Sincerely, Marge Hines



Those Needing Our Special Prayers...

Evie Merrin
Carl Wunderle
The Albanos
Kathy Powers
Tom Snapp

Tina Deardurff
Mona Eichholtz
Jadyn Plaughter
Sherri Ullom

The Amidons
Nancy Scouten
Makayla Brandyberry
Kathy Jo Putt



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
Jo Mustaine 2739 Co. Rd. #91 *326 Belleft. 43311
Marcella Neeld 541 Center St. Belleft. 43311
Nate Weber 608 Newford Dr. Belleft. 43311



“August is ripening grain in the fields blowing hot and sunny, the scent of tree-ripened peaches, of hot buttered sweet corn on the cob. Vivid dahlias fling huge tousled blossoms through gardens and joe-pye-weed dusts the meadow purple.”
-Hersey



Celebrating A Birthday In August...

August 3: Betty Lloyd, Matt McClelland
 August 5: Sue Crawfis, Evan Standley
 Rob Shields
 August 8: Andy Pulfer
 August 11: Bob Core
 August 16: Jeannie Lloyd
 August 17: Celynn Taylor, Jill Butler

August 18: Carol Smith, Kaitey Chervenak
 August 21: Katie Amidon
 August 22: Mac Smith, Eva Rinehart, Jon Hines
 August 23: Karen Brady, Andy Wunderle
 August 24: Debbie Day
 August 26: Holly VanBuskirk
 August 27: Evelyn Lentz



Celebrating A Wedding Anniversary In August...

August 1: Lauren and Michael Burkhardt August 4: Kyle and Becky Lentz
 August 10: Andy and Robyn Wunderle
 August 15: Rob and Vicky Shields August 20: Art and Betty Lloyd



Committee Calendar...



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 upcoming Daily Bread Bakers for August 21 are:
 Bridget Hawkins.....Natasha Kennedy
 Mary Jane Lane.....Betty Lloyd



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 **Sara Stahler**.



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 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!**



END OF SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES!



The annual Hot Summer Nights Cruise In is slated for Saturday, August 12 and once again the **Mission Committee** will be selling hot dogs, brats, shredded chicken, **PIE** and other goodies!!

Selling of the food will begin at 4:30pm and continue until we are out! You can see many classic cars and vendors in the downtown area! Come on down and take a stroll through the area!!

We are in need of donations of bottled water as well as homemade fruit PIES to sell!! We will also need a few volunteers to help us reach out to the crowd!! If you are available to help in any way, please contact Vicky Shields or any member of the Mission Committee! THANK YOU!!



Mark your calendar for Sunday August 27!!

The CE Committee is sponsoring a FREE DAY at Kirkmont for our church!!

The Kirkmont staff has graciously offered to give us a free day to enjoy the pool!! They will provide the lifeguard!! What could be better from a place we should all visit more often!!!

Our schedule will be as follows:

2:00 – 4:30pm SWIMMING and GAMES TO BE ENJOYED!!

4:30 – 6:00 We will have a carry-in dinner at the Shelter House!
Meat will be provided, you bring a side dish to share!!



Come and sit in the sunshine, take a dip in the pool, play some games and have some great food!!

Any questions? Please contact the church office at 1stupc@bellefontainepres.com or 937-592-6611!!



Meeting In August...

The **CE Committee** meeting time is to be determined.

The **Deacons** will not meet in August.

The **Mission Committee** meets Tuesday August 8, 6:00pm in the Church Office.

The **Worship Committee** meets Tuesday August 8, 7:00pm in the Library.

The **Stewardship and Finance Committee** meets Monday August 14, 12:00pm in the Library.

The **Church Growth and Member Care Committee** meets Monday August 14, 6:00pm in the Library.

The **Book Club** meets Tuesday August 15, 6:30pm in the home of Betty Lloyd. The Selection for this month is "An Altar in the World" by Barbara Taylor Brown.

The **Session** meets Thursday August 17, 7:00pm in the Library.

The **Property Committee** meets Wednesday August 23, 7:00pm in the Gym.



Serving In August...

Deacons On-Call: Pam Ark, Holly VanBuskirk

Welcome Team: Bridget Hawkins, Cindy Jenkins, Holly VanBuskirk

Worship Leaders:

August 6: Ruth Bowden

August 13: Jack Costin

August 20: Bridget Hawkins

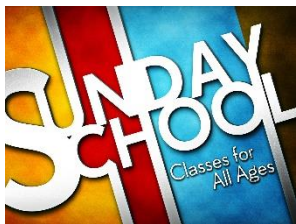
August 27: Sara Stahler



Coming Soon...

The Kickoff for Sunday School 2023 – 2024 is September 10!!!

More information to come!!



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 upcoming Daily Bread Bakers for September 18 are:

Bonnie Conley.....Becky Coy

Nancy Farrington.....Patty Fitzpatrick



financial focus...

July 2, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 9

Sunday School Attendance: 23

Worship Attendance: 53

Received To Date: \$93,169.44

Sunday School Offering: \$56.35

Weekly Giving: \$4,869.00

-\$19,528.56

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,174.00

Needed To Date: \$112,698.00

July 9, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 8

Sunday School Attendance: 30

Worship Attendance: 45

Received To Date: \$97,146.44

Sunday School Offering: \$33.25

Weekly Giving: \$3,977.00

-\$19,725.56

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,174.00

Needed To Date: \$116,872.00

July 16, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 0

Sunday School Attendance: 32

Worship Attendance: 67

Received To Date: \$99,259.44

Sunday School Offering: \$33.25

Weekly Giving: \$2,113.00

-\$21,786.56

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,174.00

Needed To Date: \$121,046.00

July 23, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 9

Sunday School Attendance: 30

Worship Attendance: 56

Received To Date: \$106,194.82

Sunday School Offering: \$41.88

Weekly Giving: \$6,935.38

-\$19,025.18

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4,174.00

Needed To Date: \$125,220.00



From The Presbytery...



When Christ's disciples travel together, we integrate faith and reflection with first-hand experience.

[Oxford Presbyterian Church](#), Oxford, invites those throughout the presbytery family to join them for a learning journey - the "Essence of England" from May 28 - June 5, 2024. The group leader for the tour will be the Rev. **Lawrence Bartel**, Pastor of Oxford Presbyterian Church.

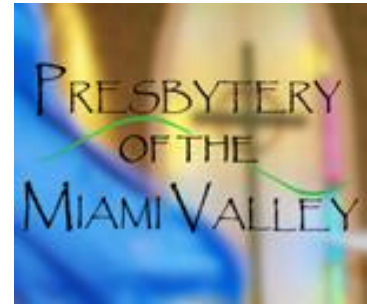
This journey is designed to be open and inclusive of all across the Christian tradition with London, Canterbury, Oxford, and Bath as destinations.

Early bird discounts are available for those who register by August 6.

Please contact OPC by [email](#) or phone at 513-523-6364 with your interest, questions, or request for a printed brochure to be mailed to you.

Feel free to share this news with your congregation through bulletins, newsletters and more.

We hope all will consider joining us on this exciting journey to England's "green and pleasant land."



Presbytery of the Miami Valley

4417 Bigger Rd.

Dayton, OH 45440

www.miamipresbytery.org





Each month, the **Board of Deacons** encourages you to help meet the needs of our 1st 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! Plans are being made for the next dinner, Tuesday August 29!! A sponsoring Committee is needed! If your Committee would like to step up, please contact Vicky Shields! 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 1st 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. Log in or set up a new account. Our "NPO" (non-profit organization) ID number is **HD313** and is listed as First (not 1st) United Presbyterian Church. Each year, 1st UPC folks who have named 1st 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!



Summer Word Search

Q Q P O F Q J K G V Y X W D F A M F N Z L T A C
N J C P P L D P B D H J D O T N Q E V N U F U G
L E F H X Y B E A C H J Z Z L X U A O U X N Q Z
K J W S T O W B S P M G D M O F K M P Q L H N D
D D H G C T W F K N U C K E F Z Q R O C Y Z N T
S U N G L A S S E S S H N Z Z E O A O V V C A Y
M S U N N Y H R D Z O M E M T F L W L P J N O I
D N O I T O L N U S G N L G S R E G R U B M A H
U M O O E M Y S L N P B R R L C Z X G F L B Q B
T I E G S T L O O H C S O N E E D I S T U O P F
N N I F L I P F L O P S E N U S T M K A U X P Y
E W L H F S Z O G A M N Q R Z G Q N H G B J N C
M J U L L U M U W J L E A C Q N H N E O R Y P E
F Q A U L Z Q G X Y O S C D N A S Q S G F T A G
Q C I M W T L X K I K S U A I C E C R E A M S L
H G T W Q A N O I T A C A V P K X P W T Q E G E
U C C T R V V E Z R T T E M E F P A P E R F O R
Z K M P S D S G X E U W N E Q R Q H N C S W D X
Z R O O A A I D I T C Q I G S W I M M I N G T R
N P F M N K G Q P A X B H A L V A H B X H V O W
E Y I Y D D Q B B W P R S A C B X V X P K W H I
L K E F L Z I V O H C U N G G A S T E N T T S X
Y T N I E X J P C F R Z U M O Y E M L L T E R H
A P T V S E O W F S Z A S K L K T A Z F K H I N

Swimming
Hamburgers
Sun Lotion
Warm
Sun

Sand
Sunshine
No School
Fun
Water

Flip Flops
Outside
Icecream
Vacation
Sandles

Hot Dog
Pool
Sunny
Sunglasses
Beach