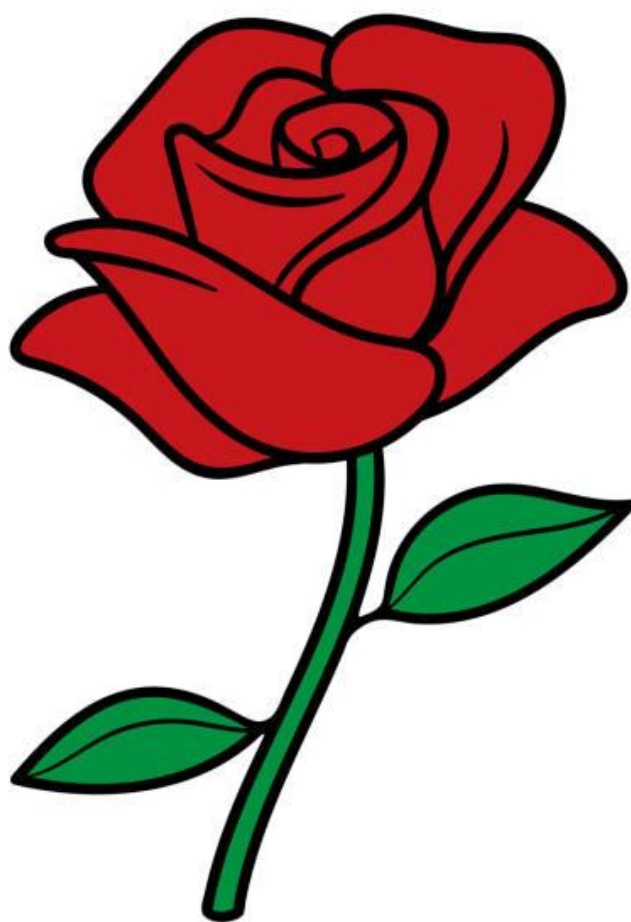


PRESBYTERIAN PRESS



FEBRUARY 2024

January Session Hi - lights

Session met on Thursday January 18th with all elders in attendance. The session voted to recommend Holly Core as an elder filling a one-year term. She will be presented to the congregation for approval at the January 28th congregational meeting.

The recommended changes to the By-Laws went out to the congregation and a couple needed corrections were noted. (Thank you) The final version of the by-laws was approved and will be presented for vote at the congregational meeting.

Session members on the interview committee are actively making progress having had a couple conversations with potential candidates as our temporary pastor. We are working through the Presbytery process. Using endowment funds the finance committee was able to budget for a full-time pastor this year. We are hopeful that giving will increase & we can continue with a full-time pastor in the years to come.

Session approved the use of our gym by the Downtown Business Association for a bounce house during the Winter Wonderland event on Saturday January 20th.

We have had no response for our need for a nursery attendant. It was suggested that we attempt to fill the nursery with volunteers from our congregation. The more volunteers, the less time needed.

It was noted all mail to our church requires our P.O Box 579 as well as our street address 117 N. Main St.

Church Growth & Member Care has organized a Winter Family Carnival on Saturday February 10th from 12:00 – 2:00.

There will be a Family Game Day on Saturday March 9th from 12:00 – 2:00

Looking ahead at possible activities during the eclipse. The Women's Association will be selling eclipse glasses starting at our February coffee hour.

Christian Education is looking at incentive programs getting points for those children attending Sunday School, working on building blocks and being an acolyte. Different incentives are being discussed.

Kids night out is starting back up quarterly. First night will be Thursday February 29th highlighting leap year.

Session will meet again Thursday February 22nd at 7:00 p.m.



Did you know?

"A rose by any other name would smell as sweet. . ."

-Wm. Shakespeare

It's no wonder that roses have been referenced in literature and music for centuries. Archaeologists have discovered rose fossils that date back 35 million years. Even more shocking, the oldest living rose is 1,000 years old. This impressively enduring rose grows on a wall on the Hildesheim Cathedral in Germany.

Who knew looking pretty in a vase wasn't the only way to use roses in the kitchen? Their petals are edible and rose water (made from soaking the petals in water) is often added to jellies or jams, or is used as flavoring in Indian and Chinese dishes. Roses also grow a berry-shaped fruit called rose hips. The fruit can be orange, red, dark purple, or even black. Rose hips are packed with vitamin C and can be used in cocktails or dried to create a refreshing tea.

WARNING!

Never eat petals from a standard florist rose because the pesticides commonly used on them are not approved on food.

You know the saying: Stop and smell the roses. Well, roses weren't chosen for this phrase by chance; their lovely aroma is a popular floral scent and is even used in many women's perfumes. Specifically, rose *oil* has been an important ingredient in the perfume industry for centuries. The process of extracting rose oil from flowers requires a huge amount of roses; just one gram of oil is produced from two thousand roses.

You probably could name the U.S. national bird (hint: It's on the back of the quarter), but you might not know the national flower: The rose. In 1986, President Ronald Reagan declared the rose the national flower emblem of the U.S. He even did so while standing in the famous White House Rose Garden. Various varieties of roses are also the state flower of Georgia, Iowa, New York, North Dakota, and Washington, D.C.

If you aren't keen on the classic red rose that appears in movies and Valentine's Day cards, you're in luck; there are over 10 beautiful colors of roses, all with specific meanings. Besides red roses symbolizing love and romance, pink roses exude grace and elegance. The vibrant color of the yellow rose represents friendship and cheer. On a more somber note, white roses signify sympathy, which is why you might often see them at funerals. However, white roses can also represent purity, spirituality, and innocence. For your next congratulatory bouquet (maybe for a graduate or new hire) offer orange roses. They represent enthusiasm.



Good News!

Choir Senior Spotlight

ELLA COSTIN



PARENTS: DR. LINDA & SCOTT COSTIN



CHOIR 2 YEARS IN



Other Activities: Swim & Track

After Graduation plan to: Attend College to earn a degree in General Music Education

Favorite Story: Being asked to play in musical Pit

If I were the Choir director for the day I would: Let everyone go out to lunch

Person who encouraged you to be in Choir (Explain why): Mr. Henry encouraged me to be in choir because I played drums for a few songs before.

Advice to underclassmen in Choir: Never take any moment for granted it all goes by so fast.



Musical

Favorite Musical:
The Little Mermaid

Favorite Part of Musical:
Playing my Drums

Favorite Story:
Meeting all the professional music players.

MUSIC GROUPS: MARCHING BAND SYMPHONIC BAND PEP BAND

MUSICAL ORCHESTRA

SYMPHONIC CHOIR

JAZZ BAND

Choir Senior Spotlight

EMILY TAYLOR



PARENTS: ADAM AND LEANN TAYLOR



CHOIR 4 YEARS IN



Other Activities: golf, dare, interact, chieftain leaders, nhs, yearbook, fca

After Graduation plan to: attend a 4 year university

Favorite Story: seeing frozen the musical last year

If I were the Choir director for the day I would: sing songs from my favorite musicals

Person who encouraged you to be in Choir (Explain why): Mrs. Calton because I wanted to be in her class since I had her as an elementary music teacher



Musical

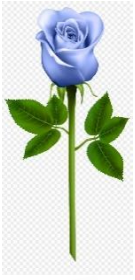
Favorite Musical:
The Little Mermaid

Favorite Part of Musical:
performing, singing and dancing!

MUSIC GROUPS: SYMPHONIC CHOIR MUSICAL ORCHESTRA



CONGRATULATIONS to our youth who found themselves on the most recent school HONOR ROLL!! Zoe Jervis, Kaeleigh Flora, Emma Costin, Ella Costin, Emily Taylor, Cole McClelland, Calen McClelland!!



Thank you's!

Dear First United Presbyterian, Please accept this donation in memory of Linda Hanson. She and the family had very fond memories of being at 1st UPC. Your kindness in preparing a meal means so much to us! ~Amy Hanson Murphy



Those needing our special prayers!

Jadyn Plaugher
Nancy Scouten
Shirley Ritter
Tina Deardurff
Sherri Ullom

Layla Deardurff
Carl Wunderle
Kris Sutterfield
The Morrisons
Karen Baker Primavera

Betty Kindell
Mark Brienza
Rose Gunkle
The Albanos

Cameron Deardurff
Vicki Shafer
The Amidons
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
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
Marcella Neeld 541 Center St. Belleft. 43311
Nate Weber 608 Newford Dr. Belleft. 43311



SEND A CARD
TO MAKE THEIR DAY!



Celebrating a Birthday!

February 3: Olivia Eader
February 4: Byron Fullerton
February 6: Becky Weber
February 7: Joan Smith
February 12: Hannah Suman

February 14: Barbara Neff
February 16: Joyce Core, June Coil, Pam Ark
February 17: Caroline Eader, Rod Bair
February 20: Bridget Hawkins
February 21: Michelle Suman



Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary!

February 25: Andy and Natasha Kennedy



Committee Calendar!



The Highland Ringers Handbell Choir will sponsor the **February Coffee Hour** Sunday, February 4, immediately following the Worship Service!

Join us for sweet treats, neat friends and fun fellowship!



The **Stewardship and Finance Committee** will hold their annual In House Audit, Saturday February 10, 9:00am in the kitchen!



The Church Growth and Member Care Committee will sponsor the Second Annual **Winter Wonderland Carnival**, Saturday February 10, 12:00 – 2:00pm.

There will be games, prizes and fun for all ages!! BRING A FRIEND!!



The **Ash Wednesday** Service this year will be Wednesday February 14. More information will be forthcoming as we move into the Season of Lent.



The **Church Office** will be closed Monday February 19, in observance of President's Day!



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.

February 19

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



Kids Night Out will kick off for the year, Thursday February 29! Bring your friends and leap right into the fun!! Our fun time will begin at 5:30pm and end at 7:00pm!! There will be SNACKS!! All kids are invited to attend!!!



Meeting in February!

The **Church Growth and Member Care Committee** meets Sunday February 4, in the Library, following the Worship Service.

The **CE Committee** meets Wednesday February 7, 5:00pm in the Library.

The **Stewardship and Finance Committee** meets Saturday February 10, 9:00am in the Kitchen for the Annual In-House Audit.

The **PWA Leadership** meets Sunday February 11, in the Library, following the Worship Service.

The **Deacons** meets Tuesday February 13, 5:00pm in the Library.

The **Mission Committee** meets Tuesday February 13, 6:00pm in the Office.

The **Worship Committee** meets Tuesday February 13, 7:00pm in the Library.

The **Session** meets Thursday February 15, 6:00pm in the Library.

The **Book Club** meets Tuesday February 20, 6:30pm, in the Chapel Lounge.

The **Property Committee** will not meet in February.



Serving in February!

Deacons On-Call: Betty Lloyd, Andy Wunderle

Elders On-Call:

February 7: Vicky Shields

February 14: Nancy Wisse

February 21: Karen Brady

February 28: Carla Murdock

Welcome Team: Nancy Wisse, Sue Crawfis, Ben Stahler

Worship Leaders:

February 4: Vicky Shields

February 11: Carla Murdock

February 18:

February 25: Mark Butler

Church Open and Close

February 4: Anne Brienza, Beth Powers

February 11: Anne Brienza, Beth Powers

February 18: Anne Brienza, Beth Powers

February 25: Anne Brienza, Beth Powers



Financial Focus. . .

January 7, 2024

On-Line Attendance: 6

Sunday School Attendance: 21

Worship Attendance: 58

Received To Date: \$8,248.38

Sunday School Offering: \$37.00

Weekly Giving: \$8,248.38

Needed Weekly:

Needed Weekly:

Needed To Date:

January 14, 2024

On-Line Attendance: 19

Sunday School Attendance: 15

Worship Attendance: 110

Received To Date: \$12,019.38

Sunday School Offering: \$24.00

Weekly Giving: \$3,771.00

Needed Weekly:

Needed Weekly:

Needed To Date:

January 21, 2024

On-Line Attendance: 22

Sunday School Attendance: 23

Worship Attendance: 55

Received To Date: \$14,224.38

Sunday School Offering: \$41.00

Weekly Giving: \$2205.00

Needed Weekly:

Needed Weekly:

Needed To Date:

January 28, 2024

On-Line Attendance: 13

Sunday School Attendance: 23

Worship Attendance: 61

Received To Date: \$16,622.38

Sunday School Offering: \$41.00

Weekly Giving: \$2,398.00

Needed Weekly:

Needed Weekly:

Needed To Date:



Looking Ahead!

Kid's coloring CONTEST

The **Church Office** will sponsor a Kid's Coloring Contest in March!! Ages 5 through 13 may choose a picture to color! Beginning March 1, pictures may be picked up in the church office or will be available on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

There will be prizes for each age group 5 – 6 years of age, 7 – 9 years of age, 10 – 13 years of age. The winners will be displayed on the Narthex Bulletin Board during the month of April as well as being a feature in the April Newsletter!



Church Growth and Member Care Committee will sponsor, **Family Game Day!** Saturday March 9, 12:00 – 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall! Plan to bring your favorite board game and join the fun!

HOLY WEEK



We'll enjoy our Parade of Palms as we begin Holy Week with **Palm Sunday**, March 24. More information will be coming soon for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Morning!!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Fifth Sunday

March 31 is our first **FIFTH SUNDAY** of the year!! Gather up your loose change and drop it in the red bucket to help the church build up funds for repairs!!



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.

March 18

Debbie DayNancy Farrington
Patty Fitzpatrick Bridget Hawkins

Get kids to.... TALK



KID'S TALK 2024

Do you have a special talent or hobby you would like to share with our youth? Join the **Kid's Talk Summer Sunday School** class to share your talent or hobby. The class runs from 9:30-10:30 and is held in the kitchen, library, classroom, gym, or wherever you want to hold it. Just pick a Sunday and share. Ideas from last Summer include learning to play an instrument, painting, visiting the fire department, cooking, and so much more. Please contact Sara Stahler for more information!





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! There will be no Dinner at the Pres until March 2024. The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who has volunteered with this program since we started back up! Our Daily Bread will continue to need our help with serving on certain days 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.

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."

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!



"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap if we do not give up."

