



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church

January 14 through January 20, 2024



Dear Friends in Faith,

I had a Presbytery Ministry and Vocation Committee meeting Monday evening. It was nice to move from the chairperson seat over to the side after a busy couple of years with that responsibility. When I got home ChrisAnn had that look...gentle, concern, compassion; she had 'some news' to share. We'd gotten a call that a good friend had joined the church triumphant that afternoon.

Bill was a member of the Callery church when I was called to serve there. He was an every Sunday sort of a guy, the church photographer, general handyman, deep thinker, immensely gentle and loving. His wife died within the first year we knew them and when we bought an old fixer-upper house, our project became his. He insisted.

We'd meet at an agreed upon hour, tool buckets in hand. We'd remove old trim, pull nails and chat. There's something that bonds one a little more deeply when you pull on a dust mask and demo plaster and lathe. Along the way there were rich stories about his work as a railroad conductor...hobbies and passions...projects he'd built...on occasion, family stories.

A few years later he met a special someone ...I stood before them as they exchanged marriage vows. Then they moved South. Now he's moved on from this good earth. Friday I'll have the honor of joining in celebrating his life along with his long time friend, Gregg, who is now the pastor of the Crestview church.

Sometimes these situations get a little bit complicated. Who can and should do what, when a family reaches out to a previous pastor? We have ethical guidelines to help us sort through that. It's important. And, it's important to care for families and relationships. I'm thankful for Pastor Gregg and for collegial relationships where we can serve side by side, putting care of the family first. I'm ever grateful for the stream of wonderful, faithful folk that touch our life.

grace & peace,

pastor bob



Worship

- Training for newly elected deacons will be on Sunday, January 14 at 9am in the library
- Communion is on Sunday, January 14
- Ordination and Installation of deacons and elders is on Sunday, January 14
- The Worship Committee will meet on January 21 following worship

Congregational Care

- No Adult Sunday School. It resumes on Sunday, January 21
- Children's Sunday School has resumed for children 3 yrs. old – 6th grade
- Story Time is back at 10am on Wednesdays.
- Deborah Circle Bible Study is on Monday, January 15 at 6:30pm

Missions

- The Mission Committee will meet on Jan 14 following worship!

Operations

- Year to date (end of December)
Expenditures \$224,730 Received \$190,062
Per Capita expense \$10,023
Received YTD \$2,390
- 66 in worship on January 7
- Property Meeting on Monday, January 15 at 6:30pm

Please note:

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, following worship. We'll distribute the 2023 reports, review the 2024 budget and elect a deacon to fill Ava DiCicco's term as she has resigned to finish high school and head to college later this year.





JANUARY

Birthdays

<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Jerri Lech 1/06	Camden Hoth 1/17	Simon Hunsberger 1/22	Everitt Laird Jr. 1/25
Paul Hurni 1/10	Michelle Sebastian 1/18	Rich Kerlin 1/22	Jonathan Lech 1/31
Bob Keller 1/12	Brian Archer 1/19	David Kocher 1/22	Robert Nan 1/31
Eric Nan 1/12	Belinda Nolte 1/20	Jacob Cagnon 1/23	
Sara Allen 1/16	Kevin Smith 1/21	Megan Hunsberger 1/25	

The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Psalms 138:8

Prayer List



- Dawn Psik is grateful for successful lumpectomy
- Donna Olexick is in the hospital with kidney stones
- Jack Gennaro has pneumonia
- Katie Sullivan, friend of the Otto's, in ICU with septic infection
- Corinna-A joy that Edna Mae is back in her apartment
- A joy for a New Years Day Granddaughter-Capria Polizatto-Joanne
- Paul Magee had hernia surgery on Monday
- Prayers of healing for those who are battling colds/flu/viruses
- Susan Burak-Please pray for her dad, Richard Kerlin, who is in severe pain with kidney stones and has to wait until January 22 to get them removed.
- Cate Colesar on the passing of her mother



January 7 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

January 14 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

January 21 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

January 28 – 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

**Need at least 1 helper at Youth Group please
volunteer!!**



Sunday, January 14, 2024

Scripture Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)

Listening to God is far more important than giving him your ideas.

—Frank Laubach

The little boy Samuel had been living in the temple ever since his mother Hannah had delivered him into the watchful care of the priest, Eli. There must have been days when the young Samuel wondered what his mother had gotten him into. He was in training to become a full-time servant of God, but not once had he perceived God's presence in the temple or God's purpose for his life. Samuel had been dedicated to God, but where was God?

Good mentor that he was, Eli gives Samuel three definite things to do so that he may be ready for a visit from God: "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening'" (v. 9). Look at this advice carefully.

LIE DOWN: Samuel is much like the rest of us. He is so busy running around that he hardly knows where he is going. Eli's advice to "lie down" is a way of saying, "Let go and let God. Relax. Surrender to a force bigger than you."

LISTEN UP: The second part of Eli's advice to Samuel is implied when he begins to describe what Samuel should do "if he calls you." In order to hear that call, Samuel must be listening. In order for all of us to have a vision of God or to experience God's presence, we must use our ears.

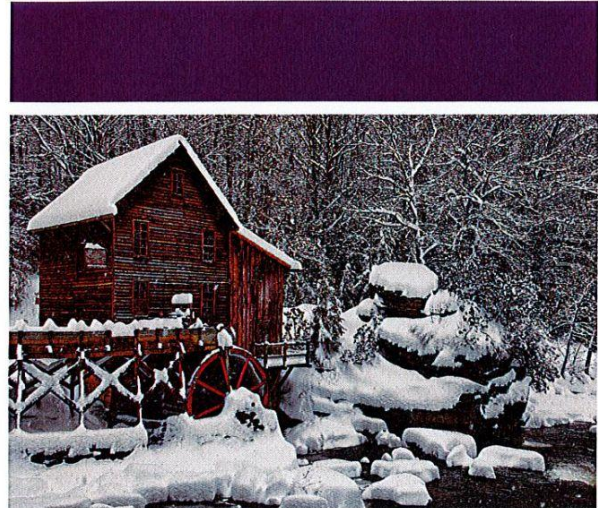
TALK BACK: God waits for us to respond, to question, even challenge the divine word that comes to us. Because God wants a relationship with us, we must be able to understand God's will and perceive God's wisdom. We must talk back to God. Sometimes, this dialogue is nothing more than our consent — as Samuel utters when the word of the Lord finally comes to him. Sometimes it is a far more interactive, problematic conversation — as it was with Job, Moses, Jonah or Jeremiah.

God offers us a new way of seeing, of envisioning the world. The greatest vision God sent us is Jesus Christ. In Christ's resurrection we are assured God's presence is frequent, that it is continually with us in this world. In relationship with Christ, we can be assured that Eli's advice still holds. For in Christ, we can trust God enough to lie down, listen up and talk back.

—Adapted by Timothy Merrill, from HomileticsOnline.com. Used with permission

Prayer: O God, how easy it is to get so busy with life, that we don't have time to sit still and listen for what the Spirit may be saying. Calm me down, God. Speak to me in the stillness. In Jesus name. Amen

January 2024



Picture Caption

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Story time 10am	4	5	6
7 Dedecorating The church	8	9 Deacons 6:30 Session 7	10 Story Time 10am	11	12	13
14 Ordination & Installation Communion Trinity Choir 1:30-5	15 Property Meeting 6:30 Deborah Circle 6:30	16	17 Story Time 10am	18	19	20
21 Worship committee meeting Trinity Choir 1:30-5	22	23	24 Story Time 10am	25	26	27 Presbytery Meeting @10am
28 Annual Meeting Trinity Choir 1:30 - 5	29	30	31 Story Time 10am			