

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 5 Issue 6



Thoughts from Ian...



What do you do on the way to worship on Sunday? Do you turn on the radio and sing? Do you pull

through McDonald's drive through and get an iced coffee? Maybe you have done what my wife and I did for the first six months of our marriage on the way to Sunday worship. Alissa and I would have an argument.

At that time, Alissa and I were living in the bustling city of Daegu, South Korea. Every Sunday morning, Alissa and I would wake up and get ready for church. I was somehow always the last one in the apartment to get ready. We would rush to the subway, but we were always a bit late and were forced to wait for the next train. This would spark an argument over whose fault it was that we would now be walking in a few minutes late to church. At church, we would fume for fifteen minutes as we settled into our seats. It took a long time to learn how to better protect my times of worship by guarding what I do on the way to worship.

In the Psalms of the Old Testament, we have the Songs of As-

cent. These were the songs that Jewish pilgrims sang as they journeyed to Jerusalem to worship. So, it was what they did on the way to worship. They knew they needed to guard their way to worship. We can find these Songs of Ascent in Psalms 120-134. Let's look at one of these songs, Psalm 130, and see what God's people would sing on the way to worship.

Psalm 130 opens with a cry to God (v.1-4). Out of the depths, the psalmist cries out to God. You may not find deep water a source of chaos and despair, but the Jewish writers did. After all, it was out in

the depths of the sea that Jonah counted himself a goner (Jonah 2:2). In Psalm 130, the reason the psalmist counted himself a goner was because of his sin. And it was not only his sin, but he recognized that everyone was in the same position (v.3). Yet there was hope because God is the God of forgiveness (v.4). Then the psalmist turns and addresses himself (v.5-6). He will put all his hope in God and His word. Finally, the psalmist turns and addresses Israel (v.7-8). He calls all of God's people to put their hope in God as well because God will redeem them from all their sins.

I have learned that as I approach times set aside for worship, I am vulnerable to getting side-tracked. It was good for those Jewish pilgrims to protect their special times of worship by singing of God's redemption on the way. I don't know what you do on the way to worship on Sunday, but maybe we can all learn a little wisdom from the Jewish pilgrims and prepare ourselves for worship. And maybe next Sunday you can do that by singing of God's redemption on the way to church.

A song of ascents.

Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths I cry to you, Lord;

² Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive to my cry for mercy.

³If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?

⁴But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.

⁵I wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope.

⁶I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

⁷Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption.

⁸He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins.

June 2019



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Communion	3 Women's Fellowship Board meets at 7:00	4	5 Ladies Do Lunch Noon at the Pancake House	6 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Red Cross Bloodmobile N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge	14	15
16 Father's Day	17	18 Ladies Do Lunch Road Trip to Angola Potter Steve Smith Leave at 9:00 No Session	19	20 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge	21	22
Ian at General Assembly all week						
23 Schumachers here	24	25 Chamber Success in 60, 8-9 Writers' Group 7-9 in fellowship hall	26	27 N.A. meeting at 7:30 in the Youth Lounge	28 Maggie Sunday's memorial service	29
30	Ian on vacation week of June 24-July 1, Monday to Monday					

June Birthdays:
 3rd Carol Razo
 5th Chuck Lutz
 10th Joy Nice Coughlin
 11th Rhonda Smalley

22nd Lauren Hill
 June Anniversaries:
 3rd - Paul & Martha Panches
 5th - Ian and Alissa Ferguson
 7th Chuck & Phyllis Lutz

8th Todd & Lisa Searing
 12th Bud & Cindy Koenig
 12th Garrett and Maely Alexander
 16th Bill & Becky Hurtig
 17th Chuck & Cara Lou Strahley

22nd Matt & Linda Reineck
 26th Terry & Marlene Buehler

Session Highlights

At the May 21st Session meeting, elders:

*discussed Pastor Ian's upcoming trip to General Assembly in Denver. Ian will be away from June 17-July 1. The week of June 17-24, he will be representing our church at the annual General Assembly of the EPC denomination. The week of June 24-July 1, he will be using vacation time to remain in Denver. Support of \$530 was approved for this trip, and the EPC has also awarded Ian a \$300 scholarship to be able to attend.

*were glad that missionaries Ron and Donna Schumacher will be with us Sun. June 23 to share their work. A time of fellowship and food will follow.

*heard from the Personnel committee that items brought forth during the Pastor Review process are being acted upon.

*learned that a firm date with the Brick contractor will be set during June, as well as further discussion with the companies advising us on the Boiler/HVAC project.

*heard that the Congregational Life committee is focusing on three areas: being welcoming to newcomers, doing activities with our church family, and participating in community activities. They added several event dates to the calendar.

*learned from Pastor Ian that there will not be a Pastor Swap by the Ministerial Assn. this summer, and that we will be again participating in Community VBS at the Nazarene Church in August.

*voted to skip the Session meeting in June (would have been June 18). Should an emergency arise, a special meeting can be called.

*voted to skip the 1st Wednesday Community Meals for June, July and August, resuming in September

*approved several dates for the church calendar:

-**Thurs.**, June 13: Bloodmobile in Fellowship Hall

-**Sun.**, June 23: missionaries Ron and Donna Schumacher will speak, with a social time and refreshments to follow

-**Tues.**, June 25: Chamber of Commerce 'Success in 60's' speaker 8 - 9 am.

-**Fri.**, July 19: Ice cream tent after the Paulding Summer Blast parade

-**Sat.**, July 27: Paulding (and Presby!) night at the Tin Caps game

-**Thurs-Sun.**, Aug. 1-2-3-4 :Some level of participation in 127 Garage Sale?

Sun. August 18: Fellowship hall use by Mike Zeedyk (Youth for Christ) and the Ministerial Assn. for area church people on how to share your faith; 6:00 PM



Ladies Do Lunch

June

Wednesday June 5th, lunch at the Pancake House at noon. No reservations required.

Tuesday June 18, leave church at 9:00 to travel to Angola IN to Four Corners Gallery for a demonstration by Steve Smith, as well as a tour of his gallery. Steve also works with Potters For Peace

July

Monday July 8, lunch at Fiesta Habaneros at noon. No reservations required.

Later in month, we will be visiting Sue and Phyllis Crossland at their cottage in MI, 90 minutes away. Brunch and a ride on the water are scheduled, tentative dates are July 15th with a rain dates of the 17th. Watch for more detail.

August

Tuesday August 6, lunch at the Pancake House at noon. No reservations required.

In the last half of August, Darla Cline in planning an outing at CJ Natural Meats where we will learn about making cheese, watch for news and dates soon.

-**Sun.** Sept 1: Baptism of Henry Joseph Ferguson

-**Fri. through Sun.** Sept 20-21-22: Chili booth at Flat Rock Creek Festival

Sat. Nov. 9: Fellowship hall use for Paulus' 60th anniversary

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Searing, Clerk of Session



News from Ron & Donna —

In His Time

We welcome the Schumachers on Sunday
June 23 during the morning service

Tomorrow my neighbor and I will be studying Ecclesiastes 3 together. As I read the well-known “**time**” lines in preparation, several of them echo our current activities and concerns:

“a time to plant” – Jesus Films in several languages for which we consultant-checked the script are now being recorded, tested, and produced. We **pray** for a good harvest from this effort.

“a time to die” – A number of elderly friends have gone to be with the Lord recently, and we are **praying** for a colleague younger than ourselves who is fighting the last battle with cancer.

“a time to heal” – The halls of medical clinics have been getting more familiar to us as we deal with various issues that come with age!

“a time to weep” – With a Filipino brother who has been incarcerated on false charges for over a year. We weep and **pray** for him and his family. (The next court date is later this month. Lord, may justice be done! And help him to forgive those responsible!)

“a time to laugh / dance”
– Rejoice with us and the people of Romblon (in the central Philippines) who have just now received the New Testament in their language! Please **pray** that God will use it powerfully.



We also rejoice at news of people in two gospel-resistant communities who have recently come to faith in Christ through reading the Scriptures in their own languages.

“a time to keep and a time to throw away”— As we prepare for our three-month time in the US this summer and our retirement in one year, we are constantly making decisions about what to keep, what to scan, what to give away or throw.

On Sunday June 23, Ron and Donna will be at the Paulding Presbyterian Church to share what they have been working on since they were here to visit with us over a year ago. They will speak during the worship service, there will be a time of fellowship and food of some sort following the service. Watch for more detail in the weeks ahead.



Project Mercy
starts with the One

**It takes one to
give...one midwife
to save a life...one
child to grow up and
make a difference in
the world.**



Donations can be mailed at 7011 Ardmore Ave. Fort Wayne IN 46809 or put in the collection on Sundays.

Will you be the one?



Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Saturday, July 27th is the date...it will be Village of Paulding Day at Parkview Field in Fort Wayne, and the Presbyterian Church is going to piggyback onto that. The Tin Caps will be playing the Dayton Dragons, with game time at 7:05 pm and fireworks following. What a fun time to round up the neighbors, the kids and their friends, whoever you wish, and enjoy this church outing.

Tickets are \$9. The church has reserved 20 tickets for starters, and we can get more. To reserve your seat(s) for this event, sign up on the clipboard at the church, or contact Barb Searing by email (barb@searingfamily.com), phone (419-399-3204), or text (419-769-0327).



WORLD'S LONGEST GARAGE SALE

Our church parking lot is located directly on the route of the World's Longest Garage Sale, which takes place the first weekend in August along US 127 from Michigan to Alabama.

The Congregational Life committee is considering doing something with our prime location during this year's sale, which is Thursday through Sunday, August 1st through 4th. We're not sure just what that might look like yet that's where YOU come in!

We have mentioned maybe serving food certain hours. Or just providing an air-conditioned place to change a baby or take a bathroom break. Or letting church families set up sales in the parking lot. Or renting spots to the public. Or selling left-over ice cream from the Paulding Summer Blast that is two weeks before. Or..... whatever you can imagine!!

If you have any interest in making this happen.....if you've thought this might be an idea for the church.....please plan to stay after worship for 30 minutes on Sunday, June 9 to brainstorm the idea.

Thanks! The Congregational Life committee

Camp Rejoice at Kirkmont

Camp Rejoice for youth who have complete grades three through twelve is happening the week of July 7 through 13. This is always a great time, those attending never forget their time there, nor do those working with the students. And remember that the church pays the registration fee for those with any connection to this congregation.



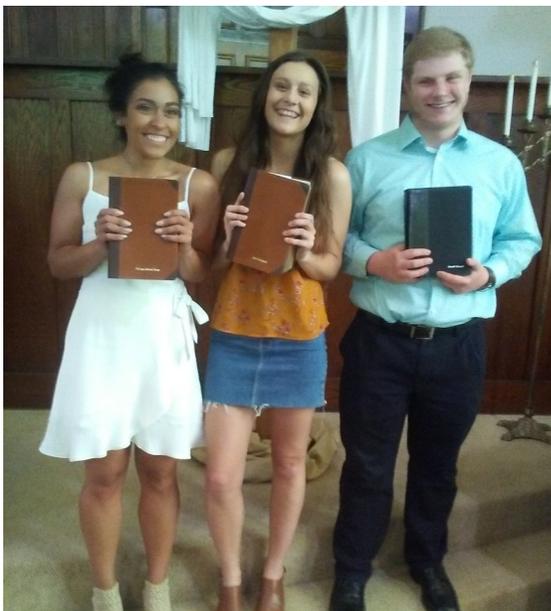
Mother's Day Worship Service

Above photo is of Lauren Lanz holding son Gideon on Mother's Day. Lauren is the daughter of Rick and Becky Craft. Roses were given to the women in attendance that Sunday.



Anniversary Celebration

Carol and Randy Strange, pictured on right in photo celebrated their 50th Wedding anniversary in Atlanta on May 4th. Carol is the sister of Sue Paulus, who traveled with Dick Paulus and daughter Pam Leever to Atlanta for the



Paraphrasing from a speech by Shana Manz at graduation: "You never know when your smile might change a person's day." The smiles you see in photo to right can certainly improve your day! As can the smile you see in the picture you see of Danielle at her graduation.

Bibles were presented to graduating seniors on Sunday May 26 during the our worship service. From left: Kristen Razo, Erin Karlstadt, and Joe Reineck.



Pictured above is Danielle Martinez Morrison, former member, at her own high school graduation in 2003 holding Kristen and Erin, both barely two years old. In the photo to the right is Joe enjoying one of his very favorite places to be—then and now—in the boat on the water at the cottage.



Thoughts About the Journey

By Kristen Razo

I have thought long and hard of what to say about my journey of faith and I finally figured it out. I figured out that if I have learned anything from God, it's that I am enough. He has given me everything that I need. Everything that I need to know that I am enough. On this journey that He has laid out for me; He has given me challenges which in turn taught me important lessons. On this journey He has given me a close knit family that is loving and supporting of everything that I do. He has given me the courage to choose who I associate myself with. He has given me such an amazing Christian community that never fails to be there for me. All of these things have allowed me to find the strength and courage to take this next big step in life of going to college. This is so scary, but God is bigger than the boogie man so I know I will be safe with Him in my heart. God has taught me that it does not matter what anyone else thinks of me because I am enough for God. He has a never ending love that doesn't fail to see any of my flaws. Only God knows the real me. He knows exactly what I need to do to stay on the path He has set for me. It seems as though the ways He is working in my life can sometimes be hidden but in time, the work He has done will shine through. It will eventually be clear that what He has put me through has in fact prepared me for something bigger than myself. This next step is only the continuation of a long, beautiful journey. Since I don't know exactly what God has in store for me, I will just continue to spread love and help others know that they are truly loved. The best is still yet to come. I hope that when everything is said and done, God will give me a thumbs up and say, "Well done, Kristen." I promise to never give up on God, because He will never give up on me.

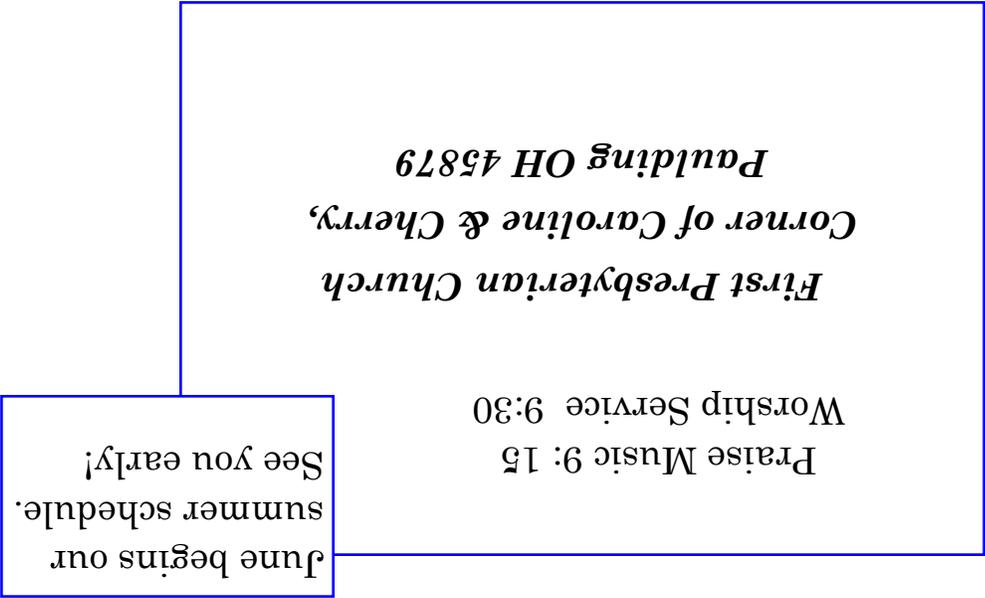


A Day at the Museum Samuel Ferguson, with the help of Grandpa Matt, got to drive the John Deere tractor at the John Paulding Historical Society.



Some of the 20 plus people who gathered at the gazebo on May 3rd, National Day of Prayer.





First Presbyterian Church

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In Essentials, Unity.
In Non-Essentials, Liberty.
In All Things, Charity.

