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first NEWS & VIEWS

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We have an exciting fall ahead for all of us! Whether you are seeking to learn more about God, our world and what it means to be faithful, or feeling a desire to learn or serve (or both) - we have something for you!

From new weekly bible studies and monthly gatherings for all of us, service projects and more, there is a space for you to engage more in the life of our community and your own relationship with God. Please read this newsletter carefully as there is a TON of information. Also, be sure you're getting our weekly E-news which gives you a heads-up on coming events!

Worship TIME CHANGE!

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
WORSHIP BEGINS 10:00 A.M.

COFFEE HOSPITALITY 9:30 A.M.



First Presbyterian Staff

Rev. Jessica Commeret, Pastor
 Clinton Miller, Director of Music
 Leslee Kirkconnell, Director of Connectional Ministry
 Stephanie Bryan, Office/Financial Secretary
 Kelly Sherrieb, Facility Manager
 Marna Weaver, Church Accountant
 Carol Smith, Nursery School Director
 Casey Risner, Head Custodian
 Curt Hugunin, Evening Custodian
 Robbie Riffle, A/V Technician

Financial Report

Year-to-Date 2024

YTD Income	\$402,777
YTD Income Budget	\$456,592
YTD Expenses	\$437,788
YTD Expenses Budget	\$510,666

Thank you for your generous support of Christ's mission here at First Presbyterian Church Findlay!

Coming Events

Monday, September 2	Labor Day Church Closed
Sunday, September 8	Community Dinner
Thursday, September 12	Onward & Upward
Sunday, September 15	Blessing of the Animals
Sunday, September 22	Confirmation & Reception
Saturday, September 28	Rethinking Congregational Mission

Our Vision

*Honoring our heritage,
 we are a dynamic body welcoming all to Christ's spacious table,
 illumined to serve God with imagination and love.*

Coffee with Friends!

Join us each Sunday before worship for coffee and treats. Gather with friends known and new!



Weather permitting, we gather under the portico outside. If the weather won't cooperate, come to the Parlor.

Our Hospitality Team would love volunteers to help with a Sunday! Sign up on the board outside the office or see Suzi Healy.



Mission & Service

A Martha's Home heads up from your Mission Committee. . . .

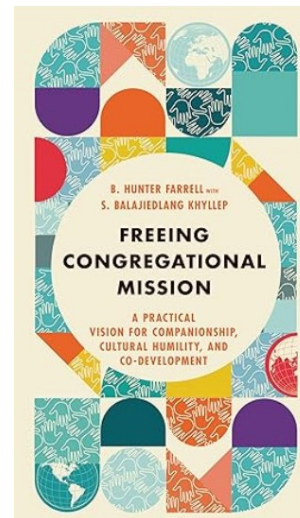
Martha's Home is a much-needed project of City Mission that will provide emergency shelter to mothers and children seeking refuge. The Mission is a less-than-ideal place to shelter women and children as their location also provides a low barrier shelter as well as sheltering homeless men.

In May, your Session and Mission Committee, based on feedback from the Congregation, voted to support this project by becoming a Founder of Martha's Home. As a Founder, First Presbyterian Church has pledged to contribute \$100,000 to the cost of renovations, outfitting, and operations of Martha's Home by May of 2026. Every Elder and Mission Committee member has committed to supporting this with a personal gift.

The Mission Committee will be providing more detailed information about the budget, fundraising, renovations, planning, and operational cost of Martha's Home. We will also ask you to prayerfully consider supporting this important ministry of City Mission above and beyond your annual pledge to First Presbyterian Church.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact Amy Fox, Elder and Mission Committee member, through a call to the church office or a note in the Mission Committee mailbox.

Let's rally around City Mission in this important endeavor and assure that homeless women and their children in Hancock County have a warm and safe place to temporarily call home.



SAVE the DATE and RSVP— you don't want to miss this!

Freeing Congregational Mission with author and Pastor Bala Khylllep, associate director of World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Saturday, September 28 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. *RSVP required, by Friday, September 20.* \$30 registration fee.

In our North American churches, many of our mission activities are more effective at satisfying church members than actually making a lasting difference and producing what's too often consumer-oriented "selfie" mission. Come join us for a day to explore with the Rev. Bala Khylllep a Christ-centered theology of mission rooted in companionship, and begin developing a competence for engaging mission with cultural humility as well as strategies to accompany others in our neighborhoods and global neighbors in co-development. With others in our community and within the presbytery, let's get the tools we need to in today's world to support Christ's mission in the world.

Daryl the Barrel We are focusing on filling Daryl!

Daryl collects items that benefit City Mission's work with unhoused neighbors.

September - L/XL Latex Gloves and Household Spray Cleaner (Lysol)

October - Cream of Mushroom and Cream of Chicken soups

November - Chili, Onion & Garlic Powders

Any changes will be in our weekly E-News and Sunday Bulletins

Community Dinner Schedule

Sundays, September 8, October 13 and November 10* 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Great Room

Plan to join us - sign up to contribute needed items, prepare food, serve and clean up. Sign ups are posted outside the office about two weeks in advance.

*On November 10 we will worship in the Great Room at 10:00 a.m. - let's extend extravagant love and hospitality!

Music Ministry

Halloween Spooktacular

Saturday, October 26,
5:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.
Save the date, invite friends
and plan to join us!

Come make beautiful music!

Chancel Choir rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 p.m. and Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

GatherRing Handbells rehearse Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary and also Sunday mornings.

Questions? Email Clint - cmiller@findlayfpc.org



A few pictures of our Fine Arts Camp. Fun, faith, and learning. Next year will be July 28-August 1, 2025-save the date!



A Season of Peace

Sign up to get devotionals delivered to your inbox from September 1 -October 6. Our world is ever in need of God's peace and this is one way to deepen your understanding and your faith. [Click here](#) or on the picture.

Mobile Food Pantry had a great day August 10! Thanks to Katie Abbott, who is our amazing coordinator! Our final 2024 date will be Saturday, December 7.



Nursery School & More



First Presbyterian Church Nursery School is busy getting ready for a new year! As of right now, our two day three-year old class has six open spots. If you know someone looking for a high quality preschool experience, Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00-11:30 a.m., and they are three and potty trained, we are the place!! The PM three Day four-year old class also has six spots available. The PM class meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 12:30-3:00 p.m. and works on Kindergarten readiness. Please reach out to [Carol Smith](#) for information and a tour. You can also [click here to register](#). The three day three-year old class, three day four-year old class, and five day four-year old classes are full!! While all the teachers are on summer vacation, they are still working on all things preschool. We have our Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, August 27th and we are over the moon excited to meet our students and families! If you would like to [donate to our scholarship fund](#), your generosity will impact kids in our community and help them get a head start on education and the love of learning.

Volunteer Alert: the Nursery School LOVES volunteers. Come read with a group of children, or help in the classroom. Carol will be happy to help you find something to help the teachers and the young children who are learning and growing.

Annual Stewardship Campaign to Begin Next Month

At the end of September, the annual stewardship campaign will kick off, ending with Commitment Sunday on October 27. This year's theme will be "A Future with Hope". What visuals come to mind when you think of our future here at Findlay FPC? More fellowship opportunities together, or perhaps more kiddos running around? Maybe for you it's working alongside Martha's Home or another mission project close to your heart. Some of us may be content with the way things are, while others think we can do so much more. As the annual campaign creeps up on us soon, we ask you to reflect on what "future with hope" you envision for not only our church home, but also for our community.

As always, and we cannot say it enough, to everyone who has given in the past or currently gives today, we greatly thank you for your generosity!

The Stewardship and Finance Committee



Meet Kelly Sherrieb, our new Facility Manager! She is a native of Findlay, OH, and attended college in Indiana. She traveled west to Arizona for an internship, then to Los Angeles, and next even farther west to Melbourne, Australia, where she lived for 18 years. She recently returned to Findlay to care for her 82 year old mother. We are glad to have her as part of our staff.

Please welcome her when you see her!

Our Great Room is a great space for many activities! If you know someone planning an event, have them check out [The Great Room on South Main!](#) [Kelly Sherrieb](#) will be glad to help you.

So, you think you have the best chili recipe? Let's find out! Sign up to make your best chili and we'll let the congregation vote! The winner will be crowned 'chili champ' for 2025 and funds raised will help our Mission Trip with Appalachian Service Project (July 2025). More details will come, but save **Sunday, November 3** to bring your best chili, and bring your dollars to vote. Enjoy a fun and friendly competition while enjoying delicious chili and warm fellowship. This will be following 2nd Hour Faith Formation in Fellowship Hall.



Faith & Fellowship



All are welcome to join us on the second Thursdays of the month, from 11:-00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for a program and catered lunch. We have a variety of programs available to you this fall:

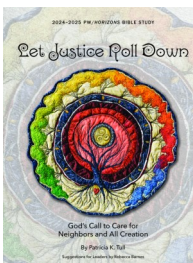
September 12: "A Musical Trio" Join us for a great program of music brought to you by Clint and his trio of flutes and cello that we've all enjoyed in worship. A great day to bring a friend!

October 10: "A Case For Love!" Join us as we view the movie (with popcorn of course!) and discuss over lunch. The film team traveled the U.S. searching for people living their lives selflessly and interviewed them about how that way of living affects others and themselves. Random people were also interviewed, discussing where they've witnessed unselfish love and where they've seen its absence. Additionally, well-known figures give us their perspective, including Pete Buttigieg, Al Roker, Sam Waterston, John Danforth, Becca Stevens, Jon Meacham, Russell Moore, Kelly Brown Douglas, and Jim Clyburn. Finally, Bishop Michael Curry places all we've seen into context. What's the verdict on "A Case for Love"? Is unselfish love the antidote to what ails us? Decide for yourself!

We meet from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and enjoy our program and lunch together. **Please RSVP for lunch on the bulletin board outside the office** by Tuesday ahead of the scheduled program so our hospitality is abundant. Friends are ALWAYS WELCOME!



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study resumes on Friday, September 20, beginning at 12:00 p.m. in Room 112-113. We enjoy fellowship over our lunch and then dig into our study.

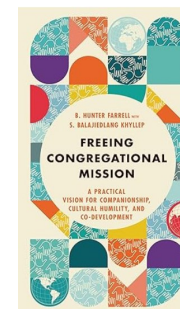


This year, we will be using Horizon's [Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation](#). We will explore caring for our neighbors and creation, with an emphasis on understanding those who are often deeply impacted by unjust systems. Questions?



Contact [Mary Alice Patrickson](#)

Join Pastor Jessie on September 4, 11, and 18 for a zoom book study of [Freeing Congregational Mission](#). We will order books for those who sign up outside the office by August 28. This will be excellent preparation for our September 29 weekend (see p. 2). Zoom links to be sent by email, and the group meets from 12:00-1:00 p.m. on those dates.



MomCo returns! Formerly MOPS, we are restarting a Moms Meet-Up this fall. Moms are invited to come on the third Wednesday of each month starting Wednesday, September 18, from 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. in the Great Room. We will have child care for infants-preschool age in Room 107 (please RSVP to Leslee). This first gathering is informational and a time to meet other Moms. MomCo is a membership organization, and we will provide all the information needed. Enjoy some warm fellowship with other Moms, along with yummy treats! Questions? [Email Leslee Kirkconnell](#) Can't join a morning time? Consider our **Lunch Meet & Eat**, first Friday of each month beginning October 4, from 12:00-1:00 p.m. in Room 117 (no childcare). Bring your lunch and enjoy casual conversations with other moms!



Children & Youth



The first Sunday each month is when we celebrate the Lord's Supper in Worship. Our children will remain in the Sanctuary following the Blessing of the Children and may engage in activities with Leslee Kirkconnell at the Prayground (in front of the Lectern). Child care is available for those under four years old from 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. each week.

Youth (6th-12th) will gather on the third Sunday each month as part of Family Faith Formation. In addition there are plans in the works for a lock-in in October with the Bowling Green and Toledo Christ churches—stay tuned. November 8-10 is the Presbytery Rekindle Youth Retreat at Kirkmont and as soon as registration is available, it will be communicated. More plans to come—and friends are ALWAYS welcome to join us!



Godly Play Returns September 8

Great! But what is Godly Play, exactly? The mission of Godly Play is "making meaning through story, wonder, and play." Godly Play invites children to contemplate and make their own meaning from the stories of God's interactions with humanity throughout the millennia of our rich tradition. Godly Play includes stories from the Old and New Testaments, the sacraments, stories of Saints, and stories of modern day examples of people answering God's call, such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Godly Play encourages wondering about the story, followed by play. Each week a story is shared, and as possible, mirrors the scriptures used in worship. Simple, yet beautiful, visual aids help tell the story, followed by a time of wondering. "I wonder how the sheep felt when it was separated from the rest of the flock?" Or, "which character in the story is most like you?" Following this, the children are invited to choose what they will do next – perhaps art, perhaps using the visual aids to re-tell the story (and they are free to choose any story). Toward the end of our morning, we read from the Bible and as time allows, share a snack. We are grateful for Heidi Croy who so beautifully leads our Godly Play!

New Opportunities for our Children and Youth during Sunday 2nd Hour Faith Formation:

First Sundays – M&M (Motion & Movement)

With our children remaining in worship on Communion Sundays, the kids have been asked to "sit still" for quite a while. This is a time we will get them moving with fun games and activities that allow them to exert their energy—and learn some team building skills as well!

Second Sundays - Mission

The kids will go from worship to the Great Room to assist with Community Dinner.

Third & Fourth Sundays – Worship Explorers

Our worship services can seem foreign to our young ones, so we will learn about the parts of worship and how worship shapes and reflects our faith. We will explore how kids can participate meaningfully in worship and provide leadership in our worship services. These Sundays we will explore various forms of music (singing, drumming, bells, etc.), discuss various parts of the worship service, write prayers, explore ways of telling Biblical stories through skits or creative readings, learn to participate in worship as greeters, ushers, liturgists, and musicians.

Faithful Families
FAITHFUL
GOD

Third Sunday Family Faith Formation
5:00-7:00 p.m. Dinner, Worship, Grow
September 15, October 20, November
17, December 15

Child care for Infants/Preschool

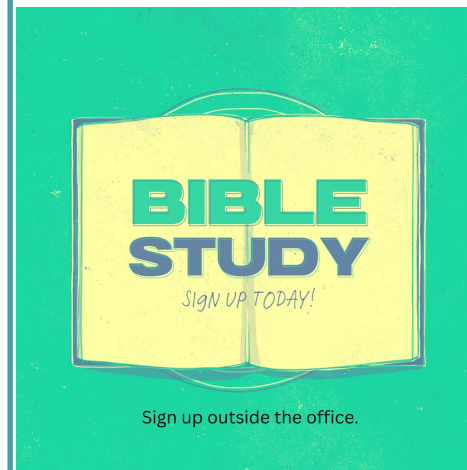
New this fall! Each month on the third Sunday, we welcome families to gather for a time of fellowship and faith formation. 5:00 p.m. dinner, 5:45 p.m. worship, 6:00 p.m. Faith Formation (children, youth and adults in separate groups). Child care for those under Kindergarten from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Families should join us August 25 following worship for a brief meeting to learn more!

Our fall theme will be drawn from the PC(U.S.A.) Follow Me materials—Welcome All Each age group will study the Bible and grow in understanding how God's radical welcome is for all and how we can also welcome all!



Adult Faith Formation

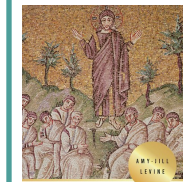
In worship this fall we will use the [Narrative Lectionary](#) again as our guide to the scripture we hear on Sunday mornings and the texts Pastor Jessie preaches on. The narrative lectionary is a 9 month chronological journey through the Bible, that starts with creation and ends with the early church. Hope you enjoy another year through the story of God's engagement with and for us.



Several weekday Bible study options this fall!

Pastor Jessie will lead a **Disciple Bible Study** beginning Tuesday, September 10, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. **Remember Who You Are:** This Disciple study examines the connection between memory and identity as the people of God. Participants will find common themes, including calls to remember, calls to repent, calls for renewal, and calls for community. In this study, there are 12 sessions on the Old Testament Major and Minor Prophets (except Daniel) and on the 13 New Testament letters. Disciple is an in-depth study and the book needed will be \$17. It is expected that reading will be done between classes each week.

A second opportunity is another Amy-Jill Levine study—**Sermon on the Mount—A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of**



SERMON on the MOUNT

Heaven. This will be a six-week study with both an evening and a morning option. Evening classes begin on September 30 and run to November 4, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. and morning classes begin on

Tuesday, October 1 and conclude November 5, from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Leslee Kirkconnell and Elizabeth Wright are teaming up to lead. The books are \$12 (but one can attend the study without purchasing the book).

Sign up for these two studies outside the office. You can also email [Jessie](#) (Disciple) or [Leslee](#) (Sermon on the Mount).

2nd Hour Faith Formation Sunday continues at a new time! 11:00 a.m. following the worship service (begins September 8). Here is our schedule: (some weeks are still in planning)

September 8: (worship time change) 2nd Hour Faith Formation will be the **Community Dinner and Church Information Fair** in the Great Room! Enjoy a delicious meal after worship, explore the displays and learn more about where you might be able to plug into a ministry—from faith formation to mission opportunities, you won't want to miss this!

September 15: Blessing of the Animals during worship at 10:00 a.m. on the lawn adjacent to the Sanctuary. Come for our annual Blessing of the Animals and our final outdoor worship of the year. Bring your companion animals for this very laid back worship where we celebrate the gift of God's creation, particularly our furry and feathery companions. Please bring a picture if it's easier for you and we'll pray for each and everyone! Chairs provided or bring your own.



September 22: Confirmation Sunday We will commission our wonderful group of young people and also have a reception in their honor in Fellowship Hall during 2nd Hour (and there will be an opportunity for you to contribute)

September 29: Freeing Congregational Mission—We welcome the Rev. Bala Khylep from the World Mission Initiative at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary to preach and then teach following worship.

October 6: Mission Sunday & Peace and World Communion Sunday—Join us for a worship service where we celebrate the rich diversity and complexity of all of God's children around the world who share the same faith. At the end of the worship service, we will walk outside and re-dedicate the peace pole that was given decades ago. The Mission Committee will lead 2nd Hour following our dedication at the Peace Pole.

October 13: Community Dinner

October 20: Lifelong Faith & 50 Year Membership Celebration

October 27: Commitment Sunday

November 3: Mission Sunday & Chili Cook-Off (Mission Trip 2025 fundraiser)

November 10: Worship in the Great Room (10:00 a.m.) followed by **Community Dinner** Trying something 'new' - come to the Great Room for worship (hospitality available) and then stay for lunch and fellowship with the community.

