

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

# PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION

WINTER 2023

## SESSION NOTES

Session called a special Congregational Meeting on October 15 to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee. The following members were elected: Letty Badenhop, Patricia Birkhold, Lynn Etoll, Jeff Hall, Olga Hall, Jana Schroeder and Sandee Schweter.

Also in October, prior to the regular Session meeting, Elders met with Matthew Hall to discuss his statement of faith and desire to become a church member. He was confirmed during the church service on November 5.

Session approved the benefit package for a new pastor and also approved contacting Bruce Brown to serve as interim pastor and church coordinator during the Pastor Nominating Committee's search for a new pastor. Hours and compensation for Bruce are still to be worked out.

Presbytery Commissioner Lynn Yarnell told Session after the first of the year, all elders and the clerk will be required to take a course on misconduct and safe church practices and have on record anti-harassment and anti-racism policies.

Congregational Life Team reported on upcoming activities for Advent including Christmas caroling for the community and nursing homes. Operations Team has taken on the responsibility of keeping the church building and grounds maintained.

Members of Session and church members have formed teams to find ways to connect to God and make our church more visible in the community. We have a beautiful building and spacious grounds that could be used for other community activities besides the Sunday morning church service.

**SESSION MEMBERS :** DAN BADENHOP, OLGA HALL, BETSY MORGAN, JANA SCHROEDER, MARGARET WHITMAN, LYNN YARNELL.

**SESSION OFFICERS:** BETSY MORGAN, TREASURER; NANCY JOHNSTON, CLERK.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Note: To fit Tom's final article into three pages, it was moved to pages 2-4. Also, there is a list of upcoming meetings instead of a calendar for brevity.

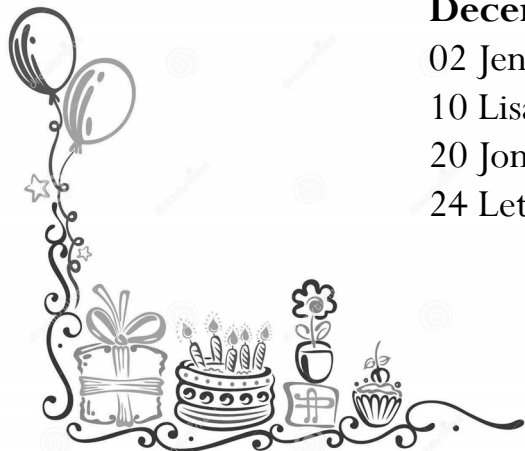
SESSION	1
PASTOR	2 3 4
BIRTHDAYS, PRAYERS, & FINANCES, PRAYER GROUP	5
CONNECTIONS PNC, AND TRANSITION TEAM	6
FAITH PARTNERS	7
FUNERAL NOTES, WE CARE, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	8
MEETINGS, PREACHING SCHEDULE, NOTE FROM BRUCE	P

## Prayer Group

The prayer group is currently meeting on Thursdays at noon at the church. If you are in need of prayer, please contact Tom or the church office. If you would like to pray with us, but the time and location doesn't work for you, contact Bruce Brown or Patricia Birkhold. You can also email prayer requests to the church.



## Happy Birthday



### December

02 Jennifer Brejcha  
10 Lisa Keller  
20 Jon Schroeder  
24 Letty Badenhop

### January

21 Linda McOscar  
22 Phillip Etoll  
27 Lisa Brejcha

### February

4 Christopher Luzny  
10 Jim Johnston  
24 Carol Detmer

## IN OUR PRAYERS

CHURCH FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO REMEMBER IN PRAYER

NORTHCREST NURSING HOME: Harold Badertscher,

SIMMONS CROSSING: Connie Cobb (27480 Simmons Rd., Apt. 305, Rossford, OH 43551)

PRAYER LIST: Dan Badenhop, Gene Detmer, Linda McOscar, Sandy Johnson, Tom Norden, Kathy Schilens (Jana's Schroeder's sister), Stuart Taft (Gene and Carol Detmer's son-in-law), Enoch & Adyē Castro Vásquez (Olga Hall's father and mother)



### Financial Report

September  
October  
November  
YTD 77,225  
Non-pledges YTD 8,323

### Pledges and Non Pledges

4,141  
8,947  
4,306



## Connections

The women's small group is spending December at the church caroling, soup and crafts.

We will restart our regular meetings on January 3rd.

## Pastoral Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) was elected by the congregation and the members include Letty Badenhop, Patricia Birkhold, Lynne Etoll, Jeff Hall, Olga Hall, Jana Schroeder, and Sandee Schweter. We met in November with our Maumee Valley Presbytery Leadership Committee liaison, Joel Youkers. Our first task is to complete a Ministry Discernment Profile that will be approved by the Session and then by the Presbytery Leadership Committee. We are also exploring options of job postings outside of the Presbytery system such as directly with seminaries and other employment websites.

As we go through this process, we ask that the congregation pray for God's will and God's wisdom in this matter. God knows our needs and we know He wants to guide us to the person he has prepared for this responsibility. The PNC thanks you for your support during this time of transition.

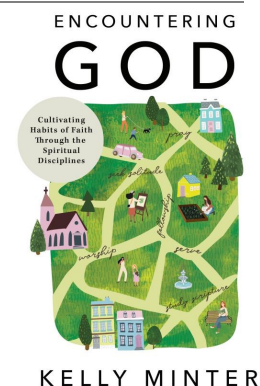
## Transition Team

The Transition Team has lead the formation of three groups to work on launching our strategies that were developed during the summer visioning meeting retreats. Those strategies are Connect to the Community, Connect to God, and Connect our Building & Grounds to our mission.

The Connect the Building committee has been working on reviewing the current policies, insurance, and other matters in order to more fully open our building to the public. Other groups along Webster Street are being contacted to see if a Webster Street Corridor Group can work together to partner in supporting each other and hold joint activities.

In December, the Caroling, Soup, and Crafts on Wednesday nights is the kick off of Connecting with the Community. Other activities such as a Christian book club, a craft sale, tutoring in the schools, a Gal Pals group for individuals needing more social interactions, an adult Vacation Bible School, and other ideas are being explored.

The Connect the Building and the Connect to the Community teams have been meeting together since many of the items overlap. If you are not currently involved in one of these teams and would like to join in on the planning and fun, please contact either Lynn Yarnell, Betsy Morgan, or Patricia Birkhold. We look forward to the year ahead as we grow in our faith and expand our mission to spread the love of God.



## Faith Partners

In the year 2024 we are challenging members of the church to pair off by individuals or couples as Faith Partners. Look for an invitation to become Faith Partners in January.



### What is the goal of Faith Partners?

Get together at least once a month for six months.

### What should we do together as Faith Partners?

Ideally, what we do together should be something Christian, and some of the ideas are for us to meet other Christians. The goal is for us to be better connected to each other, to our community, and other Christians in the community.

### That doesn't help! What should we do?

Think of the ideas in terms of these four areas:

#### *Worship*

Experience a worship service of another church. This doesn't have to mean skipping Sunday morning at First Presbyterian. Emmanuel Lutheran has Thursday night services. Other churches have programs that include worship midweek or have special services. If you are not able to get to the services, get together and watch a service online or on TV, then discuss it.

Come to the church prayer group or ask Patricia or Bruce to bring the prayer group to you. We can get together and pray.

Go to hear a Christian music performance.

Go to a Presbytery meeting.

#### *Education (Learn Something New!)*

Go talk with people who run Christian ministries in town, like the Salvation Army, Together We Can Make A Difference, Pillars of Success, or another ministry.

Learn more about the other non-Christian ministries that serve the poor and needy.

Read a book together.

Go to a Presbytery meeting.

Join the Sunday School class or any of the education groups that are starting at our church, or even a study sponsored by another church.

#### *Care (Love One Another)*

Have a meal together and get to know each other.

Do something together that is one of your favorite things to do, like a restaurant or a place to visit.

Go together and visit member who is shut-in, or include a shut-in in one of your events.

Go someplace public, like Chief or Walmart or a restaurant, and watch people. See what our community is about.

Go someplace public and watch people, like a restaurant. What would you pray for them?

#### *Mission (Be a Blessing)*

Volunteer your time together.

Volunteer together when we cook the meal at Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Volunteer together at another church function.

Go to <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/> together and see what our denomination does in mission. Maybe there is a mission we don't know about our church should or could support, or something we could do.

See if you can help with any of the groups you learned about in *Education*.

### But this sounds really complicated!

It shouldn't be. Once we get our partners, find time to get together and do something each month. If we have enough people doing it, we should have groups sharing what they did. Others might be providing some good ideas or even inviting you and your faith partner along!

## Notes from Bob Elliot's Funeral

Thanks for being there for Bob and Betty all these years. You have a beautiful church. Steve Rehrer

Dear Tom, Bob would be so pleased with the wonderful service Saturday. It was so "him" and so meaningful. We were happy to see you too, Tom remarked about that you played also—it was just great. Blessings to you and Julie for this end run. You have been so effective. Stay well and take care—you are in our thoughts and prayers. Barb Lauber

Please accept this gift for all you have done. Use it as you see fit. Dad loved this church. The Elliot family

To the family of Bob Elliot, It was 74 years ago that I first met Bob at Dinner Bell Foods. He was a salesperson and a very good person in every way. Of course, I haven't seen him for many years but the effect of good people lasts forever. I plan on seeing Bob in heaven. Sincerely, George Newton, Deacon at St. Mary Catholic Church in Defiance

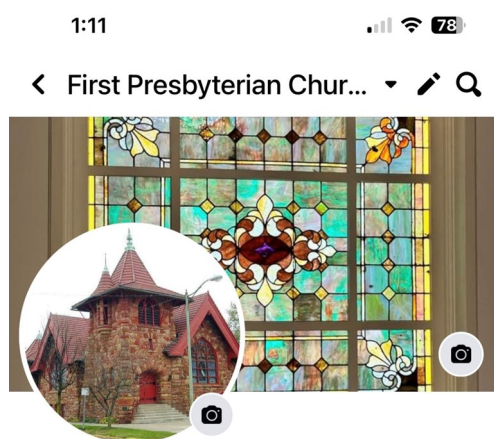
## Comments from We Care Recipients

From family 1: My daughter spent the last month in the hospital with a burst appendix. You have no idea how much this helps.

From family 4: We have a million things going on. I'm on my way to court at 11 for my daughter, and my mother passed away in October. Thank you very much!

From family 5: We haven't done any Christmas shopping this year, because we haven't had the time or the funds. Thank you. (She then showed me the damage to her car she can't afford to get fixed.)

If you would like the bulletin emailed to you each week,  
send a request to [fpcnapoleon@gmail.com](mailto:fpcnapoleon@gmail.com),  
and we'll send you a copy and our announcements each week.



### First Presbyterian Church

108 likes · 114 followers



Sunday Worship 10 a.m. All are welcome! 🙏

**Order for the Worship of God**

---

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

---

**GATHERING**

**Welcome:**

L The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

P And also with you.

L God calls us today with steadfast and unfailing love.

P God is good and God is strong. God is holy and God is just.

L God's mouth is open wide.

P We gather to hear his word.

L God's hands are open wide.

P We gather to receive from his abundance.

L God's heart is open wide.

P We gather to welcome his embrace.

**Prayer of Invocation:**

\*Opening Hymn: (Blue #220) *"All People that on Earth do Dwell"*

Our Facebook page is being updated regularly!

Lots of pictures of the Wednesday caroling,  
fellowship and crafts!

Check us out at [www.facebook.com/fpcnapoleon](http://www.facebook.com/fpcnapoleon)

### Upcoming Scheduled Meetings

Congregational Life—Tuesday, January 2nd 10:00 a.m.

Women's Bible Study—Wednesday, January 3rd

Prayer Group—every Thursday at noon.

Connect to the Community — Thursday, January 11th, 3:30 p.m.

Serving the Meal at Emmanuel Lutheran Church — Wednesday, January 31st, 5:00 pm  
(All are welcome to come and eat!)

Session—February 9th

### Upcoming Planned Preaching Schedule

January 7th—Genesis 1:1-5, Mark 1:4-11

January 14th—1 Samuel 3:1-10, John 1:43-51

January 21st—Jonah 3:1-5,10, Mark 1:14-20

January 28th—Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Mark 1:21-28

February 4th—Isaiah 40:21-31, Mark 1:29-39

February 11th—2 Kings 2:1-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

February 14th—Ash Wednesday, Service with Emmanuel Lutheran

### A Quick Note from Bruce and Opportunities

**We have become a small church.** I have been reading a book called *The Big Small Church Book* to understand what it will be like to be a small church, and I'd like to share a few highlights:

- A larger church thinks primarily in terms of programs. A small church thinks primarily in terms of people.
- In a larger church, Sunday worship is for the worship service. In a small church, Sunday mornings are to see everyone else in the church.
- In a larger church, people are attracted to the church by the pastor or the programs. In a small church, they are attracted by relationships, by family ties and friendships of church members.
- The hallmark of a strong small church is not the program or the number of people in worship, but the love we have for one another.

I am already seeing how we are growing closer to each other. This is why I am excited about the faith partners idea. The goal is to get to know each other better, get us out into the community to see what we could do, and help us discern what to focus on to do. I hope you choose to participate.

My goal, as your temporary pastor, is to help us become a great small church, because a great small church can grow, and because this would be the best thing I could do to help our next pastor.

**The Congregational Life Committee needs your help.** We are down to need more people on the committee. We also could use help with cookie Sundays and cooking at Emmanuel Lutheran on the fifth Wednesdays. Anyone who feels moved join the committee, take a cookie Sunday, or partner to cook a meal, please talk to Betsy, Lynn, Bruce, Jana, or Margaret.

**Bruce**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

303 W. Washington St.  
Napoleon, OH 43545

Phone: 419-592-7736  
Email: [fpcnapoleon@gmail.com](mailto:fpcnapoleon@gmail.com)  
[www.fpcnapoleon.org](http://www.fpcnapoleon.org)

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**303 WEST WASHINGTON ST.,**  
**NAPOLEON, OH**  
**419-592-7736**  
**FPCNAPOLEON.ORG**  
**TOM POLKER, PASTOR**

*10:00 a.m. Worship*

