

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Steven Brand, Pastor
Sheri Bogardus, Treasurer
Gary Collins, Custodian
Sheri Bogardus, Secretary
Thom Ogilvie, Worship Leader

JULY



~Drive in Church~



~Worship~



Thank you, Thom for doing such a fine job of leading in worship and thanks to all that help with the sound and equipment. You did a great job preaching and the office got several

people that called and emailed to say thank you! Keep up the good work.

Thanks to Ed Jobs for filling in too, you always do a great job and we can count on you to be there and fill in the gap.

~Church Life~

What's been happening around the church?

In preparation for your safe return many things have been underway by many volunteers. Most of the curtains have been washed and rehung, windows have been washed, all the tables and chairs in the Fellowship Hall have been scrubbed clean. Pew cushions have been steam cleaned, floors mopped and most of the carpets shampooed. New signs have been made, new offering boxes are ready for contactless giving and there are sanitizing stations in many different places.





Why Aren't We in the Sanctuary?

The short answer is that Session met on Thursday July 9th and decided that it was in the best interest of the church to continue with the drive-in service and Bible study over Zoom. We will continue in this way for at least the next 4 weeks, before reexamining the issue.

The long answer gets a lot more complicated. The main two reasons are safety and maintaining as much unity within the congregation as possible. Safety remains a significant concern. I am sure that many of you are well aware of the significant increase in new cases of COVID-19 in Ohio and around the country. There are many reasons we are seeing an increase; but at least we can say that we are not getting the coronavirus summer break that many expected. I know that I thought we would see a decrease in new cases over the summer.

COVID-19 continues to show that it is very serious for individuals with certain risk factors like age or certain health conditions like diabetes or lung disease. As a church we are called on to protect vulnerable people. Jesus commands us to take care of the poor, the orphan and the widow. We are to protect those who are in vulnerable positions and this includes those who are more vulnerable to serious complications from COVID-19. To ignore the danger this virus poses to so many in our congregation would be wrong.

That said there are ways in which we can lower the risk this disease carries while still meeting in the sanctuary. I would say that the church has prepared in most every way possible to limit the risk of spread. I hope you looked through the opening procedures letter that we sent out a few weeks ago. In this letter you saw that we have: required social distancing, installed new sanitizer stations, limited occupancy of rooms, created one way traffic patterns, closed off areas of the church and asked those who are sick to stay home. These procedures allow us to follow all feasible recommendations put forth by the State of Ohio and the CDC.

You also saw in that letter that we are planning on having many options available when we do open the sanctuary, so

that individuals can choose a worship experience that fits their needs. An early morning drive-in service, the Adult Elective offered live and on Zoom, an 11 am service in the sanctuary that would also be broadcast on the radio for those to hear in their cars. These plans for worship and the plans for safety are all still in place, ready to be enacted whenever Session believes it is right to do so.

There is a big problem with all of these options. That leads me to the second main concern, unity. In order to open safely for all people, we have to have options. Yet, these options would spread our congregation apart. We are a smaller congregation. Before the virus, we were averaging about 50 in worship. The drive-in service has had as many as 40 and is typically has had at least 30. Based on our surveys and congregational feedback, we would not have 30 individuals attend worship in the sanctuary at this moment. Due to logistics, the drive-in service would have had to move to an earlier time. Several people stated that they could not make this earlier time, but would also not come back to the sanctuary.

Based on our surveys and congregational feedback, we can say with certainty that the total attendance of both the sanctuary service and the drive-in service would be lower on average than just the 11 am drive-in service has been. Yet, the number wouldn't just be lower, it would also be divided. For example: Instead of having 30-40 people all worshipping together in their cars at 11 am. We could have 10 people in their cars at 8:30 am, 15 people worshipping in the sanctuary and 5 worshipping in their cars at 11 am. This would be a significant fracturing of our congregation already fractured by the virus.

People have asked me if I thought it was wrong for churches to worship indoors. Others have asked me if I thought it was wrong for churches to close their sanctuary. I don't think the answer is that black and white. For some churches, it would be wrong to close their sanctuaries. For other churches, it would be wrong to leave their sanctuaries open. If a church:

1. Can keep their congregation reasonably safe.
2. Can actively protect, and provide meaningful worship for those who are vulnerable.
3. All while maintaining unity and community for its congregation, then that church can worship in-person, indoors.

If it cannot do all three, then it cannot. Due to our size and resource constraints we as a session (myself included) do not believe we should worship in-person and indoors at this time.

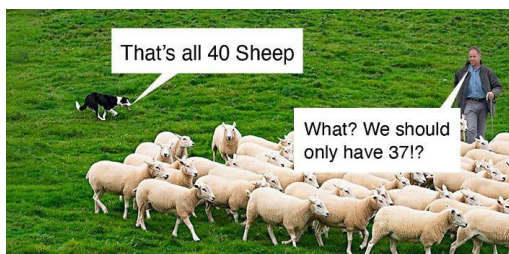


On a lighter note:

New study confirms; Cats can't spread the Covid-19 virus, but would if given the option...



The Hills are closed!



~Sunday School~

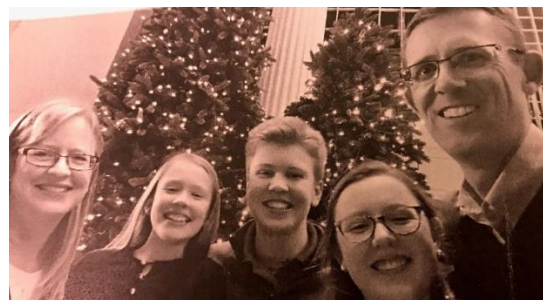
The Adult Sunday School class begins a new study on July 12th entitled “Me and My Big Mouth”, a 4-



week DVD-based study by Andy Stanley. This study is based on James 1:19-20 (“be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger”).

In the events of recent weeks we have been reminded of the importance of listening. It has been said that some people won't listen until they have been heard, making this a very timely study. The class will continue to ZOOM (via web or telephone) even after we begin meeting in person again.

~EVANGELISM & OUTREACH~



The Knudson News
Serving in Bolivia with SIM

Paul and Christy Knudson and family were looking forward to their return to Bolivia at the beginning of July. Unfortunately, COVID 19 has changed that time frame. The cases of COVID 19 continue to climb and have not yet peaked in Bolivia, and borders are not expected to open until September or October. After prayer and counsel, the Knudson's requested and were granted an extension of their home assignment until the end of 2020.

SIM leadership has been understanding and supportive of this decision, and there are a number of missionaries from around the world who find themselves in the same situation. Paul has been asked by the Bolivia Director to take on a few responsibilities to help him and has offered to help in the US office as well. Details are to be worked out, but Paul is looking forward to working remotely with Bolivia leadership from the US.

God has graciously continued to provide housing for them at Wheaton. They may need to switch units, but are thankful that they can stay at Wheaton. They are in need of another vehicle, as the one they have is becoming unreliable.

They ask for us to continue to pray as they adjust to six more months at Wheaton, that they get to stay in their present house, provision for another vehicle and Paul's new SIM responsibilities.



SAMAIR PERU UPDATE FOR JULY

MIKE AND NANCY MAHON

DAY 101 of Quarantine

SAMAIR PERU (one of two aviation ministries of South America Mission, Inc) in South America, is on a base located just outside the jungle city of Pucallpa, Peru. Wikipedia or some other source may tell you (based on 2010 census figures) that the population of Pucallpa is only about 300,000. However, in the past twelve years, the population has burgeoned. It is now the fastest-growing city in Peru, with about ¾ million to one million inhabitants just in the area around Pucallpa. The government infrastructure has not grown along with the population, so there are not enough services available to meet the demand.

The Covid-19 pandemic has struck Pucallpa hard, and it has laid bare the sad fact that the Peruvian government, in spite of its economic prosperity, has reinvested little in the crumbling public health care system, probably less than \$700. Per person. Corruption on national and local levels also factors into the problem. When the pandemic hit, there were only an estimated two hospital beds per every 1,000 people. In March, the available beds were already filled with patients who had Dengue, a mosquito-borne illness similar to Malaria. None of the government hospitals (the only hospital most of the people could afford) had sufficient Personal Protection Equipment, ventilators, or ICU beds. Many people here have undiagnosed underlying health issues, which can complicate the situation for Covid patients.

Peru was one of the first South American countries to close its borders and impose strict quarantine and social distancing, etc, but those measures have not worked. Cases continue to climb. No one has accurate figures of exactly how many deaths there have been. The cases continue to climb as I write this, for many reasons. It is complicated. One of the main reasons people need to leave their homes is necessity. Fewer than 25% of all homes have a working refrigerator here to store food, and 70+ % of all Peruvians work day to day, so the vast majority have been unable to shelter in place due to the necessity of going out to get food daily. Government Covid relief subsidies have to be collected in person by waiting in long lines at the banks in town, thus exposing many to the virus. So the problem will not soon go away. Meanwhile, some businesses have begun to slowly reopen in phases outlined by the government, but it is still mostly only stores that sell food, pharmacies, and banks that are open. By June 30, we should know if the quarantine will be extended. Peru has officially declared a State of Emergency until September. There is no mail service in or out, and no national or international flights. There is some hope national flights might begin again in July on a limited basis. Interprovincial travel by car or bus is still currently prohibited.

SAMAIR Peru has gotten permission to do emergency medical flights and help take food and medical supplies out to remote locations. This has given us an additional way to share Christ's love to those who do not know Him. We have been careful to not take passengers from this area to remote areas, so we do not spread the virus to vulnerable communities. But it has unfortunately arrived there by other means. We are also helping with local food distribution through SAM's Covid Relief program.

PRAYER REQUESTS/ PRAISES:

1. Pray for our SAMAIR DIRECTOR, who is also currently our only operational pilot. Pray for wisdom for him and good health. He must make important decisions daily
2. PRAY for members of the SAMAIR Peru team, as we try to help neighbors feed their families in these difficult times.
3. PRAY for the government officials of Peru.
4. PRAY for the people of Peru, that those of the Family of God here will demonstrate His love by

stepping up to help others and share the love of Christ while meeting needs.

5. PRAY for Mike, as he is trying to export and import aircraft parts and supplies with only limited transportation means available.
6. PRAISE: Mike and I have had good health through these 100+ days

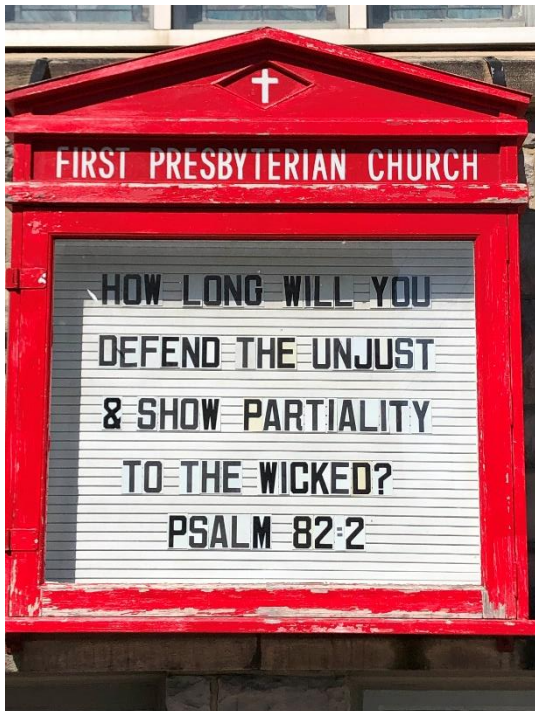


Candlewick Commons

60+ Cloth masks were delivered to the residents at Candlewick Commons a few months back and disposable masks were delivered this month. Thank you to those that gave toward this outreach project.



Lunch Bunch will not be meeting in the month of August. Can't wait till we can get together again for fellowship but not until it is safe for us to meet.



Join Pastor Steve on this important study

& conversation on race: **Dismantling Racism**

- Have you ever heard the term "white privilege" and thought "I don't have any special privileges"?



- Have you ever heard the term "systemic racism" and thought "isn't racism over?"?
- Have you ever wanted to ask questions about other races or learn more but never felt like there was a safe space to do it?
- Have you ever felt hopeless about racism issues and wished you knew a way to help?
- Have you ever wanted to understand more about racial issues but didn't know where to start?

If you've answered yes to any of these questions, then join us for "RAISING RACIAL AWARENESS", a four-week presbytery-wide conversation on race. Each participant will be invited to an introduction on Zoom on Thursday, July 23 at noon or 7:00 pm and will receive a list of articles and videos (maximum of 20 minutes each) to read and watch, one for each day. Conversations will be held on the following three Thursdays at noon or 7:00 pm, during which time participants will be invited to share observations, new learnings, and challenges with other church members and friends from around the presbytery.

Email Kathi Bubb at kathibubb@gmail.com for more information and the Zoom link.



Online Giving:

You can go to our website and give online safely and securely now.

This will remain even after Covid-19 has come and gone. Mailing in your offering is safe too. Thank you to those that have remained faithful in their giving.

<http://www.1stpresnewark.com/>



~Food Pantry Update~

Article by Charles S. Moore

TEAMWORK

Today, I am reflecting on what Teamwork means for the Food Pantry Network.

The first part of teamwork for our business is the community. Individuals and businesses who have supported the FPN through the years and even more importantly since March 1st. Your support has allowed our organization to do some amazing things over the past 4 months.

The second part of teamwork for the FPN is our staff. We have continued to run with only 4 full time and 2 part time staff. I have not heard any of our staff members complain about picking up the extra workload that has been required of them throughout this pandemic.

The 3rd part is our relationship with Mid-Ohio Foodbank and the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, both of these organizations have gone over and above to help secure food and make it readily available for us. Their staff have secured truckloads of food for us.

The 4th part of teamwork for the FPN is our volunteers. We have asked them to completely change the way they are serving for the safety of themselves and our patrons. They have been asked to give out extra food to help alleviate the need for our families to come back as often and they have done all of this while putting themselves and their families at risk. I also have a board of 14 members who have been guiding us through this pandemic.

This month we have hit a milestone for a single month of food distribution. Last June we distributed 369,695 pounds of food for the

month. The most food we have ever distributed in any given month was 454,166 pounds in September of 2015. June 2020, our team which includes everyone listed above distributed 580,333 pounds of food to those who are less fortunate.

Thank you for your support and your service to those who need us throughout Licking County.

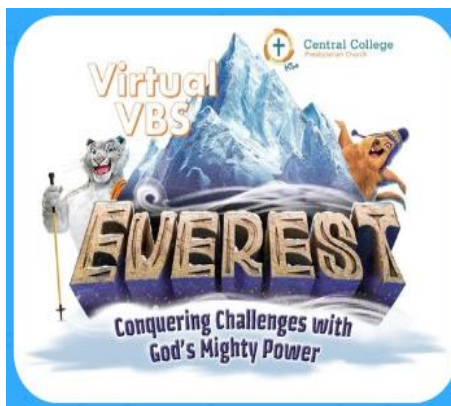
Chuck

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Online Donation: <https://foodpantrynetwork.net/donations/>



Because of COVID-19, 1st and 2nd Presbyterian Churches decided not to hold Vacation Bible

School this summer. We hope and pray things will be different next summer and we can resume VBS at that time.



We learned of an opportunity for a virtual Vacation Bible School

through Central College Presbyterian Church in Westerville and sent out invitations to children and parents that attended last year. Letters were mailed and emails were sent. Any results will be reported at a later date.

Thank you to all that participated in this event. We hope and pray the children had a wonderful time experiencing Vacation Bible School in a new and creative way.

August Birthdays

Dee Weekly	08/02
Jennifer Weekly	08/03
Katelynn Brand	08/04
Jim Johnson	08/05
Vonda Morrow	08/06
Thelma Smythe	08/06
Kaden Fish	08/07
Kristi Butts	08/14
Chris Lieb	08/15
Gage Detrick	08/28
Christopher Messer	08/29
Dee Wickline	08/30
Thia Drake	08/30

August Anniversaries

Ryan and Sasha Fish	08/11
Dick and Judy Doyle	08/18



Sarah Bowles' Heartbeat Baby Book Shower



Thank you so much to everyone who shopped, donated and of course to our amazing hostess Sarah Bowles!! This afternoon we will be gifting Heartbeats with 50 books, 2 huge packs of diapers, 4 packs of sippy cups and 10 boy outfits from 12M - 3T

Diana Hutchinson Brand/Usborne Books





Participate in our first Heartbeats

2020 Bottles for Life VIRTUAL Campaign in July!

Each year, First Presbyterian Church partners with Heartbeats to raise funds for the life-saving services they provide to abortion-vulnerable women and families. Many families desperately need the resources and support Heartbeats provides!

Because of the ongoing generosity of churches in our community,

Heartbeats has been able to offer services at NO COST for over 50 years!

\$40 covers the cost of a pregnancy test appointment! 780 tests provided in 2019.

\$150 covers one month of our BrightCourse parenting program for an unlimited # of clients!

\$400 covers the cost of an ultrasound appointment! 353 limited ultrasounds provided in 2019.

While we will not be distributing actual baby bottles this year, you can still support the Bottles for Life Campaign!

You can give online at hbfl.us and invite your friends and family to do the same!

Or you can mail donations to: Heartbeats Admin Office,

336 E. Main St., Newark OH 43055

Please designate First Presbyterian Church, Newark in memo so we can get a total of church donations made.

Heartbeats is a pregnancy help and medical center, empowering individuals to make informed decisions concerning pregnancy and sexual health. Your support helps provide free and confidential services, including: Pregnancy testing - Ultrasound confirmation of Pregnancy - Pregnancy Options with trained Client Consultants - Adoption Awareness Education - Sexual Integrity and Health Education - Incentive Parenting Program that includes pregnancy, parenting, and life skills education - Man-to-Man mentoring program - Abortion Recovery - Groups for men and women, and most importantly sharing the Gospel!

