

## PASTOR'S PEN: SUMMER RECREATION

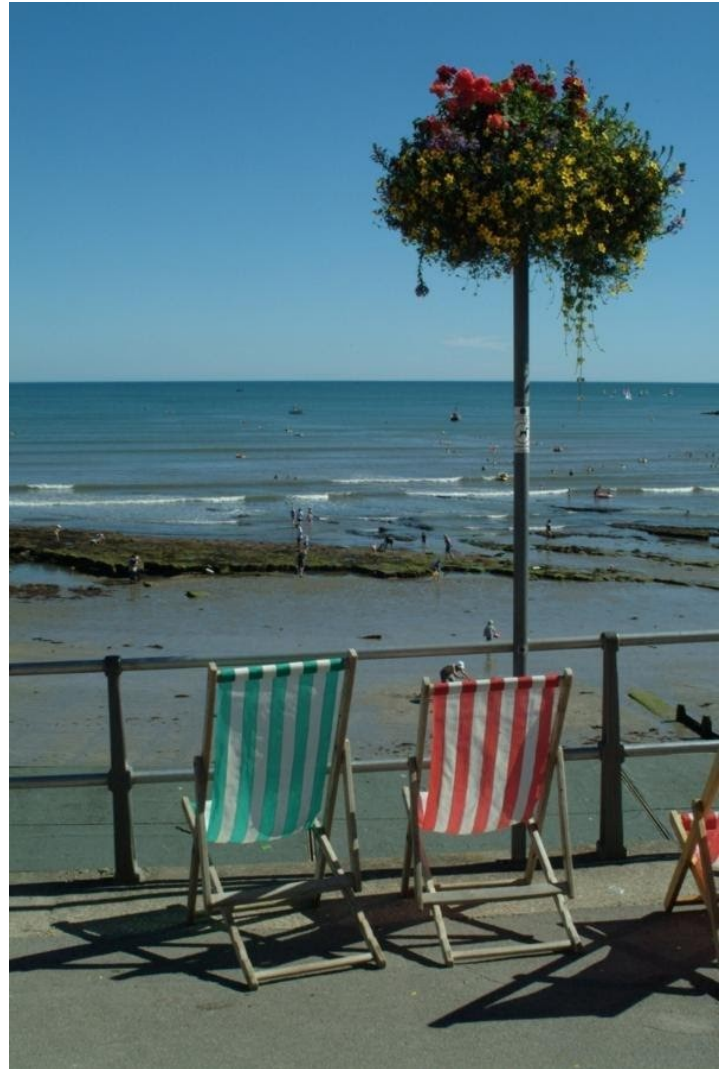
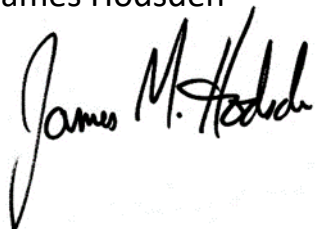
Summer is here. It is true that the official beginning of the season, the summer solstice, doesn't occur until June 21, and school remains in session for a few more days. Nonetheless, one can sense that the season is already in the air. People are planning vacations, trips to Cedar Point, and visits with family. Children are looking forward to time at the swimming pool, summer camps, and a few more video games in air-conditioned comfort. We are thinking about summer foods—a glass of sun tea, lemonade, or an ice cream cone that melts faster than we can lick.

We associate summer with recreation, and many use the hotter months to rest and to play. We work hard, and ironically, we are very serious about our recreation. We invest our money to make our time off more relaxing and more fun. We use our precious minutes searching the internet for the best prices on flights, hotel rooms, and cruises. Something in our souls begs for time-off or just a little break. The word recreation itself literally means “re”-creation. We are rejuvenated, refreshed and renewed by our down-time.

The Scriptures teach us that we keep Sabbath because God rested after creating the world. They also teach us that creation was corrupted, and “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: the old has gone, the new has come” (2 Cor 5:17). We are “re”-created by God, and we find rest finally in him. This summer, as you are frantically looking for times of recreation, don't forget the opportunity to be re-created. We'll see you on the Lord's Day in worship.

Grace & Peace,

James Hodsdon





**Presbyterian Women invite  
all ladies and girls of the  
church to join in celebration!**

**Monday, June 14, 2021 - 6 pm**

**Scout House – Halfway Road**

**Theme: PW Birthday Offering**

**Bring a potluck dish & coins or  
single dollar bills for missions.**

## **Graduation Sunday 2021**

This year, we will be honoring our High School graduates on Sunday, June 6th during the 10am worship. We will be proud to display their accomplishments in the Narthex before their graduation!

**Take advantage of the end of  
winter sales for **Christmas**  
in **July**. Purchase now  
Discounted winter coats,  
hats, and gloves.**



## **Rummage Sale.....**

We accept your treasures year round! You can bring all your goodies to the church during business hours or if you need after hours contact Wende Mersereau and coordinate another time.

## **KINGDOM KIDS IS BACK!**

Beginning May 30th, our Kingdom Kids program will be returning to the 10:00am service! Kingdom Kids is a kids ministry offered after the children's moment during the service. Pre-school - 3rd grade students can meet their leader at the back of the sanctuary after the children's moment for an age-appropriate worship and Bible-learning experience. Kingdom Kids will be meeting in the preschool Sunday School room during the summer (located directly at the top of the stairs on the 2nd floor of the children's wing). Kids can be picked up here at the end of the service. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kathleen Wheeler, [kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net](mailto:kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net) Nursery will also be offered at the 10:00am service during the summer.

## NEWS FROM THE SESSION

April 2021

Julie Murdock preaches on June 27, 2021.

Seventy-three people enjoyed the Maundy Thursday roast beef dinner.

Deacon survey - 175 responses.

The summer worship schedule beginning May 30, 2021 (8:30 A.M. and 10:00 A.M.).

Buildings & Grounds painted the first coat on the walls of the Treasurer's office.

Current Projects:

- Install courtyard tile
- Patch parking lot
- Repair new basement water meter
- Repair sanctuary windows
- Paint 2nd coat on Treasurer's walls
- Install new roof on sanctuary & narthex
- Repair roof courtyard's North walkway
- Install mag lock on Narthex door
- Install two interior cameras.

In-Person Sunday School for children, youth, and adults and Youth groups began on April 11 with the following teachers:

- Preschool/Kindergarten, Lyndsey Heyman and Heidi Strong
- Grades 1-2-3, Tracey Sommers and Joey Peterson
- Grades 4-5-6, Jennifer Bennison
- Jr. & Sr. High School, Pastor James
- Adults, Dr. Canfield.
- Fusion Leaders, Abby Keefer, Dale Rafie, Georgianna Scherz, Bob Sands, Shar White
- Catalyst leaders, Tracey Sommers, Brice Fries, Ty Keefer.

Mission plans a Belize house build with ACT and TWAU in February 2022.

Rummage Sale schedule for Aug. 13-14.

Pastor James completed Third Grader Sacrament training for Anna Fries.

## WITH MANY THANKS

To My Church Family,

Thank you for all of your cards, notes, thoughts and healing prayers, following my recent illness.

I have been blessed and touched by your lovely support.

Mitch Esch



June 14, 2021

## **GET READY FOR VBS!**

If you have signed up to attend this year's drive-thru Vacation Bible School, make sure that you have marked your calendar for June 14 - 18! Each morning, Monday - Friday, you can bring your kids to the church to pick up your materials for the day anytime between 9-10am. While you are here, you will get to meet characters from that day's Bible story, interact with a few feisty pirates on Treasure Island, and even hop out of the car to do a quick treasure hunt of your own, make your own treasure box, earn prizes, and much more! We can't wait to see you at "TREASURED!" and discover together that YOU are God's treasure!!



## **THANK YOU, YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS!**

Sunday, May 23rd Our in-person marks the final day of our 2020-2021 Sunday School year. To say that this year has been different is definitely an understatement, but to see our teachers rise to the challenges this year brought was truly wonderful! Our in-person season was only a short 7 weeks long, but it was filled with wonder, laughter, excitement and engaging lessons thanks to our dear teachers: Jennifer Bennison, Lyndsey Heyman, James Hodsden, Joey Peterson, Tracey Sommers, and Heidi Strong. Thank you for returning to in-person class, sharing your love with our kids and teaching them about the wonderful news our Savior brings!

Before we returned to in-person, we put into place an entirely new kind of learning for our Sunday school kids via a virtual zoom experience. For the majority of our Sunday school season we operated with these virtual classes and I am so grateful to our teachers who led us through this new kind of education: Lyndsey Heyman, and Kayliann Schwinn. Not only did they learn how to use this new technology, but they did it in a way that engaged the kids even as we were all in different houses. Altering lessons to fit at-home learning, delivering supplies to houses weekly (special thanks to Tracey Sommers for assisting in this as well!) and coming up with crafts, games and activities that translated across computer screens. It was wonderful to watch their love of teaching overcome the obstacles teaching virtually brought in order to reach their students. I am so proud of their efforts!

We also put into place a pen-pal program this year to help supplement our virtual classes and give the kids more connection to those in our church even while staying at home. Thank you to Crissy Cooperrider, Marcia Goodsite, Aundrea Gordon, and Michele Graves! They did a wonderful job reaching out to our children and encouraging them throughout this crazy year! The time you spent on this project was so appreciated and so welcomed by our families for the joy and hope you brought to their lives through the mailbox.

Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of our amazing volunteers that have spread God's love and taught His words through our kids Sunday School programs this year!

## **HAVE A COLLEGE GRADUATE?**

We would love to honor our college graduates in our next messenger! If you have a college graduate in your family, can you please send the following information to Kathleen Wheeler ([kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net](mailto:kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net)) by June 6th: Graduate's name, degree graduated with, name of college attended, and any future plans. If you have a picture of them at their graduation (or just a current picture) please send that along as well.



## KEEN AGER or KEENAGER NEWS

We had our first “reorganizational” meeting on May 7th and there were about 30 people there. Several of you couldn’t make it but plan to be there next month.

We decided to keep our Keenager Name and wear it like a badge. Keen is a Scandinavian word and means bright, alert, sharp, intense and all kinds of good things. What a way to start our year!!!

We will also be known (in small letters) as “first friday friends”.

We decided to meet on the first Friday of the month at 1:00 pm in the Great Room. We are planning on an hour but that goes by very quickly. That room is usually available on Friday so it’s OK to tarry and I’m sure we will.

We’re putting together a couple of committees to get this off and running. We have started an email list. If you want to be on it, please call Lorri at the church office (419-668-1923) and she will sign you up.

If you don’t have email, just call her and leave your phone number. We don’t want anyone to “fall through the cracks”.

We do plan to invite speakers sometimes. Also, times to share “concerns and celebrations”, a learning time to be better prepared for our journey, games sometimes and just good old fashioned “socializing”. There should be something for everyone!

Looking forward to our next adventure on Friday, June 4, 2021.

**BIRTHDAY BUNCH**  
**NOW MEETING THE THIRD WEDNESDAY**  
**OF EACH MONTH**  
**12:30 PM AT EAST OF CHICAGO PIZZA**  
**Next meeting June 16, 2021**

# We're Having a **COCKOUT!**



**TWO YOUTH EVENTS FOR YOUR  
CALENDAR**

**A CATALYST COCKOUT  
SUNDAY, JUNE 13 at 7 PM**

**A FUSION COCKOUT  
SUNDAY, JULY 11 at 5 PM**

## **THANK YOU, TASHA!**



Tasha Prather is stepping down as our Nursery caregiver. She is now working more hours at her daycare job, and she isn't able to juggle both positions anymore. Tasha has been a blessing to the church and our children in particular. After stepping down, she will continue to be a member of our congregation. We are glad that we won't be saying goodbye.

**FPC welcomes our new  
Youth Director**

# **MALCOLM JAMES**



*Malcolm begins June 1st*



# SERVING IN JUNE

## LITURGIST

### 8:30am

**June 6 Abby Keefer**  
**June 13 Eric Weisenburger**  
**June 20 Amy Bower**  
**June 27 Roger Knight**

### 10:00am

**June 6 Chris Canfield**  
**June 13 Dirk Hiler**  
**June 20 Bev Miller**  
**June 27 Crissy Cooperrider**

## USHERS

### 8:30am

**June 6 Aundrea Gordon**  
**June 13 Aundrea Gordon**  
**June 20 Jason Strong**  
**June 27 Jason Strong**

### 10:00am

**June 6 Bev Miller/Brian Hauler**  
**June 13 Michele Graves/Linda Carino**  
**June 20 Bev Miller/Brian Hauler**  
**June 27 Julie Myers**

## FOOD BANK SUNDAY

1st Sunday of the month.

Next one will be June 6, 2021

## SEPARATE & DELIVER FLOWERS

**June 6 Norm Sommers**  
**June 13 Cynthia Kniffin**  
**June 20 Nancy Gfell**  
**June 27 Diane Eschen**

**JULY 2021**  
***Messenger***  
**Deadline is**  
**Tuesday, June 15**

## CHURCH FINANCES

As of April 2021



YTD Income \$159,067.12

YTD Expense \$133,754.38

Net Income \$ 25,312.74

*Details available from Treasurer*

*One Great Hour of Sharing 2021 - \$8,368.53*

*Thank you for your generosity.*

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

21 Firelands Boulevard  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857

Phone: 419-668-1923

Fax: 419-663-5115

Web Page: <http://www.firstpresbyterian.net>

---

Non Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

NORWALK, OH

Permit #20

---

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**CHURCH STAFF:**

Rev. James Hodsdon, Pastor

[jhodsdon@firstpresbyterian.net](mailto:jhodsdon@firstpresbyterian.net)

Rev. Clair H. Brewer, Parish Associate

Lorri Shane, Office Coordinator

[lshane@firstpresbyterian.net](mailto:lshane@firstpresbyterian.net)

Kathleen Wheeler, Director of Children &  
Family Ministries

[kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net](mailto:kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net)

Michael Matter, Director of Worship and Music

[mpmatter@gmail.com](mailto:mpmatter@gmail.com)

Serena Bowles, Organist

Patricia R. Babcock, Treasurer

[pbabcock@bex.net](mailto:pbabcock@bex.net)

Kayliann Schwinn, Worship Media Coordinator

[craftyteacher246@gmail.com](mailto:craftyteacher246@gmail.com)

Tasha Prather, Nursery Caregiver

Kay Leimeister, Custodian

Burt W. Zimmerman, Custodian

***Rooted in Grace...***

***Growing in Christ...***

***Reaching Out in Love***

**SERVICE TIMES**  
**8:30am & 10:00 am**  
**FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE 9:30am**

