



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

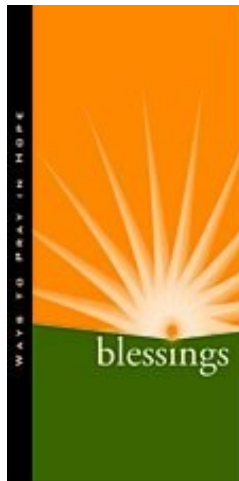
THE JOYFUL NOISE

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 7

JUNE 29, 2015

"PRAYER OF BLESSINGS" PRAYER WALK KICKOFF July 26, 6:00pm

FPC will be participating in a prayer walk for our community. Our entire congregation is encouraged to participate in this effort. We will meet at the church and head out in groups to pray blessings of hope on and in our community. Note: this is a prayer walk ministry, not a door-to-door ministry. Each person will receive a prayer pamphlet tool to help us in our prayers for Ashland. We are seeking to bless and pray for schools, neighbors, businesses, government, and people groups. For a better understanding of this activity, here is an explanation taken from <http://waymakers.org/pray/prayerwalking/> For further information, please see Jake Blasdel.



What is prayerwalking?

God is stirring us to take our prayers beyond the walls of our church buildings. As we put feet to our prayers, we're beginning to pray with huge kingdom-sized hope for entire cities. We've come to call this sort of on-site intercession "prayerwalking." It's simply praying in the very places that we expect God to bring forth His answers. The prayers are intercessory rather than devotional. Prayerwalkers learn to pray beyond their own concerns, focusing prayer on behalf of their neighbors.

Continued on p. 5

July

July 27-31

Clean Out the Church Week

The office will be closed to regular business as staff and volunteers throw open all the cabinets and clean out all the drawers in the building. The Property Commission is developing a list of projects that need to be done around the church. The hope is that our volunteers will be empowered to tackle some of these projects together.

We will need plenty of help as we tidy up!



WORSHIP IN THE PARK

August 2, 11:00am.

Please note the time!

Following our clean up week, we will worship at Brookside West in the pavilion in the back. A potluck lunch will follow.



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Join the Deacons this year in their Christmas in July project by filling our peanut butter and jelly trees. During the month of July everyone is asked to donate a jar of jelly or peanut butter to be placed on the trees in the narthex. This year we will give the jars to the Salvation Army, who sent out a special plea for these items.



PRAYER

Do you ever feel like this?



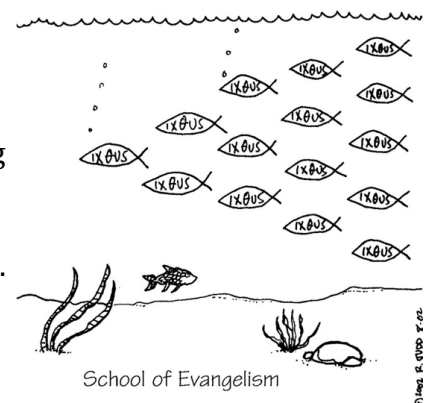
I spoke with Pastor Mike this morning and we talked about the importance of prayer. He had taught the Session members recently about "Breath Prayers" and how it is a way of getting in touch with God. He asked each of us to breathe deeply and exhale pressing out all air. He invited us to repeat the process several times being aware of our breathing. Then he suggested that we use words to accompany our breaths. Y A (in) WEY (out)...Y A WEY... This is a way of inviting YAWEH to be within us. Next he suggested that we try Jesus, Son of God, Savior (or something similar) especially if we feel closer to Jesus. Holy Spirit might be another choice.

It reminded me of a time I lived in Connecticut where I spent precious time with a Catholic friend. We lunched and walked together and she taught me many things about her spiritual life. She once told me that when she climbed stairs, she said to herself, "Jesus, have mercy on me." (Right foot up,) "Jesus, (left foot up) "have mercy on me." If you knew her as I do, you

would not be surprised to know that she was also thinking, "Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner." I will never forget her and I will never forget what she taught me. I think of her when I am climbing stairs. I hope that your walk with the Lord has this effect on others.

Well, I hadn't connected this with "breath praying" until Pastor Mike did his teaching. So I have tried it on my walks through AU. Recently, Jesus spoke to me during my walk and asked me to visit one of our members. When I arrived, she was clearly depressed and not yet dressed though it was lunchtime. Well, the Lord had told me to take her to lunch, so I invited her to see what she thought. It was a pleasant, "Yes." She needed to get washed up and dressed, so I told her I had no plans and there was no hurry. We went out and had a good meal and good conversation and we ended the time together with prayer for her being and her concerns. You see, this is how the Holy Spirit works in my life and can work in our lives. We give Him ourselves, and He leads and guides us. I never know what He will say, but I want to be willing. I truly believe that it is in calling upon His Name, being willing to hear and understand, and being obedient that we change this world. I invite you to try this breath prayer and see what happens. I trust that it will bring you closer and closer to God.

There is a certain peace in following Jesus, giving Him our burdens and trusting His grace.



Sharing God's Love,
Jolynn Lopeman

MISSION TEAM OUTREACH ACTIVITY

On Monday, July 13, members of our congregation will provide and share dinner with AU football players. To have a home-cooked meal after a busy day of practice is a welcome break for these young men, who are living in Ashland for the summer. Since these practices are voluntary, most of these men are living here on their own because AU is not allowed to provide housing due to NCAA regulations.



Our evening together will provide an opportunity for fellowship, and Pastor Mike will lead devotions. We would like to provide lots of cookies, with at least 10 people providing at least 2 dozen cookies each.



Mission Ministry on Sunday, July 12.

Please add your name to the sign-up sheet in the narthex if you can help in this way. Cookies will need to be delivered to church

Dear Church Family,
My heart is full of gratitude for all your many expressions of sympathy when my mother, Bessie Weaver, passed away. Your cards, your notes, your generosity, all were very touching and comforting.

Thank you so much, May God bless you all.

Dorita Ramage



Thank you for all of the prayers, kind words, and cards in the recent passing of my brother. Cindy will continue to need prayers as her finances are being worked out.

Barb Latham

YOUNG LIFE ULTIMATE RIDE

Sunday, August 9

A great local ride which raises money for Young Life of Ashland County, and it gives us bike enthusiasts one more excuse to ride! Last year's route was through the back county roads of Ashland and parts of Richland Counties. Rolling hills, lots of views, and enough climbs towards the back end to make it worth your time. Expect another spectacular course for 2015. All rides will start and end at Ashland High School.

Race Day Details:

Race Day Registration/Package Pick up:
opens at 6:30 am

Ride Start: 7:30 am

Ride Options and Prices:

The Century Ride - 100k (62 mi) \$25

The Pace Setter Ride - 25 mi \$25

The Recreational Ride - 10 mi \$10



If you would like to help with this fund raiser, or if you are interested in sponsoring or riding yourself, talk to Matt or Lauren McClain.

HEALING CARE GROUPS

Healing Care Groups is a comprehensive sixteen week small group experience that integrates formational prayer and positions you to meet Jesus in places of brokenness.



Pastor Mike is tentatively planning a group for Monday nights, September—December. Please contact Pastor Mike if you are at all interested so he can plan for the fall.

pastormike@ashlandfpc.org

JULY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30am Bible Study	2	3 Office Closed— Independence Day Observed	4
5 Hunger Sunday	6 5:00pm Baby Steps	7 8:00pm AA	8 9:30am Bible Study	9	10	11
12 Communion	13 7:00pm AU Football Dinner	14 9:00am Staff 8:00pm AA	15 9:30am Bible Study	16 9:30am Worship Ministry	17 Wedding Rehearsal	18 3:30pm Rastetter/Miller Wedding
19	20 Monthly Newsletter Deadline 5:00pm Baby Steps	21 8:00pm AA	22 9:30am Bible Study	23	24	25
26 6:00pm Prayer of Blessings Prayer Walk	27 Church Work Week —Office Closed	28 Church Work Week—Office Closed 7:00pm Leadership Essentials 8:00pm Bicentennial Service 8:00pm AA	29 Church Work Week —Office Closed 9:30am Bible Study	30 Church Work Week —Office Closed 10:30am Finance Ministry Team	31 Church Work Week —Office Closed	

Dear Friends of Associated Charities, Summer is officially here! What a joy it is seeing the kids out riding bikes, running through the parks and just having fun! As I have mentioned, our focus this summer is on helping those families in need with their food needs as they struggle to feed the family now that the kids are home. We need your help to keep their pantries filled so that they can have access to kid friendly foods! Thanks for joining in our missions to help those families!



We are having our annual fundraising bake sale at our Festival in the Park on July 11 so if anyone would like to donate a baked item for the sale, we would appreciate it! The proceeds go to our Back to School Program to benefit local families with back to school clothing and shoes.

In May 2015, 192 families were assisted for a total of 520 people. Thanks for your continued support each month. I know I say that quite a bit, but I really mean it each and every time that I say it. Without our church support, we would not be able to do what we do here at the food bank side our Associated Charities. You are our lifeline for the food that we give to those in need so, again, I say thank you!!!

Blessings,
Rosemarie Donley
Executive Director

Continued from p. 1

Prayerwalking is usually a low-profile affair: Friends or family stroll two-by-two through their own neighborhoods, schools and work places, praying as they go. There are some occasions when the prayer should be demonstrative, but usually it's being on the scene without making one. Though they usually walk unnoticed, prayerwalkers quickly become aware of the realities and needs of their neighbors.

Why is God raising up prayerwalking now?

God is swamping Christians with hope. It's a huge hope; something like a collective holy hunch that He's about to do some of the finest displays of city-wide salvation. Prayer has always been God's way of putting His name on future events. He's positioning us to pray larger things by giving these things very specific attachment to places and people. Perhaps prayerwalking is a way that God is granting us a good look at the "Before" portrait of our cities. When days of great harvest come about, we will clearly see a very different "After" picture, and praise him all the more exuberantly.

Prayerwalking certainly isn't the only way God is calling us to pray, but it may be the best way to be sure we have prayed for every person of our land. No list includes all of the homeless, or every child, or the transient, or fresh immigrants, or many others. If we are serious about praying for every person, it will require systematic, sustained prayerwalking as an important part of our praying.

I'm convinced that Christ is fulfilling His "seek and save" mission (Luke 19:10). Our part of that mission involves seeking people. He will do the saving. Prayerwalking may be the simplest way for us to seek people. Our prayers are without question God's preferred way to save people, because He is honored and thanked with every answer to prayer.



The Presby Lunch Bunch is on a break for the summer.

We would like to say a special thank you to Jean and Harvey Hudkins for hosting us in their beautiful backyard and pool area in June. Fifteen of us made the rain date event.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF ASHLAND**

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Facebook: FPC Ashland

**GLORIFY GOD,
MAKE DISCIPLES,
MEET HUMAN NEEDS**

www.ashlandfpc.org

**NewsLetter
DEADLine**

**Monday
July 20**

**Food Gram
From the Food Dude**

Hunger doesn't take a vacation. In fact, many families need more food in the summer because the kids are home.



Please bring food donations on July 5 for Hunger Sunday, and/or decorate our PBJ trees during the month of July.

PRSRT STD
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Ashland, Ohio
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To:

July 2015



Associated Charities requests the following items:

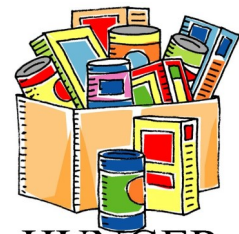
FOOD NEEDED:

****Fresh produce from your gardens that you have a surplus on are always welcomed by our clients!**

Spaghetti-O's and Ravioli
Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce
Boxed Crackers of any kind
Juice: Apple, Grape, Cranberry, etc
Granola Bars
Grape and/or Strawberry Jelly
Condiments: Ketchup/
Mustard/Mayo
Egg Noodles
Canned Fruits
Flavored Rice Side Dishes

Taxable Items Needed:

Feminine Products
Dish Soap
Laundry Detergent
Diapers (size 3 and up)



**HUNGER
SUNDAY**

July 5