

Children → Family Ministry

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Worship During
the First Healing
Care Event at FPC
March 2017

The spiritual formation of our children is the primary responsibility of parents and this is meant to take place first and foremost within the home. There are many passages throughout the Scriptures that speak to this. Perhaps the most clear and succinct is Deuteronomy 6:4-9:

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”
(NIV)

This is the passage from which Jesus is drawing when he gives us the greatest commandment – to love God and others – the summary of the Law that is now written upon our hearts through the work of the Holy Spirit. And I love that this passage starts right there – these commandments are to be “upon your hearts.” We cannot give to others

continued on p. 11

Celebration Sunday, June 4

Please join us on Sunday, June 4 for a special recognition of FPC’s partnership with Healing Care as we celebrate the work God is doing through their ministry. During worship, one of our members will be sharing about his healing care journey. We also will hear from Jonathan and Gemma Donker, who will be going to Spain in July as missionaries in a healing care ministry just like the one housed in our church building.

Following worship come downstairs and see Healing Care’s offices and spaces and visit with the staff to find out more about their programs. This is also a good time to get to know the Donkers as FPC supports them with prayer and finances.



Ashland CCO XD

4 Years in the Making

Thank you for being on this journey of ministering to college students with me over the past four years. As we look forward to welcoming Sarah Bardall to our church family and ministry team as our new church partner, and my new role as a Coalition of Christian Outreach Experiential Design (CCO XD) Resource Staff for Ashland and the Greater Ohio Region begins, I would like to take a moment to rejoice and praise the Lord together for the Fruit of our Labors in our mission to see ***Every Student Experience Christ in Every Area of Life.***

- Jake Blasdel

ASHLAND
UNIVERSITY

CCO XD ADVENTURE

CCO XD ADVENTURE is an on campus ministry at Ashland University.

FPC has partnered with Coalition of Christian Outreach (CCO) in this outdoor, experiential learning program which helps students integrate their faith with adventure.



Austin and Jake

While there are many stories to share, here are just a few highlights:

Austin - Graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Finance and is already in Philadelphia at his new job living into is strength and talent of integrity.

"The way your family invested in me and showed me the hospitality of Christ was like no one I have ever seen before." -Austin Williams

Kouri, on the left. She is finishing up in the fall with her student teaching and will be receiving her Bachelor of Science degree in Education. It was a very emotional and hard day as she was saying goodbye to friends and her close knit community.

"Thank you for praying for me, for encouraging me and for calling out the Christ in me. Though you many not be able to tangibly see or count the ministry you've done here, it's incredible. Your heart for the people/ students at AU and the freedom of Christ's Love to them is unparalleled to anyone on this campus."

For more CCO news, see page 12 & 13.



Kouri, Tanner, and Jake

Birthdays



JUNE

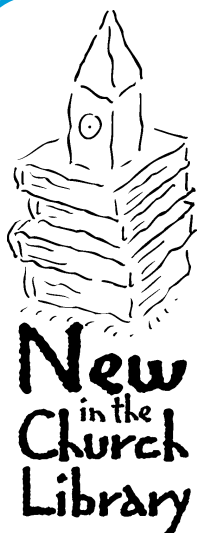
1st Linda Hartzfeld
Pam Keener
2nd Joan Barron
3rd Terry Mapes
Lauren McClain
5th Zachary Conley
Patti Fenwick
7th Kristin Click
8th Bob Stokes
9th Sarah Hart
Madelyn Keener
14th Max Webb
17th Jennifer Latham
19th Leon Jacobs
Marshall Mason
23rd Gordon Conrad
25th Joyce Stokes
27th Emily Potts
29th Harvey Hudkins
Nikki Skafec
30th Suzanne Roloff
Francisco Serrano

JULY

5th Herman Helser
6th Gary Carr
7th Geordie Freer
Al Garrett
8th Andrew Mason
9th Pat Perez
12th Tina Foley
13th Jerry Barnett
15th Cora Walker
Steve Yoder
17th Tia Sponsler
19th Carol Keil
20th Tom Carver
21st Jim Savage
22nd Connie Marble
24th Logan Webb
25th Barb Latham
27th Lloyd Wygant

AUGUST

4th Rex Skelton
6th Christina Watson
7th Aaron Sponsler
8th Lisa Barnett
David Strub
10th Russ Callahan
11th Linda Black
12th Doug McKibben
14th Trey Carver
15th Kelly Click
Fredy Robles
16th Mollie Webb
19th Walt Harrop
21st Linda Mapes
23rd Martha Casciani
24th Stetson Blasdel
26th Keagan Parker
30th Jim Keil



The Strength You Need: the Twelve Great Strength Passages of the Bible

by Robert J. Morgan

After reviewing the 232 occurrences of the word *strength* in Scripture, Pastor Robert Morgan chose to concentrate on twelve clear passages that seem to have the ability to drop anchor in God's Sea of Strength. The result was one of total transformation, both for him and for his disabled wife. Using his trademark style of combining page-

turning stories with scriptural truths, Morgan explores important areas such as Lifelong Strength, Imparted Strength, Recurring Strength, Innermost Strength, and more.

This book and more of our newest materials can be found in the hallway display outside the library.



Amy Smetana, daughter of Tony and Sally, graduated from North Central State College on May 12 with a degree in Respiratory Therapy.

Jordann Saffle, daughter of Jim and Lindsey, will graduate from Ashland High School. She already has started working toward a degree as a physical therapy assistant at North Central State College.

Jack Freer Jones, grandson of Carolyn Freer, graduated *magna cum laude* from the Ohio State University.

Financial Reports

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCE REPORT - APRIL 2017

<u>Contributions/Receipts</u>	<u>APRIL 2016</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>BUDGET 2017</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>APRIL 2017</u> <u>YTD</u>
Pledges	\$74,821.34	\$86,653.36	\$81,880.00 *
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$11,473.00	\$15,000.00	\$10,631.20
Loose Offering	\$1,245.98	\$1,666.68	\$1,253.25
Prior Year Pledges	\$625.80	\$1,000.00	\$1,825.00
Church Use Donations	\$150.00	\$2,166.68	\$2,825.00
Whiting Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ACCF - Program	\$1,576.00	\$3,500.00	\$1,606.50
ACCF - Building	\$1,539.25	\$1,875.00	\$1,571.75
ACCF - Mission	\$658.75	\$625.00	\$671.25
Interest/Investment Income	\$44.75	\$5.00	\$14.41
Miscellaneous Income	\$140.73	\$833.32	\$225.66
Total Receipts	\$92,275.60	\$113,325.04	\$102,504.02

Expenses

Personnel	\$70,919.52	\$72,327.72	\$69,474.61
Health Insurance	\$4,838.36	\$4,965.32	\$4,965.32
Property	\$5,433.36	\$6,933.32	\$6,498.80
Property Insurance	\$2,540.00	\$2,750.00	\$2,540.00
Utilities	\$7,109.81	\$7,266.60	\$8,487.16
Finance	\$189.70	\$116.72	\$45.20
Per capita assessment	\$5,171.40	\$5,240.00	\$5,239.80
Session Expenses	\$330.00	\$500.00	\$150.00
Worship/Music	\$714.05	\$1,016.68	\$569.33
Office	\$3,005.18	\$3,383.36	\$2,899.02
Discipleship	\$983.73	\$983.32	\$1,261.40
Stephen Ministry	\$108.89	\$166.68	\$27.85
Mid Week Gathering	\$329.87	\$333.32	\$0.00
Formational Prayer/Training	\$0.00	\$333.32	(\$60.00)
Evangelism / Outreach	\$6,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$5,000.00
Fellowship / Gatherings	\$169.89	\$766.68	\$162.42
ACCESS / Community Care	\$0.00		
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$298.29	\$333.32	\$0.00
Total Expenses	\$108,642.05	\$110,416.36	\$107,260.91

EXCESS INCOME / EXPENSES (\$16,366.45) \$2,908.68 (\$4,756.89)

* Includes prepaid pledges of \$26,580.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)
 Consolidated - April 2017

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Page: 1

	Current Year
<hr/>	
ASSETS	
CASH ACCOUNTS	
Sutton Bank Checking Acct	\$55,810.76
JanneyMontgomeryScott LLC	146,741.28
Subtotal Cash Accounts	202,552.04
	<hr/>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$202,552.04</u>
<hr/>	
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Property Purchase	\$30,610.00
Lick Fund-Children'sMusic	300.00
Memorial & Special Gifts	
Nancy Donley Estate	4,790.73
Lorraine Wetzel Memorial	964.08
Helen McClellan Estate	23,317.99
Organ maint.Liability a/c	790.00
Kitchen maint. Liab. a/c	708.18
Office Liability A/C	308.94
StephenMin./HealingCare	2,380.41
Jesus/StainedGlassWindows	2,249.55
Youth/ Ch.Min.-Plank Mem.	1,080.00
Music/Choir - H Webb Mem.	770.00
Bev Bixler Mem./St. Min.	620.00
G. Strine Mem-Music/Choir	50.00
Subtotal Memorial & Special Gifts	38,029.88
	<hr/>
Special Mission Gifts	
Ashland Care Center	10.00
Property Liability a/c	2,185.00
Youth Ministry	
ACCF - Johnson	2,408.09
Subtotal Current Liabilities	73,542.97
	<hr/>
WITHHELD PAYROLL TAXES	
F.I.C.A.	447.09
Medicare	104.54
Federal Income Tax	537.54
State Income Tax	133.85
City Income Tax	144.35
Employer's Share FICA	447.09
Employer's Share Medicare	104.54
Subtotal Withheld Payroll Taxes	1,919.00
	<hr/>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	75,461.97
	<hr/>
FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balance	\$127,090.07
	<hr/>
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	127,090.07
	<hr/>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u>\$202,552.04</u>



I love this church family so much and want to thank you all again for your prayer support, your cards of sympathy, your hugs and flowers and driving me when I need to go and love as I journeyed

through the beginning of grief at the loss of my dear sister. It is very humbling to be in need once again and I sincerely appreciate your continued prayers for my continuing "dizzy" condition that seems to be my "thorn in the flesh" as Paul once said of himself in 11 Corinthians 12:7.

With sincere appreciation,
Jolynn Lopeman

Pastor Mike Parker and the Church, Our Leadership Ashland small group would like to thank you for allowing us to use your facilities over the past several months. This has allowed our group to create an interactive learning experience for our entire class.

Thank You!
Leadership Ashland Class of 2017
Jake Blasdel, Katelyn Edwards, Chad Emmons, Mary Ann Wilson

Dear Pastor Mike,
Thank you and the members of Frist Presbyterian Church for your generous donation from Loud Sunday for support of the Ashland Care Center! We appreciate, so much, your partnering with us as we work together to shine Life in our community! May God bless you as you have blessed us!

Sincerely,
Mary Rose Anderson,
Baby Bottle Coordinator

Cathy Thiemens, ACCESS Executive Director, wrote to thank all of us who supported their spring fundraisers, from all the dinings to donate to the vacation raffle. Together we helped them exceed their goal of \$8,000.

ACCESS receives no monies from government sources and relies on donations, fundraisers and the occasional grant.

News from E & O, Evangelism and Outreach

Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp (PHOC)

Some of us on the committee and other volunteers traveled down to PHOC to help out with a big 5,000 - piece mailing this month of May. Big thank you to Bethany and Jacqueline Blasdel, Donna Harrop, David and Linda Hartzfeld, Lana Potter, and Dotty Tennis for helping with this project.

We also received a big thank you from Mark Gray, Director of PHOC, for the \$2,000 FPC gave to support that mission.

Coalition for Christian Outreach (CCO)

FPC continues to support our CCO partnership as well as Jake Blasdel as he transitions to his new role. In the near future, Jake will be sharing some of his ministry needs and his vision.

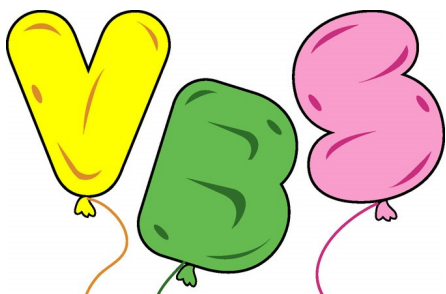
The Church Association for Bible in the Schools

Supported by mission dollars from this congregation for many years, Bible in Schools has provided biblical instruction to students in the Mapleton School District for 70 years. More than 100 students in grades 1 – middle school are being exposed to Bible stories and activities during recess time in the current school year. Teachers Herb Carr and Steve Seaman are thrilled to share the Word of God, with encouragement from a group of mothers who meet weekly to pray for the program. Support is provided by 5 Ashland area churches, including FPC, with Dorita Ramage serving as one of the trustees after having been an instructor for many years.



Vacation Bible School

July 10-14
Peace Lutheran Church



Peace Lutheran Church will once again be partnering with LOMO (Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio) to run a day camp for grades K-6. The camp will run Monday through Friday from 9:00am–3:00pm. They will also offer a morning program for Preschoolers. All activities will be held at Peace Lutheran Church.

While the LOMO counselors will be running the day camp programming, volunteers are still needed to help corral the kids. Also needed are people willing to help with the Preschool program, snacks/lunches, and registration/check-in/sign-out. Anyone willing to help make VBS camp a great success, please contact Linda Swanson in FPC's office.

Since this is a day camp, space is limited, so please register your children ASAP. Registration forms will soon be in the church office, in the narthex, and on our website under "church updates."

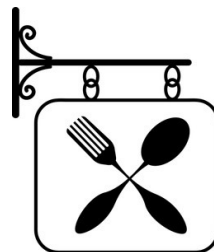
Elder Empowerment Month

The Older Adult Behavioral Health Coalition of Ashland County is offering 10 different free activities in June to empower our residents. There are a variety of topics presented and many of these events include lunch. For more information, see flyers at the church or visit:

[ashlandmhrb.org/
elder-empowerment-month](http://ashlandmhrb.org/elder-empowerment-month)

Presby Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, June 20, 11:30am



The Presby Lunch Bunch will enjoy a picnic potluck at the home of Harvey and Jean Hudkins. Hot dogs and buns will be provided. Please bring a dish to share. Reservations to Cora Walker by June 16th.



ACCESS

Our next week to host is
June 4-10

Volunteers are needed!

Loud Sunday

When a month has a fifth Sunday, FPC collects a special offering to benefit a local charity or project. This offering is "loud"



because we throw our change into coffee cans and make a joyful noise to the Lord.

July 30, our Loud Offering will benefit congenital heart defect awareness. Thank you for saving your spare change.

WORSHIP IN THE PARK

Labor Day Weekend
September 3
10:30am

Brookside West
Front Pavilion



June

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Host ACCESS Hunger Sunday Communion 9:15am Jake's CCO Presentation 11:15am Deacons	5 Host ACCESS	6 Host ACCESS 8:00pm AA	7 Host ACCESS 10:00am Bible Study 1:15pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	8 Host ACCESS	9 Host ACCESS 6:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	10 Host ACCESS 3:00pm Rice/ McFarland Wedding
11 Communion 4:00pm Shawn Steere Memorial	12	13 10:00am Staff 8:00pm AA	14 10:00am Bible Study	15 1:15pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 4:00pm Baby Steps 6:30pm Evangelism and Outreach	16 5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	17 4:30pm Smetana/Sapp Wedding
18 Father's Day 2:15pm Worship @ Kingston	19	20 11:30am Presby Lunch Bunch Potluck @ Hudkins' 8:00pm AA	21 10:00am Bible Study	22	23	24
25	26	27 8:00pm AA	28 10:00am Bible Study	29	30	

July

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Hunger Sunday 11:15am Deacons	3	4 Church Office Closed— Independence Day 8:00pm AA	5 10:00am Bible Study 1:15pm Prayer Shawl Ministry	6	7	8
9	10 VBS @Peace Lutheran Church	11 VBS @Peace Lutheran Church 10:00am Staff	12 VBS @Peace Lutheran Church 10:00am Bible Study	13 VBS @Peace Lutheran Church	14 VBS @Peace Lutheran Church	15
16 Communion	17	18 8:00pm AA	19 10:00am Bible Study	20 1:15pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Evangelism and Outreach	21	22
23	24	25 8:00pm AA	26 10:00am Bible Study	27	28	29
30 Loud Sunday Offering For Congenital Heart Defect Awareness	31					

August

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 8:00pm AA	2 Healing Care Event 10:00am Bible Study	3 Healing Care Event	4 Healing Care Event	5 Healing Care Event
6 Hunger Sunday 11:15am Deacons	7	8 10:30am Worship Ministry Team 8:00pm AA	9 10:00am Bible Study	10	11	12
13 Communion	14	15 9:00am Staff 8:00pm AA	16 10:00am Bible Study	17 1:15pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:30pm Evangelism and Outreach	18	19
20 2:15pm Worship @ Kingston	21	22 10:30am Finance Ministry 8:00pm AA	23 10:00am Bible Study	24	25	26
27 Host ACCESS	28 Host ACCESS	29 Host ACCESS 8:00pm AA	30 Host ACCESS 10:00am Bible Study	31 Host ACCESS		

Children → Family Ministry

continued from p.1

that which we do not possess and are not pursuing ourselves. However, when we do possess and are pursuing a loving relationship in Jesus there will be a natural overflowing of the heart that allows us to “impress” this love “on our children.” Notice again – this is our (parents/grandparents/family) responsibility. And notice how it is designed to flow out of life: when we sit, walk along the road, ride together in the car, sit on the back porch, eat together, rest together, play together, simply do life together. This gives us a beautiful picture of what it looks like to be a part of a household of God. As Joshua proclaimed, “... then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15, NIV)

Know that even as I type these words I am in a spirit of confession. As a parent I have fallen short on many fronts in regards to living out this commandment. Perhaps some of you feel the same way. If so, first join me in confessing this sin to the Lord and repenting – let us make a firm decision to live differently from this point forward as we seek the Lord’s help in being obedient to this commandment and being the primary nurturers of our children’s faith. This is the Lord’s desire; the Lord will help us in this!

The leadership of First Presbyterian Church is committed to helping us become a congregation that comes alongside our parents to help equip and mentor them in this task. We desire to do this in two ways.

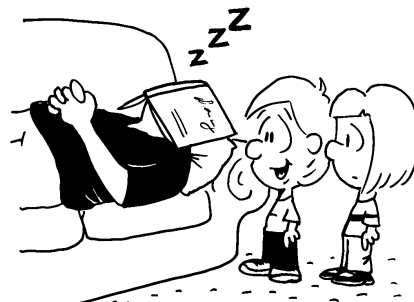
First, I am pleased to inform you that this past Saturday the Session approved a motion to set aside \$5,000 in funding to help finance a team to research various models of ministry being employed by congregations and organizations that are finding success in mentoring parents to live into the call to be the primary nurturers of their children’s faith. Elders Justin Dew and Bob Beer will be leading this effort. We understand that as

parents, this is a difficult challenge. Many of us are being asked to provide spiritual formation to our children, yet this was not provided to us. In other words, it is really hard to do something that has not been modeled for us. Perhaps some of us had this type of spiritual nurturing as children, yet we are parenting in a different time and culture with unique needs and challenges. FPC’s leadership wants to help. We know there are churches out there doing this well, and we are committed to learning from them and subsequently providing this ministry to you.

Second, over the last three years Tia and Aaron Sponsler have helped us make great strides in providing ministry to FPC’s children; I hope you will join me in thanking them for their service as they have sought to bring God’s love to our children. As Tia makes the transition off of staff at the end of the summer, we seek to hire a part-time Director of Children and Family Ministry to equip the members of FPC to minister to our children and parents. And so I ask you to pray. Pray for the research team. Pray that God will lead me to the right person to hire to fill this position. Pray for our parents and families – living into this is a challenge that is real. Finally, pray and ask the Lord if you are being called to be a part of this important ministry. There will be very practical needs that we will be bringing to you in the weeks to come; perhaps the Lord is calling you to fulfill one of these needs.

With Excitement & Anticipation,

Pastor Mike



“He’s using the devotional we gave him for Father’s Day.”

Ashland CCO XD continued from p.2

Transition Update

As of June 1st, I will officially be launching into my new role as a team member of the **CCO XD Resource Staff** ministering to students in Ashland and the Greater Ohio Region. Here are some of my responsibilities in this new role:

- To raise up a **Team of Champions** to be in **Every Corner for Every Student** through financial **GIVING, SERVING** and **PRAYING** so that **Christ is experienced in every area of life**
- To be a servant leader to the CCO ministry at Ashland University in partnership with First Presbyterian Church, CCO Campus Ministries in Ohio region and Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp (PHOC)
- Engage college students through designing and leading opportunities for experiencing Christ in every area of life with a particular emphasis on Adventure & Experiential Learning-based ministry
- Establish a bridge between PHOC and the CCO Ohio Ministries through designing life changing experiences for college students that utilize the facility



- Continue to invite college students and young adults of Ashland to engage in fellowship, community, discipleship and outreach opportunities
- Assist in the implementation of CCO regional and organizational programs and initiatives

Please join me on:

Sunday, June 4th at 9:15am
in the Knox Room 202

to learn more about the vision around this transition and how you can come alongside college students through giving, serving and praying.

- Jake Blasdel

Brandon Gency, on the left along with myself took **Will Summers**, on right, a junior for a hike to "The Ledges" in Cuyahoga State Park.

Here we hiked, fellowshiped, rock climbed via bouldering and invited Will to be the next student leader of The Alpha outreach and discipleship course at Ashland University for the fall.



Ashland CCO XD continued

The afternoon following Ashland University's commencement, my family and I had the opportunity to have students and their family and friends over to celebrate and be together over some coffee and cake before we said goodbye.

Taylor, Graduated with Masters in Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Accounting. She attended our Fall Break Trip to the Adirondacks in 2015.

Dylan - One of the first students I meet my first year and who has had a great connection and mentoring relationship with our very own Justin Dew. He was a freshman and I was a "freshman" four years ago when we meet on the Rec Courts. We spent a lot of time together talking about life and school stuff. We can pray for him as he will be taking time to read through a book I gave him called *After College*.

Let us pray that he will truly encounter Christ and new found relationship only He can offer. He graduated with a Bachelors of Science in Exercise Science.

Kyle - My first Male student to go on a trip with me; it was his freshman year and my "freshman" year. He has graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Geoscience Technology and Management. (This program was crafted and built by Doc. Hudson.)

Tanner - Graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Early Childhood Education. Tanner over the past 4 years has become like a son to me and another member of our family.

Sometimes the Lord not only tells us that we are connected to the Father but gives us the opportunity to experience fatherhood. When I first met Tanner one of the first things I started to minister to him in was his Father's divorce with his mom. He has struggled with Anxiety attacks his whole journey through college. The Lord gave me the opportunity to minister to him the last week of school and to be present with him when he received the news that his grandfather passed away. He said his grandfather was more of a father figure for him then a grandfather due to his father's lack of presence. Let us pray for him as he navigates this next journey into full time work as a teacher and as he is making plans to be married soon.



Back: Taylor
Left to Right:
Jacqueline,
Kouri, Dylan,
and Jake



Jake and Kyle



Jake and Tanner

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland
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Ashland, OH 44805



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Email: office@ashlandfpc.org
Facebook: FPC Ashland
Instagram: [fpc_ashland](https://www.instagram.com/fpc_ashland)

www.ashlandfpc.org

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To:

Summer 2017



Prefer to get this newsletter by email?
Contact the office at the email address above.

PDF files of our newsletters are also available on our website.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

May 2, 2017

Thank you so much for the prayer shawl. I am always cold, so I will keep it right by my chair. I do not currently use a walker, but the tie-on bag will come in very handy should I need to. I also love the bag you put the prayer shawl in. It will be perfect for me to take when I go to dialysis. It will be put to good use. I will use it tomorrow.

I am very appreciative and so grateful that you thought of me. Thank you so much.

Bill Mast



Bill Mast Sporting His Prayer Shawl

If you know someone in our church family who is unwell and might benefit from a prayer shawl, please contact the church office.