

What is Worship?

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The Beginning of the Mansfield Chinese Worship Community

This question was raised at our most recent session meeting. The question is simple enough, and yet I am convinced that when asked it is likely you will get as many different answers as there are people in a particular room. What about you – how would you answer this question? Is it what we do when we gather on Sunday mornings? Or does it speak to only specific things we do within our “church service”? What about the rest of the week? Are we worshiping when we pray and read our Bibles? Are we worshiping when we mow the grass, work in the garden, or watch a movie? What makes something that we do worshipful? When does music

become “worship music”? Is there a particular type or style that only fits this category? The questions surrounding worship are some of the most hotly debated among Christians and congregations, perhaps being one of the most frequent causes of congregational disputes, decisions to “leave the church,” and even church splits.

I hope by now you have picked up on the difficulty surrounding this simple question. “Worship” is sacred and meaningful to each of us. Yet though we gather as individuals on Sunday morning, we are gathering as a community seeking to come together in unity of heart and mind. And while worship speaks to so much more

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Chinese Worship Community in Mansfield

During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:9-10



Mansfield is a very close city to Ashland. There are several Chinese families living in this area but there is no Chinese ministry around them. I was gathering and teaching them for a while years ago, but it did

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Coalition for Christian Outreach—CCO

Diane's daughter and I celebrating life with some ice cream! It was a blessing to build somewhat of a relationship with Erica while we were together in Auburn.

The spring semester came to a close at the beginning of May, and that meant saying, "See you soon," to the young women whom I had been meeting with regularly. It's exciting to note that, throughout the course of the summer, I will continue to meet with these women on a monthly basis, and together we can pray for each of them, entrusting them to the Holy Spirit and His plan for their lives for the next 3 months. A student, Maddie, is seeking to grow in her time of quiet devotion throughout the summer, and Taylor will be interning for her home church's outreach ministry. Nicole will be looking for a full-time teaching position. Lord, thank you for your sovereignty in their lives and we offer them up to you.

This April, I had the opportunity to accompany Diane Dai and her daughter, Erica, to Auburn, Alabama to help make preparations for their fast approaching move at the beginning of June. This coming fall, Diane will study for a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology at Auburn University, so we traveled there to make preparations for that

transition. On our trip, we looked for apartments and visited Erica's new middle school. I thank God that, through this ministry, there was a way for me to join Diane. The southern dialect proved to be a new challenge for Diane, and connecting with realty agencies to schedule viewings was a complicated, policy-ridden process. I see it as a gift of God's grace that Diane did not have to navigate those unfamiliar things on her own. God, thank you for providing Diane and Erica with the support that they needed to sustain them on their trip, and I ask that you please keep providing for them as they move and settle into a new life. You are good and You love them. Thank you. Diane asks, "Please pray for a smooth transition for us and that God might bring people into our lives in Auburn like he did in Ashland." This June, I will be accompanying Diane to Auburn to help her make her final move. First Presbyterian Church - thank you for the love and care that you have shown Diane during her time in Ashland.

Over the summer, my hope is to grow in my own faith in order to be better equipped to serve as a campus minister. I humbly ask for your prayers that God might awaken my heart to Him and teach me. As I look forward into next year, I ask for your prayers around what ministry should look like. Please pray that I would be open to God's guidance and wisdom and that His will would be done through my part in this ministry.

Thank you, First Presbyterian Church.

Sarah Bardall
Director of CCO Partnership



Birthdays



JUNE

1st Linda Hartzfeld
Pam Keener
3rd Terry Mapes
5th Patti Fenwick
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

JULY

5th Herman Helser
6th Gary Carr
7th Geordie Freer
Al Garrett
8th Andrew Mason
9th Pat Perez
12th Tina Foley
13th Sarah Bardall
Jerry Barnett
15th Cora Walker
Steve Yoder
17th Tia Sponsler
18th Hayden Parker
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
7th Aaron Sponsler
8th Lisa Barnett
9th Anthony Foley
11th Linda Black
12th Doug McKibben
14th Trey Carver
16th Mollie Webb
19th Walt Harrop
21st Linda Mapes
24th Stetson Blasdel
26th Keagan Parker
30th Jim Keil

Chinese Worship Community in Mansfield continued from p.1

not continue long because of my studies. We had stopped after half a year. I have always prayed for God to open this ministry back up on His time in Mansfield.

Recently, I met new Chinese people who moved to Mansfield, and I reconnected with some Christian friends who live in this area. We had our first meeting from 6:30 to 7:30pm in Rachel's restaurant on May 19th. Seven people attended this meeting. Jody Watson, Rachel Chen, Ping Han, Kristin Carter, Ming Dong, Jun Lan, and me. We had a wonderful fellowship with food, meditation prayer, Scripture reading, and worship together.

I believe this is time that God wants to bless this ministry and serve His people in Mansfield. Let us follow God's calling as He called Paul to Macedonia.

CCO Campus Ministry and Chinese Ministry Summer Events

- We are planning to have the cook night with music worship on Saturday, June 1st.
- We are planning to start the Chinese Worship Community in Presbyterian Church Linden Road in Mansfield soon.
- Our English Bible study group will have picnic to invite the AU students and families once a month during summer.
- We will invite the Chinese families and AU students to join the Midwest Chinese summer retreat from July 4- 7.

Li Dolly Dong
CCO Campus Staff

Financial Reports

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCE REPORT - APRIL 2019

<u>Contributions/Receipts</u>	<u>APRIL 2018</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>BUDGET 2019</u> <u>YTD</u>	<u>APRIL 2019</u> <u>YTD</u>
Pledges	\$80,111.50	\$87,266.64	\$77,798.00 *
Non-Pledged Contributions	\$12,058.50	\$18,333.32	\$11,175.95
Loose Offering	\$1,228.36	\$1,000.00	\$1,249.98
Prior Year Pledges	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,147.00
Church Use Donations	\$3,125.00	\$3,050.00	\$4,700.00
Whiting Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ACCF - Program	\$2,883.50	\$3,000.00	\$2,937.00
ACCF - Building	\$2,827.50	\$2,950.00	\$2,887.00
ACCF - Mission	\$1,205.00	\$1,275.00	\$1,227.50
ACCF - Member Endowments	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest/Investment Income	\$168.83	\$166.68	\$210.47
Miscellaneous Income	\$228.63	\$500.00	\$2,235.48
Total Receipts	\$103,836.82	\$118,541.64	\$105,568.38
 <u>Expenses</u>			
Personnel	\$68,980.31	\$67,537.52	\$65,336.82
Health Insurance	\$5,208.32	\$5,208.32	\$5,208.32
Property	\$9,787.96	\$7,866.64	\$4,875.21
Property Insurance	\$2,540.00	\$2,750.00	\$2,644.00
Utilities	\$9,754.51	\$7,716.00	\$11,375.79
Finance	\$57.77	\$99.96	\$78.75
Per capita assessment	\$5,134.50	\$4,951.00	\$4,950.72
Session Expenses	\$390.00	\$166.68	\$160.76
Worship/Music	\$423.46	\$1,383.32	\$598.95
Office	\$3,301.41	\$3,366.64	\$3,602.57
Discipleship	\$388.46	\$516.64	\$189.12
Stephen Ministry	\$0.00	\$33.32	\$0.00
Chinese Church Ministry	\$0.00	\$2,166.68	\$879.98
Evangelism / Outreach	\$3,410.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,240.00
Fellowship / Gatherings	\$244.07	\$500.00	\$471.91
Pastor Discretionary Fund	\$0.00		
Total Expenses	\$109,620.77	\$107,262.72	\$103,612.90
EXCESS INCOME / EXPENSES	(\$5,783.95)	\$11,278.92	\$1,955.48

* Includes prepaid pledges of \$33,400.00.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Balance Sheet (UNAUDITED)

Consolidated - April 2019

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	Current Year
ASSETS	
CASH ACCOUNTS	
Sutton Bank Checking Acct	\$17,295.49
JanneyMontgomeryScott LLC	128,263.85
Subtotal Cash Accounts	145,559.34
TOTAL ASSETS	\$145,559.34
LIABILITIES	
Restricted Funds	
Property Purchase	\$30,810.00
Chinese Church Liab. a/c	2,065.33
Prayer Shawl Ministry	270.00
Memorial & Special Gifts	
Nancy Donley Estate	2,565.66
Kitchen maint. Liab. a/c	708.18
StephenMin./HealingCare	2,295.79
Jesus/StainedGlassWindows	2,249.55
Music/Choir - H Webb Mem.	770.00
Carl Armstrong Memorial	659.00
Kitchen Liab.a/c/Luttrell	25,402.86
S Steere Mem. (Choir)	282.00
Kyle Harrop Memorial	390.00
David Strub Memorial	760.00
Subtotal Memorial & Special Gifts	36,083.04
Special Mission Gifts	
One Great Hour of Sharing	670.00
Presb. Mother's Study	40.00
Youth Ministry	
ACCF - Johnson	2,578.50
Subtotal Restricted Funds	72,516.87
WITHHELD PAYROLL TAXES	
F.I.C.A.	377.46
Medicare	88.26
Federal Income Tax	257.99
State Income Tax	87.32
City Income Tax	121.78
Employer's Share FICA	377.46
Employer's Share Medicare	88.26
Subtotal Withheld Payroll Taxes	1,398.53
TOTAL LIABILITIES and Restricted Funds	73,915.40
FUND BALANCE	
Fund Balance	\$71,643.94
TOTAL FUND BALANCE	71,643.94
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	\$145,559.34

What is Worship?

continued from p.1

than our gatherings on Sunday morning, it is often within this context that this tension is most apparent. These conversations remain relevant at First Presbyterian Church. In my eight years of serving as your pastor, many things have changed regarding our Sunday morning service, and many things have remained a regular and steady part of our gatherings. There are still many questions asked of me and others about our worship style and space. There are questions (and preferences no doubt) about the organ, praise band, and choir. The questions and concerns are important to you, to me, and to your Session as well.

All too often these conversations are framed around one's preference, experience, or opinion as to what one thinks might help our church grow. While these concerns are important, left without an intentional effort to build this conversation upon the biblical foundation provided by the Lord we can too easily make decisions based on our own desires, the popular choice, or simply what we think might keep the most people happy. We need the biblical foundation, and fortunately the Scriptures are not silent on this matter. There are clear teachings laid out in the Bible regarding worship that can provide a common foundation for all Christ-followers. This foundation can and should become a place upon which we can build and frame our conversation as we seek to become a community of faith that more fully worships God. It is a desire to be faithful to this biblical foundation of worship that has led the elders to ask me to lead a series of teachings on

"worship." I will primarily be doing this from the pulpit this summer; please remember that if you miss church you can listen to the sermons on our website. If you have particular questions or interests related to this topic I invite you to pass them along to me and perhaps I will be able to address them throughout this series. Let us all join in prayer as we seek to more fully align ourselves with the Lord's desire for us regarding our worship, and may God alone be glorified.

In Christ's Love, *Pastor Mike*

Congratulations Graduates!



We praise God and celebrate with our church family our recent graduates:

Madelyn Keener graduated from Smithville High School. She plans to attend Marietta College to study psychology.

Marshall Mason graduated from Ashland High School. He plans to attend the Ohio State University to study aeronautical engineering.

Leon (Feibi) Wang graduated from the Ashland County-West Holmes Career Center. She plans to attend Bowling Green State University to study business management.

Drew Dickinson graduated from University of Findlay with a Bachelor of Science in Sports Marketing.

Linda Swanson graduated from Kent State University with a Masters of Library and Information Science.

Josiah Travis graduated from Ashland Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity.



Labor Day
Weekend
September 1
Brookside West
Front Pavilion

Evangelism and Outreach (E&O)

Compassion Sunday

On June 2, information and packets featuring children needing sponsors will be available in the lounge following worship. If you are not one of the several folks already sponsoring a child, consider providing the opportunity for someone to hear the Gospel, access better education, and improved health. Or, if you are already a sponsor, think about assisting another aiding another child.

Ashland Pregnancy Care Center Baby Bottle Campaign

Thanks to all who claimed a baby bottle to fill with donations to benefit the Care Center. Bottles need to be returned to church no later than Father's Day, June 16. Please note with a check mark on the signup sheet in the narthex that you have done so.

Associated Charities JUSST Campaign

JUSST = jeans, underwear, shoes, socks, t-shirts

As children will soon be on summer break, Associated Charities is gearing up to obtain necessary clothing items for the reopening of school. During 2018, 405 families were able to outfit their children, with each child receiving a shirt, jeans, socks, underwear and gym shoes. In conversation with Associated Charities staff, the greatest need with which we can help is to provide t-shirts and jeans. In June, FPC will focus on collecting t-shirts in sizes appropriate for school age children and with school appropriate designs and logos. For July, jeans are requested, again in sizes for school age children. Donations can be left in the narthex, or in the usual area near the chapel.

Food Pantry Donations for June

Paper products are in year round demand at Associated Charities including paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper.

Loud Sunday, June 30

Safe Haven Domestic Violence Center provides a confidential safe place for individuals and families needing refuge from

abusive situations. Our contributions help provide for some of the daily needs of residents of the center. Not only is your loose change welcome, checks work, too!

Jonathan and Gemma Donkers' Ministry in Spain

Through periodic newsletters, the Donkers remind us of the continuing critical need in Europe and Spain for training leaders to become caregivers capable of connecting folks with the freedom and healing that only Jesus Christ can bring. The Donkers are commissioned by Healing Care Mandate International, are supported by FPC's mission funds and ask for our prayers as they carry out this challenge in a region where just 1% of the population is protestant-evangelical.



ACCESS

With the raffle and dine to donate events, ACCESS met their fundraising goal of \$10,000 last month. Thanks to all who participated.

Looking Ahead

CROP walk on Sunday, October 6

AU FOOTBALL DINNER



FPC will host a dinner for the Ashland University football team on Monday, June 17. This is an outreach opportunity to share fellowship and devotions with a group of young men who are living in Ashland for the summer in order to practice.

We would love your help with the following:

- Cookies and Desserts—delivered to the church kitchen on Sunday, June 16
- Help with transportation of food to the university and set-up. Meet at church around 6:00pm Monday

Please let the church office know if you can help.

June

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 10:00am Coffee and Welcoming 10:30am Worship						1
2 Compassion Sunday 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	3	4 9:00am Worship Planning 10:00am Worship Ministry Team 8:00pm AA	5 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm WOW 6:30pm Praise Band	6	7	8
9 Communion	10	11 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	12 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm WOW 6:30pm Praise Band	13	14	15
16 Communion 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	17 6:00pm AU Football Dinner	18 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	19 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm WOW 6:30pm Praise Band	20 1:00pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6:15pm PMS @Yoder Cabin	21	22
23	24	25 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	26 10:00am Bible Study 6:00pm WOW 6:30pm Praise Band	27	28	29 8:00am—4:00pm Healing Care Event
30 Loud Sunday to Benefit Safe Haven						Every Saturday: 5:00pm Potluck 6:00pm Chinese Worship

July

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday Worship: 10:00am Coffee and Welcoming 10:30am Worship	1	2 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	3 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	4 Office Closed—Independence Day	5	6
7 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	8	9 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	10 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	11	12	13
14	15	16 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	17 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	18	19	20
21 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	22	23 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	24 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	25	26	27
28	29	30 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	31 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band			Every Saturday Worship: 5:00pm Potluck 6:00pm Chinese Worship

August

First Presbyterian Church of Ashland

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday Worship: 10:00am Coffee and Welcoming 10:30am Worship	Every Saturday Worship: 5:00pm Potluck 6:00pm Chinese Worship			1	2	3
4 Communion 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	5	6 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	7 Healing Care Event 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	8 Healing Care Event	9 Healing Care Event	10 Healing Care Event
11	12	13 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	14 Quarterly Session Packet Items Due 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	15	16	17
18 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	19	20 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	21 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	22	23	24 9:00am Quarterly Session Meeting
25	26 Quarterly Newsletter Deadline	27 9:00am Worship Planning 8:00pm AA	28 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Praise Band	29 10:30am Finance Ministry	30	31

All-Daughter Banquet May 5, 2019



Entertainment by
Ashland High School
Sing-N-Swing



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320 Church Street
Ashland, OH 44805



Phone: 419-289-6205
Email: office@ashlandfpc.org
Facebook: FPC Ashland
Instagram: [fpc_ashland](#)

www.ashlandfpc.org

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To:

Summer 2019



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.

Wieners On Wednesdays

6:00—7:30pm Beginning June 5



Every Wednesday in June, join
us at the church 6:00—7:30pm
for Fellowship, Food, Fun,
Family, and Faith. FPC will be
grilling the hotdogs and
providing the drinks. Please
bring a potluck dish to share.

