

# The Joyful Noise

FPC ASHLAND—AUGUST 2021

## *Thoughts on Calling & Praying for a Pastor*

TERRY MAPES, GUEST WRITER

*As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit — just as you were called to one hope when you were called — one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:1-6 (NIV)*

We at First Presbyterian Church have been praying for a pastor to hear God's call to this church and to faithfully respond — and soon. Paul's letter to the Ephesians reminds us that God calls not just pastors but each of us. **We are each called to God and for God.**

Here are some observations on the above text:

Paul leaves no room for exceptions. He speaks to each member of the church at Ephesus when he refers to the "calling you have received." Just like some pastor out there, you may not be aware of it yet, but you have been called. **There is something God wants you to do.**

Paul urges those in the church to "live a life worthy of the calling you have received." Our call is something we need to live up to, to be worthy of by being humble, gentle, patient, loving and unified. Nothing is said about whether the calling is worthy of us. **If it comes from God, it is worthy.** Each call is important. Each call is vital. Each call serves God by serving the church.

Paul says, "You were called to one hope when you were called." This whole brief passage is about oneness and unity. We can assume that this unity already includes that unknown pastor out there. **We are each called to one hope, the same hope.** We are each called to one purpose, to one cause.

*While we wait for a pastor to answer that call, might we consider whether we are faithfully answering our own?*



FPC member Dotty Tennis has faithfully arranged flowers each week from her home garden this summer. This is one of those arrangements, which was displayed on Sunday, July 18.

Photo by Christopher Stewart

## UPDATES FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### **HCM Seminar:**

Healing Care Ministries will host a seminar from 8/7—8/12. The following spaces will be used:

- 1st Floor Education Rooms
- Fellowship Hall (No HCM usage on Sunday morning)
- Kitchen
- Chapel
- Lounge
- Sanctuary (No HCM usage on Sunday morning)

If you have a space usage need during this time, please contact the church office and we'll figure something out! Thanks in advance. —Jessica Ellis

### **Staff Updates:**

- CCO Staff Partner Dolly Dong will be out of state 8/4—8/9.
- Interim Pastor Christopher Stewart will be on vacation 8/12—8/18. Rev. Dr. Eldon Trubee will serve as guest preacher while Pastor Chris is on vacation. For pastoral needs, please contact the church office at 419-289-6205.
- Jessica Ellis will be out of the office on 8/26 (Thursday) and 8/30 (Monday). The church office will remain open thanks to volunteers.

### **POOL + PICNIC GATHERING FOR YOUNG FAMILIES**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 8**

**12:00 NOON TO 2:00 PM**

**HOME OF JOHN AND ELLEN SACCOMEN**  
**1540 A STATE ROUTE 60, ASHLAND**

Families with young children are invited to a Summer Pool and Picnic Gathering! The gathering will be held at the home of John and Ellen Saccomen. Hamburgers, hot dogs, mac and cheese, and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish to share if able.



### **CHURCH AT THE PARK**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 10:00 AM**  
**BROOKSIDE WEST PARK**

**CHURCH SERVICE AND POTLUCK**  
**TABLE SERVICE PROVIDED**

## UPDATES FROM EVANGELISM + OUTREACH

**Mission: To provide leadership for activities and financial support for local and world ministries consistent with the Gospel message of loving one another.**

### **AUGUST FOOD BANK NEEDS:**

The current needs for the ASSOCIATED CHARITIES FOOD BANK include: Jiffy corn muffin mix, peanut butter, baked beans, applesauce cups, boxed mashed potatoes, scalloped potatoes, green beans, corn, cream of mushroom soup, cake or brownie mix.

Our late friend George Holmes (a.k.a. "The Food Dude") would be scolding us for the recent drop in donations for the food pantry! Perhaps vacation mode had us all less mindful of these ongoing needs, so please review the list and pick up a few items to share! Boxes are available in the narthex and office area for donations.

The 47 jars of peanut butter and jelly contributed early this summer were well-received at the food bank.

### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL JEANS:**

Jeans are among the most needed back-to-school clothing item, especially sizes 6–14, for both girls and boys. For each pair of new jeans brought to the church, Evangelism and Outreach Team will purchase an additional pair from their budget. The deadline has been extended to AUGUST 15.

### **LOUD SUNDAY—AUGUST 29:**

Our next fifth Sunday (8/29) is fast approaching! Our coins—and even cash and checks—provide extra funds for items not covered in the budget. This month's offering is designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, which has been used to provide emergency vouchers for immediate needs not covered by Associated Charities or other agencies.

### **AU FOOTBALL TEAM DINNER:**

Justin Dew led devotions for members of the team on June 28, followed by dinner for about 80 men provided by and served by members of Evangelism and Outreach Team. (Thanks to many for providing an abundance of cookies!) Interacting with these young men was a valuable opportunity to provide hospitality. Their sincere expressions of gratitude were heart-warming.

### **HOSPITALITY OUTREACH TO AA:**

The confidential nature of Alcoholics Anonymous prevents our direct interaction with the members, but providing cookies lets the group know that we welcome their ongoing presence in this building. If this is something with which you are willing to help, please contact Barb Latham (419-651-3559) to sign up for a Tuesday delivery of cookies to the church office.

**Evangelism and Outreach Team:** Linda Hartzfeld, Barb Latham (Co-Moderator), Lana Potter (Co-Moderator), Ellen Saccomen, Becky Sheeks, Tia Sponsler

*First Presbyterian Church of Ashland*  
320 Church Street  
Ashland, OH 44805



**Phone:** 419-289-6205  
**Email:** office@ashlandfpc.org  
**Facebook:** FPC Ashland

[www.ashlandfpc.org](http://www.ashlandfpc.org)

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**AUGUST 2021**

## AUGUST 2021 @ FPC

### WEEKLY EVENTS

**Sunday Worship**  
Sundays, 10:00 am

**Worship Planning**  
Tuesdays, 9:00 am

**AA Group**  
Tuesdays, 8:00 pm

**Praise Band**  
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

**Chinese Church Tea Gathering**  
Thursdays, 4:00 pm

**Chinese Church Worship**  
Saturdays, 4:00 pm

### MONTHLY EVENTS

**Session**  
Monday, August 2, 6:30 pm

**Board of Trustees**  
Monday, August 23, 1:00 pm

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**HCM Seminar**  
Saturday–Thursday, August 7–12

**Pool + Picnic Gathering for  
Young Families**  
Sunday, August 8, 12:00 noon

**Loud Sunday to Benefit  
Pastor's Discretionary Fund**  
Sunday, August 29

**AUGUST 2021**  
*First Presbyterian Church of Ashland*

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 <b>10:00 am</b> 10th Sunday after Pentecost	2 <b>6:30 pm</b> Session	3 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship Planning  <b>8:00 pm</b> AA	4 Dolly Dong Out of Town Through 8/9  <b>6:30 pm</b> Praise Band	5 <b>4:00 pm</b> Chinese Tea Gathering	6	7 Healing Care Seminar 8/7—8/12
8 <b>10:00 am</b> 11th Sunday after Pentecost	9	10 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship Planning  <b>8:00 pm</b> AA	11 <b>6:30 pm</b> Praise Band	12 Christopher Stewart Out of Office Through 8/18  <b>4:00 pm</b> Chinese Tea Gathering	13	14 <b>4:00 pm</b> Chinese Church
15 <b>10:00 am</b> 12th Sunday after Pentecost  <b>12:00 pm</b> Young Families Gathering	16	17 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship Planning  <b>8:00 pm</b> AA	18 <b>6:30 pm</b> Praise Band	19 <b>4:00 pm</b> Chinese Tea Gathering	20	21 <b>4:00 pm</b> Chinese Church
22 <b>10:00 am</b> 13th Sunday after Pentecost	23 <b>1:00 pm</b> Board of Trustees	24 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship Planning  <b>8:00 pm</b> AA	25 <b>6:30 pm</b> Praise Band	26 <b>4:00 pm</b> Chinese Tea Gathering	27	28 <b>4:00 pm</b> Chinese Church
29 <b>10:00 am</b> 14th Sunday after Pentecost/ Loud Sunday	30	31 <b>9:00 am</b> Worship Planning  <b>8:00 pm</b> AA				