

THE MESSENGER

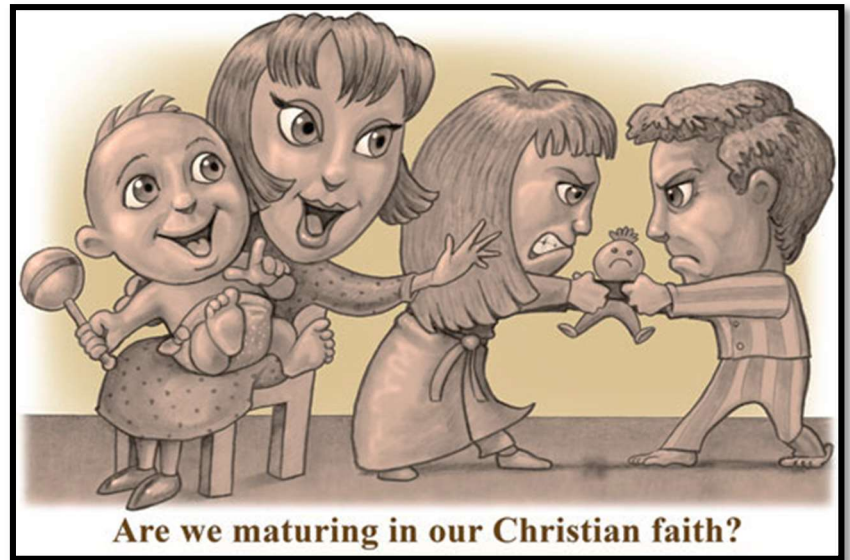
FIRESTONE PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2024



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

When we are born, we are hopelessly dependent creatures. As babies, our every need must be fulfilled by another. As we grow into children, we are self-absorbed and seldom put the needs of others before our own. As adolescents, we are frequently selfish, but through enforced discipline (from parents, school and society) we begin to understand the world does not revolve around us. As adults, our goal is to be mature enough to put the needs of others before our own. If we can't, we are said to still be 'childish'.



Christianity is all about growth. It is a slow process of changing from a dependent, self-centered Christian (who always expects compassion, sensitivity and toleration – but shows very little), to a mature Christian who has developed the spiritual-strength to put the needs of others before their own.

When we first become a Christian, we are said to be 'born again'. Generally, we show all the traits of a spiritually baby and need a lot of help and tolerance.

As we grow in the Christian-way-of-life, we will become spiritual children. At this stage, we are often self-absorbed, intolerant and judgmental. Hopefully, by the time we reach spiritual adolescents, we are getting over ourselves and starting to exhibit Christ-like traits.

As we enter into spiritual adulthood, we leave childish thinking behind. We develop a personal sense of destiny; a happiness not dependent on people and circumstances; and a relaxed attitude of grace, service and strength. We cease to be occupied with self and are now occupied with the Person of Christ.

God is patiently waiting for us to grow up. As spiritually mature adults we can take on adult responsibilities and God can finally use us in powerful ways. One of those ways is bringing immature Christians into our life for us to baby-sit (encourage, nurture, lead and tolerate).

When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 1 Corinthians 13:11

"Daily Life Illustrations" written and illustrated by Ian Coate

FPPC FINANCIAL REPORT

Submitted by Sherry Priest, Treasurer

As of July 31, 2024

Our General Fund Income and Expense through July 31st is as follows:

	Contribution Income	Rental Income	Other Income	Total Income	Total Expense	Income Less Expense
Jan 31	\$3,838	\$6,055	\$101	\$9,994	\$5,283	\$4,710
Feb 29	\$6,002	\$3,900	\$328	\$10,230	\$5,678	\$4,551
Mar 31	\$4,130	\$0	\$300	\$4,430	\$4,979	(\$549)
Apr 30	\$4,096	\$0	(\$478)	\$4,096	\$4,645	(\$549)
May 31	\$4,344	\$4,100	\$1	\$8,444	\$3,986	\$4,458
Jun 30	\$9,484	\$0	\$766	\$10,250	\$6,968	\$3,282
Jul 31	\$1,310	\$0	\$72,876	\$74,186	\$3,779	\$70,408
YTD	\$33,681	\$14,055	\$73,895	\$121,630	\$35,319	\$86,311

As of July 30th, we had \$230,702.70 in the bank. Most of this money, or \$210,401.75 is in the General Fund. If you look closely at our numbers this month, things look a bit strange. The sale of our building closed on July 29th. After closing costs and such, we netted \$45,903.60 from the sale. We are also guaranteed free rent of the sanctuary for the next 10 years. At the same time, we received a large bequest from the estate of Luella Siegfried. This added another \$26,972.12 to our bank account. Now that ownership of the building has transferred, you will see a lot of changes in our income and expenses as we move toward the future. On August 1st, we purchased a CD for \$75,000, which will help to keep the money we have working for us.

Each year we collect Per Capita from each of our members. The Per Capita amount this year is \$32.50. That money is forwarded to the Presbytery for various uses. Please make a note with your contribution when you pay your Per Capita.

PER CAPITA 2024

Submitted by Kim Birk

Per Capita is a way in which all the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church. Per Capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and is how Presbyterians mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. The Per Capita amount for 2024 is \$32.50 per member.

Thank you to those who have already paid! For those who haven't, there's still time. Contributions will be accepted until the end of the year. THANK YOU!

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING 2024

Submitted by Kim Birk

Sowing the Seeds of Peace. Zechariah 8:12

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved, and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith – a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together. Through participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering, our church is extending Christ's peace throughout our community and our world.

Both Allenside and Firestone Park will send their 25% to South Street Ministries to assist Chris Usner in the Bike Ministry. Another 25% to the mid councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in their regions, and the remaining 50% supports the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be received from now until the end of October.

When we all give a little, it adds up to a lot!

SCHOLASTIC BOOKS

Submitted by Kim Birk

Thank you for your generous donations supporting Megan Shaw's 2nd grade class. She will be able to purchase a new book for each student on the first day of each month along with providing many books of specific interest to her class for the entire school year!

Reading improves focus, memory, concentration and communication skills. Reading also helps with vocabulary expansion and strengthens writing abilities. Because of your financial assistance, Megan's class is on their way to a successful and educational school year!

BLESSING FENCE

Submitted by Kim Birk

I'd like to remind everyone that the Blessing Fence is an on-going mission. I hang items on the fence about once a week and it's rare that they remain for more than a couple of days. As summer is

coming to a close and fall is fast approaching, take a minute to look through your closets, if you find items that don't fit or you don't wear anymore, please place them in the box in the rear of Allenside's Sanctuary. Thank you!

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

Here's the September/October Sunday worship schedule for you to clip and save:

All services are at 10:30 AM, alternating between the Allenside Presbyterian and Firestone Park Presbyterian buildings. Allenside Presbyterian is located at 410 Rexford St. Services are also offered on Zoom.

- **September 1: Allenside**
- **September 8: Firestone Park**
- **September 15: Allenside**
- **September 22: Firestone Park**
- **September 29: Firestone Park (5th Sunday)**
- **October 6: Combined Akron Presbyterian Churches at United Presbyterian Church, Cuyahoga Falls**
- **October 13: Firestone Park**
- **October 20: Allenside**
- **October 27: Firestone Park**

To join our services by computer/tablet/smartphone, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5118335841?pwd=Z3VFQktHYUINa1RoTEhGU2p2WTErdz09>

To join via phone:

Phone number: 1-646-558-8656 (this is a New York number– note it is not toll-free)

Meeting ID: 511 833 5841 (then key "#"), No participant ID (key "#"),

Password required: 4430144314 (then key "#")

KEEPING YOU INFORMED

BUILDING UPDATES AND MORE

Submitted by Kari Phillips

- September 8, 2024 worship will be held at Firestone Park and not at Tadmor Temple's pavilion for an Outdoor Worship Service. We will be sure to plan a wonderful outdoor service for September, 2025.
- PNC Update: We are waiting to hear if either Northminster or Barberton Presbyterian Churches are interested in discussing yoking and what it would look like for all three or four churches. If interested, we would bring the discussion back to our sessions and possibly our congregations for a decision to yoke or not to yoke. If we decide to yoke, two members of the new yoking church or churches would join our PNC consisting of Jona Rohrs and Kari Phillips from FPPC and Kim Birk and Larry Miller from Allenside. If we decide not to yoke, the current PNC will be able to proceed with finding a pastor.
- The following chart shows changes in FPPC's building space:

OLD NAME	NEW NAME	USE
Copier Room	Modem Room - Not locked	Houses Modems for the internet & holds the books for the Little Libraries
Pastor's Office	Office - Not locked	Shared office with pastor & members' meetings
Supplies	Audio Closet - Locked	Holds the Sanctuary's sound system, office supplies & historical documents
Sanctuary	Sanctuary - Locked	Same
North Narthex	North Narthex	Entrance & storage of items we will be using
South Narthex	South Narthex	Blessing Box supply area
Men's Room	Men's Room	Same
Ladies' Room	Ladies' Room	Same

- You will also see changes under the balcony. This will happen in stages. We have brought the table and chairs from the Heritage room as well as the curio cabinet that holds a few of our historical items. We are also planning a beverage area. It was one of Kitty Johnson's wishes to do this in Del's memory. We are committed to making Kitty's wish come true. We will be meeting soon to begin sharing ideas and putting them in motion.
- Please check out the back few pews and feel free to take whatever you would like for FREE!

- Also, if you know of anyone who would like to have choral sheet music, please invite them to look at the hundreds of beautiful selections we would like to share located in the back pews for FREE!
- The yellow cabinets have been brought down from the closet next to the kitchen. They will be used to hold coffee hour/small luncheon supplies.
- On the 2nd floor, the Heritage, Choir & Supply Room, Kitchen and Kitchen Pantry, have all been emptied and items moved, donated or discarded.
- On the 1st floor, Room 14 and the Christian Education closet, the office, old copier room, old supply room and pastor's office have all been either emptied, items moved, donated, discarded or shredded.
- Special thanks to Julie Barden, Judy Abdallah, Sherry Priest, Debbie Rutan, Steve Rohrs, Tony Phillips and Rick Ereth for helping sort, move, and decide what needed shredded, moved, donated or discarded.
- There are so many exciting things going on in the life of our church! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any of our Session members.

Blessings to you all!

COMBINED CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Submitted by Kari Phillips

Please see the below information regarding the Combined Choir on World Communion Sunday. Please contact Kim Birk or the church office if you are interested.

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 3, 2024

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Sanctuary, UPC

Service

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Warm up 9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Choir Room, UPC

Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sanctuary, UPC

United Presbyterian Church

2819 Hudson Dr.

Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Dress: Please bring your own choir robes

Music: One World, One Communion

https://www.hopepublishing.com/W4107_ONE_WORLD_ONE_COMMUNION/

Please purchase and bring copies for yourselves.

West Area Collaborative Churches

**Celebrate
World Communion
Sunday**

October 6, 2024

at

United Presbyterian Church

2819 Hudson Drive

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio 44221

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:40 a.m. Light Refreshments and Fellowship

Offering to benefit:

Welcome Home

An outreach ministry to help newcomers acclimate to Northeastern Ohio

Allenside Presbyterian
Firestone Park Presbyterian
First Presbyterian of Barberton
First Presbyterian of Hudson
Goodyear Heights Presbyterian
New Covenant Community

North Springfield Presbyterian
Northminster Presbyterian
Oak Hill Presbyterian
The Vine Fellowship
United Presbyterian
Westminster Presbyterian

