

faith

in action

JUNE & JULY 2023
NEWSLETTER
Edition 261



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Of Defiance



**We are a Community,
seeking to be in stride with Christ.**

~ *Pastor's Corner* ~

Summer is here, no matter when the summer solstice is scheduled; the heat is with us. I hope you can all find ways to keep cool when the heat is high.

The garden is planted; we will have vegetables to share with the neighbors. If you have a garden surplus at your house, you are invited to share at the produce stand. We have a few neighbors eager to see how it produces this year.

Tools for Schools begins in earnest in June- the barrel is out in front of the church to receive community donations; the bus is in the East Entrance to receive your gifts. I know Norm will be out shopping soon. He gets a kick out of picking things out for school supplies.

I love stationary stores myself. Seldows was one of the local Main Street stores where I grew up; my parents were friends of the proprietors. I remember buying the blue canvas covered looseleaf notebooks, the colorful separator tabs for each class, and paper, and picking out special pens in many colors to pay for with my allowance; I have always been a doodler, and love using the colors.

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~ ***Pastor's Corner, cont.*** ~

My mom or dad bought the basics, I bought the fun stuff. I don't remember bringing anything to start school until the 4th grade. From kindergarten to grade 3, there were the extra- large pencils, regular pencils and lined paper already supplied, as well as scissors, crayons, glue, construction paper, etc. These things were part of the classroom. We didn't go home at the end of the year with any of that; at least not as I remember.

The school supply list has grown so much across many districts. I balked at the list in Oklahoma; especially the request for a ream of copier paper per student for the office. I know that's how the work sheets were prepared, but it irked me just the same. It is a sign of how little of the basics public school budgets cover. We made sure our children had what they needed. In fact, there are still a couple of pairs of little scissors around that I use for certain things. And 2 plastic pencil boxes now contain my colored pencils.

The average cost per child for the school supply list is about \$ 40 plus backpack; more, if you get a Trapper Keeper or something like that. There is an accordion style folder on the middle school list, which is brilliant for teaching students how to organize their notes and materials, but it will cost a bit. If some 60 % of student households qualify for reduced or free meal programs at the school, you know that the upfront cost for school supplies is tough on a family. That is why we are doing Tools for Schools, an organized effort to provide some help to families of young students.

The community believes in the project; in these pages you will see the grants we have received thus far! Once again, we are instigators of mission in our community in the name of Jesus. The goal is to give a bright start to our students so they begin a new school year ready to get to work. Our haircut project has the same goal- feeling bright and ready to begin a new school year.

We will have people to help us get organized and to help with the distribution. See if you can help set up the week of August 6th or to distribute on Saturday or Sunday afternoons, August 12 & 13. Haircut day is Friday, August 18; we need a few helpers to get the students who come to a stylist.

We learned from school counsellors that there is a need for a January reboot of some materials, so we will plan for that as well; the families we reach out to at Christmas may also receive gifts of fresh supplies for school or for creativity at home.

Together, we make a difference in peoples' lives for the good. When we all do a little it adds up to a lot.

Generosity and kindness are included in the great gifts of the Spirit (Gal. 6). I look forward to our work together this summer, sharing these and all the gifts of the Spirit.

Pastor Ann

Thank you to ***Sandy & Joel Youkers*** for sponsoring the ***June*** newsletters. This enables us to print the newsletter in color.

Thank you to ***Jim Straley*** for sponsoring The ***July*** newsletter. This enables us to print the newsletter in color.

~ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ~

June 4: WORSHIP at 10 am in the Chapel with communion

June 7 : Picnic AT LATTY'S GROVE PARK 5:30 pm

June 8: Deacons at 5:30 pm

June 12: 11:30 am PW& F planning time at Sandy Youker's home

June 18 Worship with communion

June 27: 7 pm Session

July 2 & 16 Communion at worship

July 13: Deacons meet at 5:30 pm

July 16: last day for school supply collection

July 18: School Supply Inventory

July 23: PUTT PUTT worship and picnic 10:30 am

June Birthdays

02 ~ Aubrey Price

05 ~ Linda Brose

10 ~ Benjamin Price

14 ~ Nicholas Bishop

24 ~ Megan Barber

24 ~ Margaret Smith

26 ~ Zachariah Clay

27 ~ Peter Barber

30 ~ Seth Erford



July Birthdays

01 ~ Larry Florke

01 ~ Dirk Peffley

05 ~ Andrew Mickey

11 ~ Ryan Sigg

19 ~ Donna Black

24 ~ Joel Youkers

26 ~ Chuck Fitzenrider

28 ~ Brent Sigg

June Anniversaries

09 ~ Andrew & Meredith & Mickey

24 ~ Joel & Sandy Youkers

28 ~ Zachariah & Marlee

July Anniversaries

01 ~ Foyle & Karen Solether

08 ~ Jeanne & Mike Peffley

Highlights of the Session Meeting May 23, 2023 ~ Your Session at work

Session has been invited to meet with the consistory at St. John UCC on July 17 at 7 pm. This is an important time for church leaders to talk together.

Lynn Bishop has been appointed to the WeKirk Foundation Board and will be added as a signatory for the WeKirk funds. They will meet June 13 to set this up.

Ann plans vacation time to include Sundays on June 11, July 9, November 26 and a weekend in the fall. Pam will lead worship using a Nooma video on June 11. Norm will preach on July 9.

Marsha was present to talk about finances and answer questions, and notes that there is money for several years, but that it will take motions from session to move restricted funds to the general fund.

On Motion: to use Stauffer excess withdrawal fund dollars to pay bills this summer as needed. (This will include the yearly insurance payment.) **So approved.**

Activity of the day—Viewing the recorded webinar by Mark Elsdon called We're not Broke, Uncovering Hidden Resources for Ministry and Mission.

Mark spoke about what it might look like to be a transformative presence today, sharing examples from various ministries, and encouraging all to remember that our buildings are valuable, our investments fruitful, and that we are a group of talented and passionate followers of Christ. As we approach new economic models, we should trust God, dream big, and trust each other.

He spoke about a collegiate ministry, Pres House, in Madison, WI, where they built affordable housing on the property. He stressed looking deeper than just fixing symptoms of problems, to the root causes. Where is the money? What is the vision? Think less about financial return and more about the impact in the community.

A short list of ideas includes affordable housing, reparations, social enterprise models of food pantries and farmers markets, health care partnerships, electric vehicle charging spaces, alternate school rooms, co-working/meeting spaces, a play space, music classes, etc. Draw from the well of what already exists as a passion of the members, rather than a newfangled idea.

The role of the church is vision setting, then figuring out who to partner with. Invest for positive outcomes, advocate for the endowed funds, not only financially but thinking of what effect the businesses have on our long term lives. Make a positive impact! What is our legacy? What will be here in 50 years when Curtis grandkids are here at 501 Washington? Move away from the anxious survival model.

There are online resources on the Rooted Good website. (I spy game, Mission possible game)

Report from the Garden team

Mike Peffley and team planted the garden. Larry Florke has reinstalled the watering system. Rich Reid set up the market stand. Ann continues to water the tomatoes.

Report from the School Supplies team—Tools for Schools—(Session, Deacons, CE)

The Tools for School will be on Saturday, August 12th – 1:00 to 4:00 & Sunday, August 13th – 1:00 to 3:00.

Highlights of the Session Meeting May 23, 2023

If you know of other groups who might be interested in supporting this effort with supplies and donations, please let Pam or Ann know. This is a wonderful example of us taking the lead and finding amazing financial support out there, of God using our hands and feet, as well as others in the community, to be a blessing.

Save the Date post cards went out with Backpack Buddies, the TACKLE program in the Middle School, and with the Head Start kids. We will also distribute them at the summer food programs and at NOCAC. And we will distribute the Head Start flyer on distribution day, helping that program get out information about their services too.

Raven's Care has sent out the requests for donations to all the churches.

Tim McDonough heads up the service program at State Bank. He will seek volunteers to assist on distribution dates and also try to get some funding through their GIVES program.

St John's UCC will participate again this year in collecting items and supplying volunteers to help with distribution.

Midwest Community Credit Union will also participate.

Pastor Ann will be talking with Lions club about adding vision testing screening during Tools for Schools.

We will be setting up Fellowship Hall the week leading up to distribution date in the evenings. We will check with both Brandon, Seth, Brysen and Kara to see if they are still home to assist with the set up and distribution.

Elementary school counselors have stressed that there is also a need for an infusion of supplies after the Christmas break to start off the second semester. We should look at what supplies are left and could be held for that time, and could also consider changing our Staples from the Stable to target these school supplies.

Summer picnic is scheduled for June 7th in the parking lot, hosted by the Reids. The traditional Putt Putt worship Sunday will be July 23. Come at 10:30 am, bring a chair and a dish to share.

There is a request for yellow tape going up the stairs to the chapel.

The youth group announces that they need detergent bottles and would prefer smaller ones.

We anticipate using the Nooma videos for the pizza and program nights in the fall.

Mike Winners will check out the sound in the chapel before the move upstairs on June 4 at 10 a.m and set up a DVD player for June 11, if needed.

The hymnals from the choir room have been moved to the chapel. Offering plates will be kept at the door. People can pass the peace as they are comfortable.

Music specials being scheduled, and perhaps the bell choir will participate.

Kristal is working to bring the children back to church for the full worship service.

Worship time 10 am starts year-round beginning on June 4, 2023

An MVP Disaster Assistance Team will travel to Kentucky from Oct 8 – 14 for hurricane relief. This is open to all.



Many students in Defiance city schools need help getting school supplies. First Presbyterian Church has taken over leadership from Ravens Care for the **Tools for Schools** program, with generous help from community organizations. We are expecting over 300 students this year.

Raise your hand if you would like to help!

Would you like to organize a collection or even fund one or more of the items in total? There are a variety of price points starting at \$50. Please contact Rich or Pam Reid at 419 576 9693 or Pastor Ann Wasson at pastor@1presby.com.



Items can be dropped off **before July 16th** in the barrels under the tent-top in front of First Presbyterian Church, 501 Washington. Let us know if you can fund an item.

Working together we can help Defiance's children get off to a great start next school year.

Expo dry erase markers	Pink erasers
Expo fine line dry erase markers	Boxes of quart zip bags— no sliders
24 count Crayola crayons	Boxes of gallon zip bags— no sliders
12 count Crayola colored pencils	Boxes of snack size zip bags— no sliders
12 count Crayola colored markers	Packs of dividers for 3-ring binders
Ticonderoga #2 pencils	Fabric pencil pouches for 3-ring binders
Composition books	Paper punches to fit in 3-binders
Paper folders and plastic folders	Plastic school boxes
Highlighters	7- or 8-inch Fiskars scissors
Elmer's glue sticks	Packs of loose-leaf lined paper
Pens—blue, black, red	Backpacks, all sizes

*The teachers have asked for the **bolded** brands by name knowing how well they work.

~ Tools for School ~

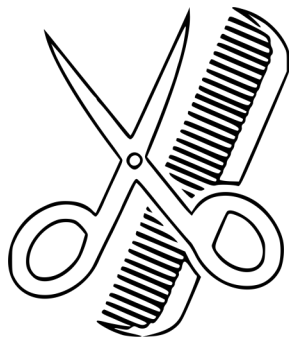
For your information and celebration:

The church has received grants from the following local organizations to support Tools for Schools.

\$5000	Synod of the Covenant
1500	Women's Giving Circle
2000	Defiance Moose Lodge
1000	Defiance Area Foundation
1000	Zion's Lutheran Endowment Fund
1000	Zonta
500	Meijer
400	Johns Manville Stars
250	Midwest Community Federal Credit Union



Letters and personal contacts have been made with other organizations too. Local collections of school supplies will start in earnest next week. There will be a tent out front. Supplies can be left in the bus in the East Entrance or the conference room. Items needed are posted on the bulletin board and the list will also be in the Blast. Please note that there several requests for specific



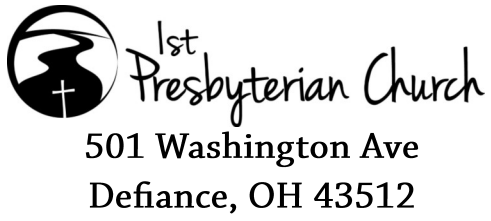
The Back-to-School haircut event will be on **Friday August 18 from 3 to 8 pm.** Sylvia Koester, owner of Salon 206, is onboard to host the event. Sylvia will contact Bloomfield's Barber Shop on her same block to see if they would like to participate and will also seek the donation of pizza to help feed the hair stylists. Sylvia offered the Twist It space next door as a waiting room in case of inclement weather. We will iron out details as the date approaches. Other stylists who have participated before will be contacted.

June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship 10:00 am Holy Communion	5 AA ~ noon	6	7 Picnic 5:30 pm Latty's Grove Park	8 Deacons 5:30 pm	9	10
11 Worship ~ 10:00	12 AA ~ noon PW&F 11:30 am @ Sandy Youkers home Planning time	13	14	15	16	17
18 Worship ~ 10:00 Holy Communion Father's Day	19 AA ~ noon	20	21	22	23	24
25 Worship ~ 10:00	26 AA ~ noon	27 Session 7pm ~	28	29	30	

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship 10:00 am Holy Communion	3 AA ~ noon	4	5	6	7	8
9 Worship ~ 10:00 am	10 AA ~ noon	11	12	13 Deacons 5:30 pm	14	15
16 Worship ~ 10:00 Holy Communion Last Day for School Supplies Collection	17 AA ~ noon	18 School Supply Inventory	19	20	21	22
23 Worship ~ 10:30 Putt Putt Golf 30	24 AA ~ noon	25	26	27	28	29



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE