

First Pres Happenings – Thursday, May 16, 2024

WELCOME TO THE SANCTUARY and ONLINE
SUNDAYS @10am

Pentecost



MAY 19, 2024
REV. NATHAN LOUDON
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH / LANCASTER OH 43130

Join us in the Sanctuary or follow the link to the church website to watch LIVE through Facebook and YouTube, or to watch later.

www.firstpbc.org

This week's Sunday bulletin is attached and on the church website.

Special Worship Bags – are available in the Narthex for the children every week.

CONGRADULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE GRADUATES!

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



High School Graduates
Joe Brymer-Bashore – Homeschooled
Katie Callahan – Homeschooled
Coleman Leach – Logan High School

College Graduates
Emma Bosser – Belmont University
Sarah Craft – Bowling Green State University
Madelyn Davis – The Ohio State University
Andrew Hendrickson – Columbus State Community College
Evan Hendrickson – Ohio University
Karly Hendrickson – Capital University
Olivia Hubbard – University of Kentucky
Brandon Johnson – The Ohio State University
Elise Johnson – Bowling Green State University
Eric Johnson – The Ohio State University

*"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."
–Philippians 1:6 (NIV)*

We have a special video to show, celebrating our high school and college graduates, this Sunday during Worship.

SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF SANDY ARMSTRONG



The church family expresses its sympathy to the family of Sandy Armstrong, upon her passing on April 23, 2024.

<http://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/lancaster-oh/sandra-armstrong-11782674>

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION – Joey McClain



Continuing the
Conversation
with Joey McClain,
Intervention Specialist

See how very much our Father loves us, for he calls us
his children, and that is what we are!
—1 John 3:1

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

On April 28 and May 5, we continued our work in a worship series around the themes of the 1 John passages from the lectionary. Remember, Pastor Nathan shared that 1 John is his favorite book of the Bible. Inspired musically and thematically, Director of Music and Worship, John McClain, pitched the idea that we build on that by utilizing Pastor Nathan's gift of talking with people and change it up a little to include short "getting to know you" interviews in the series—embodying God's call for us to love as he has loved us. Sharing our own stories and what makes each of us unique and special is powerful; it takes great courage but it proves that our human experience is a shared one and that we are all more alike than we are different. We asked Joey McClain if there was anything else he'd like to share - to continue the conversation. His response is below. The initial interview can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/live/BGM8IyPKA7A?feature=shared&t=4282>.

From Joey:

I was so pleased to have been interviewed by Pastor Nathan in Worship, and now to continue the conversation about efforts to make our space at First Presbyterian Church one where all feel welcome.

"For His own purpose, God shaped and formed me. I am skillfully and wonderfully made. I am the image of my Creator. In every part of me, His likeness is displayed..."

This text from Craig Courtney's choral anthem, *The Image of God*, has always held a special meaning for me. For many students, including myself, being in a traditional school setting does not come naturally. With encouragement from my family and my teachers, I have learned to embrace my unique abilities and see them as a strength. I often say a prayer of gratitude for being "skillfully and wonderfully made."

I'm sure I mentioned this in my interview, but I want to emphasize it again: More times than not, when given expectations, a person will meet those expectations. While in college, I was a non-music-major member of the Chapel Choir conducted by Dr. Lynda Hasseler. There were times she would hand out a piece of music that was out of my comfort zone and I would think, "I would much rather sing something slow and pretty!" Despite those fast, difficult songs being out of my comfort zone, I can truly say, without fail, the high expectations and my sense of belonging and community within the choir allowed me to walk on stage feeling as though I was an essential part of the greater whole, every single time. I felt prepared to offer my voice and bring the song to life for the audience. Lynda taught me that setting high standards inspires individuals to reach and even surpass what some believe to be impossible.

In my interview, I mentioned *person-first language*. Without much effort from any of us, this reframed way of thinking and speaking easily emphasizes the person *before* their disability. For example, saying "the young man who has autism" is music to my ears. In contrast, saying "special needs kid," "autistic boy," or using "retarded" as a descriptor, are all like nails on a chalkboard to me. As a next step, here's how I have gently redirected some of my family and friends: "You know, the way you described that person makes me uncomfortable. Try this instead... '(insert person-first phrase)'."

I could write or talk about this topic till the cows come home, but I will end with this: don't be afraid to ask uncomfortable questions. Don't worry about using all the correct terms. Assume all people are doing the best they can. Asking tough questions creates awareness and, in turn, empathy for others. I have a degree in special education and am working on a master's degree to become a school psychologist; I am still learning. As I said in my interview, I have never been in a more welcoming church than First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster. My hope for our church is that we strive to see the ability rather than the disability and the similarities rather than the differences.

Let's continue to embrace "The Image of God." and trust that we are **ALL** "skillfully and wonderfully made".

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH/APRIL 2024

- Used Timpani were purchased from Bloom Carroll Schools, funded through sponsorships and/or restricted funds.
- Maundy Thursday Cantata funded by Memorial gifts and free will offering.
- Facility use policy and request form being reviewed and updated.
- Full-time Worship and Music Director job description being finalized.
- Transformational Church Initiative- 2nd retreat will be on May 11.

These Highlights are based on unapproved Session minutes.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING – Sunday, June 2 Immediately following Worship in the Sanctuary



BOTTOMS UP DIAPER DRIVE AT FIRST PRES – CONNECT

Annual Bottoms Up Diaper Drive @ First Pres

Sizes 4, 5, and 6

During the entire month of May

See Dave Brennan for more details.

WHY DIAPERS MATTER

Most childcare centers, even free and subsidized facilities, require parents to provide a day's supply of disposable diapers.

Diapers can cost \$70-\$80 per month: babies need 6-10 diapers per day.

Many parents cannot go to work or school if they can't leave their babies at child care.

Too many moms are forced to re-use diapers or leave them on their baby way too long.

Bottoms Up Diaper Drive
440-888-4522
https://bottomsup.org
Jo Welsh

(Contact Dave Brennan at 614-561-6037 for more information)

SERVING OPPORTUNITY AT FOUNDATION DINNERS – CONNECT

The First Pres monthly days
 - 4th Friday
 - 29th
 3:30 – 5:00pm

Activities include -
 simple prep, serving dinner, light cleanup

Sign up to serve at Foundation Dinners

Sign up in the Heritage Room / Questions, see Dave Brennan

(Contact Dave Brennan at 614-561-6037 for more information)

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – June 10-14 / 5:30-8:00pm



5:30pm – Family Dinner

6 to 8pm – Vacation Bible School Fun!

We will bring the great outdoors inside for a fun filled camp theme!

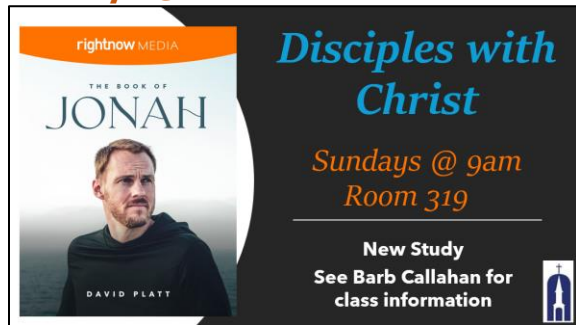
Join us for a great adventure this summer!

Registration is available online at:

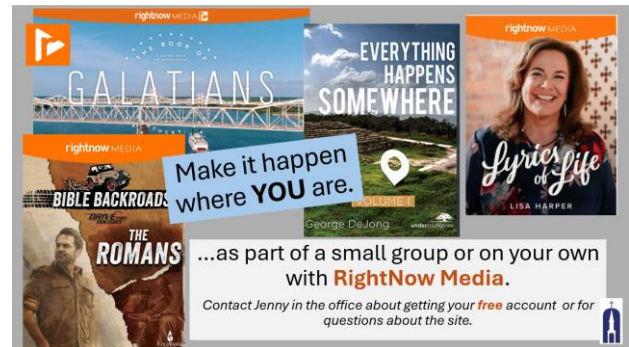
<https://lancaster-fpc.mycokesburyvbs.com/>

(Contact Stephanie Loudon, Director of Family & Children's Ministry at children@firstpbc.org)

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FIRST PRES DISCIPLES WITH CHRIST – Sundays @ 9am in Room 319

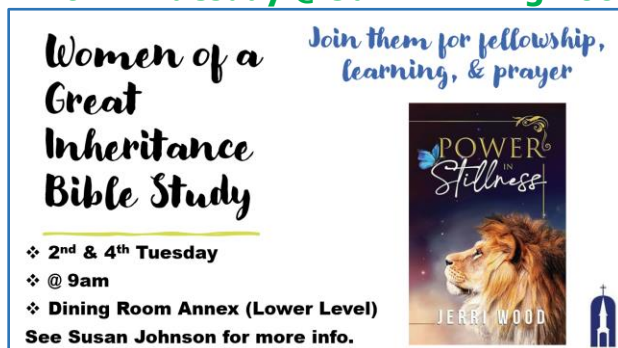


RIGHTNOW MEDIA



WEEKDAY LIFE GROUPS

WOMEN OF A GREAT INHERITANCE LIFE GROUP 2nd & 4th Tuesday @ 9am – Dining Room Annex



PROCEDURE FOR CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Organizing a church event? Involved in a community event and want to share it with the church? Wanting to publicly thank someone for a kind gesture or answered prayer? Please send announcements to Jenny Miller (jmiller@firstpbc.org) and Pastor Nathan (pastor@firstpbc.org) by Wednesday at noon to make sure we don't miss including them in our verbal and/or written announcements.

FIRST PRES HAPPENINGS SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Tuesday is the submission deadline if you would like something to be considered for that week's First Pres Happenings. Thank you!

FIRST PRES PRAYER CHAIN – CONNECT

Let us know of your prayer needs.



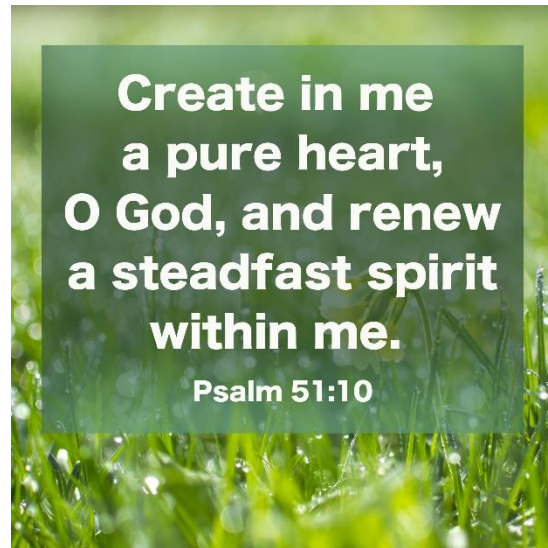
Send your prayer request to Lyndel Taylor, Prayer Request Coordinator at: fir.pres.prayer.request@gmail.com

Lyndel will then share your request with all of the faithful Prayer Chain participants, a group of 80 people.

First Pres also has the **Care First Prayer Team**, a prayer group that meets every Monday morning at the church.

They pray for our church, its people and others.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Ephesians 4:2



ELDERS

Ken Culver, Finance – 2024
Susan Johnson, Worship & Music – 2024
Cathy Schmidt, Adult Connections – 2024
Tessie Swain, Growth – 2024
Barb Callahan, Youth – 2025
Scott Craft, Building & Grounds – 2025
Tiffany Culver – 2025
John Davis, Personnel – 2025
Dave Brennan, Mission - 2026
Karianne Havlicek, Family & Children – 2026
David Ray – 2026
John Turnbull, Technology – 2026

DEACONS

Suzanne Culver – 2024
Sandy Smith – 2024
Ron Swain – 2024
Barbara Brown – 2025
Carolyn Hiestand – 2025
Carolyn Hoyt – 2025
Judy Custer – 2026
Molly Hampshire – 2026
Derrill Weaver – 2026

Contact the Office by email with any questions or
Have a blessed weekend and week!

Jenny Miller

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