

The Disciple

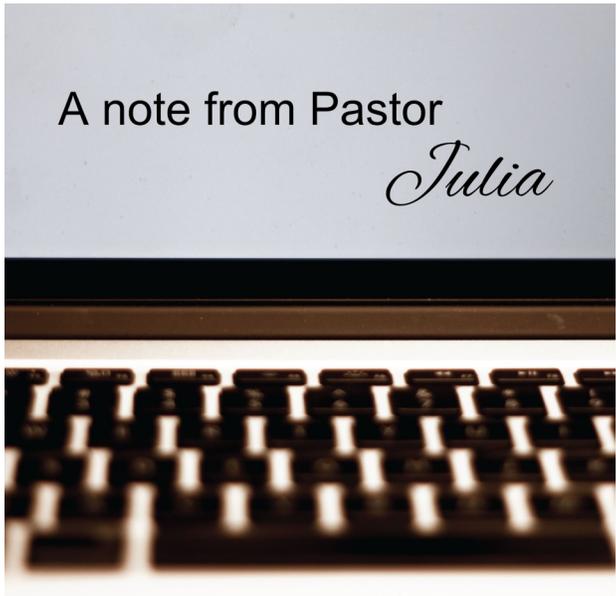
Faith Presbyterian Church's Monthly Newsletter
5555 Chambersburg Rd. Huber Heights, Ohio 45424



"...My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9.)

A note from Pastor

Julia



A few years ago, my husband brought home some roses for Valentine's Day. They were beautiful! I put them in a vase in some water in the living room. A week or so went by and they still looked beautiful. So I let them stay there. Another week went by and they still weren't dropping their petals. I thought, wow, these roses are something! Still another week went by and now they were starting to look a little weary. So I decided their time had come. I picked them up out of the vase, being careful not to stick my finger with a

thorn. But to my surprise, the big sharp thorns that had been there a few weeks ago were gone. They had turned into tiny buds.

Maybe you're a flower expert and you already knew this is what happens to thorns on roses. But I didn't! I was surprised that the thorns had turned to buds. I immediately thought what a good illustration of life this is. When we are young, we put up all kinds of defenses (thorns) as protection to try to make our way in the world. But as we get older, we soften. We become more amenable to what the world has to offer and to the challenges we face.

We have all faced quite a few challenges lately. Do you feel like your thorns have turned to buds yet? I'm looking forward to "life after the pandemic" and what it has in store for Faith Church. As our thorns soften, God is better able to mold us and shape us. Imagine each of those buds as an opportunity for new life.

Hope to see you on Zoom or in person for worship on Sunday mornings this month. Please reach out and give Zoom a try if you're not ready to be here in person. Let me know how I can help.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Pastor Julia

Administration Committee

Chairperson: Greg Hughes
Financial Secretary: Don Niece
Treasurer: Diane Grycz
Support: Paul Brown

Next Meeting: Feb 4th at 7 PM

| Finances: | Dec | YTD |
|-------------|------------------|------------------|
| Income: | \$ 12,827 | \$142,414 |
| Expenses: | <u>\$ 10,449</u> | <u>\$129,791</u> |
| Difference: | \$ 2,378 | \$ 12,623 |

Here are some of the items going on in the church:

- The Ring doorbell was purchased and has been installed for the front door.
- LED lights were installed at the entry door with photo eye to turn them on at night. We will have one installed at the Pre-school side entrance when time permits.
- Christmas Joy Offering collected was \$495.
- FISH offering collection was \$1041.
- We received a \$1217 rebate from Workers Comp.
- Our income was greater than our expenses for December and for the whole year. PTL
- We received \$350 rent for the polling election in November.
- Fourth quarter dues for our Per Capita Connect Support was paid in December.
- Huber Heights Division of Fire was out and our church passed inspection.
- Wi-Fi was installed in the sanctuary and is up and running. This should provide good internet access to record sermons.



Session Notes

January 2021

Session met by Zoom on Jan. 14. Pastor Julia continues to maintain contact with our members and friends through phone calls, texts, cards, and hospice visits. She attended preschool Christmas program, SONKA (UCC), and Presbytery pastor meetings. Attended Popcorn with the Pastor sessions, completed the Advent study and began a new continuing education program for pastors. Session received a report from Kelley Britt, preschool director. Sign-up has started for next year, a State audit was passed successfully, and funding has been received from the Cares ACT to help cover expenses. The Financial Secretary indicated pledges received so far total \$86,000, still under budget for 2021. The Necrology and Statistical Reports were reviewed and approved for submission to Presbytery. Session approved a Capital Plan to raise funds for critical capital and maintenance needs. Session also approved restarting in-person worship January 24, subject to the previously approved pandemic protocol.

Our next meeting February 3rd 9:00 A.M. on Zoom.



We began in-person Worship January 24th. Worship is live Zoom and being recorded for those that are still unable to join us. The good news is the virus spread is finally going down (fingers crossed it stays down). We have the chairs in normal position, and we are asking that individuals sit 3 seats apart unless part of a family unit. Many of us miss seeing our friends and being able to catch up on the latest news but we ask that there be no congregating after worship.

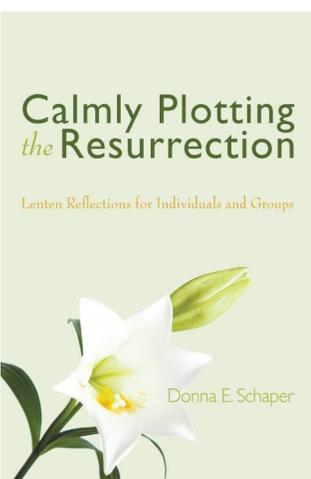
Can you believe it's time for Lent already? We will begin Lent together with worship at 7pm on Ash Wednesday, February 17th. This year we will not be serving a soup dinner due to Co-Vid .

Our Lenten Study features daily reflections from the book *Calmly Plotting the Resurrection*, by Donna Schaper. Copies are available in the church office for \$16 or they can be ordered from Amazon. We will meet Wednesdays at 5 PM, starting on Zoom: Feb 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7. *Speak with Pastor Julia if you are interested in joining us or have questions. Everyone is welcome.*

The Presbyterian Woman study is on hold and will continue when it is safe to gather again.

We keep each of you in our prayers as this challenging time continues. Hope is in the air with the vaccine being given to those that are in the high-risk category and others. Soon even schools will be in person and we will begin to find a new normal.

Cyndi Adams, Kyung-Hee Swihart, Chris TenBroeke and Jo Hall.



Donna Schaper's teaching story on grace.

A Book Excerpt on Grace from our Lenten study.

"Donald Hall, the poet laureate of New Hampshire as well as a great baseball poet, went into his grandfather's attic and found many, many boxes, one of which was filled with short pieces of string. The box was marked in an old hand: STRING TOO SHORT TO BE SAVED. Hall was astonished. This box of string had caught him completely off-guard. And from his off-guardedness and un-guardedness, he was able to write a beautiful poem.

"The poem states the obvious: his grandfather had saved the string that was too short to be saved. If you have ever felt like you were a string too short to be saved, you know what it means to be risen.

"God has saved us all in a great attic. Nothing is ever lost to God. Nothing. Not a single dead Bosnian child. Not a single teenager who commits suicide. Not a single child hit by a car. Not a single young woman who dies of breast cancer. Not Mary Magdalene. Not Rodney King. Not one of the policemen who beat him. Not one is lost to God. We will each appear too short to be saved many, many times in our lives. And God will still save us.

"*Risen* is the experience of string that knows it is too short to be saved but is saved anyway. Despite itself. After Jesus was raised, he raised us. As he promised, he went before us into our Galilee."

Blanket Sunday February 21st

This year, in the **United States**, we've distributed over **96,000 CWS Blankets and Kits**.

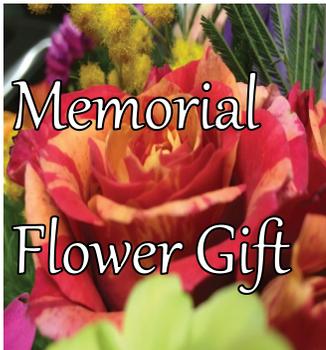
"When you are staying in a temporary shelter something as simple as a CWS Hygiene Kit and a soft blanket to keep you warm can provide you with a little piece of comfort and dignity."
-REV. TERRY KUKUK, DAYTON OHIO TORNADO RESPONSE, 2019



Trinity Presbyterian Church in Dayton, OH were able to immediately embrace their neighbors in 2019 thanks to CWS. In a matter of days, they were distributing blankets and supplies to those who lost everything.

Our Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, Rev. Terry Kukuk said "When you are staying in a temporary shelter something as simple as a CWS soft blanket to keep you warm can provide you with a little piece of comfort and dignity." This is so true. As rent has risen, more people struggle to find affordable housing. This need grew sharply in 2020 as the pandemic and related shutdowns led to spiking unemployment. Our church

will be taking a special offering on February 21st to help provide blankets to people all over the world. It's easy to donate a blanket to someone who's cold! For only \$10.00 you can help to provide a blanket for someone in need and to give them comfort. A blanket bring warmth, shelter and security, but it also comes with a promise that Faith Presbyterian Church will be with them, to care for them while they get back on their feet. You can help to keep people warm, so please give generously and help to blanket the world in love. Last year our church raised \$348 for the Blanket program. Your donation each year is a blessing reaching many families. All checks should be made payable to Faith Presbyterian Church.



On the first Sunday of the month the Worship & Nurture committee places flower arrangements on the chancel in memory or honor of loved ones of the family of Faith.

If you would like to provide a flower arrangement return the following form with your donation to Samantha Adams. The arrangements cost is \$18 for one and \$36 for two. Please make checks are payable to Faith Presbyterian Church. Your Gift will be recognized in the bulletin unless you instruct otherwise. Also be sure to mark if you would like to pick up the arrangement.

All arrangements not collected will be delivered to those in need of their day brightened. For more information please contact Samantha Adams.

Please accept my donation of
 \$18____ \$36____

For the Memorial flowers fund

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given by:

I will pick up the arrangement





Life Enrichment Center
Because everyone has value.

The mission of The Foodbank is to relieve hunger in the community through a network of partner agencies. The Life Enrichment Center (L.E.C.) is one of those partners. A

Christian-based non-profit organization working to halt the spread of addiction, hunger, and unemployment on the East Side of Dayton. This area is one of the most impoverished of the city, but L.E.C. believes it can be transformed once again into a vital, vibrant community. They empower our clients to transform their own lives while also encouraging them to contribute their own unique gifts to their community, because everyone has value.

Our Mission and Outreach Committee has partnered with The Foodbank in this important ministry. We have scheduled a service day with the Food Bank and the Life Enrichment Center for **Wednesday, February 24**. This will be an outdoor food distribution at the Life Enrichment Center, 425 Finlay St. in Dayton. Our arrival time is 9:30 A.M. to set up with the distribution beginning at 10:00 A.M. finishing at noon. There shouldn't be close interaction with the public as our job would be to set up the tables and keep restocking the tables as needed. We can park in the large lot at the back of the building which is closer to the distribution point than where we parked last time. If you are interested in volunteering on Wednesday, February 24 please call Mary Skare at 937-236-0752 or 937-689-2089. Thank you.

{Each year, Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) releases a study each year called How Hungry is America?, Dayton ranked 42nd among 108 MSAs across the country with 1 in 6 households struggling with food hardship.}



Huber Heights FISH Food
Pantry

5950 Longford Road
Huber Heights, OH 45424
January 12, 2021

Last year, 2020, FISH Food Pantry was able to help 432 families in Huber Heights with groceries that they would not otherwise be able to purchase. In total, these families consisted of 1711 individuals – 1134 adults and 577 children.

FISH is a member of the Dayton Food Bank. We visit the Food Bank twice a month to supply our shelves. But, a lot of our help comes from people just like you. Our work is made easier by your generous donations. With your help, needy families of Huber Heights benefit because FISH is better able to help them face their challenges.

Please accept my thanks for your 2020 donation to Wayne Township (Huber Heights) FISH. We appreciate the interest and your desire to be involved in assisting us to feed hungry families in our community.

Sincerely,

Jane Jones
Huber Heights FISH Food Pantry Manager

February 2021

WORSHIP WITH *Pastor Julia*

Our children are so blessed for the time they get to spend with Pastor Julia! They get to have a time of worship with singing a song, sharing our joys and concerns and Pastor Julia giving each child a blessing! Thank you for sharing God's love with our children!

A HUGE THANK YOU!

I wanted to extend a huge thank you for all the support the preschool has gotten from Faith Presbyterian Church! You all are the best. We have gotten many supplies – toilet bowl cleaner, trash bags, Clorox wipes, paper clips, paper, laminating sheets, ziplok bags, etc. We have also gotten monetary donations. This year has been hard for the preschool and your help has made our hearts so happy! We love what we do and are very blessed for the opportunity to help these preschoolers grow and learn!

Blessings,

Kelley Britt



Verse:

Love one another as I have loved you John 13:34

Valentines Sun Hearts

Materials :

Coffee filters

Markers (use Valentine colors)

Spray bottle with water

White construction paper

Scissors

Directions:

- 1) Cut coffee filter into a heart shape. Place coffee filter heart on top of the white construction paper. Color the filter using markers.
- 2) Once the heart is colored grab the spray bottle. Spray with water all over the coffee filter and watch the colors bleed together. Do not over-saturate the heart or the colors might bleed away completely.
- 3) Take a second piece of construction paper and place over the coffee filter heart, press down. Remove the construction paper and admire the prints on the filter and construction paper.
- 4) Place coffee filter heart and construction paper up to dry. Cut hearts out of the construction paper and hang in the window as sun catchers.







Anniversaries

14 *Jim & Jean Gayley*

25 *Mark & Kyung -Hee Swihart*



Birthdays

3 Terry Harmeyer

5 Emily Swihart

7 Kyung-Hee Swihart
Tyler Sturgill

13 Denise Standley
Nat Davis

15 Barbara Ellis

18 Mark Jenks

19 Stefanie Doran
Scott Mayhew

20 Jan Schroeder
Kevin Sharp





Chris Adams, Beth Griffin, Betsy Morris, Jan Schroeder, Deborah Moore, Mary Swartzel, George O'Bryan, Norma Lesher, Bob Christian, Maria Beimly, Dottie Standley, Doctors, Nurses, Frontline & necessary medical workers.

One of the important ministries Faith supports is YWCA Dayton shelter services. They operate two domestic violence shelters, one in Montgomery County and one in Preble County. This program provides:

- 24/7 emergency shelter
- Crisis intervention
- Case management
- Food, clothing, and personal care items
- Housing assistance
- Support and educational groups
- Individual advocacy
- Safety planning
- Goal setting
- After-care and follow-up services

In addition, YMCA knows that abuse affects the whole family. More than half of domestic violence victims are reluctant to leave their abusers because they'd also be abandoning their pets. The YMCA partners with SICSA Pet Adoption Center, Humane Society of Greater Dayton, Town and Country Veterinary Clinic, Tipp City Veterinary Hospital to ensure everyone is care for.

In 2020 the YMCA Dayton assisted 672 client families. This is why we collect necessary hygiene and infant care items.

Items needed:

- diapers (any size)
- Deodorant
- Body/Hand lotion
- Combs/brushes/picks
- Ethnic hair care shampoo/conditioner
- first aid kits
- pillows
- toothpaste a
- mouthwash (alcohol-free)
- shower flip-flops
- soaps/body washes
- toilet paper/paper towels
- toothbrushes (adult and child size)

We will be collecting these items all year long. Speak with Diane Grycz for questions or more information. Donations may be left in donation bins in the coat room. Thank you for your continued support in a ministry that is saving lives!

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | | | | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|--|---|-----|-----|-------------|-------------|--|--|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 9 A Worship & Nurture | 4 6 P Missions & Outreach 7 P Admin | 5 | 6 | | | | | | |
| 7 10:30 AM Worship  | 8 | 9 6:30 P Popcorn w/ Pastor | 10 | 11 7 P Session | 12 | 13 | | | | | | |
| 14 10:30 AM Worship  | 15 | 16 6:30 P Popcorn w/ Pastor | 17 Ash Wednesday 7pm Worship | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | | | | |
| 21 Blanket Sunday 10:30 AM Worship | 22 | 23 6:30 P Popcorn w/ Pastor | 24 Food Bank 9:30 A Blankets 10:30 A Lenten Study 5 pm on | 25 | 26 | 27 | | | | | | |
| 28 10:30 AM Worship |  <p>The Disciple is published by the first of each month. All articles, calendar entries, prayer requests, and photos must be submitted by the third Wednesday of each month, unless arrangements are made. Please send all information to Samantha Adams and faithchurch5555@gmail.com. This a publication of Faith Presbyterian Church of Huber Heights Ohio.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| WORSHIP | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | Paul Brown | Chris Adams | | | | |
| 14 | | | | | | | Cyndi Adams | Mary Skare | | | | |
| 21 | | | | | | | Mary Skate | Cyndi Adams | | | | |
| 28 | Sami Adams | Bev Brown | | | | | | | | | | |
| USHER | | | | | | | | | | | | |