

THE CHURCH FAMILY

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

FROM YOUR PASTOR'S DESK

October 31st was the 500th anniversary of the historical movement called the Reformation. God used people like Luther, Calvin, Knox, Zwingli, and Katharina Schutz Zell to bring about a re-formation of the church and a return to Biblical truth.

When I was a boy there were some trouble makers who lived in our neighborhood. One night they snuck down to a small lake called "Vincent's Pond", opened up the valve on the dam, and let all the water out! It was big news in our town! The boys were caught and had to spend some time in what was then called "Reform" school, the place where juvenile delinquents went to be "reformed."

You may be surprised to find out that I spent 4 years in a reformed school, it was called Reformed Theological Seminary! People who are not familiar with the term "Reformed Theology" must wonder what I needed to be reformed from! Since First Presbyterian Church teaches Reformed Theology it is important to understand what that means. Reformed Theology has strong ties to the Reformation, but it goes much further back to the Church Fathers like Augustine, and ultimately finds its foundation in principles taken directly from the Word of God.

This month we are exploring in the sermon series the 5 solas (the latin word for "alone") that form the foundations of Reformed Theology. Scripture alone, Christ alone, Grace alone, Faith alone, For God's glory alone. Another encapsulation of Reformed Theology is found in the 5 points of Calvinism which explore the Biblical process of salvation. The 5 points teach us that because of our sin we cannot save ourselves, God saves us by His grace through Jesus according to the counsel of His will, and those saved can never be lost again. These are some of the life changing teachings of the Reformed faith.

But in the end our theology challenges us personally to be "reformed." Acts 3:19 says *"Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."* When we repent of our sins and return to God, we are re-formed into new creations. Like the butterfly emerging from the cocoon, we discover a world that we never knew existed. May you be re-formed today and find refreshment in the presence of the Lord.

Reformed by Christ,

Steve



COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 7:00 PM

AT

HICKORY GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH



LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 6:30 PM

Catered by: **The Beehive Catering**

Cost for dinner is \$5 per person
(Cash or check payable to FPC WIC is due at the time of your reservation. Proceeds go to the FPC Food Pantry.)

Guest Speaker: Raemy Wensil, Founder of Angel Bows by Raemy
"Tying up cancer one bow at a time."

Raemy is a young lady from Iron Station who makes hair bows to sell to help cancer patients pay for their medical bills. She will share how she started this ministry and the blessing the Lord has brought through it. Her hair bows will be for sale at the dinner.

A sign up sheet is on the WIC bulletin board.
Sign up forms and envelopes are on the table next to the locked box.

Deadline for reservations is Sunday, November 19!!



THE ANGEL TREE IS HERE!

You have an opportunity to bless a child this Christmas! Each angel on the tree represents a child in need. Please consider taking an angel and purchasing the gifts listed. You may do so individually or pair up with other people.

The Angel Tree is located on the table next to the WIC bulletin board.

Deadline to return gifts is Sunday, November 26.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

In addition to the other deadlines mentioned on this page, remember the following:

- **Operation Christmas Child Shoe Box** donations are due by **Friday, Nov. 17.**
- The **College Box** donations are due by **Sunday, Nov. 19.**



CHRISTMAS SCENES DRAMA PRACTICE SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 9:00 AM

It takes lots of volunteers to present our Christmas Scenes drama. Whether you want a speaking part or not, we have a place for you. Stop by the bulletin board across from the church office to sign up for your favorite character!

WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Lynn Holcomb was hospitalized recently for treatment of Aspiration Pneumonia. He continues his recovery at home.

Phyllis Ribbeck is hobbled a bit temporarily but is making good progress as she recovers from recent foot surgery. The operation was performed on an out-patient basis.

Christian sympathies are extended to **Garry and Judy Lucas** in the death of Judy's father, **Frank Davis**. Frank and his wife **Mae** worshipped with us until their declining health would not allow it. Our sympathies are extended to **Milton Shelby** following the death of his last remaining sibling, his sister **Pearl Shelby Patterson**, 91, who died last week in Knoxville, TN. There were 11 brothers and sisters in the Shelby family. Milton was able to attend the funeral as he was accompanied by his sons, **Brad** and **Steve**. Our sympathies are also extended to **Clyde and Ginny Haley** in the death of Ginny's brother, **Robert Pierce, Sr.** He passed away at the age of 90 in Beverly, OH.

2017 MISSIONS CONFERENCE UPDATE

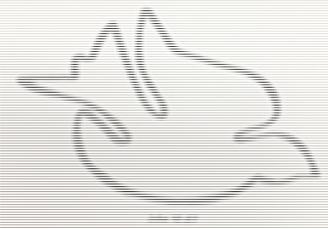
We currently have 184 people signed up to pray. Our goal is 380.

We have received Faith Promise commitments totaling \$136,440 to date. Our goals are Level 1-\$170,000, Level 2-\$175,000 and Level 3-\$180,000.

Although you can commit to pray and give at any time, we would prefer to get the commitment cards turned in as soon as possible. Help us reach our conference goals by turning in your card(s) in the near future.

NOTE CARDS FOR FAITH PROMISE

Testify to the Truth



Note cards are available in support of our 2018 Faith Promise giving. You can buy a set of 3 note cards including the envelopes for \$5.00 per set. All proceeds to go Faith Promise.

We recently learned that these cards take extra postage due to their square shape. Postage needed for each is \$.70. If you purchased cards during the Missions Conference and would like to return them due to the extra expense to mail, please see Jimmie or Sandra in the church office.

A huge thanks goes to Janet Kaufman and Liz Johnstone for creating these cards.



MNA THANKSGIVING OFFERING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Please prayerfully consider being a part of God's work—through tomorrow's leaders—and make plans to give to the special offering

Birthdays to Celebrate in November

16 Lennie Burrell

18 Missy Smith

19 Rachel Bynum
Cameron Cozart
Charlotte Haynes
Taylor Mundy

20 Lorie Hamrick

21 Gloria Marsh
Trevor Redding

22 James Magill



24 Jason Bryant

25 Steve Smith
Brandon Youngblood

26 Jeremy Abernathy
Becky Hensley

29 Michaela Brooks
Rob McMinn
Susan Mesimer

30 Mark Beatty
Chet Greeson
Ron Smith

The Church Family is a twice-monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church
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Assistant Pastor, Steve Jessen
Worship 10:15 AM ♦ Sunday School 9:00 AM



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED