

AUTUMN NEWS & VIEWS VOL 74, ISSUE 3



Taking the Bible Seriously, But Not Literally: A Fall Sermon Series

Friends, we are living in a time where our theological understanding of Christianity and how we, as Presbyterians, interpret the Bible has little voice in the public square. The loud voices of faith today in the media and billboards seem far from how Presbyterians understand the call of discipleship and following the ways of Jesus. Our Reformed/Calvinist tradition has always looked at Scriptures as the authoritative Word of God. Yet, we also understand the Bible to be bound to a particular people in a particular time. We approach the texts gently and respectfully, honoring its authority and mystery. We also understand the Bible to be a library of sorts, full of a variety of literary genres. We explore these diverse texts without negating the historical location and taking into account that we don't have the original scrolls, but trust that the mystery of God is with us and being revealed to us as we apply it to our lives.

It is troubling that the prominent voice on the Bible and Christian life in our country today reads the bible literally and promotes the black and white nature of faith, which is easy to believe and even easier to sell. We, however, value the diversity of theological thought and theological reflection that was present for a long time between denominations and traditions. *This is reason for this sermon series in September.* It's time we acquire the understanding and skills to share what we believe and why we believe it: why we believe our God really does love all, why diversity is welcome and not to be shunned, why we will not endorse the use of Scripture to be a weapon and oppress others outside the main social and cultural norms of our communities.

So join us in September for 4 weeks of thoughtful theological reflection on four major topics of scripture that are difficult to understand in our times. We will not interpret them literally, but will delve into how we can still affirm the authority of Scripture, yet also invite us to ask what they may mean for our time. Grow in faith this fall as you seek to understand the Word of God. It may not be the loudest voice today in our world, but it can still be faithful. Join us!

September 7: Violence in Scriptures: the case of Sodom and Gomorrah (and others),
Genesis 19:1-29.

September 14: Slavery in the Scriptures: how the text is weaponized to oppress others
Genesis 9:18-27, Leviticus 25:44-46; Philemon; Ephesians 6:5-9.

September 21: Submissive Women or Leaders in the Early Church?
Ephesians 5:21-33; I Timothy 2:8-15; I Corinthians 11:2-16.

September 28: Revelation: are the end times really here? (Variety of Texts)

Pastor Jessie

www.findlayfpc.org

ALL THINGS CHILDCARE PROJECT: HERE'S THE LATEST

**Join us for two seminars after worship THIS MONTH
to learn more about the childcare needs in Hancock County
and how our congregation is helping meet that need!**



September 7. Why are we doing this childcare project? Kimberly Bash, Chief Community Engagement Officer of the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, will share the research, and findings about the childcare need in county. Along with the HCCF and many other stakeholders in the community, we've been a part of a community collaborative approaching this issue for a number of years.

September 21. Update on Childcare Project. The Childcare Task Force will share the timeline of the journey to arriving where we are on our childcare project. Advantage Early Learning Academy, our childcare partners, will be here to share who they are as an organization and what they're about. Finally, the Childcare Working Group will share the details thus far about needed changes to the facility to get the building up to state codes.



Honoring Our Preschool

Join us after worship on September 7 for a brief liturgy to dedicate a tree as a visible reminder of our preschool that served so many children these past 50 years. We give thanks for God for the ways children were able to flourish and learn. The tree is planted in the turn-around by the elevator door.

WE'RE MOVING!

Starting October 1, most committees and programs will begin holding meetings on the 1950s side of the building. Please be gentle and flexible with one another and the staff as we figure all the details out. The staff is very busy getting things ready. Building and grounds committee will be okaying what group/programs are going where. We'll send more information as it comes, but in the meantime, ask questions if you have them!



FPC GARAGE SALE COMING SOON!

All proceeds will go to support our Child Care Project!

Save
the
date

Thursday, October 16, 4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Early Bird Special \$10.00.

Friday, October 17, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 18, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Drop off your items to the Great Room:

October 6-10 and October 13,
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Start saving your items – but please:

No clothes

No Shoes

No Mattresses

Only flat screen TVs

We will not be able to pick up items.

Questions? Contact Peggy Lobb



New Website and
App to be released
this Fall!

Look for more
information soon!

SUNDAY MORNING FAITH FORMATION

ADULT SEMINAR: We'll continue to have Adult Seminar after worship in the fellowship hall each Sunday, except for Community Dinner Sunday (2nd Sunday). Look for upcoming topics in the weekly enews. **September 7** - Kimberly Bash, Community Foundation. Why we need childcare in Hancock county and how we can help. **September 14** - Community Dinner; **September 21** - Childcare project update; **September 28** - Mission committee gives an update on all things mission! We have been a busy congregation! They also will invite input from the congregation of where we'd like to give financial support.

GODLY PLAY: a faith formation experience for our children in kindergarten to fifth grade tells biblical stories in a way that allows them to wonder about who God is and how God moves in the world and their lives. This sacred time for children is lead by Heidi Croy. Children are dismissed during worship to go to Godly Play. Parents can pick them up after worship.

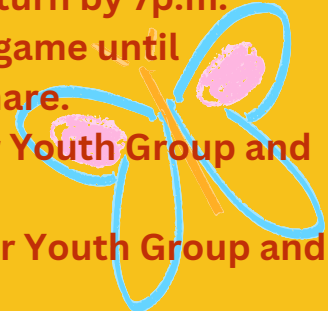
EVENING WOMEN'S GROUP: New this fall! This women's group will meet for study, sharing and prayer on a weekly basis. Based on group members' schedules, we will most likely meet in the early evening perhaps 6:30pm. for an hour to an hour and a half. Contact the office to be in touch with Ellen Hugunin to learn more!

MEN'S GROUP: This ongoing group welcomes more men to join them! They meet on the second Sunday at 9am in room 214. Contact Curt Hugunin for more information!

FORMATION ON THE ROAD: There are so many other ways to grow in faith beyond meeting in an person group for study. Keep your eyes peeled for a variety of resources to help you grow in faith, from suggested apps to use, to online classes, to a "show up and share and learn" group in the future.

THIRD SUNDAY FAMILY FAITH FORMATION (F³): It's back! We'll gather for our first Sunday evening on October from 5pm—7am. Come join us for a meal, a bit of singing and prayer, and then we divide into groups to have an hour of intentional conversation and engage our faith (parents included).
More information to come!

YOUTH GROUP THIS FALL

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|-------------------------------|---|
| Sunday, September 14th | 6 p.m.-7:30pm.: Meet at the church for Youth Group and pizza. |
| Sunday October 19th | 3 p.m.: Trip to Suter's for the Fall corn maze and hayrides. Meet at church and will return by 7p.m. |
| Friday, October 24th | 9 p.m. – 12 a.m.: Lock-in after football game until midnight. Please bring a snack to share. |
| Sunday, November 16th | 6 p.m.-7:30 pm. Meet at the church for Youth Group and pizza. |
| Sunday, December 14th | 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. Meet at the church for Youth Group and pizza. |
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WEEKLY FAITH FORMATION

THE BIBLE WITH AND WITHOUT JESUS

HOW JEWS AND CHRISTIANS
READ THE SAME STORIES
DIFFERENTLY

AMY-JILL LEVINE
MARC ZVI BRETTLER

**The Bible With and Without Jesus:
How Jews and Christians
Read the Same Stories Differently.**
(class offered in October—dates tbd.)

Esteemed Bible scholars Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Brettler take readers on a guided tour of the most popular Old Testament stories referenced in the New Testament to explore how Christians, Jews, and scholars read these ancient texts differently. Comparing Jewish, Christian, and academic interpretations of each ancient narrative, Levine and Brettler offer a deeper understanding of these contrasting faiths, and illuminate the historical and literary significance of the Bible and its place in our culture.

ONWARD AND UPWARD - A Ministry for Older Adults



**Join us this fall for a number of exciting programs,
and of course, a great lunch!**

Usually second Thursdays from 11:00a.m.- 1:00p.m.

September 11: Childcare Project Update—the Childcare Task Force will be with us to share where we are with the project and where we are headed. Please come with questions and concerns!

October 9: Join us as we travel to McQueen's Orchards in Holland, Ohio. It'll be a great time enjoying the season, eating apples, visiting the bakery and gift shop, all on site. Then we'll grab lunch on our way home. *We'll all travel together with a church vehicle, if possible, so please, make sure you sign up for this one so we have space for everyone!*

MUSIC MINISTRY



Chancel Choir

Rehearsals – Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Choir Room
Come join a small faith community who meet every week to make music together. We begin singing in the Chancel on September 7. We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. followed by Fellowship. We will be singing some new music this fall along with familiar favorites!

Pop-Up Choir

Can't make a weekly commitment but still want to sing in a choir? Watch the calendar and announcements for the Pop-Up Choir. Periodically throughout the year, we will gather on Sunday morning to rehearse an anthem to sing in that Sunday's worship service. All ages and backgrounds welcome!



GatherRing Handbell Choir

Rehearsals – 1st, 3rd, & 5th Wednesdays,
6:00-7:00 p.m., Chancel

New rehearsal day and time to accommodate more people!

Join us to ring! We will have two choirs: one that plays specific handbell pieces and those that play on hymns. Both will rehearse on Wednesdays and those playing on hymns will also rehearse on Sunday mornings. If you can count to 4 (sometimes 6) and know your left hand from your right hand, you can join!!

Instrumentalists

If you play a musical instrument and haven't played with us, then it's time to share your gifts! It can be playing a solo in worship or just playing along on a hymn. Let's find a place for you at our musical banquet.

**For more details, contact Clint Miller
or ask any choir members.**



MISSION



Seminar on September 27:

Update and What's Next!

We need your voices as we determine where to give and where to put the congregation's energy!

CITY MISSION

We'll continue to serve one lunch and one dinner each month. Join us for a simply act of service that serves residents at the mission and Martha's home, as well as hundreds of people daily who are simply food insecure and use the walk up window.



UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

September 9: 10:30-1:00pm;

September 25: 4:00-6:30pm

Darrell the Barrel will be in the Narthex and continue to collect needed items for City Mission. Watch the weekly enews for items to be collected each month.

Community Dinner September 14, 2025

Menu: Pasta Primavera, tossed salad, garlic bread, fresh fruit and cookies. Please donate items from your garden! We need zucchini, yellow squash, tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, bell peppers, etc. for our pasta and salad this month. Whatever we don't use we will share with our guests!! Just let us know what you will be donating.

Lots of opportunity for serving, both Saturday morning and Sunday morning as well. Sign-ups outside the office!



LISTENING TO THE SPIRIT: Discerning a Sense of Call

Mercer Phlegar: Young Adult Volunteer (YAV), Chinook, Montana

Mercer, a newer member at FPC is taking a year to volunteer with our denomination through the Young Adult Volunteer program. This is our second member in the past 5 that is taking an ENTIRE YEAR to serve God in much needed places. Below, Mercer shares a bit of her story so we can get to know her better. We'll hear from her throughout here year and share her blogs. Please join us in prayer as Mercer serves God in Montana in the coming year!

Hi, my name is Mercer Phlegar. I am 23 years old and grew up mainly in Georgia, Ohio and Wisconsin. I recently graduated from Carroll University (WI) where I studied Elementary and Special Education. While at Carroll, I was a varsity lacrosse player and also served as a member of the Spiritual Life leadership team, among other meaningful activities. My experience in college and my lifelong involvement in church have helped me hear strong calls to serve others and to strive to live more fully into my faith, especially by helping and guiding children. The values of kindness, compassion, family, and faith are deeply important to me, and I look forward to putting these values into action during my YAV year. I am excited about living in Montana over the next year and hope to discern where God is leading me.



Greg Kuhlman: Cultivating the Gift of Preaching

The session voted late last spring to support member and Elder Greg Kuhlman as he begins the Cultivating the Gift of Preaching program in the Synod of the Covenant (the next governing body above the presbytery). The purpose of the Cultivating the Gift of Preaching Initiative is to strengthen the witness of the Church to the good news of Jesus Christ, by identifying, training, and providing ongoing support to emerging preachers. Across the eleven presbyteries of the Synod, there are numerous ruling elders and other church leaders who are called and gifted to preach the good news. The aim of the Initiative is to cultivate these gifts through rigorous training in biblical interpretation, Reformed theology, and sermon preparation. The Initiative aims to add 140 or more trained preachers across Synod over four 18-month training cycles, beginning in 2024 through 2028. Greg began his cohort this past summer!



Together with leaders from each of the 11 presbyteries and 650+ churches, we will identify 35 church leaders (ruling elders and others) each year for participation in the Initiative (approximately three persons per presbytery). These will be leaders with limited or no formal training in preaching and/or theological education but who are gifted with traits that can be further developed to develop compelling and effective preachers.

We'll keep you updated as Greg makes this journey but for now, ask for your prayers as he begins!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Mom co.:

This year Mom co will continue to meet at the same time, on the third Wednesdays at 9:00am. Share with others in the greater community about this opportunity for women to gather, share and support one another. Childcare provided! Contact Pastor Jessie with questions.



Findlay Community Orchestra

Our resident cellist, Marsha Pendley, has been playing with the University of Findlay orchestra and approached Clint about the orchestra needing a new home. They have 're-formed' themselves into the Findlay Community Orchestra and will now be in residence in our Great Room! They will rehearse and perform here. We will also be seeing (and hearing) some of their players in our worship services. We welcome them and look forward to this relationship together. You can find out more about them by visiting the Findlay Community Orchestra Facebook page or ask Marsha!

NEW STAFF MEMBERS

LENA KENNEDY

Welcome back, Lena! Lena Kennedy, who has interned with us a number of years ago, is coming on board as our new Family Ministry Coordinator. Initially only 5-10 hours a week, Lena will continue to build community and resource our families and youth, as well as explore creative programming. Stay tuned. lkennedy@findlayfpc.org

ALLISON BADERTSCHER

Communications Support. A college junior at University of Cincinnati, Allison will work remotely for us, providing social media, web and other communications support. Her position is 5-10 hours per week. She interned this past summer at AR Marketing and we are excited to have her on our team! abadertscher@findlayfpc.org

FACILITY UPDATE



Exciting news! Last week, we welcomed two new trees to our luscious landscape. In the preschool circle stands a 10ft. tall Japanese Lilac. Come spring, early summer it will be in bloom with fragrant, white flower clusters.

In the Columbarium, there is a new Bloodgood Japanese Maple.

This beauty was chosen by church member Al Holtzschler to compliment the new bench given in honor of his 50 years of service as the Church Treasurer. This tree is just over 7 ft. tall right now and will mature up to 20 ft. This tree's brilliant scarlet foliage will provide added interest to the scenery.



A clean sweep! This summer Ray and I have been getting in our 10,000 steps a day and more to carry over to our loved ones. We have been going through every room and space in the building to clear out, clean up, and organize. All the things that have been deemed no longer of use for the church are neatly displayed in the Great Room ready for the big garage sale.

Creteman Concreting has finished the new walkway to the Columbarium. It is no longer a tripping hazard or underwater. I have been chipping away at the hedges but the humidity this summer has been a real drag. Pleasant View will be finishing up the trimming, laying black mulch, and lawn seeding. I am excited to put in some new plants in Spring. It's going to look beautiful!

--Kelly Sherrieb, Facility Manager





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Financial Report

Year to Date 2025

YTD Income	\$ 396,972
YTD Income Budget	\$ 422,381
YTD Expenses	\$ 460,677
YTD Expenses Budget	\$496,659

Thank you for your generous support of Christ's Mission here at First Presbyterian Church Findlay!

Looking Ahead

September 7
Violence in Scriptures

September 14
Slavery in Scriptures

September 21
Submissive Women or Leaders in the Early Church

September 28
Revelation