

THE PULPIT AND PEW

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARYSVILLE, OHIO

August 2017

Pastor Jeff Schooley



THE PULPIT & PEW
A Newsletter of
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FROM PASTOR JEFF...

“The (Theo)Logic of Worship”

The importance of worship in the Christian life cannot be underestimated.

In the course of a worship service, we not only give our God the glory He’s due, which is already the chief end of humankind, but we also re-enact with our hearts, minds, and bodies the entire story of the Bible. Our worship is also our witness to who Jesus is and what He’s done on our behalf. It testifies, as well, to the ways we faithfully respond to Him.

It is in this spirit (and hopefully led by the Spirit) that some minor changes will be made to our order of worship beginning September 10. These changes are not arbitrary or merely meant to fit my tastes, so I’d like to use this article as an opportunity to explain the new order of worship. It has also been printed in this edition of *The Pulpit & the Pew* and would be helpful to have nearby as you read.

To begin, notice the three broad categories of worship: Gathered by the Word, Receiving the Word, Responding to the Word. The first thing our worship does is center itself around the Word of God – that is, Jesus Christ. There is no grounds or basis of worship for a Christian except as it is found in our Lord.

This Word gathers us. No one comes to church – really – except by invitation of the Word of God. I know that we can spend, in the church, a lot of time talking about how to draw folks to church and we often wonder and worry that some aspect of our style of worship or our building or anything else is the reason people do or don’t come. Nope. People come because of the prompting of our Lord. It’s why you’re here too.

We receive this Word. Our God does not stay absent from us or withhold Himself from us, but gives Himself to us. We meet Him in the reading of scripture, our meditations upon it, and its proclamation from the pulpit. (Yes, this final way of meeting is what made Martin Luther throw up before preaching on occasion. The enormity of the task is overwhelming to both the soul and – apparently – the digestive system).

We respond to this Word. This Word has gathered us and given Himself to us for a reason. This Word is total in His Lordship. This Word – by both faith and logic – demands a response. He is no easily dismissed word – a subtweet, a trolling comment, a silly joke – but a powerful Word that requires our response.

Just in these three broad categories you can see the story of a God creating and calling His wayward creation back to Himself (creation/fall and election of Israel stories in the Bible). You can see the self-giving of Jesus (His incarnation all the way to His crucifixion). And you can see the forms of faithful response (all of Acts of the Apostles through the letters in the New Testament). The entirety of scripture, which is the story of God’s relationship with God’s people, is found in our worship each and every week. This is amazing!

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With the lessons of these broad categories of worship in mind, I can now briefly explain the changes that will take place.

- Welcoming – This is not just a “Good Morning,” but a “I welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ” moment. From the very beginning, it is important to make sure we all recognize that we are gathered by the work and will of Jesus.
- Our Fellowship Together – Our shaking hands and saying hello to one another is not just a nice moment of reconnecting. It is a reminder that we can only truly have fellowship with one another because our lives have first been reconciled with God through Jesus Christ. We pass the peace of Christ to one another as a reminder that those who have been saved, have been saved as ambassadors of this peace.
- Special Prayers for the Military – I will admit that this is the most difficult change because the Church (historic) does not have this moment as part of its teachings on worship. Why I did shift this to later in the service is to make sure that our service men and women were not being isolated from the rest of the community. Our current placement has the prayers for them as set apart from the prayers of the people. This “set apart” runs the risk of elevating them (which would be an idolatry) or disparaging them (which would be a heresy). I know that no one ever thought this consciously in the placing of this element of worship where it is, but we can love our service men and women best by not isolating them from the entire community. Indeed, this isolation is often a cultural problem – especially for those returning from conflict zones – and it is not a problem I want to perpetuate at FPC, symbolically or otherwise.
- Announcements – This last change may seem the oddest. Yet moving announcements later into the service will serve as a reminder that the opportunities for service, giving, learning, and fellowship that are offered every week in worship are actually and truly opportunities to respond to the Word’s claim on our lives. We don’t only do card showers, for example, because they make us feel good, but because the sort of love we show one another is a reflection of the love we have for God. Furthermore, we always say in church that people are to give of their “time, talents, and treasures,” but the only thing we actually ask for in worship is treasures. Moving announcements to the same time as taking up the offering will remind us of the totality of our lives that we are to offer our God.

If you’ve read this lengthy article, thank you. I hope the (theo)logic behind the decisions is clearer and more understandable. **A side-by-side comparison of the current and future Order of Worship can be found on the last page of this Pulpit and Pew.** If you have any questions or want to dialogue further on these changes, I am always available.

SESSION

Since our last Pulpit and Pew, the Session has had one meeting. Below are highlights from this meeting.

1. Approval was given for Tina Gleason of the Wolf Productions of Powell, Ohio to use the third floor on Tuesdays from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on August 16 through October 17, 2017 for her acting class.
2. Approval was given for the MHS Spanish Exchange Class to use the Boy Scout Room, Kennedy Hall and Kitchen on September 20, 2017 from 5:00 pm to 8:00.
3. The request for \$50.00 from Kennedy Funds was approved for an ad to support the USA National Miss Scholarship Pageant to assist Bre Sweeney, who is a participant in this program and has been attending our Mid-Week Program.
4. Approval was given to provide funds to Haley Van Duzen for membership with the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators and fees associated with attending a seminar January 31, 2018 - February 3, 2018 of up to \$1500, with money coming from Kennedy funds.
5. The Personal Policy Manual revisions were approved as presented.

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6. Approval was given for a pool to be formed of four or five people as substitutes for the secretary. The person will be compensated \$15.00 an hour with money coming from the Kennedy Fund, retro back to June 6, 2017. An announcement will also be placed in the bulletin to find people interested in assisting.
7. A new commission will be initiated for the position of Ruling Elder Commissioned to Pastoral Service, and be filled by Richard Mickley under the guidelines of the Covenant for a Temporary Pastoral Relationship, to be effective after Presbytery's permission. This is a non-compensated commission.
8. The 2017-2018 Planning Calendar was approved, including communion dates of September 10, 2017, October 1, 2017, November 5, 2017, December 3, 2017, January 7, 2018, February 11, 2018, March 29, 2018, April 1, 2018, May 27, 2018, and June 3, 2018.
9. Approval was given for Kristina Ahlstrom, Director of the Chancel Choir, to coordinate a combined Sunday choir with another church.
10. The proposed change to the Order of Worship was approved and will be effective on Genesis Sunday, September 10, 2017.
11. The Wall of Love Fundraiser was approved and the proceeds will be donated this year to THRIVE, our senior high youth group.
12. The following teachers were approved for the 2017-2018 year: Rev. Schooley, adult class, TLC (Think Like Christians); Diane Crosthwaite, adult class Disciples; Dick Mickley, adult class, Storytellers and Kerygma Class; Sunday School Teachers - Mallory Ingram, Rachel Hedges, Candy Brown, Whitney Ey, Haley Van Duzen, Adam Van Duzen, Tracy Koski (sub wherever needed); Mid-Week Teachers - Rachel Hedges, Mallory Ingram, Tracy Koski, Traci Rutledge, Janet Harbold, Donna Maley, Mary Bishop, Adam Van Duzen, Rev. Schooley, and Justin Hedges (help wherever needed); THRIVE Leaders - Adam Van Duzen and Whitney Ey; Mike Brown - Junior Church
13. The 2017-2018 Education Dates were approved with the addition of September 16, 2017 for an Old Testament Scholar, Walter Brueggemann, speaking at Westminster PC in Dayton and a training class on budgeting on October 17, 2017.
14. The following were approved for leave for Rev. Schooley: Tuesday, October 3, 2017 – Monday, October 10, 2017 (Study Leave), Tuesday, November 7, 2017 – Monday, November 13, 2017 (Vacation), Tuesday, December 26, 2017 – Monday, January 1, 2018 (Vacation).

Debby Galloway, Clerk of Session

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Summer is coming to an end and with that comes great planning and preparation.

“Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails.” Proverbs 19:21

The summer months at the church were busy this year. Our “Paradise Bound” VBS was a huge success. The week was spent in the book of Esther learning about obedience and God's love for us all. We had over forty children and nine adults who attended this year. With teachers and support staff, our attendance was around seventy people each night. God truly blessed this event.

Genesis Sunday is right around the corner and the kick off of our regular Sunday School. Sunday school starts on September 10, 2017 and runs from 9:15am-10am. Our theme this year “Revolving around God”. The youth will be using a curriculum called “Whirl” by Sparkhouse. This curriculum is Lectionary based and will help the

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children learn and “Revolve” around God. Classes will be divided into Nursery- age 3, Pre-K age 4-Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade, 3rd-5th and 6th-8th. The adult classes will also begin on September 10 with three different classes to choose from. Registration for youth Sunday School will be on the back table of the Sanctuary. Adults do not need to register this year for Sunday school. We hope to see each one of you attend one of these amazing classes.

ADULT CLASSES

If you haven't made a commitment to weekly Christian study in a while, these classes promise to engage and grow you on your journey of faith.

TLC: Think Like Christians will be led by Pastor Jeff in the AA/Boy Scouts Room on the first floor.

This class will seek to grow our faithfulness through the transformation of our minds. The hope is that as we grow our minds to "TLC," the hope is that we'll grow our hearts to show "TLC" as well. The class will rotate between the topics of Bible study, Christian ethics/contemporary issues, and church history. Topics will be addressed through 5-8 week seminars and participants in the class are expected to help the pastor determine which topics we'll engage.

Disciples, convened by Diane Crosthwaite, meets in the classroom on the 3rd floor in the classroom closest to heaven, at the top of the staircase just outside the sanctuary.

We will continue our study of Paul's letters this year and are ready to begin with Ephesians. We informally examine the historical perspectives surrounding the scripture and discuss the messages for what we can glean for our lives today. All are welcome!

Storytellers, taught by Dick Mickley, meets in the Weld room, next to the Reception Room.

The Israelites told their community faith with stories, and retold it to each new generation. Down through the ages, followers of Jesus took up the stories and put new life in them. We, of this generation, retell these same stories as we add our own stories of faith and life to this great Story of life with God.

Storytellers uses a critical approach to the Scriptures that frees us from the constraints of the written words to give us insights of the Holy Spirit. It follows the story lines of the People of God and follows them through the Bible. This fall we will be starting with a study of the prophets as leaders of God's people.

Kerygma, *Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 PM*, taught by Dick Mickley. This class meets in the AA/Boy Scouts Room on the first floor.

This fall the Kerygma class will be studying *The Light Will Shine: A Study for Advent*

Discover new light in traditional texts and seasonal themes. Find fresh perspectives on the journey through Advent to Christmas and beyond. There are five sessions, beginning October 4 and ending November 1, at 7:00 pm in Price for the class pamphlet will be \$12 plus a small amount for shipping.

Registration sheets are included in this Pulpit and Pew. For additional information see Dick Mickley.

Men's Bible Study Tuesday Morning, 7:45 to 8:30 AM, meets in the conference room on the basement level.

This is an ecumenical group which uses a critical approach to the study of the books of the Bible. The members take turns preparing the study for the day. Presently we are discussing our way through the Gospel of John and looking forward to the book of Acts.

Women's Bible Study meets Wednesdays, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM in the reception room.

This is an informal Bible study lead by Donna Maley. We choose books to read and discuss one chapter per week, but having read the chapter isn't mandatory. An important component of this group is fellowship and prayers for others. We meet every Wednesday during the summer and during the school year we meet every Wednesday, **except the second Wednesday of the month**. This will be a different format than the PWA study.

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Junior church will also be offered this year during our worship service. Junior church will begin immediately following the Children's focus. Children who are ages 4 through 4th grade are invited to come learn with Mike Brown. Infants through 3 years of age are welcome to go to the nursery. No children over the age of 3 is permitted in the nursery this year for safety reasons unless you have signed up on the volunteer sheet located in the nursery. Older children may sign up for one Sunday a month to help in the nursery. Children 5th grade and older should stay in the sanctuary for the worship service.

Our B.U.G.S. Mid-Week program begins on October 4, 2017 at 5:30pm. This year's welcome back spectacular will be held by COSI on wheels. This year the kids will get to dive into the human body with "Gross Science-Bodyworks." Mid-week is for infants through 8th grade and will run from October-March while Marysville schools are in session. Registration forms for this will also be on the back table of the sanctuary.

Rev. Schooley and Adam Van Duzen will be holding a Mid-Week Adult Bible study that runs the same dates and times as the youth Mid-Week program. This is great opportunity to learn God's word in a fun, uplifting Bible study. This Bible study group is called "**Jeff and Adam do the Bible!**" This is a great opportunity for those of you who are dropping your kids off to Mid-Week to stay and enjoy Bible study as well. We welcome all adults to join us for dinner and Bible study. If you have any questions, please see Rev. Schooley, Haley Van Duzen or Adam Duzen for details.

Below you will find dates of upcoming events that the Education Department has planned.

Upcoming Events

September 1, 2017- "Wall of Love" Youth Fundraiser. Funds will be used for THRIVE events

September 10, 2017- Genesis Sunday. First day of Sunday School

September 17, 2017- Bible Presentation during the worship service

October 4, 2017- Mid-Week begins with COSI on Wheels kick off 5:30-7:30pm

"Jeff and Adam do the Bible" Adult Bible study 5:30-7:30pm

Kerygma 7-9pm.

October 8, 2017- Chili Cook-off and Bake-off following worship

October 29, 2017- Youth Costume day for Sunday School

November 11, 2017- Youth Nursing Home visit (12:45pm-2:15pm)

November 22, 2017- Youth Pumpkin Pie Baking (9am-1pm) No Mid-Week this night

From all of us in the Education Department, we thank you for your continued support in all that we are doing for the church. If you have a calling to help in this area of the church, please see Mary Ann Edwards or Haley Van Duzen. Please come and join our team!

God Bless,

Haley Van Duzen
Christian Education Director

LIBRARY

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The Library Revitalization subcommittee of the Education Team has been working to categorize and upgrade our collection of books and other media material in order to restore the library to its former usefulness. We have had some creative discussion about directions we can take the library and remain on the third floor.

To assist the committee in that effort we are asking that you complete the survey that is included in this Pulpit and Pew. Finished surveys can be left on the table at the rear of the sanctuary, in the Library mail box at the foot of the stairs, given to Dick Mickley or Adam Van Duzen

MISSION

Reminder to check your Kroger rewards account. You do need to renew it each year. Sign in to Kroger.com, then click on 'Community' then 'Community Rewards.' Select "View your rewards detail." It will give you the enrollment date. Enrollment lasts one year. If you are more than one year from enrollment, click "Edit." It will take you to a page asking for your organization or organization number. Enter "81609" (First Presbyterian Church of Marysville). Select the button for FPC then click "Enroll." Your support helps fund the Mission Trip each year. *-Mission Committee*

CHAMBER CHOIR

The Chamber Choir will be kicking off their 2017-2018 year on Friday, September 15th at 4:15pm in the choir room. Any child, 2nd grade and up are welcome to sing. We sing once a month for worship service. Also, during the year we feature singing and instrumental solos and we also learn to play the bell chimes. I pre-record all the music (I have the words typed out too) so that if you have a child that is interested in singing, but cannot make it to the practices, they can learn the music at home and join us on our scheduled Sunday mornings we sing. I also work with the choir kids the 1st Sunday of the month during the Sunday school sing-a-long. Come join the fun!!! Hope to see you on the 15th! Any questions call, 937-243-9215 and leave me a message, I will get back with you.

Molly

COFFEE SIGN-UP FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2017

September	3	Carolyn Wiehe
	10	Pam Archer & Donna Patterson
	17	Bob & Linda Rinehart
	24	The Browns
October	1	AJ & Amanda Conti
	8	Grant & Jean Kearns
	15	Jan Tate
	22	Donna Patterson & Pam Archer
	29	Donna Maley

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

Words can only begin to express my heartfelt gratitude to all those wonderful people who helped with Pastor Jeff's installation dinner. From praying, to baking, arranging flowers, shredding beef, chopping, serving, cleaning up – So many of you stepped up (even without being tapped!), and I appreciate you so very much! It was truly a team effort!! The old adage is still very true – Many hands make light work! Many thanks!!!

I love you all,

Diane

ADDRESS UPDATES

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CHANGES TO THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Current Order of Worship

The Gathering

Prelude
Announcements
Our Fellowship Together
Call to Worship
Hymn of Praise
Prayer of Confession
Silent Prayers of Confession
Assurance of Pardon
Ascription of Praise
Special Prayers for Military

Hearing the Word

Children's Focus
Prayer for Illumination
OT Lesson
[Anthem]
NT Lesson
Sermon

Responding

Hymn of Thanksgiving (or Communion)
Affirmation of Faith
Prayers of the People
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Response of Thanksgiving
Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Sending

Hymn of Dedication
Benediction
Postlude

Future Order of Worship

Gathered by the Word

Prelude
Welcoming
Call to Worship
+Opening Hymn
Prayer of Confession
Silent Prayers of Confession
+Assurance of Pardon
+Ascription of Praise
+Our Fellowship Together

Receiving the Word

Children's Focus
Prayer for Illumination
OT Lesson
[Anthem]
NT Lesson
Sermon

Responding to the Word

+Hymn (or Communion)
+Affirmation of Faith
Prayers of the People
Special Prayers for Military
Presentation of Tithes and Offerings
Announcements
+Response of Thanksgiving
+Prayer of Thanksgiving
+Closing Hymn
+Benediction
Postlude

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KERYGMA

This fall's study will be:

The Light Will Shine: A Study for Advent

Discover new light in traditional texts and seasonal themes. Find fresh perspectives on the journey through Advent to Christmas and beyond.

There are five sessions: Watchful Expectancy, John the Baptizer, The Fulfillment of All Promises, and The Dawning of Day. Classes begin on October 4 and end on November 1 and will meet at 7:00 PM in the Boy Scout room on the first floor.

If you would like more information about Kerygma or this program, contact Dick Mickley.

If you would like to attend this study for Advent fill in the information below. The cost of the resource book is \$12.00 plus shipping and handling.

_____	_____
Name	phone
_____ @ _____	_____
e-mail	how many books

When completed: drop it in the offering plate, leave it in the Church office, or give to Dick Mickley

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WILLIS B. SHEARER MEMORIAL LIBRARY SURVEY

Do you use the library, yes no; and if so how often?

For what do you use the library?

What would motivate you to use it more often?

Have you ever been to the library? yes no;

If the library was more conveniently located would you use it more often?
 yes no;

Would you be willing to volunteer in the library?
 yes no; If yes, how? What days and times are you available?

Would be willing to serve on the Library Committee? yes no;

Comments

Name, phone or e-mail, and address

Finished surveys can be left on the table at the rear of the sanctuary, in the Library box at the foot of the stairs, or given to Dick Mickley or Adam Van Duzen