



I Have No Idea Where I'm Going

-Rev. Annie Melick

"I have no idea where I'm going." I've said this several times in my life – driving before GPS was a thing, looking for a room in a large hospital, running to a gate in the airport in Germany where there was no English on the signs, interviewing with churches to find my next call, navigating life after the death of a parent, and trying to figure out what would be the faithful thing in a complicated situation.

Sometimes we feel like we have no idea where we are going. We look to God for guidance, we talk to friends and family, we look things up on the internet, and we search the Scriptures for answers. Life in Christ is a journey, and we don't always know what the next turn will bring. If you find yourself in one of those times, or if you are supporting someone who is going through a rough time, know that God is with you. Below is Psalm 23 for you to meditate on. Notice how the Lord wants good things for you and provides for you. Then, I've included a prayer by Thomas Merton, The Prayer of Unknowing. My prayer is that you will be encouraged today.

Psalm 23 - The Divine Shepherd

A Psalm of David.

¹ The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. ² He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; ³ he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. ⁴ Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. ⁶ Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

"My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it. Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone." (Thomas Merton)



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 9:00am Garden Planting
3	4	5	6 Messy Church 6:00pm Choir 7:30pm	7 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	8	9
10 Communion Mother's Day	11	12	13 Miriam Circle 10:00am Moms Group 10:00am Choir 7:00pm	14 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	15	16
17 Special music by Arnah Rudicil & Tesha Smith Session Meeting	18	19	20 Choir 7:00pm	21 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	22	23
24 Pentecost Sunday Sandwich Ministry	25 Memorial Day Office Closed	26	27	28 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	29	30
31 Brunch Church						



1st		17th	
2nd	Rosetta Brower	18th	
3rd	Mark Willis	19th	
4th	Wayne Simpson	20th	Keith Jones Ashleigh Mondello-Garrett Ricky Mondello-Garrett
5th	Joe DeLuca	21st	
6th		22nd	
7th		23rd	
8th		24th	
9th		25th	
10th	Mackenzie Rutherford Meinstein	26th	
11th		27th	
12th	Sam Ribbler	28th	Jessica Falkner
13th	Brennan Fogle	29th	Lyla Barney Melissa Phillips Kent Stonecash
14th	William Brower	30th	
15th	Sara Haynes	31st	Ron Bolender
16th	Beth Mickelson		

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Session
First Presbyterian Church, Eaton OH
March 8, 2026

The regular meeting of session was held in person after Sunday worship on March 8, 2026, in the church Gathering Place. A quorum was present. Pastor Annie opened the meeting with prayer at 11:43 A.M.

Members present: Bill Brower, Bill Clayton, Taylor Clabaugh, Kathy McCreary, Pat Anderson, Coni Rutherford, Michael Fomin and Riley Buehner. Also present were Doug Moore, Treasurer and Marie Hayes, Clerk of session.

Members excused: David Sikora, Mary Neavin and Randy Wright

Treasurer's report: February treasurer's report was emailed to all session members prior to the meeting. **On motion** by Kathy McCreary and seconded by Coni Rutherford to approve the minutes as written. Doug reported that he sent the Per Capita payment in February and both the Housing Allowance fund and the Memorial Trust Fund are both doing well and gaining interest. Doug is also working on a sound system/video upgrade and the repair/replacement of one of the choir microphones at the request of the Worship and Fellowship committee. He is currently seeking bids for the fire alarm system replacement and has successfully put the elevator phone back in service. The Finance and Congregational Care committee will track his progress and get approval for funds needed.

Approval of the Minutes: February session minutes were emailed to session members on March 5th. **On motion** by Coni Rutherford and seconded by Kathy McCreary to approve the minutes as written. **Motion carried.**

Communications: Received a transfer of membership letter from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Dayton, Ohio for Lauren Ferguson. Lauren's membership was removed from First Presbyterian church, Eaton, Ohio on June 9, 2024, by request.

Report of the Moderator: Performed funeral service for member #1604 Doris Barker on Feb 6, 2026, at Gard Funeral Home and graveside service at Preble Memory Gardens. Pastor Annie went over "acolyte hints", i.e. how to carry the candlestick and hold it while lighting the candle, walk slow to protect the flame, make sure there is enough wick, ONLY adults lighting the wick of the candlestick, carry the light back out at the end of service, leave the wick up after extinguishing. She will have an acolyte training day on Sunday, April 26th after worship. A lite lunch will be served and those participating will receive a T-shirt. Pastor Annie is finalizing Holy Week plans and is asking for table hosts at our Maundy Thursday service. We will have a meal starting at 6:00 P.M. with worship following and communion. Foot washing will also be offered. Baptism request for Mack Viscusi, son of Katie Sikora Viscusi and grandson of David and Janet Hiestand Sikora to be held on Easter Sunday, April 5th. This will be a seventh generation baptism! **On motion** by Coni Rutherford and seconded by Kathy McCreary to approve the baptism of Mack Viscusi. **Motion carried.**

Pastor Annie led session in discussion over chapter five in the Spiritual Leadership handbook, "Sailing Skills for Church Leaders". The chapter focuses on moving from a "rowboat" mentality (hard work, self-reliance) to a "sailboat" approach, which relies on the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. It emphasized shifting from controlling the outcome to discerning God's direction.

March minutes continued:

Reports of the Permanent Committees:

Stewardship, Finance and Congregational Care: A meal was provided for the family and friends of Doris Barker after her funeral service on Feb 6th in the church Fellowship Hall. Cards were sent to parishioners recovering from surgeries and those grieving the loss of loved ones. The next home communion will be in April.

Worship and Fellowship: Coni passed a communion sign-up sheet. The committee is meeting next week to discuss plans for Holy Week; Palm Sunday service, Maundy Thursday meal/service, Good Friday service at UCC and Easter sunrise service. The committee will be ordering a cart for Communion use and food use only. The Lord's Supper was celebrated on Sunday, March 8th.

Christian Education and Mission: Messy church was March 4th. The Rummage Sale dates are June 4th and 5th. The committee is looking for a director for Compassion Camp to be held July 13-15 from 6 to 8 P.M. Donations of hats and gloves are needed for the Blessing box. The sandwich ministry continues the fourth Sunday of every month following worship; looking for youth volunteers to have activities and play games with the children of those helping with this ministry. The mission event after Palm Sunday service/carry-in will be building above ground garden containers for our church yard. The Kirkmont Presbyterian Women's retreat will be April 24-26 with the option of just attending on Saturday, April 25th.

Youth News: The youth are gathering on the last Sunday of the month immediately following worship. Meetings include a shared lunch and a study program centered on a Lenten curriculum. The February ski retreat went very well; the youth focused on the topic, "Having a mind like Jesus". Youth mission trip will be June 21-26 at Copper Hills, TN Details for Kirkmont Center's diverse summer camp lineup for all ages are coming soon--- stay tuned for dates and registration information!

Old Business: Good Futures update; there will be an informational meeting on Sunday, April 19th at 2:30 P.M. with a presentation from Rev. Kazy Hinds.

Next Meeting: Sunday, April 19th after worship in the Gathering Place

Adjournment and Closing Prayer: Session business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Annie at 12:56 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Hayes
Clerk of Session

Worship

Building Blocks: stories of the early church teach us the fundamentals of faith.

As we move through “The Great 50 Days,” the time between Easter and Pentecost, we will study some passages that teach us valuable fundamentals for a life of faith. What commitments are foundational to our Christian identity? We believe in what we cannot see, experience the resurrected Christ, learn to share in community, ask questions as we grow in faith, draw connections for those with other beliefs, draw strength from shared prayer, and value all who are part of the body of Christ.

May 3, 2026 - Asking Questions, John 14:1-14

May 10, 2026 – Sharing Our Faith, Acts 17:22-31, Mother’s Day

May 17, 2026 – Seeking Guidance Together, Acts 1:6-14 Communion

May 24, 2026 – Pentecost - Being Moved, Acts 2:1-2



National Day of Prayer, May 7

Come to the church sanctuary on Thursday, May 7 any time between 10:00am and 6:00pm to pray for things like leadership, justice, the environment, our community, peace and stability. Prayer guides will be available. Come and pray for as long as you want.



Brunch Church is May 31

Come for brunch and worship at our normal time of 10:30. We meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. After worship, we will do a mission project together. More information TBA.

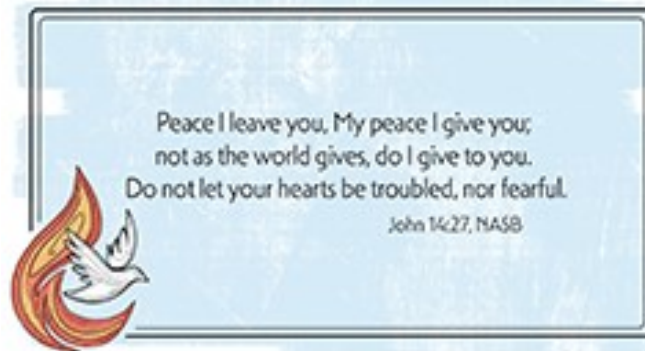
Happy Birthday, Church – Pentecost Sunday

May 24 is Pentecost Sunday in the Christian Church. It's traditionally thought of as the birthday of the church. We will celebrate by **wearing red**. We will also celebrate Pentecost at **Messy Church on May 6**, so **wear red** that night, too!

Here are some fun facts about Pentecost:

- Pentecost means 50, and Pentecost Sunday is celebrated 50 days (4 weeks) after Easter.
- It is celebrated as Whitsun, (White Sunday) in the UK because it was a day for baptism and people wore white.
- Pentecost was the Festival of Weeks, or Shavout, in Hebrew tradition.
- Jewish tradition says that King David was born and died on Pentecost.
- Pentecost is celebrated in a variety of ways around the world and in different Christian circles. It is typically celebrated with symbolism like the color red, doves, and flames.
- There was wind, fire, and languages! Acts 2:1-6 records the story of the Holy Spirit coming to Jesus' followers:

On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. ²Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. ³Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. ⁵At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. ⁶When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers.





Clean Out Your Closets for a Cause!
Support Our Youth Mission Trip!!
Thursday June 4th - Friday June 5th

We are officially collecting donations for our upcoming Church Rummage Sale! All proceeds will go directly toward funding our Youth Mission Trip this summer, helping our youth serve communities in need.

Drop-Off Details:

When: Monday - Thursday or bring to church on Sunday

Time: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Where: 123 W. Decatur St.

Large or Heavy Items: To ensure we have a team ready to help, please call the church office at 937-456-3754 to schedule a specific drop-off time for furniture or large appliances.

What: From clothes and kitchenware to books and toys - your "clutter" makes a difference! Thank you for supporting our youth as they prepare for this life-changing experience.

Set-up: Sunday, May 31st after church. Then Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings 4:00-9:00pm.



Sandwich Ministry Update:

In April, our Sandwich Ministry was taken on by the Preble Lambs Unlimited 4H group. We send our gratitude to this wonderful group of youth and their 4H leaders! It is wonderful to see so many people come together to help prepare and give meals to those in need in our community.





Summer Stewardship

On Palm Sunday, our local mission project was assembling new raised garden beds for our community garden right outside of our church. Check out these beautiful raised garden beds behind the church. Everyone is welcome to stop by the garden whenever it is convenient to help weed or harvest throughout the year. Vegetables will be planted on Saturday, May 2nd at 9:00am, weather permitting. If you are interested in helping water the garden occasionally in the summer, please contact Randy Wright.





The Christian Education and Mission Committee would like to thank everyone for their contributions of time and donations that allow us to make a meaningful impact in our local community. As we end the Springtime of 2026, Eaton FPC has been able to make, gather, and distribute monthly sandwich meals to those in need in our community. While we work to expand awareness of this ministry, we have enjoyed being able to hand out a few meals and donating all remaining meals to the homeless shelter, the HIT Foundation, and My Neighbor's House.

Local mission funds have also been used to start up our new community garden which was designed with accessibility for everyone in mind. We are looking forward to donating the harvest to the Common Good Food Pantry later in the year! Our local missions are funded solely on financial contributions that are designated to "local missions", as this is not a budget line item. With this in mind, if you would like to make a financial gift to help support our local missions, this can be done by donating online or check with a specific designation for "local missions".

The committee sincerely thanks all of you for your donations of food, funds, and time!

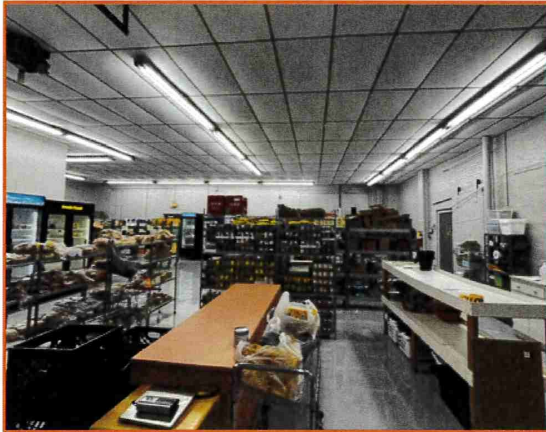
Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. -

Galatians 6:10



NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2026



Together We Achieve More

With the generous support of our community, construction of our new food pantry is now complete, and all of our programs have officially moved into the new building. What an incredible transformation this has been!

This thoughtfully designed space allows us to serve families with greater dignity while expanding our capacity to store and distribute more food to meet the growing needs in our community. In addition, the new building provides dedicated space for life skills classes, which will be open and accessible to everyone.

We are deeply grateful for the generosity and support that made this project possible. Because of you, we are not only enhancing the way we serve today but also creating new opportunities to support our community in the future. We are excited for all that this new chapter will bring. Your support made this possible, your donation keeps it going. Help us keep the momentum going by donating, volunteering, or sharing our mission.

2,691 people served in the first quarter!



What Clients Say About Us

“The food pantry is a huge help to my family. Everyone is kind and never makes me feel ashamed for needing support. I’m truly grateful to have them in our community for all who need help.”

— Scarlett

*names and images changed to protect client privacy

Team Spotlight

Volunteer Appreciation



The Common Good depends on volunteers to carry out our mission, and they are essential to our daily operations. Currently, we are supported by 54 active volunteers who serve as cashiers, donation processors, and in the food pantry. They bring a wide range of skills that strengthen both our organization and the community we serve.

We are more than an organization—we are a family. Our volunteers reflect that spirit through their dedication and commitment. Today, 26 volunteers have served 0–2 years, 12 have served 3–5 years, 5 have served 6–9 years, 7 have served 10–15 years, and 3 have given 15+ years of service.

We are deeply grateful for the time, talents, and heart our volunteers share, making it possible for us to carry out our mission every day.

| **Pantry Talk****From Idea to Impact: School Pantry Initiative**

With funding from The Common Good and collaboration with each school's Success Liaisons, Preble County's school-based food pantries have already had a long-lasting effect. For students, it means more than something to eat; it means support, the ability to focus, and the reassurance that someone cares.

The school food pantries have become a meaningful and proven way to care for local students, ensuring that no child has to go without. Your donations to The Common Good help directly place food in the hands of a hungry child at school.

Total 2020-2026

- **7,532 Students**
- **24,331 Visits**

1st Quarter 2026

- **975 Students**
- **1,969 Visits**



“Let’s build a strong community together.”

Thrift Store

Our Thrift Store plays a vital role in supporting both our current and future outreach programs by turning every purchase and donation into meaningful impact for our community. Thanks to the support of our long term and new shoppers, we are able to provide Preble County residents who are facing challenges, the resources they need.

Store hours: M-F from 9:30am-5:00pm

Donations accepted for the Thrift Store: Monday-Friday from 9:30am-3:30pm at our designated drop-off location.

| **Community Spotlight****For Sale: 113 S. Cherry St.**

As a part of this transition we will be offering for sale our old building. While it holds many memories of the countless lives touched last 40 years, we are looking forward to seeing it continue to serve the community in a new way under new ownership. The sale of this property represents not just change, but progress — helping ensure that The Common Good remains sustainable and strong.

Building Information

- Close to downtown
- Commercial zoning
- Warehouse, Retail & Office Space
- 6,241 square feet

**For more information,
please contact Jenny McCarty**

Jenny McCarty, Executive Director

jmccarty@commongoodpreble.org

☎ 937-456-6560

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/CommonGoodPreble

Online donation secure site: <https://www.commongoodpreble.org>

Make checks payable: The Common Good

note in the memo where to apply donation:

(i.e. Building Fund, Food Pantry, Back To School, &/or greatest need)

NEW MAILING ADDRESS: 114 N. Cherry, Eaton OH 45320

Easter Sunday















Saturday, May 16 at 12:00pm

Cullen & Melissa Phillips are hosting at their home
203 W. Main St., Eaton

Cost is \$10 to be paid at the time of reservation. This will go towards
the Blessing Box needs.

Ann Murray will be taking the reservations. Please stop by to see her
Monday-Thursday from 10-2 or Sunday morning.

Seating is limited so get your reservations in as soon as possible.

On the day of the Tea please bring items to donate toward the Bless-
ing Box. Thank you!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Prayers of First Presbyterian Church Family and Friends

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you"

~Jeremiah 29:12

In our continuing prayers:

Countries of War

Sarah Gregg –Continuing cancer treatment, Cy Acheson's granddaughter

Cy Acheson - pray for strength and healing

Logan Eifort - stable but still needs prayers, Keith & Chris Jones grandson

Stacy Creech - prayers for breast cancer treatment, Margie's friend

Jack & Nancy Turner - recovering at home

Deb Tintsman - lymphoma, Molly Hurd's aunt

Ron Mickelson - recovering at home

Diane Kasten - recovering at home

Remember and Uphold:

Diane Kline - Vancrest

Alice Lindley

Our Shut-Ins at Home:

For our Nation and those who serve

Church Members & Friends In The Service

Lt. Mac Altom/ U.S. Army

Jeremy Barnes/ Navy

Cameron Rife / U.S. Navy

Nicholas Rife / U.S. Navy

Laura Soper/ Air Force Reserve

Cliff Garey / Navy

Ryan Kiracofe / Air Force

Michael Richwald, Air Force National Guard

Zack Pool/ Air Force

Tanner Crabtree/ Army

Ryan Hall / Army

Grant Davis / Army Reserve

Richard (Alex) Trogdon/ Navy

Grace Wagner / Basic Training

Miguel Martinez/Army Reserve- Active

Justin McIntosh - Army National Guard

Addam Moore/ U.S. Marines

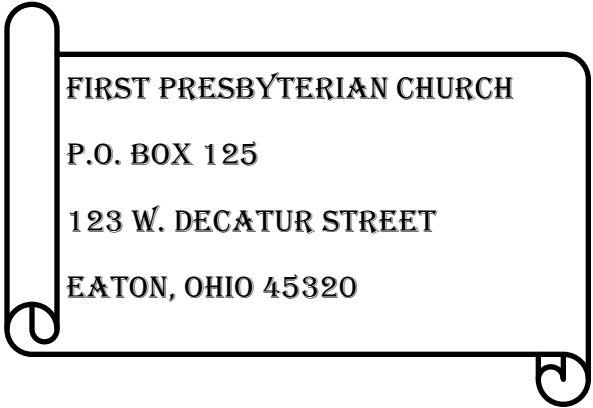
Brett Barnes / Navy

Drew Roach / Navy

Soldier's Prayer

Dear Lord, please bless our soldiers, protectors of our land. Servants called to battle when our country takes a stand. Our country's prayers are with them no matter where they roam. Please listen when they are lonely and return them safely home.

Please contact our prayer chain coordinator, Ann Murray, 937-336-0116, email: annmurray916@yahoo.com, [call the church office](tel:937-456-3754), 937-456-3754, office@eatonfpc.org, or drop a note in the offering plate with updates.

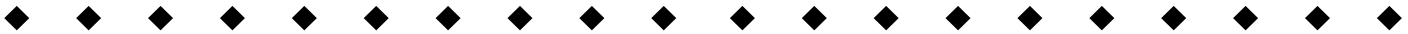


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

P.O. BOX 125

123 W. DECATUR STREET

EATON, OHIO 45320



Our Mission: *Listening to God's call, following in the way of Jesus and serving neighbors through the Spirit.*

Church Contact Information

123 West Decatur Street / P.O. Box 125 Website www.eatonfpc.org
Phone (937) 456-3754 Email office@eatonfpc.org Office Hours 10-2, Mon.–Thurs.
Worship - Sunday's at 10:30am

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Annie Melick pastorannie@eatonfpc.org (440)-308-7664
Director of Youth Ministries: Beth Pool eatonfpcyouth@gmail.com (937) 248-1671
Office Administrator: Ann Murray office@eatonfpc.org (937) 336-0116
Music Director: Claudia Anderson (765) 977-1013

Session Contacts

Moderator of Session: Pastor Annie Melick
Clerk of Session: Marie Hayes clerk@eatonfpc.org

Finance & Congregational Care: *Bill Clayton, Bill Brower, Mary Neavin, David Sikora

Worship & Fellowship Committee: *Coni Rutherford, Pat Anderson, Marie Hayes

Christian Education & Mission Committee: *Taylor Clabaugh, Kathy McCreary, Randy Wright,
Riley Buehner, Michael Fomin

Personnel Committee: *Randy Wright, Bill Clayton, Pat Anderson

Presbytery Commissioners: Kathy McCreary, Taylor Clabaugh, David Sikora, Coni Rutherford,
Riley Buehner, Michael Fomin

Nominating Committee: *Mary Neavin, Bill Brower,
Congregation Reps: Jack Mann, Linda DeLuca

Treasurer: Doug Moore, treasurer@eatonfpc.org
Financial Agent: Anne Grim

* Chairperson

Social Media Accounts

Website: www.eatonfpc.org

To Give On Line: www.eatonfpc.org, click Giving Tab

YouTube Channel: Eaton First Presbyterian Services

Facebook Page: Eaton First Presbyterian Church

Facebook Group: First Presbyterian Youth