

*First Presbyterian Church
September 2026*



Having a Deep Faith

-Rev. Annie Melick

I pray that we will all have a deep faith; a faith that can be relied on, a faith that brings us peace and comfort, a faith that challenges us to take risks, a faith that trusts in the forgiveness and grace of God. A deep faith usually involves several things: knowledge of God from Scriptures and teachings, experiences of God acting in our lives, and the practice of spiritual disciplines like prayer, Bible reading, silence, nature, art, etc.

One of my long-term goals as your pastor is to help all of us to grow into deep faith practices that will sustain us. I want to offer various opportunities for us to encounter God. This Fall I am focusing on this in our worship series called “Deeper in Faith; A Journey of Spiritual Formation.” Each week after the sermon we will have opportunities to practice different spiritual disciplines. I hope you will all come with an open mind and spirit, ready to see what wonderful things God has for us.

This summer I went on a Silent Retreat for four days. Yes, I was able to be silent except for 45 minutes each day when I met with my Spiritual Director. I didn’t really know how I would do with this experience because we all know, I love to talk. It was surprisingly easy for me as my days were filled with prayer, study, time in nature, creative activities, and worship. I experienced God’s grace and goodness as healing and resurrection for my soul. I will share more about my experience as we explore these topics over the next months. I look forward to seeing what God will do among us!

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. 16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. 18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:14-19 NRSVUE)



SEPTEMBER

birthdays

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 AA Meeting 7:00pm Molly Hurd	2 Messy Church 6:00pm Choir 7:30pm	3 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	4 Tommy Hayes	5 Sarah Eifort (Jones)
6 Sunday School Begins for the Elementary	7 Claire Murray	8 AA Meeting 7:00pm	9 Miriam Circle 10:00am Choir 7:00pm	10 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm	11 Mike Sanders	12
13 Communion Session Meeting Margie Benge	14	15 AA Meeting 7:00pm	16 Choir 7:00pm Ann Murray Anna Barney	17 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Noah Hurd	18 Janet Sikora	19
20 Service at Fort St. Clair Cabin 2 Back to school splash party at the Pool's	21	22 AA Meeting 7:00pm	23 Choir 7:00pm Kathy McGinnis	24 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm Men's Bible Study 6:30pm Tim Davis	25 Nancy Clayton Jake Schaurer	26 Bill Clayton
27 Sandwich Ministry Volunteer Sunday after church Kathy Deaton	28 Jean Tuggle Linsey Buehner Jacob Couvutsakis	29 AA Meeting 7:00pm	30 Choir 7:00pm Roseanna Wadleigh Robert Taylor			

Birthdays are highlighted in Yellow

FALL WORSHIP SERIES

Deeper in Faith; A Journey of Spiritual Formation

How do we come to faith? Is it something we learn, something we feel, or something we choose? For centuries, the church has wrestled with this question, and the answers have shaped how we teach, how we preach, and how we invite people into relationship with God.

Every one of us carries a faith story. For some of us, that story began in childhood — sitting in a pew, hearing Bible stories, learning to fold our hands in prayer. For others, it began later, perhaps when a crisis cracked open something we did not know was there, or through a relationship with someone whose faith was so genuine it made us curious to learn more.

And for all of us, the story of our faith development is still unfolding and will continue to do so for all our days on earth. What our individual stories have in common is that faith did not simply appear fully formed. It grew. It developed. It was shaped by experiences, by teaching, by questions, and by moments of trust. The question for us today is not whether faith develops but how it develops— and what the church's role is in nurturing that development. (Rev. Jessica Crane Munoz)

6-Sep	Psalm 42:1-8 and Mark 10:23-31	Spiritual Formation and Discernment
13-Sep	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 & Matthew 21:12-17	Spiritual Formation for the Here and Now
20-Sep	Psalm 139:1-10,13-14a & Luke 6:12-19	Values and Practices
27-Sep	Psalm 46 & Luke 6:12-13, 17	Where is God?



BIG NEWS - WE'RE HIRING!

Spread the word. We have two staff job openings:

Christian Education Director, and Nursery Assistant.

You can find all the details and the application form on our website.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Session
First Presbyterian Church, Eaton OH
June 14, 2026

The regular meeting of session was held in person after worship on Sunday, June 14th in the church Gathering Place. A quorum was present. Pastor Annie opened the meeting with prayer at 12:03 P.M.

Members present: Bill Brower, Bill Clayton, Mary Neavin, Randy Wright, Taylor Clabaugh, Pat Anderson and Marie Hayes, Clerk of Session. Also present was Doug Moore, Treasurer.

Members excused: David Sikora, Kathy McCreary, Coni Rutherford, Michael Fomin and Riley Buehner.

Report of the Treasurer: May treasurer's report was emailed to session prior to the meeting. **On motion** by Marie Hayes and seconded by Bill Brower to approve the treasurer's report as presented. **Motion carried.**

Doug shared a positive financial update, confirming that our current financial standing is healthy and on track. He made payments for expenses of the youth mission trip and made down payments for the update of the sound system and the fire alarm system. Doug informed the session that the City of Eaton needs a scaled floor plan of the church before Garber electric can be issued a permit to begin work on the fire alarm system. Doug received three different quotes for the floor plan and session decided to use Ambients Production. **On motion** by Bill Clayton and seconded by Pat Anderson to approve Ambients Production to prepare the scaled floor plan. **Motion carried.**

Approval of the Minutes: May session minutes were emailed to session members on June 11th. **On motion** by Mary Neavin and seconded by Bill Clayton to approve the minutes as written. **Motion carried.**

Report of the Clerk: Continues work on the church membership list.

Report of the Moderator: Pastor Annie will be on vacation July 19th – 25th; and on study leave July 26th – Aug 1st. She will also be using two weeks of vacation when her daughter's baby arrives mid-September. Pulpit supply for July 19th will be "Something Good" and she is currently working on finding someone to cover the pulpit for July 26th. Beth Pool will have sermons ready to go in September while Pastor Annie is gone for the birth of her grandchild.

Upcoming events: Sunday, June 21st, Father's Day and Youth mission trip send off before worship; prayer send off during worship service for Carson Cooper who is headed to National Guard basic training on June 22nd

June 28th- Big Backyard BBQ, in the church yard from 12-2.

July 5th- Worship service celebrating the 250th anniversary of the USA and honoring those who have served and are serving our country.

July 12th – Youth will be presenting our worship. Reception and luncheon after church honoring Beth Pool for her many years of commitment and service as Youth Director.

Pastor Annie led session in discussion over chapter eight in the “Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers” handbook, “Understanding the Church as an Emotional System”. This chapter focuses on navigating and resolving congregational conflicts. It reframes conflict not as a failure, but as a normal part of church life that, if managed with prayer, patience and clear communication, can lead to healthy growth and deeper community.

Reports of the Permanent Committees:

Stewardship, Finance and Congregational Care: At May’s meeting the committee reviewed the fire alarm proposals and set up the process to audit the treasurer’s books. Voted and approved via email, the audio proposal and the fire alarm system proposal.

Worship and Fellowship: The committee had discussion and updates on the following: Father’s Day gifts, final plans for the Big Backyard BBQ, voted and approved the Audio project-phase 1.

Pat Anderson will be coordinating the schedule for operating the sound system during church service.

The offering boxes have arrived and will be set up in the windowsills in the Sanctuary, beginning June 7th. We will continue with our normal procedure for a few weeks as well as using the offering boxes. Last month, session voted to hire a full-time nursery attendant, Coni researched possible titles for the position to enhance job posting. It is also recommended that we include a sign-in sheet for parents and a reminder to have a Bible story/lesson time for the children.

Christian Education and Mission: Christian Education has two volunteers to lead Compassion Camp, Mon – Wed, July 13th – 15th from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. The committee is looking for help with activities.

Youth Jr activities for the summer: July – Compassion Camp; August – Discussion on a Back-to-School Splash. The committee is discussing how to help improve the faith journeys of our younger children and discussing what direction our current youth programs may take in the future. We will be helping two young people with scholarships to Camp Kirkmont this year.

Mission: The sponsorship campaign for the youth mission trip to Copperhill, TN, June 21st – 26th was launched. There will be nineteen participants, 15 youth and 4 chaperones.

The rummage sale and silent auction fundraisers held the first week of June helped to raise funds for the trip. The committee discussed potential ways to increase our fundraising for future youth trips.

The Big Backyard BBQ on June 28th will be the Sandwich ministry for June. May’s sandwich ministry was very successful. Over 21 people were served meals that were either passed out at the church, the A.S.K. playground or the Masonic Lodge. We are very grateful for the dessert donations and the different volunteers that have helped with this ministry. We could use a few more volunteers in July to help us get this ministry out into the community to engage with others.

Senior Sunday, there will be one graduate this year, she will receive a special gift to celebrate her graduation.

Earth Care committee update: sourcing local flowers for the sanctuary; committee members are Beth Pool, Linda DeLuca, Stephanie Cooper, Rachel Kelly and Stacey Barton.

Other Committees: The personnel committee will be meeting this week.

Old Business: Big Backyard status reports from each committee were reviewed. Good Futures update, would like a total of six people on the committee.

New Business / Action Items: On May 26th a joint motion from the Worship and Fellowship and Finance committees was sent to session members via email for approval.

On motion to approve the audio Phase 1 proposal to upgrade the existing audio system, allocating an additional \$1,000.00 in miscellaneous expenses, for a total project cost of \$7,000.00 with funds coming from the Memorial Fund. **Motion carried.**

On May 29th a motion from the Stewardship, Finance and Congregational Care committee was sent via email for session approval. **On motion** to approve the fire alarm proposal from Garber Electric that includes \$9,843 for the fire alarm, \$600/year for monitoring and \$500/year for inspections with funds for the project coming from the Memorial Fund.

Motion carried.

Session decided to cancel the July session meeting, as our meeting date and time will coincide with the luncheon honoring Beth Pool. **On motion** by Bill Clayton and seconded by Taylor Clabaugh to cancel our July session meeting. **Motion carried.**

Next Meeting: Sunday, August 9th after worship service. Please read Chapter Nine in the Spiritual Leadership for Church Officers handbook for discussion at the meeting.

Adjournment and Closing prayer: Session business having been concluded, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor Annie at 1:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Hayes
Clerk of Session

CE & Mission Committee

Sandwich Ministry:

July Sandwich ministry was at Seven Mile Park - we reached out to several families and about 75% took us up on the offer. We served at least 4 families at the park and had 5 visitors at our church sidewalk pickup location. Thank you to all who volunteer their time, desserts, and more! We continue to welcome anyone to join us on the fourth Sunday each month to spend about 30 minutes preparing the meals and/or helping hands to help distribute! Distribution starts at 12:30pm, so volunteers are also welcome to grab their lunch and come back to the church in time for distribution, if they wish!

Local Missions Update:

We are donating \$1,500 from the local mission fund to the Wayne County Cares Fund (in response to the devastating flooding in our neighboring towns in Indiana.

Wayne County is accepting monetary donations to assist families affected by the flooding through this fund (if typing manually, please note that the link is case sensitive): <https://loom.ly/pT7j7pQ>

If anyone would like to lend a hand in-person, here is a volunteer sign up link from Indiana Disaster Emergency Service's website for the Eastern Indiana Flood Response:

<https://ides.volunteerlocal.com/volunteer/?id=117146>

Christian Education:

New Bible Study for Men:

New this fall, a Men's Bible study on the life of Peter. The study will take place weekly on Thursday at 6:30pm in the basement dining hall. We encourage men of all ages to come and invite a friend or family member to join you as well! This is the type of study where it is perfectly okay if you cannot make it every week.

Elizabeth Circle and the Men's Bible Study Group will start up on Thursday, September 3rd at 6:30pm. If you are interested in joining either study, please let Pastor Annie know!

Childcare available for Thursday night Studies:

This will be a new opportunity for families to partake in Bible studies on Thursday nights, as we will also have childcare covered for children (preschool/infants) in the nursery during this study time. If you are interested in volunteering for the nursery on Thursday evening, please contact Kathy McCreary to sign up.

Back to School Splash Party

September 20th following church & lunch at the Fort. The Splash party will be held at the Pool's, 405 Hillcrest Dr., Eaton.

Volunteer fair coming up after church on Sept 27th.



Common Good Food Drive September 13th.

We have been asked to help with this food drive by donating:

- **Toilet Paper**
- **Shampoo**
- **Cereal**

If you can drop off at the church by Sunday, September 13th that would be great.

Thank you for your continued support.



Slifers Presbyterian Church

2999 S. Clayton Road
Farmersville, Ohio

September 19, 2026

10:00am – 3:00pm

Registration 9am-12noon

\$10.00

Prizes and Awards

Refreshments will be available to purchase

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 at War

Sarah Gregg - continuing cancer treatment, Cy Acheson's granddaughter

Cy – pray for strength and healing

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

Stacey Creech – prayers for breast cancer treatment, Margie's friend

Jack & Nancy Turner – recovering at home

Diane Kasten – recovery at home

Russell DeLuca – severe neuropathy, Joe DeLuca's brother

Deb Tinstman – lymphoma, Dave Tinstman's sister, Molly Hurd's aunt

Remember and Uphold:

Diane Kline – Vancrest

Dale Robertson - Greenbrier

Alice Lindley

Beth Mickelson – Friends Fellowship Community

Our at Home Shut-ins

Marge Jordan, Julia Withrow, Zoe Barnes

For our Nation and those who serve
Church Members & Friends In The Service

Carson Cooper, Army National Guard – Rusty & Stephanie Cooper's son

Tanner Crabtree, Army – Barb & Randy Wright's nephew

Justin McIntosh, Army National Guard – Bella Hurd McIntosh's husband

Cameron Rife, US Navy – Anne Grim's nephew

Nicholas Rife, US Navy – Anne Grim's nephew

Drew Roach, US Navy – Bonnie Smith's grandson

Ben Freytag, US Navy – Rainelle Tusing's grandson

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, 937-456-3754,

office@eatonfpc.org, or drop a note in the offering plate with updates.

Address for Beth Mickelson:

Friends Fellowship Community

2030 Chester Blvd. Apt. 214

Richmon, IN 47374

Phone: 937-733-1076

Church Contact Information

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

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Annie Melick pastorannie@eatonfpc.org (440)-308-7664
Office Administrator: Ann Murray office@eatonfpc.org (937) 336-0116
Music Director: Claudia Anderson (765) 977-1013

Committees and Officers 2024

Moderator of Session: Pastor Annie Melick

Clerk of Session: Marie Hayes, clerk@eatonfpc.org

Finance and Congregational Care:

*Bill Clayton, Bill Brower, Mary Neavin, David Sikora

Worship and Fellowship Committee:

*Connie Rutherford, Pat Anderson, Marie Hayes

Christian Education and 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, Pat Anderson, 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