



L I F E L I N E

“But no temple made with hands can compare with Yosemite.” John Muir’s description of the Yosemite Valley in California rang true when my family and I visited Yosemite National Park on our June vacation. The floor of the valley is 4,000 feet above sea level and the granite cliffs that make up its walls reach up to 3,500 feet above that.

We arrived in mid-June when the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park at Tioga Pass had just opened. The Tioga entrance closes for the winter when ice and snow render the road unpassable. As Kazy drove our rented SUV through the gate, there were still patches of snow on the ground.

On the drive from the eastern entrance of the park towards the Yosemite Valley, we stopped at the Olmstead Point overlook. The dramatic view from the spot named after landscape architects Frederick Law Olmstead and Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. offered our first view of Half Dome. The crest of this granite formation is over 8,000 feet above sea level. The summit was deemed inaccessible in the late 1800s until a route was developed. The final approach to the peak is made with the assistance of cables passing through bolts drilled into the granite.

For my family, the peak of Half Dome remained inaccessible in 2021. We were; however, able to see the granite dome from several vista points on our visit to Yosemite. The most dramatic was the view of Half Dome from Glacier Point which reaches over 7,000 feet above sea level. We reached the observation area at sunset. The temperature that evening was in the 30s while Mammoth Lakes, where we were staying, was experiencing a record heat with temperatures reaching into the upper 80s. We were barely dressed warmly enough against the sleet and cold wind to watch colors wash over the face of Half Dome from her daytime, pearly luster to the pink and purple hues of the evening.

Having only seen images of Half Dome before in the wallpaper on my MacBook and as depicted in the North Face logo, I understood John Muir’s enchantment with the grandeur of this granite beauty. Standing at Glacier Point, I looked across at the neighboring peak of Half Dome and looked down where I could see the place in the Yosemite Valley where our friends were camping, some 3,000 feet below. In the splendor of the valley, which I had seen before in the black and white photos of Ansel Adams, I witnessed what John Muir described as the place that was made “When the sublime ice-floods of the glacial period poured down,” as Half Dome “remains a telling monument of the action of the great glaciers that brought it to light.”

I was enchanted by reading John Muir’s book, *The Yosemite* (1912), on our trip and amused by the person who gave Half Dome a 4-out-of-5 review on Yelp, saying “The Half Dome giant rock was just OK to me, I am not a fan of any kind of rocks.” From wherever I stand upon creation, I pray for the grace to be grateful for the majesty of it, and for the curiosity of my place and role in the world in the moment that is my lifetime in service to the Lord, “who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it.” (Isaiah 42:5)

On a side note – I have mentioned before that I like to write with a #2 pencil in a paper journal, but it’s faster and easier to communicate with others when I use my laptop. Somewhere in between, I also enjoy using a typewriter for the feel of actually printing a straight line of letters on the page. When I went to look for my old Olympia typewriter, I discovered that I must have sold it in a garage sale. I would love to replace it. If anybody has a manual typewriter, like an Olympia or Royal that you are willing to sell me, please contact me.

+peace and love in Christ our Lord,
Pastor Joe



CLERK'S CORNER Session Recap July 18, 2021

The July meeting was held in person following worship. Pastor Joe opened our meeting with prayer. The Clerk reported a quorum was present. The membership total as of 06/27/21 was 102. Total membership on July 18, 2021, remains at 102.

Session actions:

- Approved the June 27, 2021, regular meeting minutes.
- Reviewed the August calendar of events.
- Received the June 2021 Financial Report prepared by Carolyn McMillan: YTD income \$109,794.99; expenses \$93,347.73; Net \$16,447.26.
- Received the mid-year report of investment funds (Davis Fund and CDs) which indicates a combined total of \$340,270.64.
- Received the Pastor's report of visitations, contacts made through email, mail, and phone, pending continuing education opportunity, Cornerstone class study, and meetings attended.
- Received a Presbytery of the Miami Valley update.
- Noted that our next regular Session meeting will be August 15, 2021, following worship.

Committee Reports:

CLS: Preparing and serving lunch at the Senior Center resumes this month and will continue the fourth Wednesday of each month at 11:30 am through

October. Gathering of items for the rummage sale has begun. This sale will be July 29 – July 31. A Meet & Eat is scheduled for August 29th following worship. Bob Hendrix digitized old photos showing the construction of the current church building. Pastor Joe is preparing a opportunity to invite former members of the congregation and friends to reminisce.

Operations: Julie provided a status update on various projects.

- Inoperable Kitchen Stove: A to Z Appliance is scheduled to look at the stove to determine if it is repairable. If not, the committee will look for a replacement.
- Roof issues: There are roof leaks and deterioration of part of the overhang structure. The estimated cost to repair is \$21,000. A new leak has developed in the dishwashing room off the kitchen. Art is trying to locate the source of this leak.
- Several AC units need replaced. Cost estimate is \$3,800 for each unit. The committee hasn't decided which units to replace.

Personnel: No report.

Information:

The Clerk distributed an updated list of the membership rolls.

The Treasurer reported that the finance committee is considering withdrawing the CDs on the maturity date in October. Current interest rates on CDs are low. A final decision, prior to the maturity date, will be made and presented to Session for approval.

Kathleen Seewer
2021 Clerk of Session

Calling All Helping Hands Volunteers

Fairborn schools begin **Thursday, August 19**, with the first day of kindergarten on **Tuesday, August 24**. Once again we will be helping the primary school students find their classroom or their bus. Volunteers are needed August 19 & 20 and August 24 & 25, both in the morning, 8:30 to 9:30 am, and the afternoon, 2:30 to 3:30. We will be assisting students in the new building only. Final work hours will be formalized August 5 with the administrative staff. There will be a sign-up sheet outside the

Lounge once the details are finalized.

Please check your calendars now and pencil in the four dates. If you have any questions, please contact Kathleen Seewer, Helping Hands Coordinator.



Adult Christian Education News

Wednesday Cornerstone Class meets Wednesdays at 2:00 pm in the Lounge. This class consists of a variety of formats including book study, DVD series, and/or Bible text. You can join in any time without being at prior classes.

All are welcome. Snacks are served. Come join us!



**A NOTE FROM ECCLESIAL
OUR RESIDENT CHURCH MOUSE**

Wow!! What a busy place the church has been this past month! There have been so many people in and out this month. People have been working hard on the rummage sale - bringing in items, sorting, arranging, setting up, pricing, and selling. It's the biggest sale I've ever seen! The Montessori school has been very busy in the CE Wing. They held several one week camps for children this summer - art camp and space camp for example. They are also busy painting and fixing up the classrooms for all the new students coming this next school year. All this activity with old and new faces reminds me of a story about potato chips that my grandmother told me many years ago....

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old man. He was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the old man looked hungry, so he offered him some chips. He gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. His smile was so moving that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, he smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word...

As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave. But before he had gone more than a few steps, the boy turned around, ran back to the old man, and gave him a hug. He gave him his biggest smile ever...

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? He's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the old man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

God often presents Himself to us through others. Too often, we don't pay attention to opportunities presented to us to know God. We underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season or a lifetime! Embrace all equally! Have lunch with God.....bring chips. *~Ecclesial Mouse*



**Meet-N-Eat
Sunday August 29th
immediately after worship**

Please join us in Fellowship Hall to view a slideshow created from old photos digitized by Bob Hendrix showing the construction of the current church building. Please invite former members of the congregation and friends to join us as we share memories and reminisce. We will serve pulled pork sandwiches, macaroni and cheese, Cowboy baked beans, coleslaw, and dessert. More details to follow. See you there!



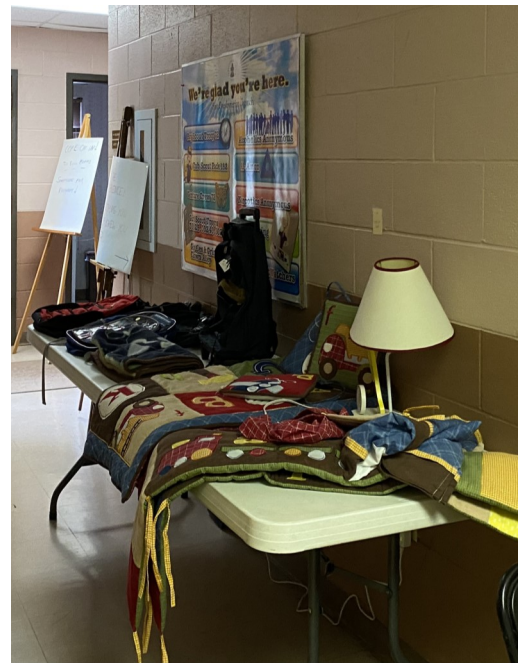
Ice Cream Social



We are hosting an ice cream social for the Montessori school on Saturday, August 7th at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. If you can help dish out the ice cream please let Diane Sondergelt know. If you'd like to show the students and their families how friendly we are and meet some awesome kids, please join us!

We had a very successful Rummage Sale July 29-31. The Fellowship Hall, the Activity room, the two coat racks, and the hallways were packed! A huge thank you to Troy Oliver and her crew (who spent countless hours sorting, pricing and selling), and to all of you who donated items. Part of the funds are being donated to help defray the cost of a fence for the Enon Montessori School, the remainder of the funds will be put to great use within our church.

Thank You!





Happy Birthday!

Aug 10 Kenny Brown
18 Shirley Schlafman
25 Barbara Bush



COME BE A CRITTER!

One of my favorite songs is "All God's Critters". The first verse goes like this:

"All God's critters have a place in the choir-
 Some sing low; some sing higher.
 Some sing out loud on the telephone wire.
 Some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything
 they've got, now."

The last verse says this:

"Everybody here is a part of the plan
 We all get to play in the great critter band
 From the eagle in the sky to the whale in the sea
 It's one great symphony!"

We all know that our congregation has decreased in numbers over the years. So has our choir. Both have decreased even more over the past year and a half. I'm so happy for all the wonderful comments I've received about our "little choir" that has been leading the hymns on Sundays. Would you like to join us? We would love to have you up front with us. Just come on up when the hymns start. And if you're worried about your voice, believe me, after not singing for over a year, some of us (me included!) don't necessarily sound like the Angelic Host either- but, as they say, A JOYFUL NOISE! If you need more information about our choir, please see me.

Thank you,
 Shelda Cox

FISH and School Pantry News

The CLS committee is expanding our mission for the people of our community who are in need. We want to reach as many groups in our community as possible. In order to do that, we will include Wright State's food pantry with our food donations. FISH, the Fairborn School Pantry, and the Wright State food pantry for their students, are all very worthwhile missions which we want to continue to support. Rather than ask the congregation to increase their donations, we decided that we will continue our monetary support of FISH but any food or goods donated by the congregation will be divided between the Fairborn Schools and the Wright State food pantry. If you have any questions, please see Diane Sondergelt or Linda Hartsock.



The supper club of Jan, Ken, Kenny, Julie, Ray, Donna, Dan, Marlene, and Bill enjoy dinner together at Christopher's. Good food with good friends!



Hooray! We resumed serving lunch at the Senior Center on July 28th. We reconnected with our friends there and introduced Pastor Joe. A good time for all!

With great sadness we learned that longtime member, Bob Lawler, passed away on July 29, 2021. Our thoughts and prayers are with Joyce and the Lawler family.



Friends,
 I want to thank Corkie Winters for donating the lovely flowers to me and Bob Hendrix for delivering them to my home. Thank you,
 Lily Yeh



Memorial Gifts

Marlene & Ray Acus sent gifts remembering both Betsy Priaux and Woody Ensor. Betsy Priaux was remembered by Art & Jan Helmstetter, friends of Mike & Jody Priaux.



August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:15 am Worship with Communion	2	3	4 10:00 am Operations Mtg 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal Fellowship Hall	5	6	7 1:00 pm Ice Cream Social for the Montessori School - Fellowship Hall
8 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Finance Committee Mtg	9 1:00 pm Cook at St. Vincent	10	11 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal Fellowship Hall	12 2:00 pm CLS Mtg -- Board Rm	13	14
15 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Session Mtg	16	17	18 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal Fellowship Hall	19 Helping Hands Fairborn Primary Time - TBD	20 Helping Hands Fairborn Primary Time - TBD	21
22 10:15 am Worship	23	24 Helping Hands Fairborn Primary Time - TBD	25 Helping Hands 11:30 am Lunch at Sr. Ctr. 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge 6:30 pm Bells Rehearsal Fellowship Hall	26	27 August Lifeline articles due to church office	28 10:00 am Set up for Meet-N-Eat Fellowship Hall
29 10:15 am Worship followed by Meet-N-Eat	30	31				

SCHOOL PANTRY NEEDS

A shopping list is provided for your use. Any items collected will be divided between the Fairborn School Pantry and the Wright State Pantry. You can leave items in the bins in the narthex. If you need help with shopping or with pick-up and delivery, just let me know. I'll be happy to help.

Linda Hartsock

School Pantry Coordinator



Pasta Noodles	Oatmeal	Crackers
Pasta Sauce	Pancake Mix (add water only)	Snacks
Ravioli (Can or individual)	Pancake Syrup	Canned Vegetables
Soup	Poptarts	Juice
Rice and Noodle Mixes	Nuts	Paper Towels
Mac and Cheese (Box or individual)	Pudding	Toilet Paper
Tuna and Chicken cans	Fruit cups	Shampoo/Cond.
Vegetable Oil/Spray	Peanut Butter	Body Wash
Cereal	Jelly	Feminine Hygiene
Breakfast bars/muffins		

***Lifeline*—the monthly newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn, Ohio
1130 Highview Dr., Fairborn, OH 45324
phone: 937-878-3954**

email: firstpresbyterianfairborn@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesday—Friday, 10 am—2 pm (closed Monday and Tuesday)

“The Friendliest Church in Town”

Sunday Worship: 10:15 am with an on-line option from the church website

Pastor: Reverend Joe Hinds

email: pastorjoe1stpres@gmail.com

Financial Secretary: Carolyn McMillan

Organist: Jeff Firestone

Choir Director: Shelda Cox

Director of Chancel Ringers: Rena Leatherman

SESSION

Moderator: Reverend Joe Hinds

Clerk: Kathleen Seewer

Ruling Elders: Elaine Brown, Julie Brown, Ken Gadd, Dixie Jenkins, Art Myers,
Troy Oliver, Jan Smith, Roland Sommer, and Diane Sondergelt

Articles for the September Lifeline need to be in the office by August 27.

**There will be a limited number of copies of the *Lifeline*
in the lower narthex at the Welcome/Visitors table if you want to pick one up.**

**Please let the office know of any meetings that you have scheduled in the church building
so that we can maintain an accurate calendar and answer questions as folks call.**