

# SEPTEMBER 2017

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MINERAL RIDGE

VOL. 45 NO. 6

CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK



*Beloved Partners in Ministry,*

*If you know anything about me (besides my love for the Tar Heels of course), you will know that I am very passionate about mission work and making connections with people who are partnering with others, both in the United States and around the world. Some of you may remember that one of the first interactions I had with this congregation was during a Lenten SKYPE session where I spoke about the year I spent in Peru as a Young Adult Volunteer.*

*This church's interest and work in missions was one of the things that excited me as I was discerning my call to minister with you all. One of the programs that I frequently heard about in my early conversations with people in the congregation, and have continued to hear about often, was the Ecumenical Partners program of the Synod, which has been renamed as the Mission to the USA. Partnering with the Synod in bringing pastors and lay people from all across the globe to Mineral Ridge has been an important part of the life of this congregation and I am excited to now be able to experience that program with you all.*

*On October 13, Rev. Kade Mastra from Bali, Indonesia will arrive for a stay of three weeks with us. Our Session, and our Committees have been busy making plans for Rev. Mastra for several months and are eagerly anticipating her arrival. We have reached out to other churches and organizations trying to plan places where she can speak and share her experiences and context, as well as learn about Ohio and our ministry context here.*

*Most of the "work" part of her schedule has been worked out, so now we are asking help from the congregation to plan the "fun" part! We are looking for people who would like to host Kade in their home for a meal or a family gathering, or take her out to dinner and show her a local attraction. If you would like to organize a small group to take her to see a show or to a museum, or another activity for an afternoon or evening, those are great ideas! We have been compiling a list of things we might want to do with her, so if you need some ideas or inspiration, let me know. We want Kade to feel welcome in our midst and to be able to make the most of her time with us. Please contact me or the office to let us know of your interest and availability.*

*Rev. Mastra will be with us in worship on October 15, 22, and 29 and there will be other opportunities to get to know her during her time with us. Join me in praying for her ministry in Indonesia, her travel, and her time with us here in Mineral Ridge.*

*In Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Jamie*

### September Responsibilities

**Elder:**  
Patty Postlethwait

**Deacon:**  
Valerie Meyers

**Liturgists:**  
9/3 Jane Meyers  
9/10 Sherry Gleason  
9/17 Lori Brendlinger  
9/24 Patty Postlethwait

**Greeters:**  
9/3 Ken & Jan Rambo  
9/10 Jason & Aubrey Reese  
9/17 Jim & Dianne Stoddard  
9/24 Bev Myers &  
Sandy Larmey

**Story Circle:**  
Leaders will be announced weekly.



**Our 10:30am  
Worship begins  
September 10.**

**Church School  
9:15am**

## NEWS ABOUT AND FOR OUR FOLKS



Share your news  
with your church  
family.

E-mail your news to  
the church office:  
Jane.fpc@sbcglobal.  
net or call:  
330-652-5712

Congratulations to our Canfield Fair  
award winners:

**Brooke Kaschak:**

6th—Driving Marybelle

**Abbie Postlethwait:**

5th—Driving Marybelle

5th & 6th—Riding Dixie

1st & 2nd—Scrapbook page &

Tie-dye shoes

**Jeff Kaschak:**

1st—Showing Junior—According to his  
mom, this city boy did an amazing job in  
the ring with Junior!

**Postlethwait, Shaffer, Kaschak Family  
on Costume Day**

1st—Flintstones

**Abbie Postlethwait**

3rd—Little Bo Peep

**Ken & Cindy Kaschak** could be found  
working at the information booth at the  
fair.

**Andy Garris** has been promoted from  
probationary firefighter to firefighter with  
the Weathersfield Township Fire Dept.

A big thank you to **Dan Rambo** for keeping  
the community garden watered while Pastor  
Jamie was away this summer.

### HURRICANE HARVEY RELIEF EFFORTS

We have all seen the devastating flooding to  
Houston and the surrounding areas from  
Hurricane Harvey. If you have been wondering  
how you might help, please consider making a  
donation to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
(<http://pda.pcusa.org/>). This organization of our  
denomination has been on the ground in the  
affected area since day one and will continue to  
help and serve the people for years to come.

Please let Pastor Jamie know if you might be  
interested in taking part in a trip to Texas to help  
in the cleanup and rebuilding efforts in late 2017  
or early 2018. He is gauging interest from those  
in our church and neighboring congregations to  
put a trip together.

## INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

### PRAYER IN THE MIDST OF HURRICANE HARVEY

Hurricane Harvey may have been downgraded, but the torrential rains are still  
pounding parts of Texas and Louisiana. Historic flooding has forced rivers and  
streams from their banks and submerged homes, churches, businesses and roads  
stranding thousands of people. We relying on the generosity of Presbyterians to  
provide financial and hands-on-support to help the whole church stand with these  
communities and the Presbyterian family as it responds to its neighbors.

*The needs for the response are great.*

*God's people are once again called on to stand in the "GAP" - Give. Act. Pray*

**GIVE:** Please give generously to support Presbyterian Disaster Assistance's  
emergency response and long-term recovery work in the areas affected by  
Hurricane Harvey. You can do this by placing your check in the offering plate and  
marking it *For Hurricane Harvey Relief*.

**ACT:** Go to [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org) to find out what you can help with.

**PRAY:** God, our Shelter, be a strong presence in the lives of neighbors who, having  
survived the winds and rains of Harvey, now face grief, uncertainty and weary  
days. May our generosity in prayer and in tangible signs of support overflow more  
than floodwaters, to sustain your work of healing and rebuilding and to bring  
comfort and strength to those who suffer. Amen.

**GIVE**

**ACT**

**PRAY**

*Many waters  
cannot quench  
love, neither can  
floods drown it.*

*Song of  
Solomon 8:7*

**PRAYER LIST*****Members to Remember***

Jim Sewell                      Dorothy Hood  
 Katie Postlethwait        Bob Bowskill  
 June Keeley

***Health Concerns***

Joan Williams                Andria Crawford  
 Katie Postlethwait        Joe Shoemaker  
 Abel Rios  
 Lou Rendes (Debbie's husband)  
 Alan Jones (Dorothy's son)  
 Paul Rider (Marty O'Neill's friend)  
 Kathy Jones (Dorothy's daughter-in-law)  
 Paula Griffiths (Glenn's sister)  
 Colby Simmons (Cravers' friend)  
 Jerry Bianco (Shoemakers' friend)  
 Sean Reilly (Cindy Garriss' nephew)  
 Laura & Brad Haines (Cravers' friends)  
 Cheyenne Urbach & Jessica Fox (Rummells' friends)  
 Susan Crawford (Marnie Bonsall's friend)  
 Bob Hibler (Chelsea's father)

Sean Brenner (Darryl & Jane Meyers' nephew)  
 Jan Meyers (Darryl & Jane's sister-on-law)  
 John Williams (Sue Rentz's father)  
 Zac Weber (Kathy Graham's future son-in-law)  
 Kathy Bender (Ginny Gilmore's sister)  
 Laurie Carl (Betty Garland's daughter)  
 Agnes Myers (Beverly's mother-in-law)  
 Audra Stanford (Melissa Keeley's grandmother)  
 Wanda Burns (Vicki Williams' friend)

***Sympathy, Concern, Nurture, & Support***

Rev. Jamie Milton, Minister  
 Eastminster Presbytery and staff  
 Someplace Safe                Needle's Eye  
 Niles Community Services  
 Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions    World  
 Leaders                      Casa de Buen Trato (Peru)  
 Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)  
 Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)  
 Our PC(USA) coworkers Revs. Scott & Elmarie  
 Parker



*Names will be kept on the prayer list for approximately six weeks unless the office hears otherwise.*

**HEALTH MINISTRIES****Understanding Autism**

Many of us know and love someone with autism. This is the case for Molly Lukehart whose niece, Skye Dement, has been diagnosed with it. Skye who is a very bright young lady, loves to write books about her life. Molly loves this about her and has encouraged her.

Molly attends Youngstown State University and will graduate in December with a BS in Fine Arts. As part of her Senior Project, Molly wrote a play and created puppets to tell the story. It is a story to show the importance of showing compassion and caring to those with autism. It was presented by Molly and friends at a small theater at YSU. The play was a big success and was attended by Molly and Skye's many family and friends. There were no empty seats!

The project was based on a story written by Skye called, "Are You My Friend?" Four professors attended the program and ***Molly earned an "A"!***

Please  
 be careful  
 in those  
 School Bus  
 Zones  
 and  
 at School  
 Bus Stops!



**Nurse Chats will resume this fall.**

**The first will be on the Opioid Epidemic that is affecting our community.**

**Time and date will be announced in the October newsletter.**

## DEACONS MINISTRY

One of our deacons ongoing projects is to support the work of Montaña de Luz. We started association with them in 2004 and have sponsored (\$30 monthly) Fany Paola since 2006. We recently received a card from her. She writes:

*Dear Sponsors,*

*How have you been? I hope you have been healthy. I want you to know that although we are always far from one another, I always have you in my heart. Thank you for all of the support you have given me and Montaña de Luz. I want you to know I love you and I hope you have been well in the United States. I continue to be well in Honduras. May God bless your lives and I hope to see you soon. May God send many angels your way to protect you.*

*With love and care,*

*Fany Paola*



Montaña de Luz was begun as a hospice for children with HIV/AIDS in Honduras whose parents had died or had become too ill to care for them. Located an hour and half to the East of Tegucigalpa on top of a mountain overlooking a valley of small towns and sugar cane fields the mountain of light is a refuge for children who desperately need the specialized care, nurturance, healing and love provided to them in this refuge from a world where AIDS is stigmatizing. Founded in 2000 on an abandoned property, teams came from all over to complete the renovations. In 2001, the first three children arrived and over the years we have cared for over 65 children. In 2003, we transitioned from being a hospice to being a home thanks to the availability of anti-retroviral medications. Our purpose is to love and care for these vulnerable children, empower them with knowledge and resiliency to grow into productive members of the community, to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS while working to eliminate discrimination and prejudice of people living with HIV, to facilitate bridges of understanding and compassion while helping to form global citizens through our service team and Long Term Volunteer experiences and to facilitate meaningful opportunities for giving of both personal and financial resources.

## RALLY DAY AT FPC



We've got a full morning of activities planned for Rally Day this year on Sunday, September 10. As we kick off our Church School year, we will be educating ourselves about the country of Indonesia, where our Mission Partner, Rev. Kade Mastra lives (See Pastor Jamie's letter on page 1 for more details).



Beginning at 9:15 am, ALL are invited to gather in the fellowship hall. The Christian Education Committee will have several stations set up for us to learn about the culture and people of Indonesia. There will be stations to learn about the language, food, religion, wildlife, and much more! There will be activities for children and adults, complete with prizes!



Our weekly worship service returns to its 10:30am start time this week. Everyone is invited to bring a bag (backpack, briefcase, purse, etc) to be blessed during the normal children's time.



Following worship at approximately 11:30am, the Church Growth Committee will host a potluck lunch. They will provide sloppy joes and some Indonesian foods to sample. If you are able, please bring a side, salad, or dessert to share.

All of our church school classes will begin to meet at 9:15 am the following Sunday, September 17.

## SESSION NOTES FROM AUGUST 29, 2017



Session Minutes of May 23 were approved

Membership is 149

Received the Treasurer's report for the months of May, June & July

Approved I & S to buy new computer for financial secretary. Cost to come from Memorial Fund.

Building and Property Committee completed several tasks over the summer

Heard plans for Story Circle for the upcoming school year

Heard that a First Presbyterian Church and Me Class will be offered sometime in the fall

Heard that the Christian Education Committee will have learning centers about Indonesia for Rally Day on September 10

Heard that Candidates night has been set for October 25

New website is up and running (FPCMR.ORG)

Heard the Church Growth and Fellowship Committee is planning a potluck for Rally Day & October 29

Approved to have wine with option of grape juice for World Communion on October 1

Approved communion to be held on October 29

Heard that outdoor worship was well attended

Approved Pastor's study leave for the second week of CREDO, October 3-October 9

Heard that Deacons are working out the details for a new program involving "helpers"

Heard that Pastor Jamie has been involved in many church, community, Presbytery meetings as well as other activities

Heard that Pastor Jamie's study leave was fruitful and restful. He was able to read through a couple books on preaching and prayer & meditation.

Heard that Trumbull Mobile Meals will use outside of church for drop off of insulated bags

Discussed possible fund raising with Covelli Center

Heard Elder of the month for September is Patty Postlethwait

Heard that next Committee Night will be September 19 and Session meeting will be September 26.

Prayers were offered up for those we know to be in need of prayer

**Our website is up and running! Check it out!**

**[www.fpcmr.org](http://www.fpcmr.org)**



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NOTES



Here we are at the beginning of another Church School year! We are so fortunate to have great teachers and inviting classrooms. Our teaching staff is familiar to all since they have been at it for a number of years. We are thankful we have such dedicated teachers:

Tiny Tots – Michelle Meyers

Multi-age Class – Lori Brendlinger and Debbie Rendes

Youth Class – Katie Lindahl

Adult Class in Lounge – Ted Smith

Adult Class in Fellowship Hall – Pastor Jamie Milton

Church School Greeter – Marty O'Neill



**HOWEVER** – on Rally Day, September 10, we will all meet in Fellowship Hall where there will be activities for all ages. We will have activities that help us learn about Indonesia. Kade is coming and this will help us know more about her country.

### Adults – listen up!!

Consider Sunday morning a time for not only worship but a time to gather with others to learn more about the Bible and a time to get better acquainted with others in the class. You may want to visit our adult classes and see if one of them fits for you. At 9:15 the adult class in the lounge will be meeting with Ted Smith as leader and in Fellowship Hall Pastor Jamie will be leading the class.

Take the plunge and visit both classes over the next several weeks and see if one of them doesn't spark your interest in learning. Growing in the faith never stops and these classes offer you chances to not only listen but to ask questions and talk with others about your faith.

### Have you heard of the "Book Group?"



#### Book Group will read:

*"Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race."*

The Book Group meets on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 to 5:30. They will begin again on Wednesday, September 13. We are quite different than many book groups that read a whole book and then come together once a month to discuss it. We read a chapter or two each week and then come together and discuss what we have read. We often have diverse opinions about what we have read which makes our conversations quite lively. If you are interested you can talk to Carole Rummell, 330-652-4603 or [bcrummell@aol.com](mailto:bcrummell@aol.com) to learn more.

This fall we are beginning with the book Waking Up White And Finding Myself in the Story of Race. We will begin by reading the section called "Childhood in White." This section is 26 pages and covers: What Wasn't Said, Family Values, Race Versus Class, Optimism and Within the Wall. The book is available on Amazon.com (where you can read the first section) and Barnes and Noble.com. The cost is \$17.99 for a paperback and \$8.69 for a Kindle. If you want to have an order placed for you give Carole a call. Why don't you consider bringing a friend and join us in the lounge on Wednesday afternoons? Anyone attending on our first day back is asked to bring a picture of themselves as a child with them if they can.

## RALLY DAY EVENT

### Blessing of Backpacks, Briefcases, and Bags

Make sure to join us on Rally Day, September 10, for a special service of blessing. During our normal "Time with Young Disciples" children and adults will be invited to bring a bag and have it blessed as our kids head back to school, and the rest of us continue working and playing hard. Bring your backpacks, handbags, purses, briefcases, computer bags, shopping bags, etc., if you can carry something in it, we'll bless it!



### Story Circle for Kindergarten and younger

As many of you know we offer an option for children kindergarten and younger to leave worship with one of our adults at a time noted in the bulletin. This fall they will continue to meet in the Tiny Tots room off Fellowship Hall where there is an Elder and a Deacon there to help if needed. Of course children of all ages are ALWAYS welcome in our worship services where we have activity bags available for them each week.

We appreciate all the adults who are willing to be scheduled for an occasional Sunday to staff Story Circle. Debbie Rendes is seeking adults who are willing to help out in this manner. Please consider saying yes if asked or just make known to Debbie that you are willing.

## STORY CIRCLE



*Story Circle is for children kindergarten age and younger.*

### Adult Sunday School Class—Lounge

You are invited to attend the adult class held in the lounge for a six-week session. This class will be led by Ted Smith. The class will look into the most important questions of life. This journey will evolve around life's most fundamental question: **"What on earth am I here for?" Existence—Why am I alive? Significance—Does my life matter? Intention—What is my purpose?**

Dr. Moorhead at North Eastern Illinois University once wrote 250 of the best-known philosophers, scientists, writers and intellectuals in the world

and asked the question: "What is the meaning of life?" No one could give a reasonable answer. In fact, a number of famous intellectuals asked him to write back and tell them if he discovered the purpose of life!

Do you think we can come up with the answer? The class will be held in the lounge beginning September 10 at 9:15am.



### We are still collecting the following items to be recycled:

Greeting cards  
JoAnne Fabric coupons  
Skin care packaging  
Toothpaste tubes  
Notebooks  
I-Pods

Clean plastic bags  
Ink & toner cartridges  
Cosmetics packaging  
Drink pouches  
E-readers, Tablets  
Cell phones

Box Tops for Education  
Hair care packaging  
Tooth brushes  
Laptops, Net-books  
I-Pads

## GREATER YOUNGSTOWN COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ON RACISM

This is a letter we received from the Greater Youngstown Community Dialogue on Racism—GYCDOR:

Dear Greater Youngstown Neighbors,

We need to talk! Racism is once again a nation-wide focus issuing from the rally of the KKK, the Neo-Nazis, and other white supremacists' organizations in Charlottesville, Virginia, resulting in the violent death of an Anti-Hate protester. The deeper tragedy is that racism has been a part of the American culture from its very beginnings.

GYCDOR extends an open invitation to the community for persons to participate in small, interracial dialogue groups to address the effects of racism in the greater Youngstown community. The dialogue groups are led by trained facilitators using the guidelines developed by "Everyday Democracy," a highly acclaimed organization that provides leadership across the country in dialogue about important social dynamics. The groups will meet in comfortable, friendly confidential settings for six sessions: but will not only talk.

The sessions culminate in planning a short-term action project to address an aspect of the effects of racism. The Dialogue Groups are scheduled to start the first of October and end before Thanksgiving.

GYCDOR is a two-year grass roots organization formed by concerned citizens following the tragic racially violent incidents in our country. The Mahoning Valley Association of Churches and the Youngstown Department of Health provide support with leadership, alongside persons from the community. Over 250 people were involved in their Dialogue Programs during 2016-2017. Last year GYCDOR focused on "Black Infant Mortality," closing the year with the "Healthy Babies Block Party." about fifty mothers and fathers attended and received significant information and counsel about raising healthy children.

**THE KICKOFF IS PLANNED FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH** to select the time, the day of the week, and the sites for the Dialogue Group, plus, meeting the Group Facilitators, and other group participants. The Kickoff will be held at **New Bethel Baptist Church**, 1507 Hillman Street, from **5:30 to 7:00pm**. Pizza, cookies and drinks will be served.

*Leigh Greene*, Director of Youngstown Office on Minority Health

*Ed Weisheimer*, Retired Pastor

*Pastor Jamie plans to attend these dialogue sessions. If you are interested in learning more about this community dialogue, please speak with him.*



**Canfield Presbyterian Church is holding a Car Show on Saturday, September 30th** from noon to 4:30 p.m. to benefit the Wittman family whose sons are battling Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. The church is currently seeking persons who would like to display their classic cars, high performance cars and hot rods. The cost of registration is \$5 and there will be prizes. Admission to the car show is by donation. Please preregister your car by emailing [info@canfieldpresbyterian.org](mailto:info@canfieldpresbyterian.org) with your name, car's year-make-model, phone number and email address so that we can provide adequate parking for each class of car and can keep you informed.

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**Ohio Living (Park Vista) - Apple Butter Festival—Friday, September 29 from 10:00am to 2:00pm**

Trash to Treasure Sale, Strolling Balloon Artist & Accordion Player, Scrappy, the Scrappers' Mascot  
Please call 330-746-2944, ext. 1553 for information and to RSVP.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

3654 Main Street  
Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440  
330-652-5712 Fax 330-652-8145

PastorJMilton@gmail.com  
Jane.FPC@sbcglobal.net

The *Church Mouse* is the monthly (except in July & August) newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church. All visitors are welcome to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (except Memorial Day through Labor Day when worship is at 10:00 a.m.)

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CHECK US OUT  
ON FACEBOOK

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**THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE  
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**SEPTEMBER 2017**

Non Profit Org. US Postage Paid Permit #11 Niles OH
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Return Service Requested

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we joyfully strive to create a community of faith that welcomes and nurtures all who seek to experience God's love and grace.*

*With this as our mission, we willingly choose to develop a fellowship through which we will no longer e strangers, but friends in Christ.*



**RALLY DAY**

**September 10, 2017**

**9:15am Church School for all  
10:30am Worship  
11:30am Potluck Lunch**

Come and join with others and experience a few learning stations about Indonesia. Kade Mastra from Indonesia is coming to be with us in October and it will be nice to know more about her country. We will have coloring and playdough for Tiny Tots, volcano building, learning phases of her language, hear of religions in Indonesia, taste some foods from Indonesia, and check out a word search and crossword puzzle. You can just wander from station to station and come away with a bit more understanding of Kade's country. Of course you may have been learning from the facts presented in the bulletin each Sunday and that would be good. That may make you a wiz at the crossword puzzle.

The potluck lunch will be a great time to catch up with your friends. Please bring a casserole or dessert to share. The Church Growth & Fellowship Committee will supply drinks and Sloppy Joes.