

JULY 2023

Two Ridges Chronicle

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK
BY REV. DR. BILL N. LAWRENCE

As you read this our nation will be celebrating its birthday! The Fourth of July holiday officially opens the summer season. It is marked by fireworks, cook outs, vacation fun and gathering with family and friends. It is the most American of holidays as we reflect upon the blessings we share as citizens of the United States, the most important being the many freedoms we share. Despite all our problems we are still the greatest nation on earth. God has blessed and enriched our nation like none other. Indeed we should take time to express our gratitude to God for the free country we live in.

Perhaps we take the privileges and freedoms we experience day after day and year after year for granted. We tend to forget what a special people we are as citizens of this land of the free and home of the brave. Most of the nations of the world do not have such freedom! The price for the freedom we celebrate on the Fourth of July has been costly. Thousands upon thousands of men and women have sacrificed a part of their lives to defend these freedoms and many paid the supreme sacrifice. Amidst all the celebrating colorful displays of fireworks let us never forget the price that has been paid so that we may observe and celebrate our independence as a nation.

Let us also remember that our founding fathers were men of deep trust and faith in God. Benjamin Franklin at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1778 made the motion to the assembled delegates that there should be an opening prayer each day. He prefaced his motion with this statement, **"I have lived for a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proof I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men. If a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without His aid?"**

Franklin was right. Look at our country today. The secularism of our day, which has succeeded in eliminating prayer from much of our national life, is robbing our country of the very thing which gave us a strong beginning. Little by little the freedoms we once shared are now in jeopardy. There seems to be a subtle movement to silence the church in America. Someone once said that the greatness and strength of our country lies in the hearts of the common people of our land who believe in God, and the truth of the Scripture which says, **"Blessed is that nation whose God is the Lord."**

As citizens of this land of plenty let us do our part to speak out and speak up for those precious freedoms that were given to us by our founding fathers that they may be preserved for future Americans. May God bless America abundantly in the days and years that lie ahead of us.

Annual Church Picnic

It's that time of year again! Our annual church picnic will be held on Sunday, August 6th following an outdoor church service led by Rev. Michael Bongart.

Rubbin' Butts will be catering our food this year.

- pulled pork
- macaroni and cheese
- baked beans
- coleslaw

Texas Roadhouse will be donating twelve dozen rolls and honey cinnamon butter for our event as well.

Chef John Kardos will be grilling the hot dogs.

We would like to get another picture of our entire congregation this year, so please wear your Two Ridges Presbyterian shirts from last year's event. If you would like to order a tshirt, please let Katie know by July 23rd.

GOD SHED
HIS
Grace
ON THEE

July Birthdays

2 - Howard Bowers
14 - Susan Bongart
17 - Alice Baldwin
22 - Jack Cagot
22 - Kaleigh Clevenger
22 - Elaine Maple
24 - Rev. Mike Bongart

Communion Reminder

Plan to worship with us on Sunday, July 30th as we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion.

First Sunday Kid's Church



With Deepest Sympathy

We extend our Christian love and sympathy to Carol Wisnieski and family in the death of her husband, Frank on June 6. Frank was a long time faithful member of our congregation often serving as a greeter on Sunday morning. May the strength and comfort of our loving heavenly father and the promise of eternal life surround Carol and her family at this difficult time.

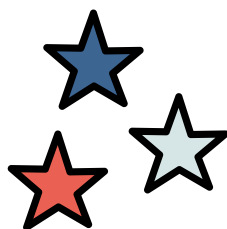
Two New Births

Congratulations to Shannon and Evan Dombroski on the birth of their son, Rowan Addison, born on May 30th.

Congratulations to Erik and Kelly Miller on the birth of their daughter, Emerson Jean, born on June 22nd.

Congratulations to the New Mr. & Mrs.

The congregation extends their congratulations and best wishes to Melissa Barlow, daughter of Steve and Myrtle Barlow and grand-daughter of Linda Barlow, and Nick Minto who were united in marriage by Rev. Lawrence on June 24th at Vineyard 22 in Cadiz. We wish the happy couple God's richest blessings on their marriage.



Send a Card

Barbara and Alan Hall have two family members who would benefit from receiving cards:

Mike & Lorrie Metzger (Barb's brother and sister-in-law) went through the Hurricane in Florida last year, and are now returning to their refurbished Condo. It is stressful to move to temporary housing and lose everything you own in a hurricane. Their condo has been reconstructed and they are moving back to it, thanks to insurance and contracts, but would enjoy a card.

Mike & Lorrie Metzger
16007 Davis Road, Unit 1014
Fort Myers, FL 33908

Rev. Kent Hall (Alan's brother) had surgery at the Cleveland Clinic for breast cancer, and is excited to learn that the cancer is Stage 1, and not extended beyond. He could use a card.

Rev. Kent Hall
1730 Cow Run Road
Marietta, OH 45750

New Address

Phyllis George, a former member of our church, recently sold her home and moved into a condo.

Her new address is:
5645 Clinghan Rd. Unit 13C
Struthers, OH 44471

Phyllis is excited not to have to pull any more weeds or mow any grass.

PATRIOTIC PINWHEEL

Create this colorful July 4th craft.

What you need:

- Decorated card stock square (5" x 5")
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- 2 one-inch circles of card stock
- Glue
- Pipe cleaner (3 inches)
- Drinking straw



What you do:

1. Fold the square corner to corner to form an X. Unfold.
2. To make spokes, cut the four creases until an inch from the center.
3. Punch a hole in the middle of the square, near the tips of each spoke, and in the middle of each circle.
4. Fold each spoke toward the center, lining up the holes. Glue in place.
5. Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the top of the straw. Thread a circle, the pinwheel, and the remaining circle onto the pipe cleaner.
6. Roll the pipe cleaner end into a ball. Then spin!

Independence Day Lessons for Church Life

Return to the basics — On July 4th we commemorate the origins of our country. In terms of faith, we also periodically need to hear again the foundational stories of Creation, the Israelites and, of course, Jesus.

Honor the gift of freedom — “For freedom Christ has set us free ... do not submit again to a yoke of slavery” (Galatians 5:1, ESV). We strive as citizens to preserve and live out our national freedom. Likewise, as citizens of God’s kingdom we live gladly in the freedom of salvation and share that gift with others.

Enjoy community — July 4 is known for picnics, parades and other community gatherings. Similarly, the church is nourished by coming together for worship, meals and other special events.

Be light in the darkness — As fireworks brighten the sky with light and color, the church is called to display the Gospel’s unique light in a dark world. Our word dynamite and the Greek word for power — as in, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you” (Acts 1:8) — share a root. Through God’s power in us, we share Jesus — dynamically! — with others.

—Heidi Mann



Dates to Remember

July 13th -

Presbyterian Women is planning a visit to Sienna on Thursday, July 13th.

July 11th -

A community caring meeting is set for Tuesday, July 11th at 10:30am. We will be planning for the Ridgewood August Bash on August 4th.

July 30th -

Communion



Our Mission Statement

Two Ridges Presbyterian Church is a growing congregation loving one another and witnessing to the world through mission in Jesus' name. We will share the good news and compassion of Jesus Christ by reaching out to youth and community.

Our Contact Information

Phone -

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Email -

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Facebook -

www.facebook.com/tworidges

Website -

www.tworidgeschurch.org

Online Donation -

www.tworidges.breezechms.com

Pastor - Rev. Dr. Bill N. Lawrence

Email - atwood9145@aol.com

Secretary - Katie Emley

Sunday Service - 9:30am - 10:30am





Two Ridges Presbyterian Church

1085 Canton Road

Wintersville, Ohio 43953

