

First Presbyterian Church
211 Garfield Ave, Box 226
London, OH 43140



CHIMES

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have been invited to write a letter for the Chimes this month and it is my privilege to do so. I retired from the Hamilton Parker Company at the end of December and have started my new position in service to the church and as HR for the PCC.

One of my main responsibilities will be visitation and helping wherever I am needed. I look forward to visiting with some of you or talking on the phone as the opportunities arise. If you're in need of a visit, please know I am available to you. Here is my new contact information: Cell# 614-971-6090 ... Email: swatters3053@outlook.com.

I have a story that I think you will enjoy. It is from Charles Allen's book, God's Psychiatry.

Toward the end of WWII, the allied forces found many orphaned children. They gathered them up in camps and took good care of them ... feeding them and giving them a safe place to rest their heads at night. One thing that they noticed, was that even though they were well fed, the children slept poorly, and why not, after all they had experienced. So, members of the allied forces tried something: each child received a piece of bread, not to eat, but to hold on to when they went to bed at night. The results spoke for themselves. Over time, they found that the children slept better knowing that when they woke there would be food, at least the piece of bread they had in their hand for the next day. Having that comfort and that confidence made a real difference to these children, whose lives would never be the same again.

As these children left the safety and care of the camps and moved to the unknown of orphanages, new homes with new families, or to living in poverty in the streets after the war was over, I wonder how many of them continued to try to go to sleep at night with a bit of bread in their hand. My guess is that it was not always possible. It makes me sad to think of how many of those orphans, and how many people throughout history, would have done just about anything to feel secure.



How many people today would give everything they own just to have that same kind of assurance? Especially during these last 2-plus years we have been confronted with an epidemic that has often kept us from our community of faith. I have been asking myself what is in my hand? Maybe during these waves of uncertainty God may have a direction we might honestly consider?

We hunger for this, as God's children and as Jesus' disciples. We hunger for this bread of life. We crave it every bit as much as the children in those camps during WWII craved that piece of bread in their hand each night, because it served as a promise to them. It gave them much needed assurance that, while they had lost everything they knew about life (their parents, their families, their homes) they could believe that they were not forgotten, and certainly not alone. Because the promise of tomorrow was in their hand. When we go to bed at night, what might be in our hands? We may find ourselves trying to find where it is that God wants us to be, where it is God wants us to go, and what Christ wants us to do.

There are moments, however fleeting, when we would give anything to have that same kind of assurance, that same kind of promise those children were given. But it isn't about the bread. It is about the One who provides it, and our relationship with him. It is about faith. Our believing that Jesus is the Bread of Life doesn't have anything to do with bread at all, not in a literal way. It is believing and trusting, even when we feel the emptiest. The hunger we feel in our stomachs is not the same kind of hunger we feel in our hearts, when we know we are not right with God, or with one another. Both lead to our ruin, whether it is in the physical sense or the spiritual. It is in the moments of our greatest need, when we have seemingly lost everything, and we are unsure where it is we are supposed to go, and what it is we are supposed to do, that God gives us the means to be filled; and God does this in the most beautiful and intimate of ways: he gives us Jesus. Because Jesus, through the example of his Love, his Compassion, his Righteousness, his Perfection, and his Sacrifice, leads us to our hearts' true desire: eternal life with God. It is because of this, without question, that Jesus is the Bread of Life.

If you have been away for a while, we encourage you to join us in person or to be part of our Zoom Family. Know that we will be making a special effort as a Church to reach out to all of you.

We want to make sure our hands are full of the blessing God provides each one of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Pastor Steve :)



PCC NEWS

We are excited about the new year at PCC. We have welcomed seven new families into the center this month and we continue to get more calls daily. We have plans to add a couple of new teachers for our infant/toddler area and for our school-age group.

The teachers and the students are hard at work this month on their quarterly assessments and other fun learning experiences. The classrooms are also preparing their doors for a Valentines Day door decorating contest. The teachers are working on ideas for their Valentine's Day parties which will be a lot of fun for all.



THE HISTORY OF GROUNDHOG DAY

Groundhog Day was first celebrated on February 2, 1887 at Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, featuring a rodent meteorologist. According to tradition, if a groundhog comes out of its hole on this day and sees its shadow, it gets scared and runs back into its burrow, predicting six more weeks of winter weather; no shadow means an early spring.

Falling midway between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, February 2 is a significant day in several ancient and modern traditions. The Celts, for instance, celebrated it as Imbolc, a pagan festival marking the beginning of spring. As Christianity spread through Europe, Imbolc evolved into Candlemas, a feast commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the holy temple in Jerusalem.

On Candlemas, clergy would bless and distribute candles needed for winter. The candles represented how long and cold the winter would be. In certain parts of Europe, Christians believed that a sunny Candlemas meant another 40 days of cold and snow.

Germans expanded on this concept by selecting an animal—the hedgehog—as a means of predicting weather. Once they came to America, German settlers in Pennsylvania continued the tradition, although they switched from hedgehogs to groundhogs, which were plentiful in the Keystone State.

In 1887, a newspaper editor belonging to a group of groundhog hunters from Punxsutawney called the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club declared that Phil, the Punxsutawney groundhog, was America's only true weather-forecasting groundhog. The line of groundhogs that have since been known as Phil might be America's most famous groundhogs, but other towns across North America now have their own weather-predicting rodents, from Birmingham Bill to Staten Island Chuck to Shubenacadie Sam in Canada, and Ohio's Buckeye Chuck.

Today, tens of thousands of people converge on Gobbler's Knob in Punxsutawney each February 2 to witness Phil's prediction. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club hosts a three-day celebration featuring entertainment and activities.



WHAT'S HAPPENING ...

CURRENT MASK MANDATE

The Church's mask mandate remains in place for 2-years-old and older while the numbers are still up. Only those with breathing issues are exempt from this mask mandate. The worship guidelines remain unchanged.

PER CAPITA FOR 2022

The per capita has increased to \$40.00 per member. The Presbytery collects this to be used for expenses for the Presbytery, the Synod, and for the General Assembly. The church is asking for each member to pay their per capita if they are able, due by March 15, 2022. Make the check out to 1st Presbyterian Church, and be sure to write in the memo line, (or on the envelope if paying with cash), that this donation is for the per capita expense. Thank you for your generosity in helping to offset this expense for the church.

VALENTINE'S DAY PROJECT

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Project. Distribution will be through the Welcome Table, Madison County Sheriff's Department and the London Police Department to people who are displaced and in need.

Items to be collected are chapstick, socks, toiletries, mittens/gloves & hats, small hand sanitizer & candy. Valentine cards would be a sweet extra to share with the recipients.

A box has been placed in the portico and the narthex. We will be collecting items until February 6th. Thank you for your support of this project.

LITURGIST / FLOWER CALENDAR

Thank you to those who signed up to be liturgists for 2022!

There is a new Flower Calendar on the bulletin board for 2022. If you would like to provide flowers for Sunday worship, please sign up on the chart. You can use the florist of your choice OR bring in your own cut flowers. FYI ... London Florist will deliver to the church. Be sure to let the office know if the flowers are in celebration, in honor, or memory of someone so it can be placed in the bulletin. Thank you!

IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER ...

As winter starts to gear up, there will be days of bad weather. If there happens to be a Level 2 or 3 snow emergency, the in-person church service will switch to a zoom service instead. The worship material will be emailed each week, and it includes a church letter with the zoom connection information. We may not have the music for that Sunday, but we can still worship while avoiding the bad weather.

BLOOD PRESSURE Screening



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Souper Bowl Sunday will be on February 13. The youth will be collecting monetary donations that will go to our Hunger Fund, which pays for all of the different food programs in the area that our church supports.

SAVE THE DATE ...

The PSV commission service for Steve Watters will be Sunday, February 27, at 4:00 pm

IMPORTANT DATES

- Presbytery 2022 Meeting Dates
 - Tuesday, February 15 @ 3:30 pm
 - Sunday, May 15 @ 3:30 pm
- The office will be closed on Monday, February 21 in observance of President's Day.
- Ash Wednesday is on Wednesday, March 2. Our Ash Wednesday service is at 7:30 PM
- Tuesday, September 20 @ 3:30 pm
- Sunday, November 20 @ 3:30 pm

*The Session and Congregation of
First Presbyterian Church of London, Ohio
Cordially invite you to a worship service
Celebrating the commissioning of*

Steven A. Watters

as Pastor of Congregational Care

On Sunday, February 27, 2021

At 4:00 PM

*First Presbyterian Church
211 Garfield Avenue
London, Ohio 43140*

**FAMILY
LAUGH
LOVE
LIVE
BE HONEST
FORGIVE OTHERS
PLEASE & THANK YOU
PLAY
SAY YOUR PRAYERS
ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL**

As February settles in, everyone starts to get a bit stir crazy. So, what can you do to offset the winter blues?

How about some family fun for February. It doesn't have to be anything huge. But it gives you something to look forward to on a cold winter day. Check out some of these ideas or you may come up with some on your own. You can visit <https://lifefamilyjoy.com/28-fun-things-to-do-in-february-with-family> for more details and more ideas.

- **Host a Game Day Party** for the Super Bowl on February 4.
- **Make Homemade Soup** ... National Homemade Soup Day is February 4
- **Feed the birds** by setting out bird seed or make homemade pinecone feeders with the kids.
- **Handwrite a card.** February 7 is National Send a Card to a Friend Day. Have everyone in the family sit down and 'create' a card to send to a friend.
- **Fly a Kite.** Did you know that February 8th is Fly a Kite Day!
- **Host a Pizza Buffet** with the family. Let the kids pick their own toppings and create their pizza masterpiece.
- **Indoor Scavenger Hunt.** Create your own clues and send everyone off on their adventure to find their surprise.
- **Make it a puzzle night** (or week). Once it is done, you can apply a puzzle glue to keep it together, then frame/hang it up on the wall.
- **Make it a movie night**, while keeping warm in a blanket fort.
- **Start a garden** / or make plans for one.
- **Have a bake off.**
- **Have a game night** ... There are so many card games and board games out there, so you will never get bored!



PRAYER LINE

All requests to be submitted to Shelley Bailey at sjbailey19@gmail.com or call 614-425-7570.

IMPORTANT: Due to privacy issues, please make sure any prayer request is with consent of the person concerned.

Let the pastor know when her presence is needed.

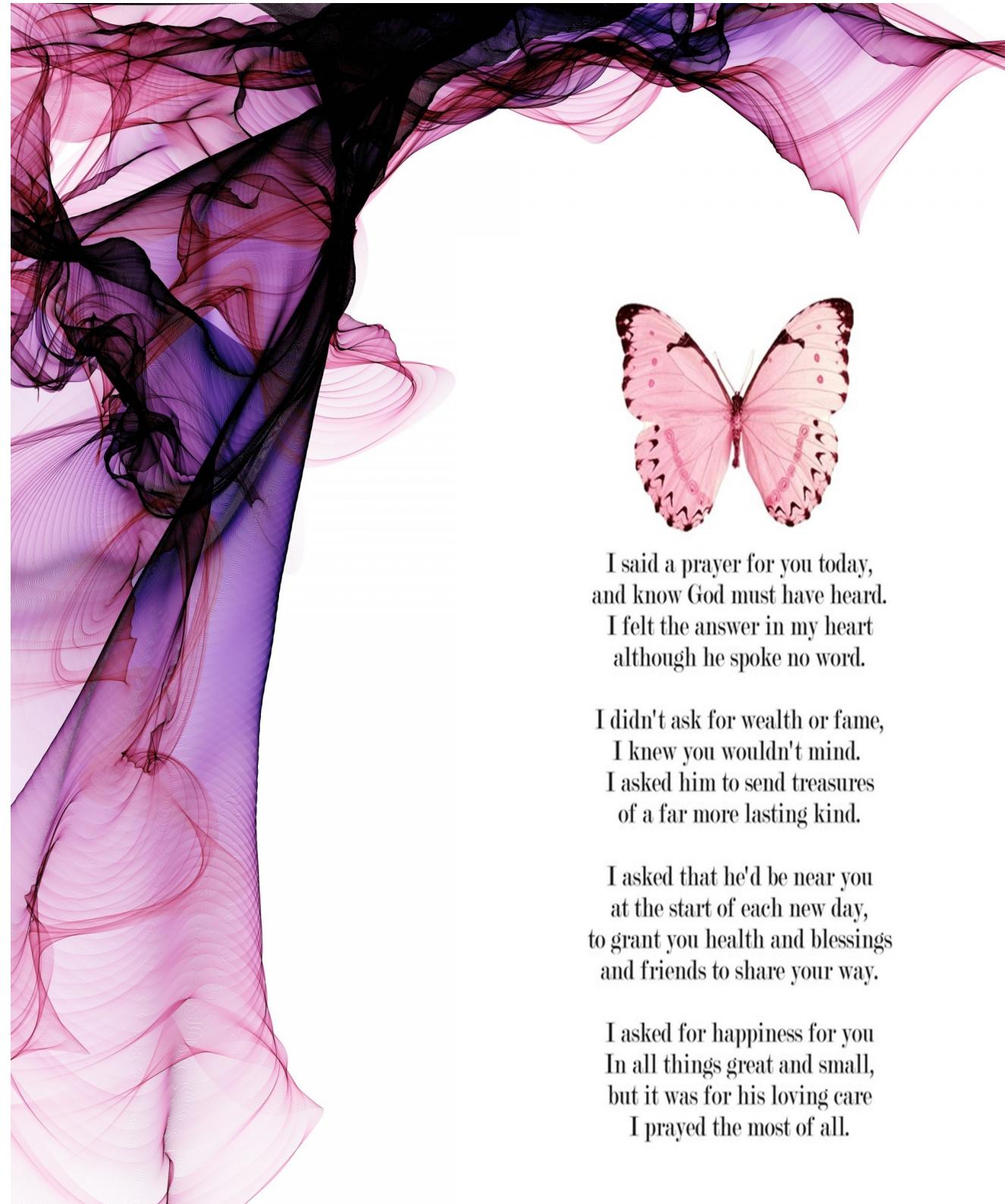
If you wish to have prayer concerns lifted during the worship service, please email the church office.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM PASTOR ABOU OF THE REFORMED NATIONAL CHURCH OF THE SAHEL (RNCS)

Pastor Abou has exciting news to share. They celebrated Christmas with the children and youth at a retreat that the RNCS hosts each year. Last month, Pastor Abou told us how they were going into several different communities to perform baptisms. The church baptized 50 plus people during this time. Lastly, the RNCS is having their first General Assembly on January 27th!

The church continues to reach out to the different areas around them, spreading the gospel. They are looking for divine intervention and prayers as they start new work in parts of Senegal and The Gambia.

A few more children have come into their care at the orphanage. On a more concerning note, one of the children, Ebrima, was recently hospitalized. There has been some complications, but he is now starting to show signs of improvement. Pastor Abou is asking for prayers for continued healing.



I said a prayer for you today,
and know God must have heard.
I felt the answer in my heart
although he spoke no word.

I didn't ask for wealth or fame,
I knew you wouldn't mind.
I asked him to send treasures
of a far more lasting kind.

I asked that he'd be near you
at the start of each new day,
to grant you health and blessings
and friends to share your way.

I asked for happiness for you
In all things great and small,
but it was for his loving care
I prayed the most of all.

If you were born in February, your birthstone is an amethyst and your flower is a primrose.

The zodiac signs associated with February are Aquarius, up to the 18th. Then it is Pisces

February 2 is Groundhog Day—the day we find out whether winter will last six more weeks or call it quits early.

Native Americans refer to February's full moon as the Snow Moon

The first Sunday in February is Super Bowl Sunday (at least for the foreseeable future). It wasn't always that way—until 2001, the game was played in January.

FEBRUARY 14 IS VALENTINE'S DAY ...
CELEBRATED WITH LOVE, FLOWERS,
AND CHOCOLATE.

The third Monday in February brings Presidents' Day, a federal holiday also known as Washington's birthday. George Washington's actual birthday is February 22

INTERESTING FEBRUARY FACTS

IT IS NATIONAL BIRD FEEDING MONTH.
IT CAN BE PURE JOY WATCHING THE BIRDS THAT COME TO THE FEEDER EACH DAY.

On February 2, 1848, U.S. and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which ended their war. The U.S. paid Mexico \$15 million in exchange for California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, and Texas.

February 1964, The Beatles made their 1st American television appearance on the "Ed Sullivan Show". Over 73 million Americans watched.

February 12 is Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The 16th president of the United States was born in a one-room, 16x18 ft. log cabin with a dirt floor.

Don't forget to send in your stories ... We'd love to hear from your fur babies!

MEET MY BEST BUDS ...

ANNIE & KODIAK ...

Who says cats and dogs can't be friends?



Annie is the new kid on the block. A tortoiseshell cat, she showed up the summer of 2019. By the very end of December, she became pregnant when she wasn't much more than a year old. We took care of her and her 3 kittens, who were born on March 1, 2020 ... bringing them inside to start working with the kittens so they could be adopted. We were successful in finding homes for her babies, and fell in love with Annie, so she stayed with us. She helped fill the void when our beautiful calico, Missy, died last spring. She has a sweet and playful nature, and adores Kodiak.

Kodiak is the old man as he just turned 14. He has been the only dog since 2018, when his best bud, Ghost Dancer, died. So, it's been a bit lonely at times for him. Kodiak is a red Australian Shepherd. Sweet and loving, and when he was younger, very energetic. Things have slowed down a lot for him, but his patience with our two youngest grandchildren is amazing.

Annie has been a great companion for him, but he sometimes looks at her like she is a nut! If a dog could roll his eyes, he would do exactly that when Annie gets going. Come late spring, his life will turn a bit upside down, as he will be getting a new brother. We think it will be good for him, and hopefully, he won't teach the puppy any bad habits. It is going to be a very entertaining summer.



Steve & Cherie Watters



With Each *Anniversary*

Love becomes deeper than it was years ago.

Trust becomes stronger because it's had time to grow.

Struggles become *strengths* when worked through with care.

Togetherness becomes *Oneness* by taking time to share.

When a marriage is nurtured it continually grows and reflects

God's blessing, like an unfolding rose.



Bill & Kay Fischer 2/01

Don & Susan Miller 2/03

Christopher & Carol Ansel 2/12

James & Becky Buell 2/16

Joe & Deb Blaho 2/23

Richard & Stephanie Huddleston 2/23



Those born in February are honest and creative with a unique and original sense of style.

Others admire them for their positive outlook on all aspects of life.

Emmett Schrock	2/02	Anna Morlock	2/19
Leila Oswalt	2/08	Linda Green	2/20
Peter Yost	2/08	Adam Siddiqi	2/21
Dee McSavaney	2/08	Rod Kronk	2/24
Barbara Niemeyer	2/14	Cheryls Baltzer	2/25
Sandy Rodabaugh	2/14	Ruth Kennedy	2/26
Becky Yerian	2/16	Don Herman	2/28
Deena Bennett	2/17		

FEBRUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	Feb 1	2	3	4	5
Annual Congregational Meeting : 1 • 10am Worship • 11am Congregational Meeting	• 6pm Paul Oswalt Barbershop Qu	• 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting • 5pm Stewardship Commission • 7pm Choir Rehearsal	• 4:15pm Mission Committee Meeting • 6pm Worship Committee Meeting • 7pm Choir Rehearsal			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
• 10am Communion • 10am Worship • 11am Deacon Meeting	• 6pm Paul Oswalt Barbershop Qu	• 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting • 6pm PCC Committee Meeting • 7pm Session Meeting	• 11am Session Review • 4:30pm Personnel Meeting • 7pm Choir Rehearsal			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Super Bowl of Caring Sunday	Mark Off	• 3:30pm Presbytery Meeting • 11am PCC Leadership Meeting • 6pm Paul Oswalt Barbershop Qu	• 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting • 5pm Christian Education Zoom ▾	• 7pm Choir Rehearsal		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
• 10am Worship	Closed for the Holiday	• 6pm Paul Oswalt Barbershop Qu	• 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting	• 7pm Choir Rehearsal		
27	28	Mar 1	2	3	4	5
• 10am Worship • 4pm Pastor Steve's commission	• 6pm Paul Oswalt Barbershop Qu	• 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting • 5pm Stewardship Commission • 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	• 4:15pm Mission Committee Meeting • 6pm Worship Committee Meeting • 7pm Choir Rehearsal			

The Chimes

First Presbyterian Church
211 Garfield Ave, Box 226
London, OH 43140



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED