



Dear Church Family,
I recently read this blog by Gloria Gaither and thought it was a great article and share it with you this month...



I read in a recent issue of Architectural Digest that a church in Detroit has been “de-consecrated” and turned into a Fine Arts Center in a new arts district of the city. I had never seen that word before, though I hear it’s been happening in other places.

That made me wonder how, exactly, does one “de-consecrate” a place of worship. Does a community have a de-consecration ceremony in which art enthusiasts actually form a public procession to carry out from a formerly consecrated space, the art, the cross, icons, golden candlesticks, offering plates, hymnals, choir robes, and communion chalices?

Do the re-constructionists remove the anchors from the altar, the communion table, and the pulpit and join the procession, moving this dedicated furniture out into a newly secularized parking lot to be auctioned off to the highest bidder?

And once the artifacts of worship have been removed, is there a vacuum to suck out the sacred? In the de-spiritualizing process, does some holy dust stay floating in the sunbeams streaming through the stained-glass windows to settle on the newly introduced secular art? Does some of it flow out through the wide-open doors and, in spite of everything, does some righteous residue fall on the children playing in the neighborhood or the homeless sleeping on park benches in the nearby park?

Or do the molecules of breath, breathed over decades of prayer, stay, as do water and matter, only just changing form and remaining forever? Could the congregants who have dedicated their babies, exchanged wedding vows, confessed their sins and found forgiveness and salvation, sung, rejoiced, and mourned there take a box of consecration with them down the street and release it into some empty storefront space to consecrate into something sacred?

Do the de-consecrated pews that end up on the front porch of some Cracker Barrel still carry the spirit of the holy in the wood that was seasoned by the atmosphere of supplication and praise still whisper “holy, holy, holy” to those who sit there waiting for a table inside?

And that makes me wonder if there are architecturally beautiful buildings that still bear the sign outside but are slowly being “de-consecrated” by the people who still gather there for “church” but are detached from the Lord they once worshipped in that place.

Maybe, on the other hand, it’s time to carry our dedicated pews and communion tables and altars and pulpits to the town green or city squares or prisons or youth centers, and change these pieces of furniture and artifacts and symbols into the actual eucharist and communion, living sermons and places of prayer our Lord intended them to be.

That certainly is food for thought! Just how might we extend our worship beyond the four walls on Sunday morning? What are your ideas?

Love being your pastor!
Love and Blessings in Jesus!
Alice

Keep these folks and their caregivers in your prayers for healing and recovery from hospitalization or recent illness including Covid.

Steve Patterson
Carolee Fugate
Richard Albrecht
Karon Kaufman



Board Meetings after worship:

Trustees—No May meeting

Deacons—As needed through summer

Session—Sunday, May 26



**Thank
You**

Thank you to those who along with Rev. Alice on April 2, 2024, when the Fire Chief

asked us for an emergency shelter: John Rihl, Bill Bowen, Bill Pettibone, Linda Watson, Carol Burkhart, Janell Wilcox Gordon, Judy Brady, Donna Rihl, and Shane Manring We spent hours at the church - fortunately the storm and threat of tornadoes passed by us!

To Nancy Sponseller for donating four upholstered chairs, a wooden cabinet, end table and lamp to our church from her Dublin law office as she moves to a smaller office in Dublin. Two of the chairs are in the fireplace room. The other furniture will be in the future prayer room (Chuck's old office). Thanks to Jim Kaufman and Bill Bowen for picking up and delivering items!



PRAYER TEAM Looking for individuals to serve in the essential ministry!! Please see Judy Brady or Rev Alice for more information!

May Lay Liturgist

May 5– Rosemary Anderson

May 12– Sharon Newell

May 19– Barb Holiday

May 26– Leanne Manring

May Coffee Hour

May 5 and 12– Nancy McKelvey & Barb Holiday

May 19 and 26– Nancy McKelvey and Jane Denhardt

May Greeters

**Rosemary Anderson,
5/5 Paula Williams**

**5/12 Barbie Scheiderer
5/19 Jim Kaufman
5/26 Sharon Newell**

Little Food

**Pantry FOOD
Donation Sunday
is May 5.**

Next Meeting of the PC Presbyterian Women's Circle will be on the first **Tuesday, May 7 at 6:30 pm.** Donna Rihl will serve as moderator/devotions and Nancy McKelvey will provide refreshments. Come join us for a night of good fellowship. We will be tying up our Grief Blanket Project and looking to next year.



MONDAY BIBLE STUDY via Zoom at 6:30 pm studying John . See Rev Alice for link On Summer break after May.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY– On Break until Fall



LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31
THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

National Day of Prayer
Thursday, May 2 at
NOON at
Pastime Park.

Church Treasurer Report for March 31, 2024

The general fund balance for the end of March decreased due to lower donations being received than expenses being incurred this month. There were five weeks of donations during this month. The increased expense was due mostly to the quarterly insurance premium being paid.

General Expenses Fund

Beginning Balance 03/01/2024 \$ 10,904.16

Income 9,640.00

Expenses (14,184.76)

Ending Balance 03/31/2024 \$ 6,359.40

A deposit of \$11,500 was made to Durable Slate for a future work project on the front of the church. This was paid from the Major Church Repair Fund, leaving a balance remaining of \$9,555.58.

If there are any questions about the financial information of the Church, please let me know.

Best Regards,

Gary Gibeaut, Treasurer



Pentecost Sunday

May 19

Mark your calendar for a special day of worship. Wear RED. Plan on a time of fellowship with a POTLUCK coordinated by our Deacons directly after worship.



We will welcome Sandra Hinkle into the membership of our church on Pentecost, May 19, 2024!

Sandra Hinkle recently moved to Plain City from Louisville, KY where she was a member of Harvey Browne Presbyterian Church for over 50 years. She sang with both the youth choir in her teen years and later in the adult choir. She was active in the Presbyterian Women, and served as an elder, clerk of the Session, and as a Deacon over her years there. Sandra retired from Humana in 2023 and then moved to Ohio to be closer to her daughter, Jinny, who lives in Columbus. Prior to Humana, Sandra worked as a Research Director in TV stations for over 30 years. She is now enjoying retirement and watching the sunrise over Big Darby Creek with her Red Heeler Cattle Dog, Tillie. She spends lots of time with her daughter. She says what she likes most about Plain City Presbyterian is the beautiful music, and the welcoming spirit of the people.



05/01	Elliott	Bradley
05/01	Jerry	Hurley
05/07	Sherline	Lear
05/07	Austin	Hurley
05/07	Judy	Bodenbender
05/11	Jim	Berry
05/16	Michael	George
05/16	Kim	Bodenbender
05/17	John	Jordan
05/19	Leonard	Rihl
05/30	Linda	Watson
05/30	Mark	Bushong
05/31	Richard	Meeker

05/22 Don & Nancy McKelvey
05/26 Drew & Sherline Lear

REMEMBERING OUR SHUT-INS



Our Shut-ins

Being shut-in during the pandemic should have given us a better appreciation for those on our shut-in list. Please take a moment to remember our shut-ins. Drop them a card or give them a call!

Bob and Suzanne Merkle— Dublin Retirement Village
Chuck Stoker—Home
Bryan Becker—Home
Arlene Perkins, Paul and Donna Gibson— Walnut Crossing Assisted Living, Marysville
Charlotte Lambka— Edgewater
Jack Mercer— Bluebird Marysville
Dick and Kathy Wilson— Monarch Skilled Nursing and Assisted Living



Mark your calendars now for **Vacation Bible School**.

June 24-28. We are doing the Knights of North Castle which invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God.—Belt of Truth, Breastplate of Justice, Shoes of Peace, Shield of Faith and Helmet of Salvation. This was a package we purchased the year of the pandemic and now we are using it so it will be unique to this area. Invite your kids, grandkids, friends and neighbors. Also if

you can help that week or support in material ways, please reach out to our fearless leader, Rosemary Anderson. It is always a fun time and great time of outreach.

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS -If you are in the hospital or a loved one is and want a visit... please call or text Rev. Alice