

Pastor's Corner

Dear partners in ministry,

If you know any toddlers, you may not be surprised that 70-80 percent of their conversations are comprised of questions. Surveys have indicated that only 15-25 percent of adult conversations are composed of questions. We stop asking questions at an alarming rate.

One reason this is alarming is that while Jesus is asked 183 questions in the New Testament, he asks over 300 questions. Questions help us see our surroundings in a new way. Well-asked questions can unsettle long-held assumptions. Questions open us up mystery and allow us to become inquisitive, life-long learners. For the church, continuing to ask questions places us in the position of listening, instead of presuming that the proprietors of all of the answers. Jesus answered less than a handful of the questions he was asked. Can studying the questions of Jesus help us ask the right questions for ministry today?

Throughout June and July we are going to focus on the questions Jesus asked. Each Sunday, we will read scripture in which Jesus asks a question. On Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. we will offer a book study. The book is titled *Jesus is the Question: The 307 Questions Jesus Asks and the Three He Answered* by Martin Coenhaver.

I can't wait to hear all of your questions and ask you quite a few of my own.

Grace and peace,

Michael



June & July Worship Services

Sunday, June 3

Communion

Haven't you ever read what David did when he was in need, when he and those with him were hungry?

Mark 2:23-3:6

Music by the Phil DeGreg Jazz Trio

Sunday, June 10

Choir Recognition

Who are my mother and my brothers?

Mark 3:20-35

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, June 17

Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?

Mark 4:35-41

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, June 24

How much bread do you have?

Mark 6:35-44

Music by Kara and Matt Miller

Sunday, July 1

Communion

Why do you make a commotion and weep?

Mark 5:21-43

Music by Suzanne Edwards, flute

Sunday, July 8

Can worry add a second to your life?

Matthew 6:25-34

Music by Tara Downie, soprano

Sunday, July 15

What/who are you looking for?

John 1:28, 18:7, and 11:1-13

Music by Brian Shepard, tenor and organist

Sunday, July 22

Would you give a snake to a child who

wants bread? Or a scorpion for an egg?

How much more will the heavenly father give the

Holy Spirit to those who ask?

Luke 11:1-13

Music by the Razor's Edge Barbershop Chorus

Sunday, July 29

Do you love me?

John 22:15-19

Music by the Wing Walkers

Christian Education and Faith Formation

Youth Ministries

We will take a break from our weekly Youth-led Worship in June-August, but we will stay connected through special events. In the meantime, we are connecting with teams both within our congregation and also with neighboring churches to consider ways we might reimagine Youth Ministry in Middletown by serving collaboratively in response to the changing needs of youth today. Interested in learning more? Contact Lisa Kaufer.

Children Ministries

Children are always welcome in worship! Wiggle bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance to help children feel included and engaged during the worship service. Additional resources for parents and guardians are also available--look for the pinwheel and enjoy!

Sunday School will not meet during June, July and August. We will resume in September.

A loving, Christian environment is provided year-round from 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. for infants and children up to 5 years old.



Register for Vacation Bible School!

July 23-27 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a holy land adventure learning about Daniel's Courage in Captivity.

Crafts, Games, Music, Story time, Snacks, and more!

Register online or contact the church office!
www.fpcmiddletown.com or 513-422-6365

We celebrate serving together with a variety of gifts, talents, and availability and we need your support to bring this adventure to life! We will set the scene on June 23 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - crafters of all abilities are welcome to and encouraged to meet at church to create a variety decorations.

Contact Lisa Kaufer to join the Babylon adventure as a leader or assistant for Crafts, Games, Snacks, Small Groups, and more!

For more information or to sign-up for Christian Education programs contact Lisa Kaufer (lisa@fpcmiddletown.com or 513-464-9264).

Music Notes

*O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!
Your glory is higher than the heavens.*

Psalm 8:1

The Music Ministry staff and volunteers cannot help but sing and ring of the majesty and glory of God's name. He has given us the music of love, the music of sorrow, the music of joy and the music of celebration. The finale of the program year will be on Sunday, June 10, which is Choir Recognition Sunday. The Sanctuary Choir will share two beautiful anthems for the worship service. "Abide with Me", featuring soloist Lara Moon, is back by popular demand. "And the Father Will Dance" is a joyous anthem based on Psalm 34:2, 4. What an incredible picture to think about the Father dancing over each of us in joy! Please join us after worship in the Gathering Area to share stories of your favorite music from this year and to enjoy some delicious cake!

Be sure to join us each Sunday in June, July, and August for the wonderful and varied music provided at each worship service.

I would personally like to thank each Music Ministry staff member and volunteer listed on the next page, for all of the gifts of music, support, time, and energy that you give regularly and generously. *As we glorify God each week, may each of us who hears receive a special blessing from the gifts of music.*

Joyce Zigler
Director of Music Ministries

The stage show, entitled "From the Heart" includes professional dancers and vocalists, as well as professional/amateur numbers and some really good formation numbers.

It is on Saturday, June 16, at Finkelman Auditorium. Doors open at 7:00 and the curtain is at 7:30. Tickets are 15.00 dollars in advance and 20 at the door. 100% of the ticket sales go to a local charity, Pink Ribbon Girls. This is a nonprofit group that eases the workload of daily life while providing peer support for those afflicted by cancer.

Seating is assigned. To purchase tickets call 937-291-2000.

MUSIC MINISTRY STAFF

Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist
Margaret Chambers, Worship Pianist
Lara Moon, Director of Joyful Noize

Janet Scott, Director of Handbells
Sharon Dowden, Joyful Noize Snack Coordinator

MUSIC/WORSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Beth Susco (Chair)
Donna Chaney
Rebecca Hillshafer

Jim Harris
David Jenkins
Diana McVay

SANCTUARY CHOIR

*Linda Bursk
Margaret Chambers
*Bob Cover
Debbie Cover
Tara Downie
Sharon Dowden
Suzanne Edwards
Charlene Hammonds

Dave Hammonds
David Jenkins
Terry Mack
*Diana McVay
*Lara Moon
*Joe Newlin
*Tina Newlin
*John Peterson

Julie Ramsey
Bonnie Saunders
Shirley Steel
Nancy Stitzel
Beth Susco
Mick Susco
*Tom Zigler
+Cyndi Zopff

*Sanctuary Octet
+Guest Chorister

RENAISSANCE RINGERS

Linette Curless
Dianne Gerber
Marti Kelly

Susie Lane
Mike Moser
Bonnie Saunders

Sandi Templeton
Jenny Walker
Lynne Wiley

JOYFUL NOIZE CHOIR

Vivien Fields
Jessie Jenkins
Eathan Lewis
Jadelyn Lewis

Saige Ryan
Savannah Ryan
Madalyn Saunders
Parker Shablak

Matthew Taylor
Reale Wilcher
Ryder Wilson

SOUND TECHNICIANS

Jim Harris

David Jenkins
John Minor

Josh Kaufer

June Birthdays!

09.....Al Karchner	27.....Michele Westfall
10.....Janet Shannon	28.....Sierra Jenkins
10.....John Minor	16.....Keith Lawson
11.....Marmy Dell	29.....Wilberta Schaefer
12.....Julie Ramsey	30.....Geri Gorman
15.....Steve Wertz	30.....Fred Sauer
17.....Lauren Sutter	
19.....Tom Wiley	
22.....Dale Moore	
24.....Carol Croake	
27.....Nicole Johnson	
27.....Lisa Kaufer	
27.....Charlie Mack	

Men's Monthly Meeting

The Men's Monthly Meeting is an opportunity to get together and socialize over a meal outside the church. You're welcome to join them on **Tuesday, June 12 and July 10**, at the Clubhouse Sports Grille, 250 N. Main Street in Monroe at 5:30 p.m.



The Spinning Fork

ATTENTION: ALL CHURCH GALS
AND FRIENDS!



You are invited to a fun and casual evening at The Spinning Fork on **Tuesday, June 19 and July 17**, at 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Study at the Triple Moon, 7:00 p.m.

Beginning June 6, and on subsequent Wednesdays in June and July, we are going to read Jesus is the Question by Martin Copenhaver. Contrary to some common assumptions, Jesus is not the ultimate Answer Man, but more like the Great Questioner. In the Gospels Jesus asks many more questions than he answers. Jesus asks 307 questions. He is asked 183 of which he only answers 3. Asking questions was central to Jesus' life and teachings. This book considers the questions Jesus asks. Through Jesus' questions, he modeled the struggle, the wondering, the thinking it through that helps us draw closer to God and better understand, not just the answer, but ourselves, our process and ultimately why questions are among Jesus' most profound gifts for a life of faith. This will connect to our Summer Sermon Series on the questions Jesus asked.

Parents' Night Out! June 30, 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

Parents will meet at the church and caravan to a nearby restaurant for dinner and fellowship. Childcare provided. Contact Lisa Kaufer to sign up!

July Birthdays!

02.....Carolyn Gaker	16.....Dianne Gerber
03.....Amanda Fields	18.....Fran Huntzinger
03.....Judy Karchner	18.....Saige Ryan
06.....Marilyn Steele	18.....Gayle Spradlin
06.....Joyce Trick	21.....Sally Bach
09.....Suzanne Edwards	23.....Corbit Harrison
11.....Russell Dempster	25.....Susan Newlin
11.....Charlie Jenkins	26.....John Newlin
12.....Jean Hayes	27.....Don Chambers
15.....Raylene Pelfrey	30.....Larry Anderson
16.....Dick Dempster	



Sunday, July 15, following worship in the Gathering Area

Please join our church family in celebrating the upcoming expansion of the Isaacs family!

In lieu of gifts, Michael and Gihani would like to honor their blessing of a new sibling for Big Brother Isuru by paying forward with donations to the Parent Resource Center at the Sonny Hill Community Center.

Their mission is to provide parents access to resources that empower them to be more confident in their role as the head of their homes. They also work to prepare their children, birth to five years, for kindergarten.

If you would like to make a gift in honor of Michael and Gihani's new addition, please send a check, payable to First Presbyterian Church, and place it in the offering or send it to the church office. Once all gifts are received, Kathy will write one check payable to the Parent Resource Center in honor of the Isaacs family.

A card basket will be provided at the shower for any personal congratulations you may wish to share with Michael, Gihani, and Isuru.

From A&P Committee

The Isaacs family is expecting a new child this August. Pastor Michael intends be away for a few weeks for a time of bonding and nurturing. During this parental leave, Michael is working to make provisions to ensure pastoral care needs are met through another pastor in the Presbytery. If you have need for any pastoral services during this leave, do not hesitate to call the church office. Your needs will be met. Some people have asked about the opportunities to give to the family. The family would like to honor your generosity and kindly ask for no gifts. In lieu of gifts, please consider a small contribution to the Parent Resource Center at the Community Building Institute of Middletown, Inc.

Back by popular demand!

June 3, Phil DeGreg Jazz Trio. We are delighted to welcome the Phil DeGreg Jazz Trio in worship. Their music always expands the sounds and tones of our worship service.

July 22, Razor's Edge Barbershop Chorus. Chartered and in continuous existence since 1946, the Middletown (Razor's Edge) Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is a diverse group of men devoted to sharing the "good vibes" that are unique to unaccompanied music sung in the Barbershop Style. Razor's Edge Chorus and chapter quartets perform year-round, spreading goodwill through the sharing of our vocal talents.

July 29, music by the Wing Walkers.



Sunday, October 14 Kirkin' of the Tartans

Friday, November 9 Dinner and Organ Concert

Sunday, November 11 Central State Choir

Sunday, December 16 Sanctuary Choir, Orchestra and Liturgical Dancers present the Christmas Cantata

Sunday, December 23 Joyful Noize presents Christmas Musical for the Family Worship Service.

Michael Isaacs, Pastor/Head of Staff
Joyce Zigler, Director of Music
Lisa Kaufer, Director of Faith Formation
Kathy Harris, Administrative Assistant
Sandy Fisher, Secretary
Bob Lawwill, Custodian
Cheryl Jarbo, Custodian
Margaret Chambers, Pianist
Lara Moon, Director of Children and Youth Choirs
Janet Scott, Director of Handbells
Paula Elliott, Dir. of Kindergarten Readiness
Kim Flesher, Pre-K Teacher

Office Hours
Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Friday—9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Website: www.fpcmiddletown.com

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Our Mission

...to **SHARE** the good news

...to **NURTURE** the Spirit

...to **SERVE** members and neighbors