

CORNERSTONE

Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church

March
2023

Re-structuring and Re-energizing

(Have you heard?!)

*From the Desk of
Reverend Joel Weible*



We are fresh off our Annual Congregational Meeting of 2023, at which we celebrated all that took place during 2022 in our Congregation and Team Ministries and through our Elders and Church Staff. The title of this year's meeting was "*Re-structuring and Re-energizing*", taking this from the Annual Elder Retreat that happened only the week before, on February 18th.

We have only just begun to understand more precisely what is being re-structured and how we are, and will be, re-energized. But, we're building on the work of the last *two* years attempting always to have well-functioning teams that meet the needs of the church and are full of members who have passions and skill sets that meet the responsibilities of the teams they serve. This newsletter has much information and many updates on some of the things that have happened and are happening. Please take some time to be reminded or to learn what is going on.

While your Session and Staff are still figuring out the specifics, we anticipate a comprehensive re-structuring of our Ministry Teams for the first time since I arrived in November of 2008. And in that work, we will re-energize each one of you as members of this incredibly vital community! What we ask of each and every one of you in this year ahead is that you stay curious, open, and nimble in stepping up and stepping in yourselves. Soften your assumptions about the way church "has always been done" and expand your perspectives on how the Spirit is moving in our midst. We will need the encouragement and energy of every single member of our congregation to step into the future that God is providing us. Please be a part of what is happening *right now, right here*. And here's the perfect way to start ...

See you in Church,

Pastor Joel

From the Desk of Ashia Stoess...

On Sunday February 26th, those who were in attendance for worship and our Congregational Meeting were greeted at the front of the sanctuary and handed a fidget toy. This toy was handed to each person in the shape of a square, representative of a box. However, the intention was never for the toy to remain in that shape. This particular fidget is meant to be reshaped, bent, taken apart, reassembled, connected to others like it. As I and many others used the fidget during the service, we found rather quickly that it can be transformed into nearly any shape and yet never break. It is sturdy, yet flexible.

As Joel preached on Genesis 3, I turned my fidget into a snake, a straight snake, a squiggly snake. As I continued to fidget, at one point I realized what I was holding in my hand looked a bit like a church building. I imagined this miniature church was full of people, which wasn't hard to do considering how full our pews were on that particular Sunday.

The idea to hand out these fidget toys sprouted from our Session Elder Retreat that was held on February 18th at Anchorage Presbyterian Church. There, the Session decided to move forward with a re-structuring of our Ministry Teams that your Session and Staff believe will help re-energize all of us in 2023. You will be receiving more details about the new structure over the next few months, we want to ensure that everyone is in loop and that everyone is given the opportunity to join, engage, and participate.

In the meantime, I'd like to invite you to try something a little different. I'd like you to pray with your fidget. We have more, if you weren't able to get one yet.

Begin with your fidget in a square, and start by asking God to make you aware of the artificial boxes that you have created in your life. Ask to be made aware of the box you have put God in, the boxes you put others and maybe even yourself in, the box you have tried to stuff church into.

Then, begin to maneuver the fidget and as you do be aware of how it feels in your hands. Are you tense? Are you relaxed? How are you breathing, slow deep breaths or short and shallow ones?

Next, consider some of the following questions:

How are you being flexible with yourself, others, and church?

How might you need to reframe your thinking about the role and function of church?

Or what it means to be and do church?

Do you imagine Jesus to be flexible or rigid?

Close with this prayer or one of your own:

God of many forms, I offer this time of prayer to you. Help me to be open to your Spirit and the many ways it blows. Give me a spirit that is willing to be flexible and fearless. In Jesus name, who teaches me how to live my faith, Amen.

Blessings to you on this Journey,

Ashia



SEEKING: Honest Questions for a Deeper Faith

Sundays and Holy Week of Lent, 2023

We are engaging Lent in a comprehensive and immersive way this year, using *A Sanctified Art* to lead us. *A Sanctified Art* is a team of artists in ministry who create multimedia resources for worshipping communities of all shapes and sizes. Working collaboratively, they seek to bring scripture and theology to life through visual art, poetry, liturgy, curriculum, worship installation art, coloring pages, graphic design, and more. Our time in worship and your time in daily reflection will be full of questions. Some questions may feel restorative; some may feel like a charge or a challenge; some may be hopeful and curious, others less so. They may or may not lead to answers, but they will be asked to help us find clarity and a new way of seeing our world, and God's intention for it. Here are the questions and scripture for Sunday mornings:

March 5:	How do we begin again? <i>Genesis 12:1-4a</i>
March 12:	Will you give me a drink? <i>Exodus 17:1-7</i>
March 19:	Who sinned? <i>Jn 9:1-41</i>
March 26:	Can these bones live? <i>Ezekiel 37:1-14</i>
Palm Sunday:	Where are you headed? <i>Mt 21:1-11</i>
Maundy Thursday	Will you wash my feet? <i>Jn 13:1-17</i>
GoodFriday:	Why have you forsaken me? <i>Mt. 27:27-50</i>
Easter:	Who are you looking for? <i>Jn 20:1-18</i>

Just us in the Family Life Center's 2nd floor Library from 9:00 – 10:00am to explore in our Christian Formation class **and** come to Worship from 10:30 – 11:30am to seek, find, and be found.



Children's Chapel

CHAPEL SERVICES WITH OUR CDC

All are welcome!! Drop in for the prayers, music, meditations, and love that are a part of the regular school-life of our boys and girls.

We'd love to see you there!

Chapel for March:

Tuesday, March 7th at 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 21st at 10:00 a.m.

Community Meal

Wednesday, March 8th

5:30-7:00pm

Family Life Center

Join Seminary Intern Patrick Long as he shares with us about his time in the Holy Land. From Herod's city by the sea, to Galilee, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem come and hear about places he found spiritually fulfilling and places that left him



feeling diminished by the commercialization of the holy and dysfunction of the Church. Patrick will share what he gained from this experience through theological insight and a closer relationship with the holy.

Meal 5:30p

Presentation 6:00p

PVPC RECEIVES \$50,000 PRESBYTERY GRANT

Our congregation is the first in Mid-Kentucky Presbytery to receive a ***Demonstration Project Grant*** from the *Meadowview Legacy Fund*. This grant is awarded for “projects or programs designed to generate long lasting growth in membership and/or participation that may be replicated in other churches with a higher level of confidence of success.” Our project is ***Congregational Vitality through Community Engagement*** and the application was received by the Finance Team and Coordinating Committee of the Presbytery as the “perfect example” of the kind of project intended for the *Legacy Fund*.

The grant is tied to the initiatives already underway with our new office of *Family Ministry and Community Engagement* and our Director, Ashia Stoess. The three-year proposal that Session approved last Spring and the goals that Ashia has set for herself and for all of us will match the allocation of these funds. We have received \$15,000 to date. Another \$15,000 will be distributed when “year two” begins on July 1st. And the balance of \$20,000 may be distributed anytime in the second and third year of our engagement as monies are accounted for and progress is measured.

We are very proud of the incredible exciting and innovative ministry that is being done and recognized here at PVPC, and the exciting future that is unfolding every month in our midst!

PASTOR WEIBLE OUT THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 18-19

Pastor Weible will be out-of-the-office from Thursday, March 16 – Monday, March 20 in order to be with his family for his mother’s Memorial Service at the Uplands Retirement Community in Pleasant Hill, TN. Sharon Weible (83) died on January 6th this year and her service will be the first time that her sons and husband have been together since her death. We are holding the Weible family we know and the extended family close in our prayers and will be with them in Spirit.

I'd like to say thank you to, not only members of the church, but the Congregational Care Committee who have sent me cards and flowers from time to time. It really means a lot to me that I have not been forgotten these past couple of years! I am still having dialysis three times a week, but I'm hanging in there!

Thanks so much!

Lee Goss

2023 ANNUAL ELDER RETREAT REPORT

On Saturday morning, February 18th, your Elders gathered together for our Annual Elder Retreat at Anchorage Presbyterian Church.

In 2021, for the first time ever, we reconfigured our Session from 9 adult Elders and 1 Youth, to 6 Adult Elders and 1 Youth Elder. Recognizing our lower membership numbers – on the books AND in the pews, the way Covid had reduced our member participation and ministry implementation, and that youth and children were no longer at “critical mass” we “re-structured” our Session. Some Ministry Team changes were made to accommodate lower number of Elders at that time.

In 2022, at our Elder Retreat one year ago, we began a conversation about Congregational Vitality in earnest using the PCUSA Mission Agency’s materials, understanding that “church vitality” in the 21st century must be measured not simply by what we *take in* (members and money), but by what we *take out* (engagement in the wider community – CDC, PV, South Oldham County). In the late winter and early spring months, we put together a three year proposal for identifying, engaging, and developing *Christian Community* in our identified civic community (communities). This proposal included a new full-time staff position and took a huge step in July by hiring Ashia to that full-time position: ***The Director of Family Ministry and Community Engagement***.

This year’s retreat built on the past two years as we engaged ways of *Re-structuring and Re-energizing* our membership and Ministry Teams to meet the current needs and desires of our beloved community – PVPC. We will be meeting with all of our Ministry Teams and at our Session meeting this month in the hopes that we may “roll out” some new and exciting ways to step into all that is ahead of us. .

As always, pull an Elder aside and thank them for the extra time and discernment they give to all of us in their service on Session. *And*, pull Ashia aside and thank her for the passion and innovation she has and she shares! We have been blessed with incredible leadership and imagination – two crucial needs for a vibrant and vital community.

Annual Report

On February 26th, the Annual Report from 2022 was presented at the Congregational Meeting.

To access that report, click the link below to be re-directed to its location on our website.

[Annual Report | Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church](#)

As always, any questions or suggestions can be sent to the church office or speak to an Elder.

MARCH

March Birthdays

02 Gary Torrens
07 Billy Meade
08 Vivien Reinhardt
09 Thom Guilford
10 Sue Hohman
10 Jay Willetts
12 Carol Warren
15 Regan Moore
19 Peggy Wood
20 Regina Bates
24 Julia Age
25 Gabe Weible
28 Hailey Age
28 Jordan Bates
28 Lily Gardiner
30 Alex Pappas
31 Bill Chaudoin
31 Julia Hood

Wedding Anniversaries

March 14 Zack and Carole Logan
March 17 Rod and Carol Culver
March 17 Larry and Sandy McCarson
March 17 Jay and Karen Poole

Coffee Station

March 5 Rebecca Byford
March 12 Karen Wood
March 19 Lynn Stoess
March 26 Connie Vice

Ushers

March 5 Larry & Connie Vice, Ron & Carol Warren
March 12 LaMont Coverstone & Thom Guilford
March 19 Jill MacNiven & Gary Torrens
March 26 Mary Sue Armour & Linda Heleringer

Worship Attendance

February 05 — 45
February 12 — 52
February 19 — 57
February 26 — 58



Members:

Mary Boone	Patty Clark
Ann Finney	Lee Goss
Ralph & Judy Hall	Jim Stoess
Jim Trimpe	
Roy & Wilma Wayne	Alan White

Family and Friends:

Family of Bob Bruns (Karen Wood)	Alan Shelton (Tommy & Mary Sue Armour)
Robert Smith & his daughters– Samantha, Robyn (Regina Bates)	
Amy Carey & her family– Joel, Madelyn, Maria	
Tim Age (Marlo Age)	Patsy Scott (Lynn Wilkinson)
Penny Roggenstein (Julia Hood)	Carol Anne Wilson (Margaret Hill)
Stan Penn (Karen Wood)	Linda Solmon (Carol Culver)
David Goodman (D.D. Hendrickson)	Larry Beaverson (Jerry & Jan Beaverson)
Sue Keller (D.D. Hendrickson)	Joshua Roh (Gary & Arlene Torrens)
Robbie Mueller (D.D. Hendrickson)	Bill Vance (Karen Wood)
Ursula Brooks (Barbara Staats)	Debbie Chadwick (Virginia Baumann)
Flo Campbell (Clare Grant)	Mark Shircliff (Virginia Baumann)
Aunt Geneva (Larry Vice)	Tommy Boone (Mary Boone)
Linda Hyatt (Shirley Hawkes)	Alice Walser Booker (Joan Walser-White)
Michelle Hendrickson (D.D. Hendrickson)	Rev. James Byford (Rebecca Byford)

To add or remove a name, complete a Prayer Request Card

or email us at: office@pvpres.org

Pewee Valley Presbyterian Church

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Pewee Valley, KY 40056



PeweeValleyPresbyterian.org

Address Service Requested

Big News from the Little Valley!



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Friday

8:30a – 1:30p

(502) 241-4326

office@pvpres.org

