

# Presbytery Prayer Partners

## April 2023

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other throughout the year. Over a two-year period, a week will be designated for each of our churches and other organizations. Items listed below have been sent to us from the churches and organizations on our prayer list for the weeks shown. Sharing prayers with each other works!

### **Week of April 2<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **Graham Presbyterian Church, North Vernon**

Graham Presbyterian Church was founded in 1817 by pioneer families from the Carolinas, the Virginias, Tennessee, and Kentucky. They decided they needed a place to worship and built a log cabin very near the spot the church now occupies on the banks of Graham Creek in Jennings County.

In 1851, a new white frame church was built for the sum of \$784.67. This church had two doors, one for men and one for women. Sadly, the church burned to the ground on 19 August 1935, the night before the annual homecoming. Construction on the church began almost immediately and on 25 September 1938, the congregation dedicated the church we worship in today. Membership and attendance have fluctuated over the years and our current attendance averages around 24 congregants. Reverend Michael Bean, our pastor for 24 years retired in December 2022 and as we search for a new pastor, the worship service is led by elders of the church, local speakers, and members of the Presbytery.

We are a giving church. We actively support the Wayside Inn which is the Jennings County Homeless Shelter. We also support The Muscatatuck Christian Ranch which offers camping opportunities in a Christian environment for underprivileged children who otherwise could not afford going to camp. We donate generously to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, the Jennings County Coordinating Council which provides holiday meals and gifts for local needy families, One Great Hour of Sharing, and to communities across the country who are impacted by natural disasters.

Finally, we are part of the Rural Community Fellowship, a group of eight neighboring churches who gather once monthly at each other's church for shared worship and a goodwill offering to a local cause. Our church family realizes we are blessed, and we will continue every day to do His will.

### **Week of April 9<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Easter Sunday -- Your own congregation**

Living God, through Jesus Christ  
you emptied the power of death  
and gave us the gift of life in fullness.

Now dry our tears and send us out  
to tell the good news of the gospel:  
Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

*John 20:1-18*

## **Week of April 16<sup>th</sup>**

### **First Presbyterian Church, Paoli**

**Rev. Robert Turner**

The First Presbyterian Church of Paoli was founded in 1825 and survived a couple of location moves as well as a devastating fire Christmas week of 2000. Now, nearly a quarter century later, it is still an active participant in the life of Orange County.

With a motto of "A family-sized congregation with a community-wide vision," the 40+ members of the church--along with some additional loyal worshippers--contribute to all four of our PCUSA special offerings through the year. We have also chosen four local benevolent needs and support them as well.

After the fire, the members decided to construct a building that could serve the needs of the entire community. That meant a very flexible meeting hall. With great acoustics and an open floor design, the sanctuary now hosts (four times a year) a "Home Town Live" radio show ala Prairie Home Companion style, the annual Madrigals, and is the venue home for the Orange County Players organization.

Two other happenings made the First (and only) Presbyterian Church of Paoli unique. We have breakfast each and every Sunday morning. Off to that good start, the pulpit is occupied nearly every other Lord's Day by one of our own members. Nearly every adult and teenager has brought a well-thought-out message very often following the lectionary readings of the day. We also have occasional Public Pulpit speakers. These are invited community members who are asked to speak about how their faith impacts their work and how their work impacts their faith.

Our pastor is the Reverend Mr. Bob Turner, an honorably retired member of our presbytery. His primary communications with the congregation, besides preaching every other week, are his "Thursday Thoughts" which now number close to 300 Thursdays.

## **Week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

### **Patoka Presbyterian Church, Patoka**

**Rev. William Morris**

Patoka Presbyterian Church was founded in 1871 and located in Gibson County, Indiana. Worship is held Sundays at 10:30 a.m. Pastor William Morris is also streaming our services on Facebook at "Presbyterian Church in Patoka."

We ask for your prayers as we continue to be an instrument for God's mission in this community.

## **Week of April 30<sup>th</sup>**

### **Union Bethel Presbyterian Church, Patoka**

Union Bethel is a small rural church in Gibson County, Indiana, founded in 1884. We meet every Sunday from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.