

Presbytery Prayer Partners

May 2024

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 May 5th

Fairlawn Presbyterian, Columbus

Rev. Elizabeth Kirkpatrick

Fairlawn Presbyterian Church – serving Christ with open hearts, open minds, and open arms. We are a small congregation located in the NE section of Columbus, Indiana. We gather for worship at 9:30 am, followed by a time of fellowship and a second hour Christian nurture opportunity. We offer Little Lights, Children’s Church, and youth group on Sundays. Our church is home to Fairlawn Preschool. We partner with our preschool to have Milk and Cookie Story Hour, Music Fest, Art Show, and Popsicle Playground? We also partner with a local elementary school to provide volunteers, Book Buddies readers, and back-to-school supply kits for teachers. We ask you to join us in prayer as we continue to reach out into our community and follow where the Spirit leads. Thank you.

Week of May 12th

First Presbyterian, Columbus

Rev. Felipe Martínez

First Presbyterian Church of Columbus is celebrating its bicentennial in 2024. We are creating an update to our history book, last published at the 175th anniversary. We will have worship and fellowship special events (including a community-wide celebration at Donner Park on September 15 at 2:00 pm), and have created a 20-minute documentary / oral history video by a high school student who is part of the church as her senior project.

The biggest part of the celebration is the FPC Bicentennial Legacy Endowment Fund, which will help members of the community with micro-grants to support their self-sufficiency efforts. This will be a partnership with the Heritage Fund of Bartholomew County (the community foundation where the endowment will reside) and Lincoln Central Neighborhood Family Center (the service agency in the church’s neighborhood which will disburse the yearly endowment allocation).

Church members are well on their way to raise \$100,000, which will be matched by our church Foundation dollar-for-dollar up to \$100,000, and we have also received a match by the Lilly Endowment for an additional \$100,000. The church continues its Matthew 25 work focused on Eradicating Systemic Poverty, specifically advocating for Permanent Supportive Housing in Columbus. We are making progress in collaborating with local partners to catalyze this community-wide effort, which seeks to address needed coverage to a gap in the affordable housing continuum.

Week of May 19th

Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center

Rev. Molly DeWitt, Program Director

Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center is located in Brownstown, Indiana, adjacent to the Jackson-Washington State Forest. We have been serving the Presbyterian Church as an outdoor ministry partner since 1952. Our mission is to be a place where all are welcome in God's love to explore, grow, rest, and play. Today we serve not only the Presbyterian Church (USA), but numerous churches, non-profit organizations, and groups across Indiana.

Our hospitality focuses on hosting retreat groups throughout the year, as well as offering programming for youth and adults year-round. Our youth programming is primarily offered through our summer camp programs where we serve hundreds of campers each summer. Additionally, we offer our Fall Youth Retreat in November and our Confirmation Retreat each March. We ask our presbytery partners to pray for all of our campers and summer staff who will be journeying to Pyoca this summer for our 72nd year of camp.

Week of May 26th

Corydon Presbyterian, Corydon

Rev. Cindy Cushman

Corydon Presbyterian Church, founded in 1819, and located in Corydon, Indiana seeks to be a place where everyone can meet God, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey. Although our membership is small, we seek to make a difference in our community in a variety of ways. We partner with Harrison County Community Services to host a free community meal every Monday evening, that is prepared by volunteers from different local churches each week. We serve between 220 and 250 free meals each Monday.

As a More Light congregation, Corydon Presbyterian Church is the only openly affirming congregation in Harrison County. Recently, we have been leaning into that identity in various ways, including being a sponsor for the annual Corydon Pride Festival and helping to start up a new local PFLAG chapter. We also played an active role, including hosting, in bringing back a community-wide MLK Day celebration in 2024 and have members on the planning team for next year's celebration as well. We appreciate the presbytery's prayers as we continue to serve our community in Christ's name.