

Presbytery Prayer Partners

April 2025

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 6th

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 but we are experiencing new growth. We added six new members in 2024 and were blessed with six baptisms, several by immersion in Graham Creek. Our current attendance averages around 30 congregants. Our pastor for 24 years retired in December 2022 and our search for a new pastor ran into obstacle after obstacle. However, with the help of our Executive Presbyter, the Stated Clerk, and our moderator, Reverend Tim Jessen, we have enlisted the support of our elders and members of our community to deliver God's word. In addition to our leadership in the Presbytery, past speakers include doctors, state troopers, the county sheriff, funeral home directors, teachers, assistant pastors from other churches, and firefighters who share their message of God's love. This type of worship service has proven successful and rewarding. We even held a three-day revival in February which received enthusiastic support and will become an annual event.

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 13th

First Presbyterian Church, Paoli

Rev. Robert Turner

The First (and only) Presbyterian Church of Paoli is planning its 200th anniversary celebration. Founded on September 10, 1825, the congregation overcame a disastrous fire Christmas week of 2000 just as it did after the September 1907 fire. Both times we rebuilt to bring a Reformed ministry to Orange County. We view ourselves as a family sized congregation with a community-wide vision. Our inclusive ministry encourages people who consider leaving The Church to try us before they do.

Week of April 20th

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 27th

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. Our mission: To reach those outside the doors of the church. To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost. To make known the grace He offers them through salvation in His name. To equip the saints for the working of the ministry of Jesus Christ.

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