

# Unity Presbyterian Church

## Yoke Newsletter ~ JUNE 2018

### **Church Calendar:**

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/page/calendar>

### **Prayer Concerns:**

<http://unitypresbyterian.net/prayer.php>

## **General Assembly**

**Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

**Do you know how many Presbyterians it takes to run the church? Just like other civil institutions, our church is governed by a certain set of rules written out in our denomination's constitution; The Book of Order. So who writes these rules? Presbyterians. We have a representational form of government made up of local church Sessions which are elected by the congregation for church oversight. Clergy and elders of the churches in a geographical area form Presbyteries. Presbyteries in a region form Synods and all of the Synods form the General Assembly.**

**Unity Presbyterian has nine elders elected by the congregation and they have the responsibility for leadership of the local church. Unity sends one elder along with the pastor to represent Unity at the Presbytery of the Ohio Valley. Each of the churches in our geographical area also send an elder and a pastor to serve as commissioners to the Presbytery. The commissioners deal with immediate concerns of our local congregations with a focus on leading the churches in mission and ministries, coordinating church efforts, and providing resources for the local churches among other functions. Presbyteries work through committees that are comprised of elders and pastors seeking equal numbers between elders and clergy.**

**When elders and/or pastors see a need for a change to the PCUSA's Book of Order or our denomination's practices, an Overture can be written and with the support of the Presbytery it can be presented to the General Assembly. If it is approved by the Assembly it is then sent to all the presbyteries to be voted on and if approved the changes are made effective. In this way the Presbyteries reflect the principle of representative government that is the main feature of our church government.**

**The General Assembly is the highest governing body of our Presbyterian churches. Every two years an equal number of elders and minister commissioners are elected by the Presbyteries to review, debate and vote on the many overtures sent by Presbyteries. The General Assembly speaks for the**

whole denomination and works to establish the priorities and directions for the PCUSA's ministries in Christ, provide program functions for carrying out the PCUSA's mission, and provide services for the whole denomination. A moderator is elected from among the commissioners to lead the meeting of the Assembly and represent the church until the Assembly elects a new moderator when it meets again in two years. All the commissioners of the Assembly have an equal vote and are charged to be guided by the Spirit in governing our national church.

How many Presbyterians does it take to run the church? A lot. This year the General Assembly is meeting in St. Louis, Missouri from June 16th through June 23rd. I encourage you to visit and see our denomination working to further our efforts to faithfully serve God and follow Jesus. There are many resources available there about ministries for Children's Ministry, Earth Care, Refugees, Hunger Programs, Diversity & Inclusion, National & International Mission, and many other ways to grow our efforts as a part of the denomination seeking to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

On June 18th and 19th I will be at the Assembly sharing the vast work of the church with my family. Dawn and I invite you to join us on one of those days and see for yourself the wonder that is the work of the General Assembly. We can answer any questions you have about how the denomination functions, introduce you to people who can guide our church in a mission you are passionate about whether our church is already participating in it or not, and celebrate with you that God is working in our midst's. If you are unable to visit in person you will be able to stream the Assembly Plenary sessions online at <https://ga-pcusa.org>. I hope you will prayerfully consider witnessing online or taking a day trip to St. Louis for this wonderful opportunity to learn about the national church and how it functions.

May the Peace of Christ be with you,  
Rev. Andrew Black

### **Worship Schedule**

**June 3rd — 2nd Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Sermon: "Living as Children of God" VBS Youth with Pastor Andrew**  
**Inspired by 1 John 3:1-7 & Colossians 3:12-17**  
**Celebration of the Lord's Supper**

**June 10th — 3rd Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Guest Preacher Rev. Alan Finnan**

**June 17th — 4th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Guest Speaker Dr. Roland Kohr**  
**Father's Day**

**June 18th & 19th 223rd General Assembly With Pastor Andrew  
Contact Pastor Andrew directly about arranging  
a meeting time and place if you wish  
to join him in St. Louis**

**June 24th — 5th Sunday after Pentecost  
Sermon: "By Faith" By Rev. Andrew Black  
Inspired by 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 & Mark 4:35-41**

**Where is Pastor Andrew?**

**June 4th - June 17th Pastor Andrew will be on vacation with his family in  
Florida.**

**June 18th & 19th Pastor Andrew will be attending the General Assembly of the  
PCUSA in St. Louis, MO.**

### **Growth Giving Challenge for the Potts Food Pantry**

**Each week I am amazed at the generosity and passion our community has supporting the Food Pantry. Our children are learning a valuable lesson of caring for one another each week, and we are stocking the shelves with our collection. What a blessing! Remember, by just adding a few more items to your weekly shopping list and dropping them off on Sunday morning we can greatly increase the efforts to feed those of our community in need. Keep watching the weekly bulletin insert for suggestions on the items the Food Pantry needs most.**

**The Food Pantry currently serves 12 families and there is an ever increasing need in our community. The pantry not only needs donations, it needs YOU. There is a great deal of time and effort that goes into operating the food pantry each month. There is food to purchase, stock, pack, and distribute. Our current dedicated group of volunteers is amazing, but they need YOUR help. I hope each of us can spend some time discerning how they might be called to help support the Food Pantry with our time and talents. Please let Pastor Andrew, Dawn Chapman or Jan Buffington know if you are interested in doing more to help us continue to answer Christ's call to care for and love our neighbors. ~ Pastor Andrew**

**Unity's garden plots have been tilled and are ready to plant. Please contact Dawn Chapman (812-917-5341.) She and Vern will be happy to get you started.**

**MATT BLACK ( Pastor Andrew's Cousin)  
IS WALKING TO GA FOR CLIMATE  
JUSTICE!**



**A better world is possible. It comes when small groups of people take action. Small churches. Small denominations. In June, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has the opportunity to do something big.**

**So I'm joining a small group of people who are walking hundreds of miles from Louisville to St. Louis.**

**There are lots of ways for you to join us on this journey. We'll be live streaming much of the worship and teaching each evening, as we visit churches along the way. And please consider supporting this event financially. This especially helps support participants from communities already affected by climate change.**

**ABOUT PCUSA WALK FOR A FOSSIL FREE WORLD**

**It's time for the denomination to put its money where its faith is. The PC(USA) must join the divestment movement that has already taken trillions of dollars out of the fossil fuel industry. By doing so, the denomination will no longer profit from an industry that has contributed to climate change. Hurricanes in Puerto Rico, drought in California, rising sea levels along the global coasts — natural disasters exacerbated by climate change which affect Presbyterians and all creation.**

**Our faith calls us to love God, creation, and neighbor with our whole selves, and June 1-16, 2018 we will love creation with each step we take. The PCUSA Walk for a Fossil Free World will take us from Louisville, Kentucky (the headquarters of the Presbyterian Church [USA]) to St. Louis, Missouri, in time for the PC(USA)'s 223rd General Assembly. Our goals are to:**

- 1. Call upon the PC(USA) 223rd General Assembly to divest from fossil fuels**
- 2. Center the voices and experiences of people already affected by climate change**
- 3. Reduce our own carbon footprint as we travel to GA**

**You're invited to join! More details about the Walk can be found at [PCUSAwalk.org](http://PCUSAwalk.org)**

**If you'd like to support me, we still need money to cover the costs of the action and the advocacy efforts at General Assembly. My Donation page is here: <https://ppf.z2systems.com/np/clients/ppf/campaign.jsp?campaign=139&fundraiser=29660>**

**Thanks, y'all! -Matt**

**FISH FRY ~ JUNE 16 ~ 4:00 – 7:00 pm**

**CAN YOU HELP? These Items are Needed: Corn-on-the-Cob, Tartar sauce (1 gallon), Bread 20 loaves, (10 white and 10 whole wheat), Lemonade (10 Large packages), Plastic cups (4oz. 750), Plastic lids (4 oz. 750), Carry-out containers, Dessert containers and Napkins.**

### **PENTECOST OFFERING**

**This year, Unity has been very generous to the Pentecost Offering. We collected \$798.99, of that, 40% (\$319.20) will go to Big Brothers, Big Sisters.**

#### **Unity Presbyterian 2018 Graduates.**

**Emily Cruz began attending church with her grandparents, Bill and Judy Brett, at Washington Avenue Presbyterian Church, where she had the reputation of running up the aisle to sit on her Nonna's lap in the choir loft. Emily looks forward to seeing her Unity family on visits to Terre Haute from Arlington Heights, IL and has enjoyed helping out at the food pantry, assisting her Grampa with service projects and designing the recycling banner in the social hall. Emily will be graduating from Rolling Meadows High School, where her art and design can be seen throughout, on May 27th. In the fall, she will be heading north to attend the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and plans to focus on illustration and digital art. For Emily, the opportunity to hone her talents and pursue a career in the arts is a dream come true and the unwavering support from her grandparents has been a guiding light.**

**Alyssa Kalen –Indiana State University**

**I earned my Bachelor's in Psychology (B.S.). I plan to attend Ball State University for graduate school to earn my Master's in Applied Behavior Analysis with a focus in Autism so I can earn my BCBA (Board Certified Behavior Analyst). I should have my Master's by summer 2019.**

**Clayton Maxwell -- Terre Haute South High School**

**Cody Kistler – Terre Haute South High School**

**Hanna Minglin—Ball State University**

**Hanna received her BS Degree from Ball State University and doubled majored in Elementary Education and Special Education. She plans on teaching in Indiana probably in the Indianapolis or Evansville area.**

**Journey Warner -- Terre Haute South High School**

**Journey earned two scholarships to Purdue where he will pursue a degree in Environmental Engineering. In high school, Journey competed in three varsity**

sports: Soccer, Cross Country, and Golf and he is also an AP (Advance Placement) scholar with distinction.

**Lauren White – Indiana State University**  
Graduated from Indiana State University's College of Arts and Sciences with a degree in Psychology.

**Samantha Steward – West Vigo High school**  
At Terre Haute South, Samantha lettered in choir. She was at South 2014-2016. She now attends West Vigo high school and has lettered in Girls Basketball and football as a manager. Samantha has also lettered in academics (2016-2018). She is now a member of the Girls Varsity track team as shot put thrower, and discus. She plans to attend Indiana State University and will major in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

**2018 Teachers Honored Sunday, May 20, Dawn Chapman, Bess Enright Kathy Modesitt, Luann Modesitt, Candi Hamilton, Dr. Roland Kohr, Coleen Gilbert and Amie Ellison**

### **Morning Glories**

**It's summer so we meet for lunch in June and July. In June we are having lunch at Bob Evans. We will meet Tuesday, June 12, at 11:00 am (note the change in time). If you're not busy, come and join us!!**

### **VIEW FROM THE INSIDE BY CAMILLE CHURCH MOUSE**



Apparently I missed spring!! First it was snow and cold, and then it was record heat!! It is good to go outside without sweaters, coats, gloves, boots and all the other cold weather gear.

Bible School is coming with lots of activities planned. The garden is ready to be planted thanks to Dawn and Vern. Pastor Andrew and Bess continue to heal and are back to their usual selves. We thank God for his healing hand.

The Fish Fry is coming and I can almost smell the good food!!

Take time to go outside and enjoy the church property. Read your bulletin and newsletter and join us for worship and fellowship.

God's blessings and joy to everyone. Peace and love!!

### **UNITY WILL NO LONGER SAVE CAPS FOR BENCHES**

We now have stopped saving caps for benches because we have 5 lovely heavy duty ones for sitting and enjoying our wonderful holy ground and special gatherings at Unity. There are still schools collecting them so check with Kathy Modesitt about where they can be dropped off if you can't stop saving them. It is hard to break even good recycling habits.

## **Green Corner**

I hope everyone is enjoying the sunshine and warm weather. God has given us the gift of a beautiful world to enjoy and protect. As you work outside this summer please remember that some of the chemicals we use to fend off bugs and critters in our yards can damage the earth. There are chemical free alternatives so please read those labels and consider non-chemical treatments! The Lawn Guru at <https://www.planetnatural.com/organic-lawn-care-101/maintenance/> has ideas that will help you to manage your yard with natural alternatives. Here are some of the tips from the site on regular maintenance. Enjoy summer and enjoy your yard.

## **Mow High, Mow Often**

People figure that the shorter they cut their grass, the longer it will be before they need to do it again. Well, yeah; but your grass will be a lot less healthy, and the actual mowing will be a lot more work.

Mowing is actually hard on grass. Every time you do it, you're cutting off any seed-heads that might be forming, so you're preventing the grass from reproducing. You're also chopping back the plant's photosynthesis laboratory, its leaves. Grass blades, like all leaves, convert sunshine into sugars which then get converted into starches and stored in the roots. Cut the grass short, and you drastically reduce its ability to perform photosynthesis. That weakens the grass, roots and all, making it more vulnerable to weeds, pests, and diseases.

Tall grass is healthier in itself, and it gives weeds less purchase. Short grass allows weeds plenty of space to soak up sun. They'll grow like – well – weeds. Keep the grass long and tall and it will curb weeds, simply by shading them out.

Weeds such as dandelions tend to spread out horizontally, which means that they are less damaged than grass by mowing. A mower can slide right over a mature dandelion — but only if it's in thin or very short grass. Thick, long grass will not allow a dandelion's leaves to lie down horizontally, but will force them upright. Now when you mow, the mower will damage the dandelions as well as the grass. It won't kill them — but at least it gives them a set-back.

If cutting grass long is good, then it might seem that letting it grow super-long between cuttings must be even better. Not so. Longer grass is harder to cut cleanly, so it tends to get more damaged when you finally do mow. Each bruised or mangled blade is a potential site for the entry of a pathogen. Furthermore, the greater the percentage of a grass blade that you remove, the greater the shock to its system. When you cut a six-inch blade of grass back to three inches, you've cut in half its ability to photosynthesize sugars. That's bound to be a blow.

Mowing very long grass creates other problems as well. For one thing, it doesn't work as well, as anyone who's tried it knows. Long grass sometimes just lies down in clumps before a mower, refusing to be cut. It's also far more work. Removing one-third of the grass blade is far easier than lopping off three inches.

Finally, the clippings from a delayed cutting can be so long that they will not slip easily between grass blades, but instead will lie about on the surface of the grass in clumps. These clumps of yellowing grass tend to be the sort of thing frowned on by the neighbors. Even worse, they can damage the lawn, shading it so heavily that it turns yellow as well.

All of this (I hope) serves to explain why mowing high but often will be best for your grass and probably easier for you as well. If you don't get it by now, do NOT pass Go, and definitely do not collect two hundred dollars.

## Cultivate Clippings & Fallen Leaves

Lawn clippings are an enemy of landfill, where they take up more than their fair share of space, but they are your lawn's best friend. When you mow, leave them be.

"Recycling" your grass clippings, a.k.a. grasscycling, gives your lawn needed organic matter and nutrients, and saves you time. (According to most experts, mowing and raking are the most time-consuming and expensive aspects of yard maintenance.) Grass clippings can reduce the need for watering, reduce or eliminate the need for fertilizing, and help prevent common turf diseases.

People often worry that they'll get clumps of dead, cut grass that will impede the growth of their lawns. Provided you don't mow your grass too short (or wait too long between mowing), this won't happen (see Don't Bag It). Mowing when the grass is dry also helps ensure that the clippings will scatter evenly rather than clumping. As long as your thatch layer isn't too deep, the clippings should just disappear within a day or so of mowing, sifting down between the grass blades to decompose gradually and invisibly.

The smaller the clippings, the more quickly this decomposition occurs. A mulching mower aids the decomposition process by chopping up mowed material into tiny fragments. With a mulching mower, leaf-raking can become a thing of the past, as long as the layer of leaves isn't too thick. Just mow over them and let them decompose alongside your grass clippings.

If the leaves or clippings are too heavy or wet to be mowed, they do need to be raked up. When they're left whole, they decompose so slowly that the grass will die underneath them while they're at it. But all is not lost; stored in an out-of-the-way corner, they'll make excellent mulch and compost in later years.

## Watering

### Less is More

It sounds crazy, but the best way to promote a luscious lawn is to water infrequently. Improper watering means that much of the water applied to lawns across North America never gets absorbed by the grass. Instead, it runs off or runs through because it's applied too rapidly, too often, or both.

Water runoff not only wastes a resource, but it can also carry away fertilizers and pesticides, which then pollute streams and lakes. According to the EPA, the primary pollutants in Chesapeake Bay and other East coast estuaries are nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers. So being lazy – AKA watering infrequently – can protect the environment, your grass, and your pocketbook.

However, it is important to water deeply and slowly when you do water. Slow watering gives the soil a chance to absorb the moisture, and damp soil, like a damp sponge, absorbs more moisture than dry soil. Deep watering (at least six inches deep) trains your grass roots to go deep, thus making your lawn more resistant to drought. Conversely, frequent but short waterings will encourage the roots to grow close to the surface, which means your lawn will be hurting during any dry spell.

If those aren't enough reasons for mending your wicked watering ways, consider this last problem caused by shallow, frequent watering: it encourages thatch.

## When to Water

Don't wait until the grass actually turns brown. Instead, watch for it to curl, or for it to hold the shape of your footprints as you walk across it. Both of these signs indicate that the grass needs water, well before it is actually stressed. You want it to be thirsty, not dehydrated.

It's best to water first thing in the morning. Watering in the evening often leaves the grass itself wet overnight, conditions that may promote mildew and the fungi that cause most turfgrass diseases. Watering in the heat of the day leads to excessive evaporation in drier regions — which is not only wasteful, it's inefficient, since some of the water you intended for your grass is instead humidifying the atmosphere.

If you can't water early in the morning, your best option differs depending on where you live. To be precise, it depends on whether you live in a dew-prone area or not. If you live in a drier area where there's not much dew, try to time your watering for that window in the late afternoon when the worst of the day's heat is over but enough warmth remains so that the grass stems will dry before nightfall.

If you live in a more humid climate where dew is heavy, then one school of experts says you should actually wait until after dew has fallen to water in the evening. According to Gil Landry, Jr., of the University of Georgia's Cooperative Extension Service, research shows water losses at night from irrigation are 50 percent less than from midday irrigation. Studies also indicate that irrigating after dew develops on a turf will not increase disease problems. However, irrigating prior to dew formation or after the dew has dried from the morning sun and/or wind extends the period of free surface moisture and may enhance disease development.

In other words, if you live in a Dewey area, water at night when the grass would be wet anyway. If you live in a dew-free area, water in the late afternoon so the grass has a chance to dry before nightfall.

If your soil is very dry or very hard, water a bit, wait an hour, then water deeply. This gives your soil a chance to soak up the moisture and become more absorbent. It may seem downright perverse to water the same day it rains, but piggybacking on a light natural rainfall has the same effect as the second, deep watering after an initial sprinkling.

Different soil types require different watering schedules. For example sandy soils, which don't retain moisture well, require more frequent but less thorough watering, while clay soils should be watered less often. The age of your lawn also plays a role. A new lawn, with its young, shallow roots, needs more frequent watering than an older, established one. In general, you'll need to water more for the first three years after planting or landscaping. Then you can taper gradually until you reach the level that makes sense for your grass type and region.

## Know your Grass

Different grass types need watering at different intervals. To get an idea of the range, consider that Bermuda grass needs to be watered every fourteen to twenty-one days, St. Augustine every twelve to eighteen, and Zoysia grass every five to seven. That gives you a range of between five and twenty-one days — and that's only looking at a few of the most common southern grasses.

Find out what you've got and how frequently it needs to be watered. Oh yes, and don't forget all that other stuff above about soil type and so on. Once you know the range for your grass, factor in information about your climate, soil type and lawn conditions to determine at which end of that range you fall. For example, if you learn that the grass you have should be watered every eight to twelve days, and you know you have very sandy soil, you know you'll probably be watering about every eight or nine days — seven or eight if your lawn is only two years old.