

# The Messenger

MARCH  
2024



## PASTOR'S PEN: CALENDAR CALCULATIONS



In 2024, Easter falls on March 31. Does that date seem early this year? Well, it is. At least it is earlier than in recent years.

There's something different about the Easter holiday. Christmas is always on December 25, but Easter, like the eponymous bunny, hops around. That has everything to do with the early Christian church. They wanted the celebration to occur around the

Jewish Passover. In the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, the Last Supper was a Passover meal. In John, Jesus is crucified on the same day as the Passover lambs are being slaughtered. The Hebrew calendar is tied to the lunar and solar cycles, so the Passover dates vary, meaning Easter also varies.

The changing date does cause some consternation (especially among church staff), but it is better today than it has been in the past. Back then, there was no standard way of calculating the date for Easter. There were competing calendars, and astronomical data was less precise than today. Slight variations would creep in. It was not uncommon to find different Christian communities celebrating Easter on different dates. In fact, some communities even celebrated the holiday on a weekday. These differences sometimes grew into deep fights.

To promote Christian unity, the Council of Nicaea in AD 325 standardized the date to the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. Still, some wondered if this was less about Christian unity and more about control by the bishop of Rome. Debates in the West about the date of Easter raged well into the Seventh Century. Even today, the Eastern Orthodox Church calculates the date a bit differently. They will be celebrating this year on May 5.

If you are like me, all this talk of calendars and dates is a bit confusing. Celebrating Jesus Christ's resurrection doesn't require waiting for an annual date on the calendar. In fact, Christians celebrate Jesus' victory over death every week. Very early, Christians replaced the Jewish day of worship, the Sabbath, Saturday, with the Lord's Day, Sunday. Rather than waiting for a holy day, Christ redeemed all of time. Easter is a great time to renew our faith, to embrace God's love and Christ's triumph. However, the best time is actually right now.

*Grace and Peace,  
Pastor James*

# NEWS FROM SESSION



## FEBRUARY 2024

This was an informational meeting only since there was no quorum present. The annual records review was successfully completed with no findings. The Deacons and the Worship Committee are discussing Chancel flowers. When Chancel flowers are available, the Deacons share them with those who are ill or homebound, but there may be no flowers if someone hasn't purchased them. If anyone is interested in purchasing Chancel flowers, they can contact the church office. Online ordering is also being considered.

Building and Grounds reported that a laptop computer for the office was ordered and received. The outdoor basketball hoop will be reinstalled when the weather breaks. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with interior painting. The flickering Sanctuary and Chancel lights are being addressed. The Christian Education Committee reported that planning is underway for the middle school mission trip to Toledo and the senior high mission trip to Puerto Rico. Youth group activities are doing well. Plans are underway for the Hosanna Celebration on March 24<sup>th</sup>, which will be a sensory experience. Family workshops are scheduled for March 9<sup>th</sup> (pre-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and March 16<sup>th</sup> (tween).

The Fellowship Committee reported that 74 people attended the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper despite the power outage and fifty-nine people participated in the first Lenten Soup Supper. FPC members are participating in the Belize Mission Trip and the Asian Mission Outreach Conference. The Outreach Committee has started planning for the 2024 National Day of Prayer. The planned speaker will be John Soisson.

The Stewardship Committee reported that the 2024 Per Capita is \$39.10 per active member and that investment performance will be reviewed in March. Mid-Week Lenten devotions are based on *The Jesus Storybook* followed by communion. Preparing for Holy Week worship services and Easter Sunday worship services. The bell choir and Hodge Podge are taking a break and will return in April.

### **Upcoming Events:**

March 2 – Vision Team Retreat  
March 6-17 – Project Noelle  
March 9 – Family Workshop (pre-2<sup>nd</sup> grade)  
March 10 – Daylight Savings Time Begins  
March 16 – Family Workshop (tween)  
March 6-20 – Mid-Week Lenten Soup Suppers/Worship Services  
March 24 – Palm Sunday / Hosanna Celebration  
March 28 – Maundy Thursday Worship Service  
March 29 – Good Friday Worship Service  
March 31 – Easter Sunday

## **NEXT MONTH'S MESSENGER DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2023**

**FYI: To avoid delays in reimbursement from receipts, PLEASE have them turned into the office no later than Sunday, to be reimbursed that same week. Thanks!**

## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

**The Stewardship Committee would like to give thanks to Almighty God for His Overflowing Generosity, and to our congregation for their support! The Almighty has richly blessed us, that we might be a blessing to others!**

**Per Capita for 2024:**

**\$39.10 Per Member**

**231 Members**

**Total Per Capita \$9,032.10**

### **CHURCH FINANCES AS OF JANUARY 31, 2024**

YTD Income   \$ 37,551.07

YTD Expense   \$ 51,498.90

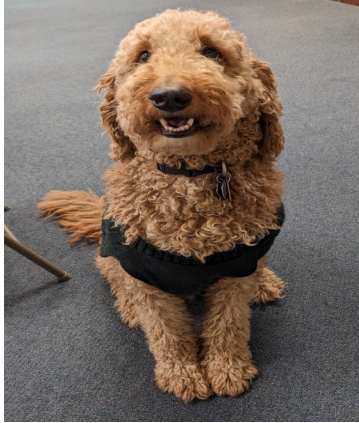
Net Income   \$ (13,947.83)

Questions about the finances of the church? Please contact our treasurer, Pat Babcock at [pbabcock@bex.net](mailto:pbabcock@bex.net)

# ROOTED IN GRACE



## Keenagers



The Keenagers came together for the February meeting for a “revamp”. A phone chain was created to improve communication between church members.

We are meeting on **Friday, March 1st at 1:00pm** in the great room, with Steve Beal with Senior Enrichment Services speaking to us about programs, events and the upcoming election. Are you 70 years or older??

If so, come join the fun!!

*Dog hugs, Winston*

**Please keep in mind, the servers scheduled below are subject to change!**

DATE	USHERS 8:30 am / 10:45 am	LITURGISTS 8:30 am / 10:45 am	COFFEE HOUR	FLOWER DELIVERY	GREETERS 8:30am / 10:45 am	Screen Operators 8:30am / 10:45 am
Mar. 3	Iris Hammersmith/ Russ & Shar White <b>COMMUNION:</b> Dwight & Patricia Tkach / Joel & Wende Mersereau	Kathy Root / Greg Eyer	Marcia Barlow	Marcia Barlow	Michele Graves /Ralph Leber	Jaime Fries/ Brandon Schwinn
Mar. 10	Barb Fries Family / Bob & Marilyn Huston	Tom Root / Suzanne Boegli	Shannon Sommers	Shannon Sommers	Michele Graves /Ralph Leber	Mindy Klett/ Brian Pancost
Mar. 17	Iris Hammersmith/ Roger & Nancy Wallace	Eric Weisenburger / Sam Konik	Marco Caponi	Marco Caponi	Michele Graves /Ralph Leber	Brian Pancost/ Kayla Eyer
Mar. 24	Iris Hammersmith/ Dwight & Patricia Tkach	Greg Keefer / Craig Corfman	Cynthia Kniffin	Cynthia Kniffin	Michele Graves /Ralph Leber	Jaime Fries/ Brandon Schwinn
Mar. 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY	Barb Fries & Connie Kluding 7:00pm <b>COMMUNION:</b> Linda Carino / TBD	Julie Murdock	NA	NA	Michele Graves	Jaime Fries
Mar. 29 GOOD FRIDAY	Bob & Marilyn Huston 7:00pm	Julie Murdock	N/A	N/A	Michele Graves	Brian Pancost
Mar. 31 EASTER	Iris Hammersmith/ Dwight & Patricia Tkach	Eli Keefer / Stacy Corfman	N/A	N/A	Michele Graves /Ralph Leber	Mindy Klett / Brian Pancost

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Apr 7	Ty Keefer Family/ Adam Sommers Family <b>COMMUNION:</b> Barb Fries & Aundrea Gordon / Bev Miller & Brian Hauler	Marilyn Huston / Bev Miller	Heidi Strong	Heidi Strong	Michele Graves /Ralph Leber	Mindy Klett / Brian Pancost
Apr 14	Jason Strong Family / Adam Sommers Family	Roger Knight / Nancy Gfell	George Scherz	George Scherz	Michele Graves /Ralph Leber	Jaime Fries / Brandon Schwinn
Apr 21	Jason Strong Family/ Bev Miller & Brian Hauler	Ella Fries / Aili Corfman	Crissy Cooperrider	Crissy Cooperrider	Michele Graves /Ralph Leber	Brian Pancost / Kayla Eyer
Apr 28	Dale Bond Family/ Bev Miller & Brian Hauler	Amy Bower / Suzanne Boegli	Katie Howell	Katie Howell	Michele Graves /Ralph Leber	Jaime Fries / Brandon Schwinn

# ROOTED IN GRACE



## So You think you know.....

### .....Amy Bower??



You often see her playing guitar with our praise team, singing in the choir, or ringing bells. Many of you also know her from Session where she is our Church Clerk. This month we are getting to know Amy Bower a little better!

Amy has always lived in and around this area; she moved back here in the 1980s while finishing her education. Her husband Brian has been here since he was 6 years old. They moved to their current home between Milan and Huron about 30 years ago, moving there from Perkins Township.

When asked, Amy couldn't really name a favorite book; she says there are so many books and so little time. She is working her way through lists of classical American and English novels, which is her preferred genre.

When she is not singing or ringing, or keeping track of Session, Amy is "retired but still busy." Upon retirement, someone told her she should take a year off to relax and do nothing. She was bored by week three! Wanting to share all of her knowledge and experience, Amy now teaches at EHOVE Adult Career Center, sharing her expertise in health and safety, as well as leadership skills. She also works with a few of her former co-workers in consulting on health and safety on the side. She is definitely busy!

Amy, along with her grandmother, loves the hymn "Amazing Grace." It has always been her favorite. She also loves "It Is Well With My Soul." A more contemporary piece that really resonates with her is "10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord, O My Soul)" by Matt Redman and Steve Angriano. As for her favorite Bible books or verses, Amy says she really enjoys reading and thinking about the letters to the early Christian churches. She says it's amazing that something someone wrote 2,000 years ago can still speak to us today. There are some good morsels for us all in those letters.

You may not know that Amy has 10 brothers and sisters! On her father's side alone, there are over 100 branches to the family tree, all the way to his great-great-grandchildren (what a blessing!). When I asked how Christmas was with her family, she said that there were always between 30 and 40 people at her parents' house not only for Christmas, but Thanksgiving and Easter, too. They have a more difficult time getting together now that their parents' house is sold – no one really has the space for that many. But they do try to get together every year or so and have a potluck dinner together. Amy really loves to get together with her family; there is a lot of love shared.

One thing that really bothers Amy is how judgmental people seem to have become recently. If we are to truly love our neighbor, we need to show more compassion, empathy and forgiveness toward others, she says. We need to give people the benefit of the doubt because we all have bad days. Wouldn't that make the world a nicer place?!

Yes, Amy, that would! Thank you for all you do in making this church a wonderful place as well!

*Dr. Julie Murdock  
Ministry Associate*



# GROWING IN CHRIST



## Pre-School - 2nd Grade Young Family Workshop!

Saturday, March 9th  
9:00 - 11:00 am  
Breakfast Included!

RSVP to Kathleen Wheeler by March 3rd!



## 3rd - 6th Grade Tween Family Workshop!

Saturday, March 16th  
9:00 - 11:30 am  
Breakfast Included!

RSVP to Kathleen Wheeler by March 3rd.



## FAMILY WORKSHOPS IN MARCH:

Once again, we are offering family workshops to help equip all of our parents with necessary tools for helping your children grow strong in their faith! Our **Young Family Workshop** (open to all families with children aged preschool through 2nd grade) will be Saturday, March 9 from 9 - 11am. Our **Tween Family Workshop** (open to all families with children aged 3rd - 6th grade) will be Saturday, March 16 from 9 - 11am. At both of these workshops we will be exploring topics related to the challenges parenting small Christians bring in an approachable and relatable way. The entire family is invited to attend as we have breakout sections specifically oriented toward children as well. Breakfast is also included, so come hungry! If you would like to attend one of these workshops, please RSVP to Kathleen Wheeler, [kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net](mailto:kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net), by March 3rd.

## PLEASANT HILL OUTDOOR SUMMER CAMP

Are you making summer plans? Don't forget to include summer church camp! Full camp schedules, prices, descriptions and registration forms for the 2024 season are available at [www.phoc.org](http://www.phoc.org). They have camps available for a family experience where even 3 years olds can get in on the fun, all the way up to 17 year old high school kids! Older than 17? Pleasant Hill is always looking for great camp counselors as well! Camp scholarships from our church are available for all church members. If you are interested in a scholarship, please talk to Pat Babcock in our church office and return your scholarship applications by May 1st.

## MAKING SUMMER PLANS?



CONTACT PAT AT THE  
CHURCH OFFICE FOR  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS  
BEFORE APPLYING AT  
[WWW.PHOC.ORG](http://WWW.PHOC.ORG)

**JOIN US AT  
SUMMER  
CHURCH CAMP!**

JUNE 16 - JUNE 21  
JUNE 23 - JUNE 28  
JULY 7 - JULY 12  
JULY - JULY 19  
KINDER CAMP  
JUNE 7 - JUNE 8

AGES 3-17  
AGE 17+ BE A COUNSELOR

## SIGN UP TO HELP WITH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2024 JUNE 17-21

IT'S COMING! Vacation Bible School, June 17th - 21st from 9 - 12:30pm daily. This year we welcome all of our preschool through 6th grade students as we learn that *following Jesus changes the game in this year's, "Twists and Turns!" VBS.* We would love for you to join us as kids get ready to spin the spinner, beat the clock, skip ahead, level up, and play their way through VBS while learning that Jesus guides them through all the twists and turns of their lives. Vacation Bible School isn't just for the kids!

Won't you consider volunteering to help make this year's event a smashing success? If you are willing, we will find a place for you! We need everyone from teachers to craft prep to snack providers to those dedicated to praying for this year's VBS - all are welcome.

Visit our volunteer station in the Fellowship Hall during the month of March to sign up, or contact Kathleen Wheeler, [kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net](mailto:kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net) today!



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# GROWING IN CHRIST



## Hosanna Celebration for all!



Join us Sunday, March 24th  
in Fellowship Hall at 9:30!  
Use all 5 senses as you see,  
hear, taste, smell and feel your  
way through the events of  
Holy Week!

## HOSANNA CELEBRATION RETURNS FOR ALL!

Our Annual "Hosanna Celebration" for all ages is once again returning! Join us on Sunday, March 24 from 9:30 - 10:45 am to experience Palm Sunday in an entirely new way. Use all 5 senses as you see, hear, taste, smell and feel your way through the events of Holy Week. All ages, from children to Great Grandparents, are welcome! Breakfast will also be served in the Great Room, so bring your appetite. This event will take place instead of our regularly scheduled Sunday School classes. See you there!

## PARENT BOOK NOOK FEATURE:

This month's featured book is entitled, "Knights in Training: Ten Principles for Raising Honorable, Courageous, and Compassionate Boys," written by Heather Haupe. This book helps parents to inspire their boys by captivating their imagination and honoring their love for adventure. Heather Haupt explores how knights historically lived out various aspects of the knights' Code of Chivalry, and how boys can embody these same ideals now. When we issue the challenge and give boys the reasons why it is worth pursuing, we step forward on an incredible journey toward raising the kind of boys who, just like the knights of old, make an impact in their world now and for the rest of their lives. If you are interested in checking out this book or many other helpful parenting resources, visit our Parent Book Nook located next to the Christian Education Office on the 2nd floor of the Children's Wing.

## KNIGHTS IN TRAINING

TEN PRINCIPLES  
for Raising Honorable, Courageous,  
and Compassionate Boys



## March Parent Book Nook Feature: "Knights in Training"

"Ten Principles for Raising Honorable,  
Courageous, and Compassionate Boys"  
written by Heather Haupe.

Visit our Parent Book Nook located next to the Christian Education Office on the 2nd floor of the Children's Wing.

## Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday March 31st  
10:00 am - Meet in Fellowship Hall



## Help Needed!

Would you like to help fill  
Easter Eggs for our Hunt?

Egg Tables will be in the Narthex during  
the month of March.

Use pre-packaged sweets, play jewelry, stickers,  
erasers, money, miniature cars, bouncy balls,  
Polly Pockets, and more!

Return them by Palm Sunday, March 24th.



## ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Last year's Easter egg hunt was such a hit that we would like to do it again! We are asking our congregation to get involved by filling our 500+ Easter eggs with small prizes. You can pick up a bag of empty Easter eggs today in the Narthex. Fill each egg with an Easter surprise and return them to the Narthex drop-off point by Palm Sunday, March 24.

Here are a few ideas for filling your Easter eggs:

-candies - play jewelry - stickers - erasers - money - miniature cars like Micro Machines - bouncy balls -  
Polly Pockets - souvenirs from the birthday aisle in stores -

If your kiddos would like to participate in this year's Easter egg hunt, we will begin the event at 10am, meeting in the gymnasium. There will be no regularly scheduled Sunday School classes for children or adults on Easter Sunday. Kids are welcome to bring their own Easter baskets, or borrow one of ours! If the weather is nice, we will be outside, so don't forget to bring some outdoor shoes to swap out with your Easter kicks.



# REACHING OUT IN LOVE



**"I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."**  
- John 13:15

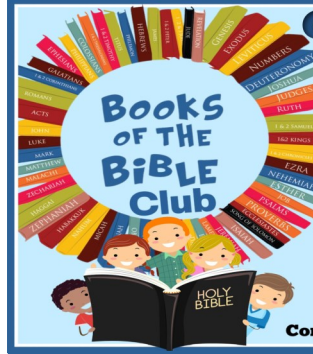
**MARCH'S VERSE**  
Every month we will challenge the congregation to memorize a Bible verse!



All year, we are challenging our congregation, from youngest to oldest, to memorize a monthly Bible verse.

Here is our verse for March:

**"I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you."** - John 13:15



**Congratulations to:**

**Alena Howell**  
(level 2)

**Lilly Howell**  
(level 2)

**Eliza Wheeler**  
(level 4)

**Emmie Wheeler**  
(level 4)

Contact Kathleen Wheeler for details to join in!

## BOOKS OF THE BIBLE KID'S CLUB!

Congratulations to our "Books of the Bible Kid's Club," members who have leveled up this past month: Alena Howell (level 2), Lilly Howell (level 2), Eliza Wheeler (level 4) and Emmie Wheeler (level 4). These kids have been working on memorizing their books of the Bible, and are doing an outstanding job! Way to go, kids! If your Sunday School aged child would like to join our "Books of the Bible Kid's Club," see Mrs. Wheeler to get started. Your treasures await!



**2nd & 4th Tuesday @4:30pm**

**Our redesigned 3rd-6th grade Youth Group**

## 3RD - 6TH GRADE E.D.G.E. YOUTH GROUP

Join us for E.D.G.E. (Eternally Driven by God's Example) as we start a new study on emotions!

E.D.G.E. meets every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month from 4:30 - 5:30. Pickup and drop off at the gymnasium entrance. Also, keep an eye out for our monthly SUNDAY FUNDAY! We hope to see you and all of your friends at E.D.G.E. Check out the end of our 23/24 school year schedule below:

Mar. 12, Tues 4:30 - 5:30 : Session 1 - Me, Myself and I: Why Should I Care?

Mar. 17, SUNDAY FUNDAY 12 - 2: Shamrock Shindig!

Mar. 26, Tues 4:30 - 5:30 : Session 2 - Me, Myself and I: Don't I Deserve It?

Apr. 9, Tues 4:30 - 5:30: Session 3 - Me, Myself and I: Who Am I Trying to Please?

Apr. 14, SUNDAY FUNDAY 12 - 2: Chocolate Olympics!

Apr. 23, Tues 4:30 - 5:30: Session 4 - Me, Myself and I: Who Is Really In Charge?

May 5, SUNDAY FUNDAY 12 - 2: End of Year Fiesta!

## VISIT OUR NURSERY:

All children from birth to Preschool age are welcome to visit our staffed nursery any Sunday during either of the services (8:30am or 10:45am) as well as during Sunday School (9:30). Our nursery caregiver, Jennifer, would love to meet you and show you around our facility!

The nursery provides a safe and creative environment for your child to play and learn beginning Bible stories while you attend worship or Sunday School. You can find the nursery on the lower level of the children's wing, beside the library and across from the family room.

Are you in need of Nursery Care during worship services or Sunday school?

Our staffed nursery is available Room 201

**INFANT THROUGH PRE-SCHOOL**

**WELCOME TO OUR NURSERY!**

## **HEY KIDS, JOIN US!**

**Please have your children meet the teachers at the back of the church after our Children's Moment!**

**10:45 service only Room 206**



## JOIN US FOR KINGDOM KIDS!

Our Kingdom Kids program gives our preschool - 3rd grade students a chance to have an age-appropriate worship and learning experience all their own. If your kids would like to join our Kingdom Kids, simply attend our second worship service on Sunday mornings

with your family, and after the children's message, follow the Kingdom Kids Leader to their worship room located on the lower level of the children's wing across from the library.



# REACHING OUT IN LOVE



## **CHECK THIS OUT!** **FPC BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE** **HAS REVISED OUR** **FACILITY USE FORM!**

Default Room arrangements are now posted in Fellowship Hall, Great Room, Good Room, & Session Room. Contact the church office for the new form, pricing & details you'll be responsible for.

## **Check this out!**

FPC Buildings & Grounds Committee has updated their Facility Use Form following the retirement of our wonderful facility Maintenance person. We have made updates to pricing, requirements and more, for both our members & non-members. Please stop in the Church Office for a copy of the form, and take a look at the posted room arrangements in Fellowship Hall, Great Room, Good Room and Session Room. Even if you're using a room for a church event, and you move tables and chairs, it will be your responsibility to put everything back to the default set up.

***Thank you for understanding!***

## **Join Us For Novel Ideas Book Club!**

**Sunday**  
**March 24**  
**@ 4:30 pm**

**"The Last Thing He Told Me"**  
by Laura Dave

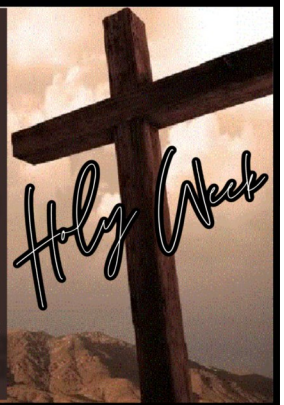
**Contact Linda Carino for more information & location**

SUNDAY MARCH 24, 2024  
8:30 AM PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE  
9:30 AM HOSANNA CELEBRATION  
10:45 AM PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

THURSDAY MARCH 28, 2024  
5:30 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY DINNER  
7:00 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

FRIDAY MARCH 29, 2024  
7:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

SUNDAY MARCH 31, 2024  
8:30 AM RESURRECTION SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE  
10:45 AM RESURRECTION SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE  
10:00 AM EASTER EGG HUNT



**WE take it all!**

**WE collect ALL YEAR LONG!**

Garden accessories & tools

Holiday & Seasonal items

Remodel pieces, parts & home decor

We take unopened & very clean undergarments & socks

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**NORWALK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE**

**Cleaning out closets?**

**Cleaning out the garage?**

**Cleaning out a house, condo, or apartment from a loved one downsizing or passing away?**

***DID YOU KNOW??***

***WE TAKE IT ALL!***

FPC Presbyterian Women's Association will take your unwanted garden accessories and tools, leftover remodeling pieces, parts, home decor, seasonal items, Christmas, Halloween, Easter, etc. We even take unopened and very clean underwear, bras and socks!

**Don't give it to Goodwill, leave it at the curb or put it on Facebook for free!**

**HELP US, HELP OTHERS!**

The Presbyterian Women's Association holds it's annual Summer Rummage Sale to support many missions and charities!

Watch for dates in upcoming Messenger newsletters!



# REACHING OUT IN LOVE



## From the Underground.....



*"For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin."  
Hebrews 4:15*

We talked about temptation in a HYPE'D lesson. We looked at some different examples of temptation in the Bible. Moses' anger, Jonah's running away, the rich young ruler, Adam and Eve.

We talked about a lot but focused on three in particular. Samson, King David, and Joseph. Samson had strength, David had power, and both were chosen by God. Yet, both fell into numerous temptations. Over and over and over.

How are we supposed to stand a chance?

Well, WWJD? Or better yet, what did Jesus do?

The temptation of Jesus is a very important part of the Bible. It's found in three of the Gospels and occurs right after Jesus' baptism.

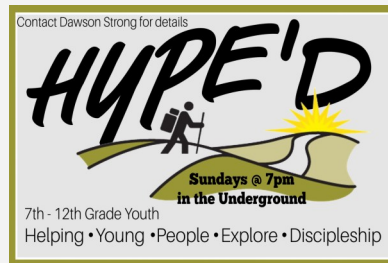
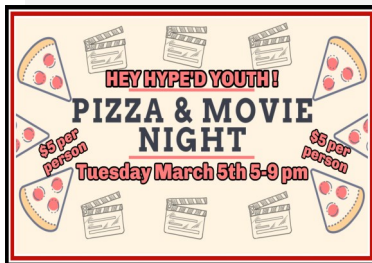
I think that it's easy to be in awe of Jesus. He's the Son of God after all. He can walk on water, heal the sick, and even turn water into wine. Certainly, He can resist a little temptation. I like the verse from Hebrews. It shows something that can be forgotten sometimes. On earth, Jesus was fully God but also fully human. He had the full human experience. He went through joy, happiness, peace, laughter, and much more. But after fasting in the desert, when Satan himself came to Him, my guess is Jesus was experiencing more along the lines of pain, sadness, loneliness, and hunger, and not for the last time in His life.

Even going through some of the worst of life, what did Jesus do when tempted? He resisted by leaning on God's Word. Through three grueling temptations, Jesus quotes Scripture and resists. Pain, sadness, loneliness, hunger, and temptation. Sympathizing with our weaknesses. Jesus is the ultimate example for us. Temptation isn't something we outgrow. Money, power, anger, fame, grades, work performance, and your future can all be temptations.

Learn as we did at HYPE'D: don't believe the lie like Eve, run away from it like Joseph, and use God's Word like Jesus.

**Get HYPE'D,**

*Dawson Strong, Youth Director*



# LASER TAG & BOWLING!



# REACHING OUT IN LOVE

# THANK YOU!



A special thank you to all who blessed mom and I with prayers, cards, and caring words over the years. I appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness.

*Karen Becker*

Thank you for all the cards, visits, and prayers during my surgery and convalescence.

*Terry Gormley*



**MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Dinner at  
5:30pm  
Worship  
Service  
March 28, 2024  
at 7:00 pm



TODAY YOU WILL BE WITH ME IN PARADISE  
LUKE 23:43

**WORSHIP SERVICE**  
**MARCH 29 AT**  
**7:00PM**

**GOOD FRIDAY**



He is Risen!  
HAPPY  
Easter

**EASTER SUNDAY**  
**WORSHIP SERVICES**  
**MARCH 31**  
**AT 8:30 AM**  
**AND 10:45 AM**



Project Noelle

**EASTER Basket Drive**

Would you like to make an Easter Basket for a child in our Community??

Baskets are due back by March 17

Please bring to the Church Office  
Contact Kelly Wesenburger for more details



A great big THANK YOU to our retiring Facility Maintenance man, Burt Zimmerman for 30 years of service to the First Presbyterian Church of Norwalk!

We know that this church and its people hold a special place in your heart, and we are pleased to know we will see you still, as you donate some of your time to our continued mission. Here's to you Burt, from all of us at the First Presbyterian Church of Norwalk! A job well done, faithful servant.



*Your family at the  
First Presbyterian Church of Norwalk*



# REACHING OUT IN LOVE



Join our  
**"BIRTHDAY BUNCH"**  
the 3rd Wednesday  
of every month!

EVERYONE  
has a  
birthday!  
Let's  
celebrate  
together with  
pizza  
every month  
@ East of  
Chicago Pizza  
at 12:30pm!

If you ordered,  
**PLEASE PICK UP  
YOUR EASTER FLOWERS**  
after church services  
Easter Sunday,  
March 31st

**AT THE CROSSROADS.....  
PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH!**

DON'T FORGET TO  
**SPRING  
FORWARD**  
**Sunday  
March 10th!**

Celebrate the Special Offerings  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE, TOGETHER

 **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**  
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Collecting for this mission on  
Palm Sunday - March 24, 2024

**Soup Suppers!**  
Join Us Every Wednesday  
Feb. 21 - March 20  
Dinner at 5:45 pm, Service at 6:30 pm

**E.D.G.E. 3RD - 6TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP**

# SHAMROCK SHINDIG

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 12-2PM**

IT'S TIME TO PARTY IT UP ST. PATTY'S DAY STYLE! WE'VE GOT LOADS OF FUN ACTIVITIES, GAMES, AND EVEN A TREASURE HUNT TO KEEP YOU ENTERTAINED. PLUS, LET'S NOT FORGET ABOUT ALL THE DELICIOUS GREEN GRUB WAITING TO BE DEVoured! SO, RALLY UP YOUR SQUAD AND LET'S ROCK THIS CELEBRATION!

pick up and drop off at  
the church gym doors

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
21 Firelands Blvd, Norwalk  
kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

21 Firelands Boulevard  
Norwalk, Ohio 44857

Phone: 419-668-1923

Fax: 419-663-5115

Web Page: <http://www.firstpresbyterian.net>

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### CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. James Hodsdon, Pastor

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Rev. Clair Brewer, Pastor Emeritus

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Serena Bowles, Organist

Jennifer Orth, Nursery Caregiver

Rooted in Grace.

Growing in Christ.

Reaching Out in Love.





~ March 2024 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9a Friday Morning Small Group 10a AA Meeting 1p Keen-Agers	2 Thriving Congregation RETREAT #1 - Ashland 8a Men's Small Group 5p FADS 7p AA Meeting
3 COMMUNION / FOOD BANK SUNDAY 8:30a Worship Service 9:30a Confirmation Class 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Service 7p Youth Night - HYPE	4 11a Monday Small Group 5:45p Worship Committee 6p Marotta Small Group	5 10a AA Meeting 5p HYPE'D Pizza & Movie Night @ East of Chicago / UEC Theater	6 7a Men's AM Group 5:45p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship Service 7p Westminster Voices Rehearsal 8p AI-anon	7 6:30a Ditz Small Group 12p Men's Small Group 5:30p CE Meeting 6:30p Mission Committee 6:30p Outreach Committee	8 9a Friday Morning Small Group 10a AA Meeting	9 HYPE'D Overnighter begins 6p 8a Men's Small Group 7p AA Meeting
10 SPRING FORWARD TIME CHANGE HYPE'D Overnighter until 8a 8:30a Worship Service 9:30a Confirmation Class 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Service	11 11a Monday Small Group 6p ACT Board Meeting 6p Marotta Small Group 7p Bible Banter via Zoom	12 10a AA Meeting 4:30p EDGE in Fellowship Hall 5:30p Building & Grounds 6p Fellowship Committee	13 7a Men's AM Group 12p Stewardship Meeting 4p Huston Small Group 5:45p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship Service 7p Westminster Voices Rehearsal 8p AI-anon	14 6:30a Ditz Small Group 12p Men's Small Group 6:30p Deacons Meeting	15 9a Friday Morning Small Group 10a AA Meeting	16 8a Men's Small Group 10:30a – 4p Ruhl event in Fellowship Hall 5p FADS 7p AA Meeting
17 8:30a Worship Service 9:30a Confirmation Class 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Service 7p Youth Night - HYPE	18 11a Monday Small Group 6p Marotta Small Group 7p Bible Banter via Zoom	19 10a AA Meeting	20 7a Men's AM Group 12:30p Birthday Bunch @ East of Chicago 5:45p Soup Supper 6:30p Worship Service 7p Westminster Voices Rehearsal 8p AI-anon	21 6:30a Ditz Small Group 10a PW Morning Circle 12p Men's Small Group 12:30p PW Afternoon Circle 6:30p Session Meeting	22 9a Friday Morning Small Group 10a AA Meeting 5p Confirmation Class Evening Get Together 6p HYPE'D Game Night	23 8a Men's Small Group 11a June Knoll Funeral Service 12p June Knoll Luncheon 7p AA Meeting
24 PALM SUNDAY Special Offering One Great Hour of Sharing 8:30a Worship Service 9:30a Confirmation Class 9:30a Hosanna Sunday 10:45a Worship Service 4:30p Novel Ideas Book Club 7p Youth Night - HYPE	25 11a Monday Small Group 6p Marotta Small Group 7p Bible Banter via Zoom	26 10a AA Meeting 4:30p EDGE in Fellowship Hall	27 7a Men's AM Group 12p LYN Luncheon 4p Huston Small Group 6p Joyful Ringers Bell Choir 6:45p Westminster Voices Rehearsal 8p AI-anon	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30a Ditz Small Group 12p Men's Small Group 5:30p Maundy Thursday Dinner 7p Maundy Thursday Worship Service	29 GOOD FRIDAY 9a Friday Morning Small Group 10a AA Meeting 7p Good Friday Worship Service	30 8a Men's Small Group 7p AA Meeting
31 EASTER SUNDAY 8:30a Worship Service 9:30a Confirmation Class 9:30a Sunday School 10a Easter Egg Hunt 10:45a Worship Service	Notes:					