



**Worship-10:00 am**  
**Fellowship following Worship**

*First Presbyterian Church*

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Pastor: Rev. Deb Patterson

Office Manager: Wenda Smith

Leader of Family Ministry: Nikki Hogarth

Director of Music: Ruth Rabby

Organist: Joseph Musser

Financial Secretary: Barbara Ross

Financial Coordinator: Nancy Reynolds

Custodian: Peg O'Brien

Outreach Coordinator: Ellen Watson

Nursery Attendants: Melissa Curtis, Kendra Hart

Newsletter Editor: Diane Welker

Media Coordinator and IT: Taylor Smith

Corp. Investment Team: Jack Flury, Bob Douds

**OFFICE HOURS: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 AM-12:00**

**CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY**

Bulletin Deadline . . . . . Wednesday at Noon

Newsletter Deadline . . . . . NOON on the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month

[spire@midohio.twcbc.com](mailto:spire@midohio.twcbc.com)

*From our Pastor's Heart ...*



Dear Friends,

In our baptism we are united with Christ and welcomed into the Church universal. At our baptism we enter into new life with God through Jesus Christ and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are reminded of our oneness in Christ and the promises we receive through our baptism; the forgiveness of our sins and the gift of life eternal. We are cleansed by the waters of baptism and sealed with Christ by the Holy Spirit. As one of our two sacraments; baptism marks us once and for all as one of Christ's own.

Many of us were baptized as infants and have no memory of this very important event. Yet in faith and with the prayers and promises made by others at our baptism, we seek to live out our Christian life in obedience, humility, hope and joy.



As Presbyterian Christians we believe in one baptism. We do not re-baptize. The first time counts!!!! On Baptism of the Lord Sunday, we were reminded of our baptism and its powerful meaning for our life. We were sprinkled with water and invited to reflect upon what being baptized means personally for each one of us .

I invite you to remember your baptism each time you slip into the shower, or you wash your hands, or do the dishes. As you walk in the rain or dip your toe in summer's waters, be reminded that sin is no more, only new life with Christ. Amen!

Faithfully,

*Pastor Deb*

Rev. Pat Stout and Pastor Deb used pine branches to sprinkle water and remind us of our baptism.

## *Music Notes*



THANK YOU, JOE! His final Sunday of double responsibility shows him off the organ bench and out in front directing the Pickers and Choir in the anthem!

Bradley Sowash Jazz Service Sunday, February 23.

Ruth and Jennifer are working on selecting a short musical for kids to share in worship.

Maddy Herzog is director of bells now. Ruth has returned to choir. Thanks to Joe Musser for directing the choir in Ruth's absence.

Communion will now be fully gluten-free.

Holden Worship will be held on Thursday evenings during Lent with light supper beforehand.

## MONTREAT

The 2020 Music & Worship Conference is in Montreat, North Carolina. Over the past many years, several of our church musicians have attended and enjoyed this week-long event in the beautiful North Carolina mountains. This year, the handbell instructor is David Harris, the director of the Raleigh Ringers--and he's a great instructor.

Here are some links with a little more information--

<https://www.presbymusic.org/montreat>  
[Registration Information | presbymusic](#)

Usually the cost of housing and shared food (cereal, bread, sandwich fixins...) is around \$150 per person for the whole week, but it varies depending on how many people attend.

Housing is two rented houses with room for 20 people. Cost is shared amongst guests. Usually the cost of housing and shared food (cereal, bread, sandwich fixings...) is around \$150 per person for the whole week, but it varies depending on how many people attend. There are other rooms to rent if we fill those houses. Register early for best selection of classes. Dates are June 21-26, 2020 (Note that it starts on Father's Day). Registration is open now. Details at [www.presbymusic.org](http://www.presbymusic.org).

## YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Nikki Hogarth, Leader

[familylife@midohio.twcbc.com](mailto:familylife@midohio.twcbc.com)



### A Lenten Practice:

Please join us for a meditative worship service followed by a soup supper on **Thursdays** during Lent. **March 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th, and April 2nd @ 6PM.**

Worship will begin at 6pm followed by supper at 6:30pm.

Let us join together in community as we journey to the cross.

**Confirmation Retreat: February 7-9<sup>th</sup>**

The confirmation class will attend a Presbytery-wide youth retreat on February 7th-9th at Camp Akita in Logan Ohio. They will join youth from throughout the Scioto Valley Presbytery in worship, study, games, and fellowship! The theme for the retreat is "Let Love Lead." Please pray for our youth and their leaders. May they have safe travels, be inspired by the messages they receive, and claim a few moments of rest from their very busy schedules! Amen.



February 9 - Intertwine at First Presbyterian, 6:30-8:00 PM  
"Love"

February 23 - Intertwine at Zion UCC, 6:30-8:00 PM "Ashes"

This is **geared towards those currently in 8th through 12th grades**. We are ready to begin our planning for **this summer's week-long mission trip with YouthWorks!** Last summer, we traveled to Benton Harbor, MI, and had an amazing time serving the community and growing in faith. We don't yet have a

location in mind, though it will be within driving distance!

If you are interested in committing to a spot for this summer's mission trip, please respond and let me know your availability for each of the following 2 weeks:

- 1) June 14-19, 2020
- 2) June 21-26, 2020.

*Time commitment:* We will leave sometime on Sunday and return by evening on Friday.

*Cost:* The full cost of the trip with YouthWorks is \$359 plus gas and spending money. HOWEVER, last year we were fortunate enough to fundraise the full amount for everyone to attend! (Each person was responsible for their own spending money during the week.) *That is our hope for this year as well!*

Can't wait for another amazing trip!  
Kara Jones (Intertwine leader)

## **Child/Youth Safety Training:**

Do you work with the children and youth of our church? Do you have a desire to do so in the future? Do you volunteer at VBS?

Join us for a one hour review of our new child safety policy— lunch included! Our children are our dearest treasure, help us create the safest environment possible for them to grow in their relationship with God and our community.

**Sunday February 2nd, 11:30-12:30PM, in the church Library.**

## **ADULT STUDY**

*Study of “Half Truths- Things the Bible Doesn’t Say”—*

Everything Happens For A Reason. God Helps Those Who Help Themselves. God Won’t Give You More Than You Can Handle. They are simple phrases. They sound Christian—like something you might find in the Bible. They capture some element of truth, yet they miss the point in important ways.

In Adam Hamilton’s book, “Half Truths- God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things The Bible Doesn’t Say”, the author exposes well-worn clichés that lead us down unfaithful and sometimes dangerous paths. Most importantly, he points to what Scripture really says, and how that truth can set us free.

Come explore this book with other adults in a 10-week discussion group. Classes are offered on Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings in the church library and will begin the first week of March.

Please contact Peggy Stringham (740-834-9025 or e-mail [casnpeg@msn.com](mailto:casnpeg@msn.com)) to order your copy of the book.

## **WHITE SCHOLARSHIP**

The Elizabeth and Eugene White Scholarship Committee is accepting applications for the 2020-21 university school year. Consideration will be given to students who show academic promise and have financial need related to their post-secondary education. Applications may be picked up and returned in the church office and must be completed in full for consideration. The deadline is April 15, 2020.

Please note- Like most scholarships, there is a limited amount of award monies to be used and some applicants may not receive awards.

## BOSSERT AWARD

Each year, the Mildred Bossert Award is presented to a member of the congregation who has demonstrated an on-going commitment to Christian Education here at FPC.

The talents and abilities of each recipient have contributed to a long, rich history of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with people of all ages.

This year's recipient, Peggy Stringham, is presented the award in recognition of all her effort and dedication to the Adult Education here at First Presbyterian. Her name will be inscribed on the Bossert Plaque which hangs in our library.



## LECTIONARY

<b>February 2</b>	Micah 6:1-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Matthew 5:1-12
<b>February 9</b>	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10); 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16); Matthew 5:13-20
<b>February 16</b>	Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37
<b>February 23</b>	Exodus 24:12-18; Psalm 2 or Psalm 99; 2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9
<b>February 26</b>	ASH WEDNESDAY Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



WOMEN'S RETREAT

**March 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> @ Kirkmont Center**

*\$80 – save your spot now!*

**“Godly Seasons”**

QUESTIONS?

*See Carol Evans or Karen McNeal*

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## THANK YOU

Thank you so much for supporting our scout troops and for allowing us to be part of your family.

Thank you,  
Troop 318 and Troop 7318



Thank you so much for your donation of \$500 to Common Ground Free Store. Your gift makes it possible for us to serve thousands of needy families in Delaware County and surrounding areas.

If you would like a personal tour of the store, please call anytime (740-816-2275). I would be honored to show you the impact your financial gifts are making.

Sharon Griner, Executive Director

We give thanks to you for your support of Special Offerings, our collective witness to the love of Jesus Christ. By participating in Special Offerings, your congregation joins other churches to change lives around the world through ministries of compassion, advocacy, development, peacemaking, Christian formation, education and witness.

On December 16, 2019 we received \$446.82 for the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Your congregation's giving, when combined with that of others, will share the love of Christ with those in need.

With gratitude to God for our shared mission,  
Bryce Wiebe, Presbyterian Mission (USA)

Liberty Community Center wants to thank you for your generosity and donation. Your donation will help support a child's early education and needs.

Thank you,  
A. Teague

## DEACON HIGHLIGHTS

We are so thankful that many of the people who have been on our Cares and Concerns List have now recovered sufficiently to no longer need the Deacons support. We reviewed new Concerns and will follow-up.

On a bright note, John McNeal had a very pleasant conversation with Janet Jackson. She is settling in well and enjoying the regular company of her family. Dick had another unsuccessful back surgery and remains in pain. Friends can send a, thinking of you, card to 205 Emerald Pond Ln Apt #210, Durham, NC 27705.

Soon we will be offering Friendship Soup to be used or prepared, at times, when meals are provided to our Caring Team families. We discussed other uses for the dry soup mix and how to package it.

John McNeal is coordinating this year's Student Care Package Ministry. Thank you, John.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- \* Approved hosting the Martin Luther King worship service next year.
- \* Approved Communion for the Women's Retreat.
- \* Approved imposition of ashes during Laundry Love as well as regular Ash Wednesday services.
- \* Pastor Deb reported Nikki Hogarth and Cathy Courtice are pursuing seminary. Session wishes them both well and is in full support of their efforts.
- \* Delia Herzog reported there will be a Green Eco Sunday celebration on April 19, 2020.
- \*Karen reported the following will be on the nominating committee: Bill Rietz -session, Jack Flury - Deacons, Trustee at large - Dave McClausen, Judy England, Nancy Baileys and possibly Carol Burns - at large.

## TRUSTEE HIGHLIGHTS

Security camera for Campbell Addition is purchased and will be installed soon.

Various repair or upgrade issues in the church, apartments and Unity House are ongoing or awaiting contractors

An AED/ CPR training will be offered for church members on Thursday, January 30.



This is the "sinkhole" that appeared in side yard. The trustees and Steve Gordon Excavating dug it out to properly seal it off with materials from Steve Gordon. (THANKS!) This should prevent any further mishaps.

# CONGRATULATIONS



Mason James McNeal was born January 6, 2020. He weighed 8 pounds and was 20 ¼ inches long. Mason, and his mom and dad: Matthew and Kate McNeal, are doing well. The PROUD grandparents are Karen and John McNeal and his pleased Great Grandparents are Ralph and Bev Dey. Congratulations to all!



## FPC Congregation CHALLENGE

How well do you know the people of FPC?? Can you find someone(s) who has(have) something in common with you? This contest runs through December 2020. This editor challenges you to submit your photo, written description, or riddle to the SPIRE EDITOR by the 20<sup>th</sup> of any month. The best connection entry group of the year will be awarded a lovely prize December 27, 2020.



ANSWER for January 2020  
Spire (L to R) Peg Stringham,  
Babs Tull, Leslie and Jack  
Flury, and Amy Jo and Don  
Sommers. Their connection is  
the Monday night Adult Book  
Study.

FEBRUARY 2020-What does this group of FPC-ers have in common?



