

The MESSENGER

March 2021

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Staff

the Rev. Jeffrey Lang

Amy

Director of Music and Organist

Kate

Choir Director and Vocalist

Megan

Vocalist

Deborah

Administrative Assistant

Logan

Vocalist

Items for the **April** edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through **9:00AM, Monday, March 22.**

Early submissions are always joyfully accepted!

Submitted information will be edited for clarity, accuracy, and length.

*God has called you to share in
the ministry of Jesus.
May you be sustained by His grace.*

Welcome Class of 2024!

Ordained and Installed February 7, 2021

Elder: Mary Schwaderer

Deacon: Marianna Briner

Elders

Class of 2022

Matthew B

Peter G

Class of 2023

Jane S

William K*

Class of 2024

Mary S

Karen R*

Tom S*

Deacons

Class of 2022

Susan A

Jane J

Class of 2023

vacant

Class of 2024

Susy S*

Marianna B

*serving 2nd consecutive term

Church Nominating Committee (2021)

Susan A (deacon representative)

Beverly B** (member-at-large)

Peter G** (member-at-large)

Diane L

Rev. Jeffrey L

Karen R** (elder, chairperson)

**serving 2nd consecutive year



From the Pastor's Desk

Early Christians were called followers of The Way. Jesus spoke to his disciples about the high cost of following him. Living as a disciple of Jesus is a process, a journey, through the many challenges of life. Christian spirituality is a way to orient our lives in relation to other people, to challenges and difficulties, joys and successes, dreams and hopes, and ultimately to the Divine.

"Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, 'If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.'" Mark 8:34 NLT

The way of Jesus leads to the cross, but on the other side of the cross is a promise of new beginnings. The resurrection of Christ is the sure ground for that trust.

John Calvin offered: "The resurrection of Christ is the most important article of our faith." In overcoming death for the sake of God's people, and all creation, Christ became for us the great signal of God's saving intention toward us.

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world." John 16:33b NLT

Embracing the gospel of Jesus, involves following the way of death and new life, of crucifixion and rebirth. There is no resurrection without

first traveling to Golgotha. The extraordinary hope Jesus offers is that every crucifixion has its Easter morning. Each dark night of the soul will know its sunrise of hope. Every trial will have its triumph.

It was that conviction which allowed the apostle Paul to exult:

"What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:37-38 NLT

God's saving love in Christ is the ground and goal of our lives. God's love is more fierce than any cross, and more potent than any grave. It is a love that promises us, through whatever we face in life or death, Easter morning will arrive.



The Deacons offer prayer, companionship, rides, or meals, but don't always know where care is needed. If you know of a need (your own or another's), call the church office or any of our Deacons: Susan A, Marianna B, Jane J, and Susy S, Moderator

William B
 Levi C (2 year-old child of Meagan and Scott, grandchild of Karen and Steve)
 Howard and Dottie E
 Tag McC (Tom Shevlin's nephew)
 Alice M (Aunt of the Faulkner's)



Worship Committee

On the evening of February 17, despite the discouragingly low temperatures, 14 or 15 of us gathered at church to observe Ash Wednesday and the sacrament of Holy Communion. Though small in numbers, the attendance of the group perhaps signals the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel" for what has been a long and rather dark winter season.

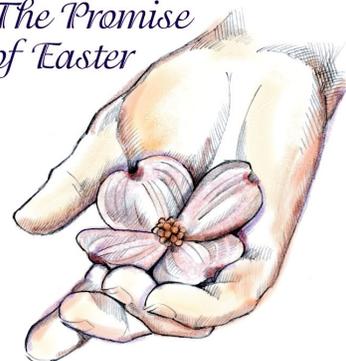
We are suddenly in the season of Lent, those 40 days between Ash Wednesday and the welcome celebration of Easter Sunday on April 4. Easter cannot arrive too soon for us this year.

Easter always occurs between March 22 and April 25. It is traditionally on the first Sunday which falls after the vernal equinox, which is the official beginning of the spring season in the northern hemisphere.

During this season of Lent, we literally look forward to the planning in process now which will culminate in very a special Easter Sunday service.

As is our tradition, special instrumental and vocal music will feature prominently. Please watch for weekly updates or announcements from the pulpit for details on the way we will observe both the Maundy Thursday and the Palm Sunday services this year.

The Promise of Easter



Spotlight on Missions



Eighty-five pounds of food and personal care items were delivered to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center from our February food offering.

Band-a-buck donations totaled \$5.00. Your Mission committee thanks you for your generosity!

The next Food Offering is Sunday, March 21. The need is greater than ever. Thank you for helping to feed our neighbors. Remember, you may band-a-buck, or more, to any item on the donation table.



Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food

Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 12. More details coming soon!

24th Annual Golf Outing

Saturday, September 18

Details will be provided closer to the event.



Paying it back — and forward

During the pandemic, acts of kindness seemed especially meaningful. Last spring, as Covid-19 hit Native American communities particularly hard, an interesting transatlantic outreach occurred.

Donations from Ireland began appearing in a relief fund for Navajo and Hopi families, leading administrators to suspect the account had been hacked. Then they realized a cross-generational payback was underway.

In 1847, Choctaw Tribe members sent \$170 overseas to Ireland to help with Potato Famine

relief. That generosity was never forgotten, and by May 2020, people in Ireland had contributed more than \$4 million toward pandemic assistance for relatives of people who'd helped their ancestors. Many donors included an Irish proverb meaning "In each other's shadows the people live."

The concept of paying it forward dates back to a 1784 letter by Benjamin Franklin. It also echoes Jesus' Golden Rule: "Do to others as you would have them do to you" (Luke 6:31). How might you live out this practice today?

This and That ... *... a little bit of everything*



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Katie K.....	1
Pam C.....	3
Richard O.....	4
Madeline C.....	4
Snowden A.....	6
Craig S.....	8
Dorothy E.....	10
Jane S.....	13
Maggie S.....	19
<i>Alison and Joseph C.....</i>	<i>22</i>
Stuart C.....	23
Alene R.....	23
Doloris G.....	25
Rev. Jim B.....	27
Richard S.....	29



As we begin a new calendar year, I want to share an update about our pledges and contributions.

In January, 33 year-end financial statements were mailed. As we stand now, we have 49 pledging units; 42 are members and seven are non-members. Of the 49 pledging units, 20 made a pledge which totaled \$118,089.03.

Through the end of December 2020, all contributions from members and non-members totaled 103,142.48; we have budgeted to receive \$150,000.00 by June 30, 2021.

I will continue to share updates as we progress through the months.

Respectfully,
Matt



When God giggles

Before dinner, our family was preparing to pray, which we do by holding hands. Upon discovering that one child hadn't washed his hands, my husband struck a contorted pose to avoid physical contact. The mealtime blessing quickly dissolved into laughter as we each peeked at him.

Afterward, as we passed around the food, I asked, "What do you imagine God thought



about us laughing during prayer?" One child quickly replied, "I think he was laughing right along with us."

Yes! Although prayer is reverent, God invites us to converse with words, emotions – and even giggles!

—Janna Firestone

Holy WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Palm Sunday

March 28; 10:30AM worship

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week as we observe the beginning of the events of the last week of Jesus' ministry.



Maundy Thursday

April 1; 7:00PM worship

Maundy Thursday will be observed with a brief service including the Lord's Supper. This gathering commemorates Jesus establishing the supper as well as anticipating his passion to follow.



Easter Sunday

April 4; 10:30AM worship

Easter Sunday will find us gathered for worship, including strings and soloists, in celebration of Christ's resurrection.

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 6:30PM- Ensemble Rehearsal	5	6
7  10:30AM- Worship  THIRD SUNDAY of LENT	8 9:00AM- Session reports due	9	10 6:00PM- Session Meeting	11 6:30PM- Ensemble Rehearsal	12	13
14 10:30AM- Worship  FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT	15	16	17	18 6:30PM- Ensemble Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:30AM- Worship  FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT	22 9:00AM- April newsletter items due	23	24	25 6:30PM- Ensemble Rehearsal	26	27
28 10:30AM- Worship  PALM SUNDAY	29	30	31	<p>This calendar is a living document subject to frequent changes. Check the website (firstpresbyterianglendale.org) for the most accurate calendar. Please call the church office with calendar updates.</p>		



First Presbyterian Church, Glendale

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Glendale, OH 45246

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glenpres@fuse.net
firstpresbyterianglendale.org

The Reverend Jeffrey Lang

In-person worship begins at 10:30AM
when Hamilton County is *red or lower*
on the Ohio COVID map

Church Office Hours

Monday, 9AM-3PM, Tuesday, 9AM-1PM
Wednesday, 9AM-1PM, Thursday, 9AM-3PM
Friday, closed

Shared with you in Christian love



***Don't be late
for worship!***

Daylight Savings time
begins
Sunday, March 14.
Remember to
'spring forward' one hour
Saturday evening.