

First News & Views



VOLUME 66, ISSUE 7

FEBRUARY 24, 2017

Lent 2017: A Season of Prayer

Lent is a time to journey with Jesus into the wilderness, to remember and recognize the part each of us plays in the brokenness of our world. A time to remember how to live, by following Jesus as he makes his way to the cross. A time to pray, asking for God's mercy because we have failed to be the people embracing the abundant life He offers us. Given the unrest of our lives, our world and our church community, we invite you to experience a *Season of Prayer* as we wander into the wilderness together this Lent.

March 1, Ash Wednesday, 7pm

Lent begins with a traditional Ash Wednesday service in the Sanctuary when we receive ashes, reminding us of our mortality & need for God.

March 5, All Church Prayer Workshop

Everyone from 0-100 is invited to the Fellowship Hall at 10:45am to explore how we can pray and listen to God. From spiritual discernment to writing, from lectio divina to body prayers, from centering prayer to exploring as families, mature adults and youth, how we to pray in ways to deepen our faith.

Mardi Gras Brunch Mission Fundraiser!

Join us Sunday, February 26 at 10:45 am in Fellowship Hall. The Mission Committee and Adult Education seminar are joining forces to offer a wonderful morning of good food, supporting mission and learning about our mission partners. Jed and Jenny Koball will be joining us from Lima, Peru, via Skype during brunch. Our brunch menu is pancakes, sausage and fresh fruit. Suggested donation is \$5 per person and \$20 per family.

Sunday Adult Ed. Seminars, 10:45am

Our Fellowship Hall seminars will focus on this theme, utilizing the richness of our congregation, from the Prayer Ministry team to medical practitioners as they help us understand more fully the deep presence of God in our everyday lives.

Wednesdays – Dinner & Prayer

5:30 pm Dinner | 6:30 pm Worship

Beginning on March 8, Wednesday worship services will continue through Lent beginning with soup & bread in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm hosted by the Deacons. At 6:30, worship in the Sanctuary will be led by Director of Music Brent Neuenschwander and Associate Pastor Jessie Myers.

Childcare is provided during worship, but children are always welcome.

March 8 – Lenten Hymns & Prayer

March 15 – Taizé Prayer

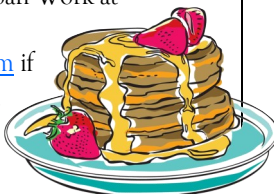
March 22 – Healing & Wholeness

March 29 – Organ Music & Prayer

April 5 – Art & Prayer

HELP IS NEEDED!

Call the church now to donate food items, and to sign up to volunteer. Additional monetary donations are always welcome. Food items should be delivered to the Great Room Kitchen by 9 a.m. Saturday, February 25. Contact Joan Work at 419.306.7201 or email rjwork@roadrunner.com if you have any questions.



Godly Play in Lent

Godly Play is a Montessori based method of education inviting children to wonder about God. Children from 3yrs-3rd grade will be invited to leave worship after the children's time to hear a Biblical story and respond to it. All are welcome! Volunteers are needed for this new ministry. Please contact Pastor Jessie if you are interested in being available once a month or if you have any questions!

Leaders: Tracy McMath & Gene McEvoy

March 5: Lenten Puzzle

March 12: Jesus and the Children

March 19: Jesus and Bartimaeus

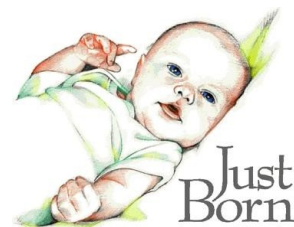
March 26: Jesus and Zacchaeus

April 2: Jesus the King

April 8: Jesus' Last Passover

April 16: EASTER Jesus is Risen:

Appearance to Mary Magdalene



Family News

Congratulations to **Laura & Jeff Wensink** on the birth of **Cecilia Ann**, on February 8, in Indianapolis. Cecilia is the first great-grandchild of **Marilyn & Norm Meyers**.

Our sympathy is extended to **Mike Needler Sr.** & family following the death of his brother, **Arthur**, on February 14.

Happy March Birthday! The March birthday list is available from the church office.

Register by March 7

First Presbyterian Church Nursery School is accepting registrations for 2017-18 preschool for 3, 4, & 5 years olds until NOON on Tuesday, March 7. Children must be potty trained and 3 years old by August 1, 2017. The registration form is available on the church website on the Nursery School page. The cost for various classes is listed on the registration form. Tell your friends to bring their kids to one of the best preschools in town!

Adult Education Sundays at 10:45am

Fellowship Hall

FEB. 26 - Peru Mission Partners

Join Pastor Jessie for pancakes as we Skype with Rev. Jed Koball and his wife Jenny, our new PCUSA partners in mission in Peru. Jed facilitates a powerful witness to the gospel with the *Joining Hands Network* in Peru.

MAR. 5 - Prayer in a Noisy Society: what it is and why we need it more than ever!

Let's kick-off our Lenten season together as a congregation. Focusing on prayer, young and old will explore the ways that we listen, hear and speak to God in our own lives and ways we can deepen our own spiritual practice. Be ready for some conversation and community fellowship! Pastor Jessie will facilitate.

Character Builders, Rm 209-210

The Present Word Study

FEB. 26 - "Christ Creates Holy Living" based on Galatians 5:18-6:10. Joanne Essinger will lead us exploring how Paul interpreted Christ's message regarding what the "Spirit-Led Community" avoids, what it embodies, and how it lives together.

MAR. 5 - God Loves Us is the focus topic for the Spring quarter. Lesson 1 is "The Source of All Love" based on 1 John 4:7-19. Please join us for fellowship and conversation!

Thank you

The Childcare staff would like to send a very big thank you to Emily McBeath for her donation of so many amazing books! Reading is such a beautiful way to bond with the sweet souls who play in the childcare rooms and they are really enjoying all of the new stories. We are very blessed by her kindness!

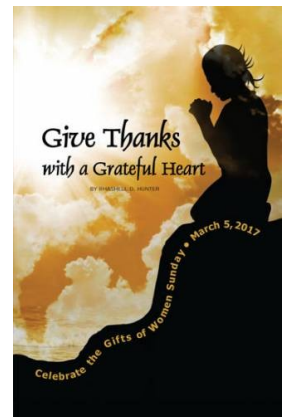
Thank you,

Nicole Cramer

Celebrate the Gifts of Women, March 5

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday and International Women's Day honors women who contribute their gifts to the church and community, and lifts up issues of women's rights. To help us celebrate the gifts that women have brought to our church, our community, and our world, women of our congregation, representing the Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team, will be participating in the 9:30 a.m. worship service on March 5. For more information about Celebrate the Gifts of Women and International Women's Day go to www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/celebrate-gifts-women/. Sunday, March 5, has also been designated as "Blanket Sunday." For the homeless a blanket can be a shelter, a roof between a family and the weather. It can be privacy in a crowded camp, a tote in which to gather a few salvaged belongings. More than all of these, it is a

sign that someone cares. In a time of disaster, a blanket can be a very real comfort, a source of warmth, and security. Your \$5.00 gift (or more) will help provide warmth, protection, and comfort to children and adults of all ages. Envelopes will be in the pews on March 5. Presbyterian Women partners with Church World Services to promote this most valuable service to all of God's children. Thank you for caring!



*Celebrate the Gifts of Women
March 5, and live life with an
attitude of gratitude.*

Presbyterian Women News

Soup & Service at the Salvation Army Kitchen

The women of First Presbyterian Church are please to sponsor a Salvation Army Soup Kitchen as one of their mission projects. Our volunteers provide the food for the meal and serve it. The next opportunity to help will be on Tuesday, March 21. Sign-up on the sheet posted outside the church office for the various needs for the meal and also the recipe for the casserole we will prepare and serve. Please sign

up to participate in service to God and our community. Financial donates are welcome. You do not have to be a member of a circle to participate, for all women of the church are Presbyterian Women. Thank you.



Gentle Reminders & Help Wanted

Youtheatre - Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr. in the Great Room.

7pm February 24, & 25

2pm February 26

Intermission refreshments will be sold by the Presbyterian Women to support PW mission projects.

FPC Book Review Group

will discuss *The President's Club* by Michael Duffy and Nancy Gibbs on Monday, March 13 at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor. All are welcome!

Helen Whitney—Univ. of Findlay Woodrow Wilson Visiting Fellow, will offer a free, public presentation on her film "Forgiveness: A Time to Love and a Time to Hate" on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Alumni Memorial Union.

Christian Clearing House

Garage Sale - April 1 & 2 Brinkman's Country Corner. Donations accepted March 11 - 29. Call 419-422-2222 for drop-off times.

Creative spirit to help with

bulletin boards! We are in need of communicating who we are and what we are doing. Let the office know if you can help a few mornings in the coming weeks.

2017 Pledge to First Presbyterian

Church - The Stewardship & Finance Committee asks you to turn your pledge card in ASAP. Session will be looking to approve the budget in March. Pledge cards are available in the church office.

Youth Group - March 12, 5-7pm, Room 201

Growing Older Gracefully

On Monday, February 27 at 7:00 P.M., the Stephen Ministers will be hosting a panel to discuss "Growing Older Gracefully." Our panel is made up of members from both First Presbyterian and Trinity Lutheran. They will be sharing their experiences of

aging-related feelings, hopes, and fears in order to help us gain better insight when facing this issues with our care receivers. Please join us in room 210 for an informative evening. Remember, you don't have to be a Stephen Minister to attend.

Music News: Music & Arts Camp

On July 17-21, we will be hosting a Music and Arts Camp here at First Presbyterian Church. This camp will be for children ages 3 years old through 5th grade. The camp will provide musical opportunities such as choirs, rhythm instrument groups and art classes all within a faith-based setting to teach participants about the love of God through music and art. The week will culminate with a Children's Music Festival on Sunday, July 23 during the 9:30am Worship Service followed by a reception with the week's art projects on display. The camp will be held daily from 9:00am - 11:30am for 3 years old through preschool, and 9:00am 4:00pm for Kindergarten through 5th grade. The cost for the week is \$25 for the first child, \$20 for the second child, \$15 for the third child, etc... Scholarships are available so all may attend. Registration opens March 1. Forms are available on the church website or in the church office. We need your help to staff the camp! Watch for more ways you can help. Over the next few months, lists of needed items will appear in the newsletter.

If you have any questions or would like to help in any way, please contact Brent Neuenschwander at brent@findlayfpc.org or the Camp Co-chair, Beth Niemeyer at bdniemeyer@hotmail.com.

Artist Series Events

March 12 at 3pm - The Bowling Green State University Men's Chorus conducted by Tim Cloeter. The concert will include music from Benjamin Britten's epic drama "The Ballad of Little Musgrave and Lady Barnard," the rollicking Russian folk song "Khorumi," a newly commissioned spiritual by Stacey Gibbs, Lauridsen's exquisite "Sure On This Shining Night," and the humorous "Manly Men" by Kurt Knecht. Admission is free. A free will offering will be received to help defray touring expenses. Don't miss it!

April 2 at 3pm - University of Findlay Choral Concert - *Fauré Requiem*
Tickets for this concert are free and available at the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts.

Session News from the Clerk - Carol Dale-Joseph

- Rev. Jessie Myers' time will increase 20 hr for a total of \$440 per week from February 13 through two weeks after the interim arrives plus \$1000 increase for professional expenses.
- Donations may be given to cover the cost of cabinets to store liturgical art, banners and paraments.
- Starting March 5 and continuing through Lent, two elders will be in the Parlor after worship to answer questions & listen to members with concerns.
- Elders will meet and greet young parents picking up their children from *Godly Play*.
- The newsletter will be published every two weeks with a quarterly bookmark listing upcoming events. Due dates for inclusion in the bookmark are April 19 and July 26.
- Consideration is being given by the trustees to replace the Main Street sign with an electronic one.
- FPC will sponsor Cub Scout Pack 334.
- New Born babies will be given a CD of Christian lullabies, a scrapbook, and a blanket.
- Watch for a sign-up sheet for Backyard Mission to be held April 22.
- Pledges are needed to meet the 2017 budget

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2017 CALENDAR

SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 26	
8:00 a.m.	Communion Worship	C
8:45 a.m.	Prayer Ministry	C
9:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship	S
10:00 a.m.	Godly Play	110
10:45 a.m.	Mardi Gras Pancake Fundraiser	FH
	Faith Enrichment	107, 202
	Character Builders	209-210

MONDAY	FEBRUARY 27	
9:30 a.m.	Women of Faith	L
6:30 p.m.	Stephen Ministry	209, 210, 211
	Boy Scout Troop 304	112-113
7:00 p.m.	MOPS Meal Prep Class	GK

TUESDAY	FEBRUARY 28	
6:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Café Marie
9:15 a.m.	MOPS 332, 333, 338, 107, 107A, 110	
9:15 a.m.	GatherRing Handbells	S
4:00 p.m.	Maumee Valley Presbytery Committee on Ministry	112-113
7:00 p.m.	Kindergarten Panel Discussion	GR

LENT BEGINS

ASH WEDNESDAY	MARCH 1	
9:00 a.m.	MOPS GIFT	332, 107
7:00 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship	S

THURSDAY	MARCH 2	
8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	P
6:30 p.m.	Worship Committee	206

FRIDAY	MARCH 3	
9:30 a.m.	MOPS Meal Planning	FH

SATURDAY	MARCH 4	
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SUNDAY	MARCH 5	
8:00 a.m.	Communion Worship	C
8:45 a.m.	Prayer Ministry	C
9:30 a.m.	Traditional Worship (Communion)	S
10:00 a.m.	Godly Play	110
10:30 a.m.	Children's Choir	110
10:45 a.m.	Prayer in a Noisy Society	FH
	Faith Enrichment	202, 206
	Character Builders	209-210

MONDAY	MARCH 6	
9:30 a.m.	Women of Faith	L
4:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee	117
6:30 p.m.	Boy Scout Troop 304	112-113

TUESDAY	MARCH 7	
6:30 a.m.	Men's Breakfast	Café Marie
9:15 a.m.	FPC Playgroup	GR
6:30 p.m.	Joy Circle	333

WEDNESDAY	MARCH 8	
9:00 a.m.	MOPS GIFT	332, 107
10:30 a.m.	Communion Worship	Birchaven
3:00 p.m.	Nominating Committee	117
5:30 p.m.	Lenten Dinner & Worship	FH, S
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir	CR

THURSDAY	MARCH 9	
8:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study	P
5:30 p.m.	Stewardship & Finance Committee	P
7:00 p.m.	Mission Committee	117
	Trustees	214

FRIDAY	MARCH 10	
9:30 a.m.	KnitWits	112

SATURDAY	MARCH 11	
8:30 a.m.	Com. Dinner Food Prep	GK

First News & Views

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FIRST PRES. STAFF

Jessica Myers, *Interim Associate Pastor*
Brent Neuenschwander, *Director of Music*
Nicole Cramer, *Coordinator of Children's Ministry*
Dana Bourne, *Office Manager*
Christine Butterworth, *Graphic Design Secretary*
Deb Baker, *Bookkeeper*
Marna Weaver, *Church Accountant*
Sharon Vaas, *Nursery School Director*
Mercedes Risser, *Childcare Staff*
Sterling Helms *Building Superintendent*
Evonne Helms, *Custodian*
Kevin Cotterman, *Custodian*
Dennis Hendricks, *Custodian*

BUS DRIVERS FOR 9:30AM SERVICE

Feb. 26: Dave Martaus 419-423-2443

March 5: Dave Reynolds 419-889-3690

Newsletter Deadline is March 6

Search Committee Update

The Interim Head of Staff search committee members approved by Session are Elders Kathy Hirschfeld, Greg Kuhlman, Marie Loudon-Hanes, Ami Orr, and Scott Younger. Representatives Roy Pneuman and Ron Boyd from the Maumee Valley Presbytery Committee on Ministry and Susan Meier, Maumee Valley Presbytery, Presbyter for Common Life, serve as advisors. Our first task was to revise and submit the Ministry Information Form (MIF) to the

Church Leadership Connection (CLC). The MIF, a required document for churches seeking a pastor, is how we identify our church family and how we make our needs known to potential pastors. Session approved the MIF on February 16; it was submitted to CLC on February 17. As we move forward, the committee asks for prayers as we discern what God has in store for us. Romans 12:12 reminds us to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

March 12 Community Dinner

Join us March 12 from 11am-12:30pm in the Great Room. The menu is *Irish Stew w/vegetables, green salad, bread, lucky brownies and green punch*. Sign up to donate items and volunteer! Food preparation will take place Saturday March 11 from 8:30-10:30am. Have all

contributions to Great Room Kitchen by Friday March 10 at noon. Financial donations are always welcome. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and mark *Community Dinner* on memo line. Volunteers are ALWAYS needed and welcome! See you there!



Sunday Worship

8:00 am Communion Worship, Chapel
9:30 am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

Feb26: Rev. Susan Meier

March 5 and 12: Rev. Jessie Myers

Traditional worship with communion March 5

March 19: Rev. Bob Butcher

March 26: Rev. Dr. Stan Walters

College Addresses

Please be sure we have your college student's address! The Hospitality and Fellowship Committee wants to stay connected with students and may be sending a small gift or two their way! Email Dana at info@findlayfpc.org or call 419-423-2112. Thank you!

Kairos Minds

Our next book is *The Orthodox Heretic* by Peter Rollins. Watch for time & place for our next discussion gathering! All are welcome!