

PRESBYTERIAN PRESS

First Presbyterian Church
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Session update on Masking

Session Has Approved the Following Mask Recommendation

It is the recommendation of the members of the former Church Reopening Committee that we return to the policy that was in place just prior to returning to required wearing of masks throughout the church. Our recommendation is that:

1. The wearing of masks for persons who are fully COVID vaccinated will be optional.
2. Those who are not fully vaccinated will be asked to continue to wear a mask when inside the church.
3. This change in policy/practice will be effective 3/1/2022.

SAVE THE DATE

Installation Ceremony

*Please join us for the Installation Service of
Rev. Kathryn Rivera Torea
Minister of Word and Sacrament
Sunday, March 27, 2022 at 3:00 pm
Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall
All are welcome!*

Pastor's Page

First and foremost: Thank you to Worship and Music Team for the beautiful gift basket you gave Juan Pablo and me as a welcome gift. It was so lovely and we enjoyed it greatly! And to all of you who made my birthday so special this year, thank you very, very much. What a delight. Our next celebration is for all of you: March 27—Installation of your new Minister!

Second: *When is Pastor Katie available?* I am not available on Fridays. **I am coming into the church office Monday-Thursday**, usually sermon writing on Saturday, and seeing all of you in worship on Sunday. Linda comes into the office Tuesday through Friday. I am still figuring out office hours. At the moment, I am scheduling different meetings throughout the day and evening, but generally using the church office as my base of operations, 9am-5pm. More clarity will come on these matters as a routine is established over a longer period of time. But making an appointment raises your chances of finding me available.

Third: I have more thoughts I want to share about the sermon theme from Sunday, Feb. 20, 2022. I reflected on Luke 6:27-38, in which Jesus instructs those who are listening to love their enemies. What follows is an extended excerpt from the work of the Rev. Dr. Barbara Lundblad, giving us some historical and cultural context that is necessary for understanding the whole meaning of Jesus' words on the matter of loving our enemies while still loving ourselves and our neighbors. This excerpt begins with Lundblad's caution to not try and boil the teaching down to the Golden Rule. Here are her thoughts:

The Rev. Dr. Barbara K. Lundblad, "Simple, Yet Not So Simple,"
https://day1.org/weekly-broadcast/5d9b820ef71918cdf20024ca/simple_yet_not_so_simple
Simple, Yet Not So Simple Sunday February 18, 2001, Union Theological Seminary, New York, NY

If we pull the Golden Rule out of this chapter as a summary of everything Jesus said, it's likely that we'll miss most of what Jesus said. We have to go back to where Jesus began. He began with these words, "Love your enemies." He says it not only once but repeats it again a few verses later. "But love your enemies; do good and lend, expecting nothing in return." Thus, the Golden Rule applies even when we sense that someone won't treat us the way we'd like to be treated. This is where it gets very hard. This kind of behavior is not only impractical but it can seem downright dangerous.

Jesus' words about turning the other cheek and giving up your shirt along with your coat seem demeaning in the extreme. It's likely that Jesus is speaking here to those who were victims rather than victimizers, to those oppressed rather than their oppressors. But Jesus isn't calling victims to roll over and play dead! It's very hard for us to see that for it sounds like Jesus is telling victims to be quiet, to keep taking it. (*continued*)

Pastor's Page continued

New Testament scholar Walter Wink has helped us see something far different. He works primarily with Matthew's version of this story, but the same insights can be applied to Jesus' words here in Luke. Strange as it may seem to us, Wink sees Jesus' words as a form of non-violent resistance to oppression. Now this is tricky because we have to know something about the culture in which Jesus lived. In the culture of first-century Palestine, a person's left hand was used for what we might call, well, bathroom functions. I know it's not pleasant to think about this, but it meant that you'd never strike a person with your left hand. If you were superior to another person, you would strike them with the back of your right hand, never with the palm of your hand for that would mean you'd see them as an equal. So now this is the picture Jesus is painting. If someone strikes you on the cheek, it will most likely be with the back of their hand, for remember Jesus is talking to victims here so your oppressor will not see you as an equal. He's likely to hit you with the back of his hand. If you turn your face to the side, you force your oppressor to see you as an equal for even your oppressor won't use his left hand. Some things simply weren't done. Jesus wants us to see an almost comical situation here. The oppressor's hand begins to swing but is caught in mid-air because he doesn't want to treat you as an equal by hitting you with open palm.

The same humorous resistance comes in giving up your shirt when your oppressor asks for your coat. Now this isn't a case of giving an old coat to the winter coat drive. Jesus is talking about something completely different here. It's likely that someone asks for your coat in repayment of a ...debt. You owe your oppressor something and since you have no land and very little money, your oppressor asks for your very coat. Now there were very clear restrictions regarding the repayment of ...debts. You could not leave a debtor naked at sundown no matter what he or she owed. It simply was not to be done. It was against every sense of decency and good order. So Jesus sets up another strategy of resistance. If they ask for your coat, give them your shirt too. There you'll be standing half-naked; they'll be forced to deal with this new reality you've set up. "No, no! No, no!" they say, "I don't want your shirt. Put it back on!" They might be so disarmed that they'll return your coat as well.

Jesus is not telling people to remain victims but to find new ways of resisting evil. "Love your enemies," Jesus said, "do good to those who hate you." This is the ethic that moved Martin Luther King, Jr., to kneel down with many brothers and sisters before water hoses and snarling police dogs. Many people thought he was crazy. "Only violence can fight violence," they told him. But the authorities and the oppressors didn't know what to do with this kind of resistance. They knew the power of violence; they knew the powerlessness of victims who knew their place, but this was something they hadn't seen before: victims who refused to be victims, victims who refused to fight back with violence, victims who claimed their place and reshaped the battle completely.

"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you." And don't be too impressed with yourself for being good to your friends. Anybody can do that, Jesus says. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much again." Just when we have the Golden Rule memorized, Jesus reminds us that it's far deeper than how we treat our friends. It's far deeper than what we hope to receive. It's even different from treating others the way we hope to be treated. Jesus comes back again to the place where he began: "But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return."

As I mentioned in my reflections from the pulpit on Sunday, Feb. 20, the information here in Lundblad's reflection does not address the whole meaning of Jesus's words on loving thine enemy. I took a different perspective Sunday morning. And there are others still to be brought to bear. One of the biggest blocks for us in hearing and accepting Jesus' instruction in this matter is concern for victims of abuse. Know and believe, Jesus did not come to centers of power to bring the Good News. Jesus came to the disempowered. He came bringing good news to the abused, and Lundblad's comments help us see that more clearly. ~KRT

Christian Education

By Julie Lindsey

SAVE THE DATE!!!! VBS 2022 will be held July 8-10th. We are planning a lively program filled with Bible stories, skits, crafts, and, of course, singing and food. Mark your calendars and ask friends to join us for this wonderful FPC tradition.

Our youth were busy decorating bookmarks to be included in the mission meal for February. The recipients surely felt the love that went into creating the Valentine bookmarks.



Amos Chalfin
Lighting the Christ Candle

Lenten devotionals are available for adults and children. Please pick one up and follow along through the Lenten season as we move toward Easter Sunday.

Remember to find your One Great Hour of Sharing fish in the back of the sanctuary. Fill them up and return them on Easter Sunday. The gifts collected will help many who are sick, hungry, in need of assistance due to disaster or injustice.

Your CE team and youth are very pleased with the changes made in the age appropriate classroom setup. We are finding the children are more comfortable engaging in activities and discussion with this arrangement. With this comes the need for two teachers each week. Please consider volunteering to teach a lot or a little. Any time you can give will allow the regular teachers to attend the church service more often and it is so rewarding to share the love of Christ with the children of our church.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

By Selinda Schultz

Tuesday Morning Study Group

We will complete our journey through Inspired by Rachel Held Evans on Tuesday, March 8th. Rachel's perspective on Gospel Stories, Fish Stories and Church Stories has provided the groundwork for many thoughtful discussions.

Our next study book, starting March 15th is Where the Eye Alights, Phrases of the Forty Days of Lent by Marilyn McEntyre. She offers forty short meditations, based on excerpts from Scripture and poetry to guide us on a devotional journey from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday. Join us on the devotional journey as we notice words that may give us pause and summon us to reflection. Call Selinda 419 865-8383 for more information.

Devotional Resources for Lent

Please pick up one of our devotional resources for youth, families, and adults available at church to guide your journey through the Season of Lent.



MISSION

Randy Phillips, Team Leader

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is: What are you doing for others?”



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

PCU COLLECTION ITEM: Pork &
Beans.



PERRYSBURG HEIGHTS COMMUNITY CENTER: Hygiene & Cleaning Products.

Currently, please donate cleaning products, their supply is almost depleted.

Receptacles: In the church vestibule. Let’s fill them up, just because!

PCU UPDATE: Brought to you via Diana Oliver. I want to acknowledge her outstanding commitment and dedication, with serving on the Board, being our church representative, and a volunteer for over ten years. She is a true servant of the Lord! Our team is very blessed to have her as a member!

PCU Annual Report: In 2020, they serviced 3094 clients. In 2021, the total amount was 1439. The annual “Feed The 5000”, for Lent, begins March 2nd Please consider donating any type of canned meat, this can include Tuna. Donor’s choice or buy one of each.

GOOD SAMARITAN FUND: In January, Linda, our superior secretary, helped eight individuals by either giving \$25.00 gift cards and /or bags of groceries. Pat, our Elm House buddy, was one of the recipients.

COFFEE CAKE MINISTRY: Chef Eileen Phillips, during January, baked homemade Banana Bread and delivered them to a few of our church members. If you know any member who might benefit from some quality fellowship time and tasty treats, please let Eileen know.

MISSION MEAL: Menu: Chicken and Biscuits, green beans, pudding, cupcakes and bottled water. Meals to be delivered on Wednesday, March 16th to Louisiana House & Thursday 17th to Elm House.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: The fish are coming back! Anyone can adopt one, no age limit required. The fish are located in the back of the sanctuary and church vestibule. Feed your fish a lot!

CABELL- LINCOLN COUNTY WORK CAMP: Our youth and adults have been participating over 30 years to this outstanding mission project! Kathy and Dennis East initiated and then yearly coordinated the trips, providing transportation down and working alongside the youths. The camp is a week long, it’s free, cost covered by the Mission team, no experience needed, you will receive both instructions and supervision on all work projects/equipment. Cliff note version: You will be working on homes that are run down and in need of repair. It’s an experience of a lifetime, one that touches your heart!

NOSA CARDS: February’s total sale was \$2,200.00. Merci beaucoup, mes chers amis!

Full to the Brim

An expansive lent

About the Theme

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The scriptures for this Lenten season (in the Revised Common Lectionary, Year C) are filled with parables and promises of God's abundant and expansive grace. Jesus as a mother hen, a prodigal son welcomed home, a fig tree nurtured with care and hope, precious oil poured out lovingly and freely, stones shouting out with praise—these sacred texts are brimming with a gospel of grace. We've done nothing to deserve or earn this grace, and yet, like water, it spills over. *Full to the Brim* is an invitation—into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. It disrupts the scarcity mentality that capitalism, oppression, or hierarchy can plant inside of us. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

We recognize that traditional iterations of Lent often emphasize restraint, confession, and piety. The origins of Lent were that one was to leave their old life behind to fast and prepare to be baptized into a new way of living. In essence, this was a practice of stepping away from the rat race, corrupt power, scarcity mentality, and empty rituals in order to live a more expansive and full life of faith. And so, *Full to the Brim* trusts the promise of our baptisms—God has already claimed us as God's own and nothing we can do will ever change or erase that. *Full to the Brim* doesn't ignore or deny sin and suffering. It doesn't absolve accountability for wrongdoing. Instead it contextualizes our faith. If love is our beginning, how can we live our lives led by love's promises? It reminds us to live fully—as we pursue justice and hope, or express grief and gratitude. And so, this Lent, let us trust—fully—that we belong to God. Let us increase our capacity to receive and give grace. Let us discover the expansive life God dreams for us.

"After a particularly exhausting season of my life, I sat on a Zoom call with my therapist and said in exasperation, 'I just feel like there has to be more than this. I think God would want more for me than this nonstop rat race of gym-work-sleep-repeat.' My therapist nodded and said, 'You're looking for an expansive life,' and I knew she was right. I crave a life overflowing with beauty, drenched in gratitude, and full to the brim with meaningful relationships. I crave space to revel in God's goodness. I crave a life where we don't forgive once, but seventy times seventy—forgiveness in excess. I crave a life, a love, a faith that is expansive, overflowing and full to the brim. So this Lent we are flipping the script. We are releasing the Lenten view that drills down on devotion as a response to guilt, sin, or grief, which many of us have learned over the years. Instead, we are leaning into the story of Jesus's life, death, and resurrection to open doors to this expansive life we trust God has in mind for us. Maybe the rat race isn't the answer. Maybe it's time to get off the hamster wheel. Maybe there is more here than the world lets on. Life, love, and faith—full to the brim."—Rev. Sarah Are, Founding Creative Partner, A Sanctified Art

*"Growing up in the church, I always felt like Lent had a particular vibe—a somber, introspective, possibly even self-critical kind of vibe. I remember giving up things for Lent to practice resisting temptation and feeling the weight of my sin like a cloak of guilt. Don't get me wrong, it's certainly appropriate that Lent elicits solemnity as we journey alongside Jesus on his journey to death. At times in my life, however, this Lenten energy has become crushing, even to the point of self-hatred. As we went through the Year C lectionary texts, I was struck by how much of the language and imagery was sprinkled with nurturing affirmations and nourishing comfort. As we moved through our meetings, the whole study felt like uncovering breathtaking love letters from a God who desires for us to have full, expansive lives. It has been like water in the desert, and I have to say, I dig this Lenten vibe. Led by the texts and the movement of the Spirit, we developed the theme, *Full to the Brim*, a Lenten season defined by an abounding Love that bubbles up and spills over, nourishing all of Creation."— Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman, Founding Creative Partner, Director of Branding, A Sanctified Art*

Lent begins this
Wednesday, March 2.
Gather at 5:30pm for
worship and the
imposition of ashes.



WORSHIP/MUSIC

By Marty Sloan



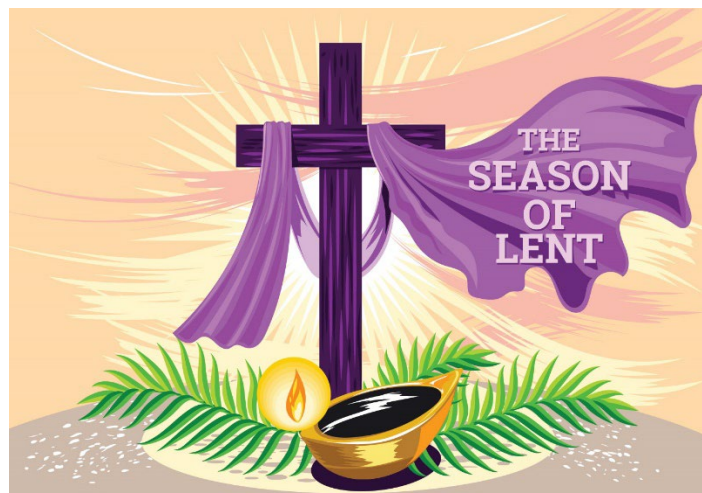
Pastor Katie: Our congregation is feeling blessed to have Pastor Katie serving as our new minister! We are cherishing Rev. Katie's inspiring weekly messages, consistent worship services, positive attitude and creative ideas for the future of the church!

Lent: Pastor Katie will lead a service of Worship (including the imposition of ashes) on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The theme for this year's Lenten season is from the Sanctified Art Resources entitled: "Full to the Brim: An Expansive Lent." Please join us for an insightful and meaningful service as we commit to a dedicated Lenten season.

"Full to the Brim: An Expansive Lent' is an invitation to be authentically who you are....When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path."

Music: Jordan Karrigan has been busy traveling to interview at various colleges in order to continue his musical education (i.e., Doctorate of Music). Best wishes to Jordan! We give thanks for our substitute musicians: Nancy Russell, Matthew Soeghay and Logan Hamm! Pastor Katie and the Worship Music team are diligently working to fill the Music Director position and getting the choir back in church.

Flowers: Please consider signing up for altar flowers for a Sunday in 2022 – Sign up sheet and order forms are on the bulletin board. Please note that the charge for ordering altar flowers is now \$50.00.



MAUMEE VALLEY PRESBYTERY

Spiritual Formation Spring Retreat 2022

This retreat is designed to assist you in seeing the pieces of God's Resurrection Grace in the midst of our brokenness. Artistic expressions such as mosaic, collage, fabrics and photographs will be offered. Mark Nafziger has decades of experience as a potter, a musician and a theological thinker: "For me a successful piece is when the design and form come together to create a cohesive whole. My goal is to make [pottery] that is not just used, but in the process of doing its 'job' also opens a space for an aesthetic experience." To learn more about his style of art, visit his store at <https://brush-creek-pottery-marknafziger.square.site/s/shop> or see his work at <https://www.facebook.com/marknafziger.brushcreekpottery/>

Shattered Grace: From Cross to Resurrection

April 24, 25, 26

Featuring Guest Potter Mark Nafziger

Brush Creek Pottery, Sauder Village

Along with Presbytery Leaders—Rev. Cathy Johnson & Rev. Pamela Short

Time: Sunday, April 24 @ 6pm (eat before you arrive) to Tuesday, April 26 @ 1pm

Meals: Monday breakfast—Tuesday lunch

Basic retreat cost \$25, includes all sessions and meals

Overnight: \$35 per night /per person w/ shared bathroom, or \$40 per night/per person for private bath

Lial Renewal Center, 5908 Davis Road, Whitehouse OH 43571

www.lialrenewalcenter.org

Don't let the cost stop you! Scholarships available, email matt@maumeevp.org.

Register on the presbytery website: <https://www.maumeevp.org/18-events/583-spiritual-formation-spring-retreat-2022>

SERVING CHART FOR MARCH, 2022

	HEAD USHER	GREETERS / USHERS	LITURGIST	CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	JR. WORSHIP LEADER	POWER POINT
6	Stephen Potts	Marty Gluth / Marty Sloan	Jon Grimm	Don Youel	Sarah M. / Kathy E.	Nancy Gates
13	Stephen Potts	Tom Stuart / Chris Stuart	Jack Simmons	Pastor Katie	Marty S. / Sarah M.	Gretchen Downs
20	Stephen Potts	Randy Phillips / Eileen Phillips	Rusty Phlegar	Gretchen Downs	Julie / Kathy E.	Stephen Potts
27	Stephen Potts	Marty Sloan / Carol Sprague	Kathy East	Melinda Gallant	Julie / Sarah M.	Kathy Jarosz

If you have a conflict with assigned date, please try to trade with another volunteer and inform Marty Sloan. Call 419.973.0623 or email mssloan107@me.com. If unable to resolve conflict, contact Marty as soon as possible. Thank you for your service to FPC.

SERVING CHART FOR APRIL, 2022

	HEAD USHER	GREETERS / USHERS	LITURGIST	CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	JR. WORSHIP LEADER	POWER POINT
3	Don Youel	Mary Beth Gilts	Molly Chalfin	Gretchen Downs	TBD	TBD
10	Don Youel	Sarah Crawford	Randy Phillips	Pastor Katie	TBD	TBD
17	Don Youel	Cecilia Richardson	Allison Mackin	Sarah Magoun	TBD	TBD
24	Don Youel	Marty Gluth	Rusty Phlegar	Don Youel	TBD	TBD

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March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Mission Team Mtg.	2 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service	3 6:30 pm Worship/ Music Team Mtg.	4	5
6 10:00 am Worship/ Communion 11:15 am Christian Ed Team Mtg.	7	8 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Session Mtg.	9	10	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time Begins 10:00 am Worship	14	15 10:00 am Bible Study	16 Mission Meal – Louisiana House	17 4:00 pm Finance/ Stewardship Team Mtg. Mission Meal – Elm House	18	19
20 10:00 am Worship	21	22 10:00 am Bible Study	23	24	25	26
27 10:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Installation For Pastor Katie	28	29 10:00 am Bible Study	30	31		

Birthday Wishes

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 6 Pat Oberhaus
March 7 Earl Campbell
March 9 Selinda Schultz
March 10 Rhea Huling
March 17 Molly Miller
March 17 Rusty Phlegar
March 24 Geraldine McGue
March 28 Erica Hope

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

April 7 Marty Sloan
April 12 Hannah Maloney
April 13 Robert Jarosz
April 14 Robert Gates
April 17 Joe Brainard
April 17 Barry Murr
April 18 Mike Cain
April 18 Julie Lindsey
April 21 Jim Haas
April 21 Nathaniel Martin
April 25 Linda Simmons
April 26 Ron Huling

If you have a birthday that is not listed, please contact the church office so that we can update our records.

PARISH CONCERNS

Please remember these members and friends in your daily prayers:

Joe Brainard
Dorothy Darr
Eva Lengel
Fay Mitchell
Rick Modrzynski
Pat Sheridan

Dick and Doris Currie
Lowrie Gilmore
Geraldine McGue
Barb Modrzynski
Diana Oliver
Ed & Sue Williams

March 2022 Newsletter

Service Time:

10:00 a.m. Worship Service

Children are excused during the worship service to attend Sunday School

Communion is served on the first Sunday of each month

Session Members

Jo Salvage – Clerk

Nancy Gates, Co-Clerk

Molly Chalfin

Mary Beth Gilts

Allison Mackin

Stephen Potts

Marty Sloan

Melissa Cain, Co-Clerk

Kathy East

Jon Grimm

Randy Phillips

Jay Salvage

Staff

Pastor

Adult Education Director

Musician

Treasurer

Secretary

Financial Secretary

Custodian

Nursery Attendant

Rev. Katie Rivera Torea

Selinda Schultz

Jordan Karrigan

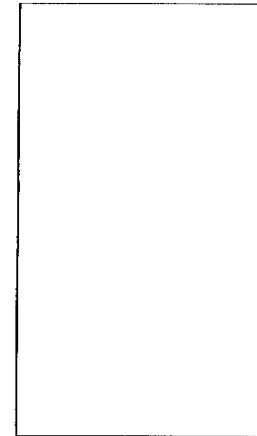
Don Youel

Linda Bristow

Tom Connolly

Kristin Burgoon

Kate Magoun



This Newsletter has been specifically prepared for:

First Presbyterian Church

200 East Second Street at Elm

Perrysburg, OH 43551