

1st Presbyterian Church Newsletter

February-March 2023

Pastor's Page



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

I write to you with joy concerning many things.

We ordained and installed new Elders onto Session, Gretchen Downs and Matt Hollar.

We have a wonderful new church secretary, Amy Reiter, who is in the offices Monday through Thursday, 9am to noon. Stop by and meet her!

I have a glorious new office on the second floor of the church. Come check it out!

The choir is singing away, the organ is being played, and kiddos abound! Happy days!

I invite you to just take a moment and appreciate all the abundance God is providing us.

Our annual meeting of the congregation is coming up on Sun., Feb. 26. We'll review the budget and talk about what it costs to fund the ministry we hear God calling us to create and maintain here. We will consider that ministry as we review the annual report and how it takes all of us together to pursue it. Aren't we blessed to have such wonderful companions for the journey.

Now, what truly amazes me is that the season of Lent begins Feb. 22. The Book of Common Worship of the PC(USA) has this to say about Lent:

“Lent” comes from an old English word for springtime, perhaps connected with the lengthening of days in this time of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The season of Lent is a time for growth in faith—through prayer, spiritual discipline, and self-examination in preparation for the commemoration of the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus Christ. In ancient Christian practice, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of Baptism at Easter. In many churches, it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for Baptism or confirmation, and for the whole community of faith to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship. Reconciliation is a key theme in the season of Lent—reconciliation with God and with one another through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Lent is a period of forty days—like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call of repentance to Nineveh, and Jesus's time of testing in the wilderness. The Sundays in Lent are not counted among the forty days, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sunset on Holy Saturday, at the start of the Great Vigil of Easter.

Beloved children of God, Lent is upon us. I hope you will join me on Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 5:30pm for the imposition of ashes to begin our 40-day journey of seeking together.

God bless you and keep you, *Pastor Katie*

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Celebrating Christ's love for all people

Join us each Sunday
this Lent for



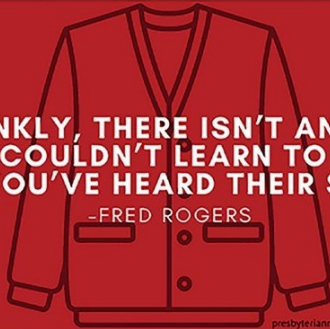
seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

Running Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, through Easter Sunday, April 9

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**"FRANKLY, THERE ISN'T ANYONE
YOU COULDN'T LEARN TO LOVE
ONCE YOU'VE HEARD THEIR STORY."**

-FRED ROGERS



presbyteriansmission.org/resource/a-beautiful-day-in-the-neighborhood-mr-rogers-day/



Mr. Rogers Day is March 20

Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament for the PC(USA) and was a notable public figure whose work around peace and reconciliation is worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. March 20 was his birthday and the day that the PC(USA) has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work.

It's a Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood!

We are celebrating one of our great, modern-day Presbyterians on Sunday, March 19, in worship.

If you can, wear a cardigan sweater and some tennis (athletic) shoes that day.



This would
be a great
Sunday to
invite a



friend!
Oh yeah, did
I mention
PRETZELS



RESCHEDULED WINE & CHEESE GATHERING

Saturday, March 18 from 4-6 pm

Home of Tom and Allison Mackin

Sign up today! Hope to see you there!

Pastor's Office Moved Upstairs

Thank you to everyone who helped move me to my new digs on the second floor. Being in the new space is just delightful. And we had such a fun moving day. Many hands make light work for sure.



* Make sure

to stop by and see me. I have chairs in the hall for easily pulling in seating.

* The downstairs pastor's office has become Sunday



School space.

* And we intend for the secretary to be situated upstairs as well. One step at a time!



LITURGIST ROTATION—2023

Red Team: Gretchen Downs, Kathy East, Jay Salvage, Kathy Jarosz

Green Team: Randy Phillips, Sarah Magoun, Jo Salvage, Rusty Phlegar

Blue Team: Fay Mitchell, Michelle Chavez, Rick Gilts, Megan Merrell

Yellow Team: Rhyn Davies, Matt Hollar, Mary Beth Gilts, Jack Simmons

5th Sundays & Substitute: Allison Mackin

March = Red Team

***April = Green Team**

May = Blue Team

June = Yellow Team

***July = Red Team**

August = Green Team

September = Blue Team

***October = Yellow Team**

November = Red Team

***December = Green Team**

January '24 = Blue Team

February '24 = Yellow Team

USHERS & GREETERS—2023

March, May, July, September, December

1st Sunday: Mary Beth and Rick Gilts

2nd Sunday: Jay and Jo Salvage

3rd Sunday: Randy and Eileen Phillips

4th Sunday: Doris Currie and Robb Gates

5th Sunday: Carol Sprague and Martha Gluth

April, June, August, November, January

1st Sunday: Martha Gluth and Marty Sloan

2nd Sunday: Lowrie Gilmore and Carol Sprague

3rd Sunday: Cecilia Richardson and Delbert Duckins/Marty Sloan

4th Sunday: Sarah and Lizzie Crawford

5th Sunday: Carol Sprague and Martha Gluth

Allison Mackin is the Worship Team Chairperson. Contact her with questions.



February has been a fun and productive month for the youth of our church.

The trip to **Urban Air** was a huge success and everyone returned home safe and sound, including the brave chaperones!

The youth have been working very diligently on learning the Lord's Prayer over the past 8 weeks. And on Sunday,



Feb. 12th, the children led the congregation in reciting the Lord's Prayer during the service. *It was a very proud and spiritual experience.*

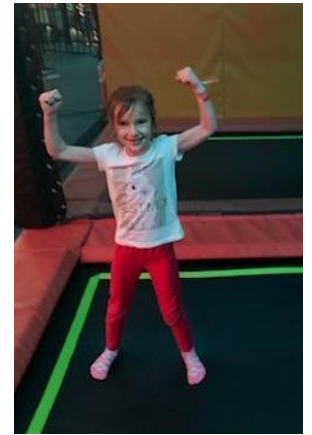
February 19th is "HOT PIZZA, HOT TOPICS" from 5:30-7:30 led by Pastor Darcy. There



will be a short lesson, gourmet pizza followed by Game Night. **All children are welcome.**

(Parents, this is a great time for your children to have fun with their friends and you can do the same or enjoy two hours of quiet time of your own!)

Watch for children's Lenten devotionals which will be available soon. This is a wonderful way to mark the days leading up to Easter with better understanding of our Lord's sacrifice for us.

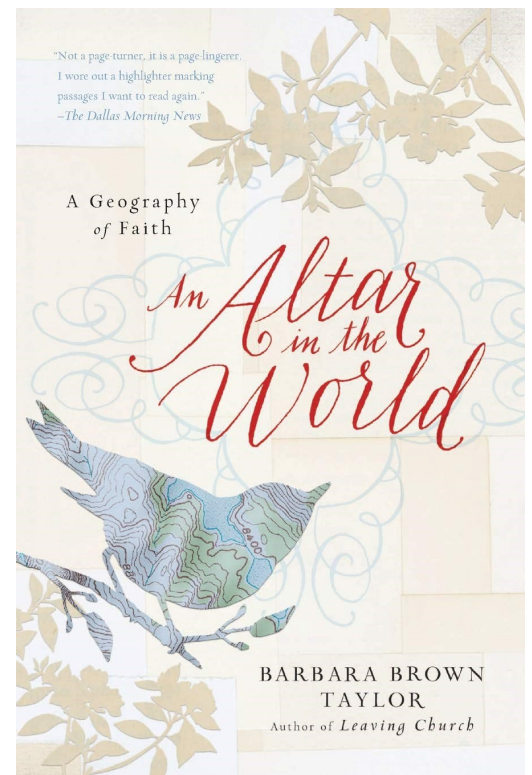


Adult Christian Education

During the Season of Epiphany in January and February our group has been discovering how many ordinary activities, Waking Up, Paying Attention, Wearing Skin, Walking on the Earth and Getting Lost, can be spiritual practices once we are willing to consider it that way.

We have many more common experiences to explore as we continue reading An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor. Through the weeks of Lent we will discuss each remaining chapters ending on April 4th.

There is still time to join us. Call Selinda at 419 865-8383. Watch for news of the new topic we will start on April 18th.



Mission Team Updates

In our February meeting we hosted a conversation about transportation needs and support within the congregation and among those we serve in the community. And riding the wave of having updated our street sign for The Table, we decided to put our creativity toward updating the church's ad in the Perrysburg Messenger (It's kind of a Team Contest—Mary Beth is so creative!)

PCU kicks off "Feed the 5,000" on Ash Wednesday. We are asking all of you to bring donations to the PCU basket at church. They are asking for canned meats. (mmm...tuna...)

We encourage you to give to One Great Hour of Sharing this Lent between Feb. 26 & Mar. 26.

And we are excited to welcome representatives from **Cocoon** to speak to all of us about the work they do during fellowship hour on **March 5th**.



Remembering Those Who Have Died with Love

Jim Haas



Geraldine McGue



James Metcalfe



February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship is Sunday mornings at 10:00am			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 8:30am, Men's Bible Study 11:15am, Christian Ed. mting 5:30pm, Hot Pizza/Hot Topics	20 Presidents' Day	21 10am, Bible Study 10am, MVP zoom mting. 4pm, Wood Co. MVP clergy mtg	22 5:30pm, Ash Wednesday worship AlAnon	23	24	25
26 First Sunday of Lent Congregational Annual Meeting Walleye Game	27 Pastor Katie on Vacation thru March 5.	28 10am, Bible Study 6pm, Joybelles				

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Worship is Sunday mornings at 10:00am			1 5pm, Congregational Life mting 6pm, Mission Team mting AlAnon	2	3	4
5 Guest Preacher Communion Cocoon visits Fellowship Hour Christian Ed Team mting	6 Pastor Katie back to office	7 10am, Bible Study	8 AlAnon	9	10	11
12 Daylight Savings Time Starts (spring forward) 8:30am, Men's Bible Study	13	14 10am, Bible Study 6:30pm, Session meeting	15 5:30pm, The Table AlAnon	16 4:00pm, F/S Team meeting	17 St. Patrick's Day Toastmasters	18 4pm, Wine & Cheese Party
19 Mr. Rogers Day (please wear a cardigan and tennis shoes to worship)	20	21 10am, Bible Study	22 AlAnon	23	24	25
26 8:30am, Men's Bible Study	27 5pm, Cong. Life Team mting	28 10am, Bible Study 6pm, Joybelles	29 AlAnon	30	31	