

April 2018



LIFELINE

Pastor's Prayers

Easter Sunday falls on April 1st this year, a day traditionally known as April Fools Day. Is this coincidence irrelevant to our faith? Is April Fools a completely secular day, when children play pranks on each other?

Perhaps, but the Bible is full of reflections on what is wisdom and what is foolishness. As it says in Proverbs 1, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; **fools** despise wisdom and instruction." The witness of faith concludes that true foolishness is not restricted to jokes and pranks, but describes those who reject God. As the Lord says to the prophet Jeremiah, "My people are **foolish**, they do not know me; they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good."

However, Paul writes in 1 Corinthians, "The message about the

cross is **foolishness** to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." As we celebrate the day of resurrection, our faith may seem foolish in the eyes of the world. But God turns the wisdom of the world upside down. Death is vanquished and sin is wiped away. This is great good news!

Are we foolish to put our trust in this message? Being Christian means we choose to follow Jesus, to trust in him regardless of other, contradictory messages we may receive. So, this Easter, go ahead and be a fool for Christ!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Karen

*** Dear God, we praise you for the gift of new life that comes to us in Jesus. May our hearts be filled with the joy of the resurrection which renews the whole world. Amen.*

Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of First Presbyterian, please talk with Pastor Karen Cassedy. The membership process is as follows: a) you attend a membership class or individual instruction in what it means to be Presbyterian; b) you meet with Session, who approves your membership; and c) you are presented in worship and make a proclamation of faith. You don't have to wait for a membership class to be announced — talk to Pastor Karen when you are ready.



*Bring your neighbors and
your friends to come
Worship with us!*

SAVE THE DATE

Your CLS (Congregational Life and Service) Team will be having a Rummage Sale in the Fellowship Hall in early June (exact weekend to be determined). Money earned will be utilized for one of our important projects in the Church.

We will be asking for donations of items. No clothing items please. (Pickup can be arranged if you are unable to bring them to the church). Also, we will need volunteers to help arrange and price the items on the Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the sale.

Remember - one person's trash is another person's treasure! Watch for more details to come soon!

EASTER FACTS AND LEGENDS

You may read the Biblical accounts of Easter in [Mark 16](#), [Matthew 28](#), [Luke 24](#), and [John 20](#). Early Christians initially began remembering Jesus' Resurrection every Sunday following its occurrence. It was not until A.D. 325 that the Council of Nicaea decided to set aside a special day to celebrate the Resurrection. One issue in its selection was whether Easter could be celebrated on a weekday or should always be on a Sunday. Many felt the date should continue to be based on the timing of Passover each year: once Jewish leaders determined the date of Passover, Christian leaders could set the date for Easter by figuring three days after that. Following this schedule would have meant that Easter could fall on any day of the week. Others believed that since God raised Jesus on a Sunday, and this day had been set aside as the Lord's Day, Sunday was the only possible day to celebrate his resurrection. As Christianity drew away from Judaism, some were reluctant to base the Christian celebration on the Jewish calendar at all. The Council finally decided Easter should be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. This method is still used today to determine the date of Easter.

Easter lilies were brought to America from Bermuda in the 1880s. They are associated with Easter because lilies grow from bulbs that are buried and "reborn."

Although eggs themselves are a symbol of new life, the coloring of **Easter eggs** is associated with various legends:

1. An ancient story recounts Mary Magdalene, who was summoned by Emperor Tiberius, stating that Christ had been resurrected. Tiberius skeptically pointed to an egg and supposedly exclaimed, "Christ has not risen, no more than that egg is red!" -- after which the egg in question is said to have miraculously turned blood-red.
2. An Eastern Orthodox myth says that it was either Mary Magdalene or Mary, the mother of Jesus, who placed a basket of eggs under the cross. The blood of Christ fell on the eggs, turning them red.
3. According to yet another tale, Simon of Cyrene was an egg merchant who left his basket of eggs in order to help Jesus carry the cross. When he returned later, he found that his eggs had changed color.

The first **chocolate Easter eggs** were made in Europe in the early 19th century, in France and Germany. John Cadbury, a British beverage merchant, first offered teas and then expanded into coffee and liquid chocolate. He created his "French eating Chocolate" in 1842, but it was not until 1875 that Cadbury Brothers (John and his brother Benjamin) made their first Easter eggs. Early European Easter eggs had been solid, while the production of the first hollow chocolate Cadbury eggs involved painstakingly lining the molds with chocolate one at a time. The modern Easter egg owes its smoothness, shape, and flavor to two important developments in the history of chocolate – the 1828 invention of a press for separating cocoa butter from the cocoa bean by the Dutch chemist and chocolatier C.J. Van Houten, and the 1866 introduction of a pure cocoa by the Cadbury Brothers. The Cadbury process was eventually the secret to making many fine chocolates, including those of the modern molded variety.



CLERK'S CORNER

Session Meeting
March 20, 2018

My Clerk's article will be brief this month.

The first day of spring arrived with a forecasted Winter Advisory for possible freezing rain in the morning followed by snow beginning in the early evening. This forecast caused a dilemma for the regular scheduled Session meeting. Should we proceed with the meeting, or err on the side of caution and cancel the meeting? Pastor Karen and I discussed what to do and decided to conduct a quick poll of Session members. They voted for canceling the meeting. Session voted to receive Ralph Beaver into membership

We decided to have a quick Session meeting on Palm Sunday at 9:45 A.M. The purpose was to accomplish one item of business related to a membership transfer request.

Carolyn McMillan had prepared the February Financial report for the regular meeting. I have included the information.

Total income for February 2018 was \$10,570.44; total expenses \$26,122; net (\$-15,551.56).

The detailed report shows the higher than normal expenses were due to paying the annual insurance payment, and property expenses.

Kathleen Seewer
Clerk of Session

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Dear Church Family,

Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, flowers, and offers to bring meals after my knee surgery. I know that all of this is helping with my quick recovery. I truly appreciate what you have done for me.

*Love,
Diane Sondergelt*





SPOTLIGHT ON OUR
VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



BARBARA BUSH

We are very fortunate to have a Church Secretary (Shelia Yux) who is dedicated to and loves our Church. But she can't be everywhere and do everything all the time. That is where our Volunteer of the Month steps in.

Barbara Bush had an extensive background with the government in "running the show." She carried those skills over with her and puts them to good use in our church office. You rarely come to the church and don't see Barb scurrying around – answering phones, proofreading bulletins and other printed matter, and setting up the lounge for Sunday morning fellowship.

She also orders or purchases many of the things we need to operate the church – from coffee and other fellowship hour supplies to communion cups, and everything in between.

She is almost always ushering on Sunday morning unless one of our other congregants "gives her a day off" so she can enjoy the service from a pew down front. In addition, she is usually answering questions and organizing the church ladies Sunday outing.

It's nice to know that if Shelia needs to take personal (vacation or sick leave) off she can count on Barb to cover the office for her, including the all-important Sunday bulletin. Barb is also a Deacon and a member of the Worship AND Personnel Committees.

Barb is an invaluable member of our Church family and we are very fortunate to have her on our team.

Thanks Barb – you are loved and appreciated!

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Sunday Mornings: We are about to begin a new study of Genesis, starting on April 8th. As has become our habit, we will look at a variety of translations as we read together and discuss the relevance of this important book for our lives today. All are welcome! (This class gathers at 8:45 a.m. in the Boardroom.)

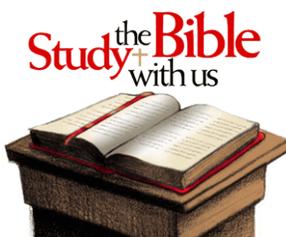
Tuesday Mornings: Woody Ensor continues to lead this weekly Bible study over breakfast at Foy's Grill. Again, all are welcome! (This group meets at 7:00 a.m., before heading out to their various volunteer and other commitments.)

Thursday afternoons: Our study of *Cultural Literacy for Religion: Everything the Well-Educated Person Should Know* meets on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the lounge. Upcoming topics are:

Date	Class
April 5	Field Trip, leaving at 12 noon* , to Mosque in Bellbrook
April 12	NO CLASS
April 19	Final DVD/Discussion Class – Religion Today: Trends, Challenges, and Hope
To Be Determined	Additional field trips, possibly to a Synagogue and to Hindu and Sikh temples

As this newsletter goes to press, there are still details in the works for the remainder of our April class gatherings.

* **PLEASE NOTE** that we need to leave just after 12 noon on April 5, to carpool to the Mosque in Bellbrook, where our guide will meet us at 1:00 p.m. The class that day will conclude at 3:00 p.m., and we will return to church after that. Questions? Please see Shirley Schlafman or Denise Lo Cicéro. All are welcome!





Happy Birthday!

- Apr 3 Bette Malavich
- 4 Jan Smith
- 10 Erin Grace McMillan
- 11 Tricia McMillan
- 12 Bob Hendrix
- 17 Darrel Leister
- 21 Dolores Calhoun
- Emily Haynes
- 24 Frank Lowe
- 28 Terry Riselay

- May 14 Ken Gadd
- Paul Botts
- 16 Margaret Carlson
- Mitch Oliver
- 18 Jim Saunders
- 19 Tom Kelsey
- 24 John McMillan
- 30 Will McMillan
- 31 Darla Thompson



*Please join us
for church on Sunday.*

March Supper Club



Julie's group spending time together
in March

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Presbyterian friendships deepen as
Marlene's group enjoy lunch at Coco's.

Photo thanks to Jan Smith



April 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>Resurrection of the Lord / Easter</p> <p>8:45 am Adult Bible Study</p> <p>10:15 am Worship with Communion</p>	<p>10:00 am Bell Workshop</p>	<p>7:00 am Bible Study at Foy's Grill</p>	<p>1:00 pm Hope Circle (Lounge)</p> <p>6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>12:00 pm Field trip to Mosque</p>	<p>9:00 am United Chimes (MR)</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>8:45 am Adult Bible Study</p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p>	<p>11:00 am St Vincent Cooks</p> <p>5:30 pm St Vincent Servers</p>	<p>7:00 am Bible Study at Foy's Grill</p>	<p>6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal (MR)</p> <p>7:00 pm Operations Mtg (BR)</p>	<p>No class</p> <p>2:15 pm CLS Meeting (BR)</p>	<p>9:00 am United Chimes (MR)</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>8:45 am Adult Bible Study</p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>7:00 am Bible Study at Foy's Grill</p> <p>7:00 pm Session (BR)</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>1:00 pm Cultural Literacy Class</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:00 am United Chimes (MR)</p> <p>Lifeline Deadline</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>8:45 am Adult Bible Study</p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7:00 am Bible Study at Foy's Grill</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:30 Lunch at Senior Center</p> <p>6:30 pm Bell Rehearsal (MR)</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Class Field Trip ??????</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 am United Chimes (MR)</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>8:45 am Adult Bible Study</p> <p>10:15 am Worship</p>	<p>30</p>					

Lifeline—the monthly newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn, Ohio
1130 Highview Dr, Fairborn, OH 45324
“The Friendliest Church in Town”

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 8:45 am

Sunday Worship: 10:15 am

Pastor: Reverend Karen Cassedy

Education and Mission Coordinator and Director of Music: Denise Lo Cicéro

Financial Secretary: Carolyn McMillan

Director of Chancel Ringers: Rena Leatherman

Organist: Jeff Firestone

Church Secretary: Shelia Yux

Remember! **FISH Pantry** donations are the first Sunday of each month. Non-perishable items may be brought in any Sunday and placed in the barrel in the narthex.

Suggested donations are:

Canned Soups

Canned Vegetables

Canned Fruit

Canned Juices

Canned Meats

(Tuna, Stews, Spam, etc.)

Boxed Items

(Rice, Cereal, Crackers, Mac n’ Cheese, etc.)

Baby Items

(Diapers, Formula, Canned Foods, etc.)

Personal Hygiene Items

(Soap, Shampoo, Toothbrushes, etc.)

Thank you for your generous donations!



Articles for the May 2018

**Lifeline need to be
in the office by April 20 .**

**There will be a limited number of
copies of the *Lifeline* in the lower narthex if
you need to pick one up.**

**Please let the office know
of any meetings that you have
scheduled in the church building
so that we can maintain an
accurate calendar and
answer questions as folks call.**