

March 2017



LIFELINE

The Pastor's Prayers

Lent, which begins on March 1, is traditionally a time of deepening our discipleship and committing ourselves to follow Jesus more faithfully. For the early church, Lent was a time of training new Christians so that they might be welcomed into full fellowship at the Easter Vigil, where they were baptized and received communion for the first time.

The church, while universal in time and place, is always experienced through its particular expression in a local congregation. And so, *I would like to invite those of you who aren't members of this congregation to attend a new member class.*

In the Presbyterian tradition, membership is open to all who affirm that Jesus is Lord of their life. Some of you have lots of previous experience in a Presbyterian church, some may have been members of a different denomination, and some may have little experience at all with Christianity, so I will tailor this class to the needs of those who sign up. Likely topics

include: what it means to make an affirmation of faith; the significance of baptism and communion for Presbyterian; and what it means to be Presbyterian.

At the end of this course, the Session, our ruling body, will meet with those who wish to join and vote to receive them. New members are invited to share their faith journey and hear from elders what it has meant to be followers of Jesus here at this particular congregation over the years.

I will be available during Lent for anyone who is interested in becoming a member. If several people are interested, we will meet for three weeks on Sundays during Lent either before worship (9:00 to 10:00) or after worship (11:45 to 12:45).

To sign up: please email me at

Karen@firstpresbyterianfairborn.org or give me a note. Let me know your availability and previous faith background.

Please consider taking this course, even if you're not sure whether you want to join at the end. If you are interested in membership but these times aren't convenient, we'll come up with an alternative.

From our Book of Order, G-1.01:

The congregation is the church engaged in the mission of God in its particular context. The triune God gives to the congregation all the gifts of the gospel necessary to being the Church. The congregation is the basic form of the church, but is not of itself a sufficient form of the church. Thus congregations are bound together in com-

munion with one another, united in relationships of accountability and responsibility, contributing their strengths to the benefit of the whole, and are called, collectively, the church.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Karen

*** Dear God, help us to deepen our commitment to follow you by deepening our relationship with your body, the church. Bless this congregation and those who are seeking you here. Amen.*

Ash Wednesday

Just a reminder that Lent begins TODAY, March 1, 2017, and we have been invited TONIGHT for an Ash Wednesday meal at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship at 7:00 p.m., at College Hill Community Church. We're bringing desserts.

SAVE THE DATE: Maundy Thursday is April 13, and we will be hosting our friends from College Hill that evening for dinner and worship.



Invite your neighbors and your friends to join us in worship and fellowship on Sundays. Invite them to one of our interesting Bible study classes.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN: SOMETHING NEW!

As our little ones grow bigger, we are looking at a new way to fulfill the vow we make at the time of their baptisms and are currently making plans for moving the Sunday morning teaching area to a second floor classroom. We are on the verge of beginning a six-month experiment and, during that time, we do not plan to move the current Infant-Toddler space, which will still be available for parents to visit with babies. Denise Lo Cicéro and Shirley Schlafman are preparing an easy-to-use Bible story curriculum, with topics and activities that can be adjusted according to the age and number of children present. Pastor Karen, Troy Oliver, Marlene Acus, Julie Brown, and Diane Sondergelt are also participating in the task force spearheading the project, with help and advice from the other members of the CLS (Congregational Life and Service) Ministry Team. We have also been speaking with the various families in our congregation and incorporating their ideas and suggestions. Numerous members of the congregation have agreed to be teachers and helpers, so that there will always be two non-related people available for each class (to satisfy insurance requirements), and so that no one who is teaching or helping will have to miss worship too often. Plans have been made for cleaning the room thoroughly before the proposed “Open House” event, currently scheduled for Easter, April 16. Whether individual children will leave class and return to the sanctuary in order to share in the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper on Communion Sundays will be left up to the individual parents to decide. On all Sundays, the teacher and helper will escort the children to and from the classroom. If you have specific questions or would like to know how you might get involved with our youngest worshippers, please feel free to speak to Denise or to anyone mentioned above.

MEMORIAL GIFTS

Gifts in memory of Phyllis Mesker have been received from Woody & Harriet Ensor and Bob & Barbara Wiedlund.

COST OF POVERTY EXPERIENCE

I am writing to invite members of First Presbyterian Fairborn to attend a free ***Cost of Poverty Experience*** on Monday March 20, from 9-11:30 am, at Abiding Christ Lutheran Church in Fairborn (326 E. Dayton-Yellow Springs Road).

Greene County Connections is teaming with Think Tank to offer this event, which is underwritten by CareSource. Think Tank is nationally and internationally known for providing this event. They have presented it to the international Young Presidents organization, Leadership Dayton, the Wright State Medical School, the University of Dayton community, market researchers, and in venues around the country. **In 90 minutes, you will experience the anxiety and challenges of one month of a family in poverty.** This will change how you think about the poor among us!

There have been lots of changes in Greene County Presbyterian churches since Greene County Circles began with a two-fold mission of eliminating poverty several families at a time and changing the way the community thinks about poverty. Greene County Circles became Greene County Connections as we left the Circles organization to collaborate with Think Tank, Inc. and similar organizations around the country. It has been a slow process; however, we are building momentum and support for launching in Fairborn.

Register at www.greencountyconnections.org.

Peace,

Buzz Reed (Westminster Presbyterian Church in Xenia)

Getting to know our Deacons

Elizabeth (Beth) Thomas is our Deacon of the Month. She is married to Alfred (Tommy) Thomas and they have a daughter, Major Carla Thomas, who is currently stationed at Fort Meade, MD. Beth and Tommy live in Springfield.

Currently the Deacon Moderator, Beth is starting her 6th year as a Deacon in 2017. Beth has also served two terms as an Elder in the Church. She has been a member of First Presbyterian Church for nearly 40 years. She is a member of Hope Circle – stepping up to fill in for the leader during her absence.

Retired after 38 years of teaching – Beth taught 35 years in Ohio, 1 year in Georgia, and 2 years in Florida. She retired from Clark-Shawnee School District where she taught visual arts at Reid Elementary/Middle school.

Beth is a gardener. She donates fresh vegetables to FISH and Enon Relief – as well as to friends and her Church family. She enjoys canning and freezing vegetables for her own use. She also enjoys furthering her religious journey and education by attending two Bible classes a week, as well as Sunday morning Adult School and her personal daily devotionals.

Beth is an avid reader – for interest and pleasure. She is a member of the PageTurners Book Club. She is physically active and participates in the National Trails and Parks Department (NTPD): Trail Walkers, Trail Hikers and other nature programs of interest. She is a member/participant in United Senior Services SAIL Program, Changing Gears Bike Club and various programs of interest such as yoga and gym.

A sponsor and participant of Springfield Summer Arts Festival, Heritage Center, and the Springfield Museum of Art – Beth also enjoys attending local festivals Spring through Fall. She is a 6-year participant in Project More Tutor, a program that advances low ability readers to be able to pass the Third Grade Guarantee Test.

As time permits – Beth enjoys doing arts and craft projects. As you can tell – Beth loves to stay engaged and busy – and fortunately First Presbyterian Church is a recipient of her time and talents.

DEACONS

CLERK'S CORNER

Session Recap February 21, 2017

Troy Oliver reviewed the January 2017 Financial report prepared by Carolyn McMillan: Total income for January 2017 was \$16,205.68; total expenses, \$18,239.09; net -\$2,033.41. Troy shared a new spreadsheet form she will use to track our 2017 budget item expense vs. actual item expense. The Financial Review was completed on February 6, 2017. No exceptions were found. Two suggestions were made regarding completion of the **blue sheets**. These suggestions will be implemented.

Session approved:

- Approved the January 2017 meeting minutes.
- Approved implementing the two suggestions from the financial review.
- Approved Art Gooray's resignation from Session. This resignation leaves us one Elder short.
- Approved the retirement request of Sexton Ronnie Gross effective May 31, 2017.
- Approved the Youth and Child Protection Policy.
- Approved a joint meeting between Deacons and Elders following worship with a light lunch provided by Session. Two date options

will be presented to the Deacons; either 3/19 or 3/26.

Approved a Session book study to assist with church vision and direction.

Approved next Session meeting on March 21.

Additional Information:

Vital Statistic: Membership roll total is 120.

Christian Education: To provide for the spiritual growth of the children who are attending our church, a curriculum has been prepared, and volunteers recruited to teach the children when they are here. A room in the CE wing is being prepared. Hope Circle volunteered to assist with cleaning this room. This program will be evaluated in six months to determine whether it is a success and used sufficiently to continue.

Operations will work on finding a replacement for our retiring Sexton.

Presbytery Report: Michael Seewer, our Elder Commissioner to the February 11 meeting gave his report of the meeting. Book of Order amendments **16-C, 16-G and 16-H**, were approved. Book of Order amendment—**16-D** was rejected.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPDATE

Sunday Mornings:

We are just beginning a unit on the Apostle Paul, and are currently reading Galatians. We plan to follow that up with Philippians and then Acts. 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:

The Holy Land Revealed, featuring DVDs by noted archaeologist Dr. Jodi Magness, meets on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge. Shirley Schlafman and Denise Lo Cicéro are the facilitators. All are welcome; please join us! Upcoming topics include:

Date	Topic
March 2	Sites of the Trial and Final Hours of Jesus
March 9	Early Jewish Tombs in Jerusalem
March 16	NO CLASS (COSI at Fairborn Primary School)
March 23	Monumental Tombs in the time of Jesus
March 30	The Burials of Jesus and James
April 6	The First Jewish Revolt: Jerusalem Destroyed
April 13	Masada: Herod's Desert Palace and the Siege
April 20	Flavius Josephus and the Mass Suicide
April 27	The Second Jewish Revolt Against the Romans



Happy Birthday!

Mar	10	Art Gooray
	13	Mark Priaulx Norm Willoughby
	17	Joyce Burnette
	18	Doris Bastin
	19	Robert Lawler
	20	Kay Smith
	25	Tommy Thomas
	28	Christy Riselay
Apr	3	Bette Malavich
	4	Jan Smith
	10	Erin Grace McMillan
	11	Michael Barnes Trish McMillan
	12	Bob Hendrix
	17	Darrel Leister
	21	Emily Haynes Delores Calhoun
	24	Frank Lowe
	25	Robert O. Williams
	28	Terry Riselay

Dear Friends;

I am so appreciative of the support I have received from the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn.

Thank you for all the emails, phone calls, and cards that I received over the last several months. I took comfort in your words. Thank you most for all of your prayers.

Thank you, Pastor Karen, for your caring and supportive conversations.

May God Bless You All.

*With love,
Pat Kelsey*

Thank you for the lovely flowers presented to me by Judy Myers.

It was an early birthday present surprise which provided a cheery scene. The flowers are still lovely.

*Thanks again,
Harriet Ensor*

We had a special message from our friends Art and Elween Lewis requesting that we send cards to their son David. They think that it will help him. His address is:

*David A. Lewis / Curahealth,
7777 Stebenville Pike, Room 608,
Oakdale, PA 15071*

Update on Sermon Feedback Survey (from Pastor Karen)

Thanks to the six people who accepted my invitation to give feedback on what they want in a sermon! Here is a summary of what people told me. In response, I will be preaching on Forgiveness during Lent and am seeking other ways to incorporate this feedback into sermons. (If this inspires you, pick up a survey in the church office!)

1.) I like the sermon to include information about the Bible.

All the time - 4

Sometimes - 2

2.) I want the sermon to remind me of what the Christian faith is all about.

All the time - 4

Sometimes - 1

3.) I expect the sermon to challenge me to spiritual growth.

All the time - 3

Sometimes - 3

4.) I want the sermon to help make sense of troubling world events.

All the time - 2

Sometimes - 4

5.) What biblical books, stories or texts would you like to hear a sermon or sermon series about?

Paul

Ten Commandments

Mostly New Testament (2)

6.) What life issues or world issues would you like to have addressed in a sermon?

Forgiveness (2)

How to pray (2)

Jesus' inclusiveness for God's world, the Good News

Our living in today's world

Current issues in the world

Avoiding worry

Challenges to our faith

7.) Other hopes or expectations for the sermon?

Challenge us!

Continue to tie the message to today's situation.

I hope for it to be received by us and put into action.



March 2017



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1	2	3	4
 <small>shutterstock - 152603534</small>			1:00 pm Hope Circle- Lounge 6 pm Meal at College Hill 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship at College Hill	1:00 pm Holy Land Class-Lounge	9:00 am United Chimes-MR	
5 8:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Worship with Communion	6	7 7:00 am Bible Study at Foy's Grill	8 6:00 pm Operations Mtg.- Boardroom 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers rehearsal- Music Room	9 1:00 pm Holy Land Class-Lounge 2:15 pm CLS mtg- Boardroom 7:30 pm Choir rehearsal- Sanctuary	10 9:00 am United Chimes-MR	11
12 8:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	13 11:00 am St Vincent Cooks 5:30 pm St Vincent Servers	14 7:00 am Bible Study at Foy's Grill	15 4:00 pm COSI- Setup 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers rehearsal- Music Room	16 COSI all day No class No meetings	17 9:00 am United Chimes-MR <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> St Patricks Day  </div>	18
19 8:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	20	21 7:00 am Bible Study at Foy's Grill 5:45 pm Session Study 7:00 pm Session - Boardroom	22 10:00 Cook for Senior Center 11:30 Serve at Senior Center 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers rehearsal- Music Room	23 1:00 pm Holy Land Class-Lounge 2:30 pm Deacons Mtg.-Boardroom	24 9:00 am United Chimes-MR <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> LIFELINE DEADLINE </div>	25
26 8:45 am Adult Bible Study 10:15 am Worship	27	28 7:00 am Bible Study at Foy's Grill	29 6:30 pm Chancel Ringers rehearsal- Music Room	30 1:00 pm Holy Land Class-Lounge	31 9:00 am United Chimes-MR	

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

Sexton: Ron Gross

Office Hours: Tuesday—Friday, 10 am—4 pm (closed Monday)

Phone: 937-878-3954

Fax: 937-878-3399

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 April 2017

**Lifeline need to be
in the office by March 24.**

**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.**