



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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Rev. Annie McMillan
Pastor

Scott Rockhold
Organist

Elder Chris Alfred
Director of Finance
Treasurer

Judi Echard
Office Secretary

Elder Senta Goudy
Clerk of Session

WE ARE A NURTURING,
VIBRANT CONGREGATION,
REACHING OUT TO
THE COMMUNITY AND
STANDING AS A BEACON
OF CHRIST'S LOVE
AND PROMISE.

...by grace
you
have
been
saved...
*Ephesians 2:5,
NRSV*

March 26, 2023
10:30 a.m.



Fifth Sunday
IN LENT

Sharing the Life of the Church

“HOPE IN THE LORD! FOR WITH THE LORD THERE IS STEADFAST LOVE” (PSALM 130:7, ESV). WELCOME TO WORSHIP, ONE AND ALL.

Coffee Hour - Join us at 10 a.m. in the Harris Room for light snacks and fellowship. Today's Coffee Hour is hosted by **Jess Linville**.

The Life of Jesus Book Study - Amy Rogers will begin a new book study on **Wednesday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m.** If you would like to attend, please sign up in the foyer so books may be purchased.

Easter Flowers - Tomorrow is the deadline to order Easter flowers. If you want to place an order, please fill out an order form and return it with your payment to the offering plate today, or to the church office tomorrow. Order forms are available outside the Sanctuary entrance.

Choir Rehearsal - On **April 2, following worship** (about 11:30) the choir will rehearse *The Hallelujah Chorus* in preparation for Easter Sunday. Anyone interested is welcome to join in.

Volunteer Recognition - To nominate an outstanding volunteer for recognition for the quarter ending March 31, fill out a Nomination Form (located in the foyer) and return to the church office no later than **Sunday, April 2**.

Community Easter Egg Hunt - Saturday, April 8, at 1 p.m. at Friendship Park Plastic eggs, individually-wrapped candy and monetary donations are appreciated. Collection point is outside the church office.

Church Easter Egg Hunt - Following 10:30 worship on **Easter Sunday, April 9**, there will be a church egg hunt for *all* of our kids. Children may bring their own

baskets or use bags that will be available. All eggs and candy will be provided.

Being Presbyterian 101 - New members, and anyone interested in learning what it means to be Presbyterian, are invited to join Pastor Annie at **9:30 a.m.** on Sundays, **April 23, 30, and May 7**, in Room 204.

Snack Drive - The Mission Committee is collecting snack items for Children's Listening Center, Children's Home Society and Family Crisis Intervention Center. Check the display outside the Sanctuary for a list of requested items.

April 30 is “Choose-a-Hymn” Sunday
Nominate a favorite hymn for use during worship on April 30. Forms are available in the foyer. (Please list your name)

HOLY WEEK



APRIL 2 - PALM SUNDAY

8:30 a.m. Worship in the Chapel

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

APRIL 5

6:30 p.m. Outdoor Casual Worship
in the Prayer Garden
following The Gathering

APRIL 6 - MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Worship with Communion

APRIL 9 - EASTER SUNDAY

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Worship in the
Prayer Garden

(no 8:30 a.m. Worship)

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary
Egg Hunt following worship

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Fifth Sunday in Lent / Mister Rogers Sunday

March 26, 2023

10:30 a.m.

GATHERING

Preparation for Worship

As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.
Ephesians 6:15

Welcome

Minute for Ministry

Missions: Community Cleanup - April 15

Elder Morgan James

Prelude

Softly and Tenderly

Brown, Thompson/arr. Houck

Kelly Beckett, Becky McGinnis - vocal duet

***Call to Worship**

Someday, the house of God will stand on the highest mountain.

People will come from every place to learn how to walk in God's path.

God will show us what is fair and put an end to our fighting.

People will turn their old weapons into new tools for growing food.

As a parent feels compassion for their children,

so the Lord feels compassion for those who honor him.

For God knows how we're made; God remembers we're just dust.

Come, people of God:

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

***Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

***Almighty God, thank you for gathering us
here in your holy house:***

to sing and pray, to speak and listen, to wonder and grow.

***Teach us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit,
that we may go out sharing your great love and grace
with all our neighbors.***

Hear our prayer in Jesus' name. Amen.

***Hymn 218**

Ah, Holy Jesus

HERZLIEBSTER JESU

Children's Time

Blessing the Bunnies

*Those who are able, please stand.

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

*Almighty God, with Paul we too are foremost in sin.
You have called us to love you with heart, mind, soul, and strength,
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
But, if we are honest, we know that sometimes we hurt each other
and fail to keep our promises to you.
Have mercy on us and forgive us.
Teach us, day by day, to turn away from what is wrong
and turn to you in faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SILENCE for personal confession ...

Words of Assurance and Pardon

Listen to the sound of the waters and know that
in baptism you have been marked as a beloved child of God.
God does not deal with us according to our sins.
In the love of Jesus Christ, you are loved forever.
Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel:
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God. Amen.

*Response

Hymn 581

Glory Be to the Father

Glory to God
GLORIA PATRI

*Ritual of Friendship

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.
Exchange words of peace and greetings with those around you.

Sharing the Life of the Church

GROWING

Prayer for Illumination

God of extravagant grace,
open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed
we may grow in our faith and more closely follow our Lord Jesus. Amen.

*Those who are able, please stand.

Scripture

Acts 9:1-9

p. 777

Acts 9:10-19

The word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God!***Sermon****“GRACE FOR THE WRETCHED”**

Rev. Annie McMillan

Confession of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God the Father Almighty,
 Maker of heaven and earth,
 and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
 who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried;
 he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
 he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand
 of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
 to judge the quick and the dead.
 I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church;
 the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;
 the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.*

CARING**The Offering**

Near to the Heart of God

C. McAfee / arr. M. Mier

*The Doxology

Hymn 606

Glory to God

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Dedication**Prayers of the People**The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;
 and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

GOING

*Hymn 649	Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound	AMAZING GRACE
*Benediction and Sending Forth		
The Postlude	Amazing Grace	arr. D. Cherwien

PARTICIPANTS IN WORSHIP

Beadles - *Connor Buchanan, Audrey Hickman*
 Liturgist - *Greg Boso*
 Sermon Character - *Bob Fish*
 Sound Technician - *Matt Buchanan*

We continue with our Lenten Worship Series
 AMAZING GRACE

Next Sunday, April 2 - Palm/Passion Sunday

We will wave palm branches to our coming King, and we ponder
 the amazing grace that came to Peter, who denied Jesus yet was
 fully forgiven by him, just as we are, and called into service for him.

Prayer List – Please remember the following in your prayers:

Yvonne White	Mamie Dawson	Art Bennett
Phillip Irvine	Karen Vanoster	Dan Ellis
John B. White	Cunningham Family	Dave Bell
Wayne Sanders	Melanie Thompson	Vince Eades
Fleming Family	Becky Holdren & family	Jean Singer
Alex Morgado	Ruth Ann Huddle	Brad Carter
Judy Stephens	Charlotte Johnson	Barb Easter
Katy Stephens	Roy Clark & Family	Mary Slater
Bernice Lemley	Megan Dougherty	Doris Dunn
Marianne Mason	Homebound Members	Mysti Ruble
Doug Anderson	Troops – World Peace	Bill Niday

*Those who are able, please stand.

THIS WEEK AT FPC

Sunday, March 26 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Bell rehearsal - Bell Room
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Harris Room
10:15 a.m. - Coffee with the Pastor
- 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day - Sanctuary

Monday, March 27

- 7:00 p.m. Parkersburg Pride - Room 204

Wednesday, March 29

- 4:00 p.m. Founders' Trust Meeting - Room 204
- 5:30 p.m. The Gathering meal - Stevenson Hall
- 6:30 p.m. Lenten Book Study / Pastor Annie - Room 204B

Thursday, March 30

- 6:00 p.m. Cub Scouts pack meeting - Rooms 123/124
- 6:30 p.m. Juliana Ringers Rehearsal - Bell Room
- 7:15 p.m. Troop 3 Boy Scouts - Scout House

Saturday, April 1

- 8:30 a.m. Saturday Stewards - Harris Room
Facilities Management Committee - Harris Room
- 12:00 p.m. HA Meeting - Room 204

Sunday, April 2 **Palm Sunday** / *Communion*

- 8:30 a.m. Service of Morning Prayer - Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. Juliana Ringers rehearsal - Bell Room
- 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour - Harris Room
10:15 a.m. - Coffee with the Pastor
- 10:30 a.m. Service for the Lord's Day - Sanctuary
- 11:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal - Sanctuary
Hallelujah Chorus preparation for Easter Sunday



GRACE SO AMAZING

Paul was converted about two years after Christ's ascension. His conversion is recorded three times in the sacred history of the church (Acts 9; Acts 22; Acts 26). Although some unbelievers have accused the Bible of undue repetition, this simply highlights the importance of Saul to Christianity. In Acts 9 the historian gives the basic facts of Saul's conversion in a chronological treatment of the early years of the church. It was a most remarkable turn of events that led the church's number one enemy to become the church's number one promoter. He literally left Jerusalem on a mission of persecution and ended that journey as a part of the group he hated. Apart from literally seeing and speaking with Jesus on that Damascus road, it is impossible to explain such a change - except to say that it was the direct result of GOD'S AMAZING GRACE.

