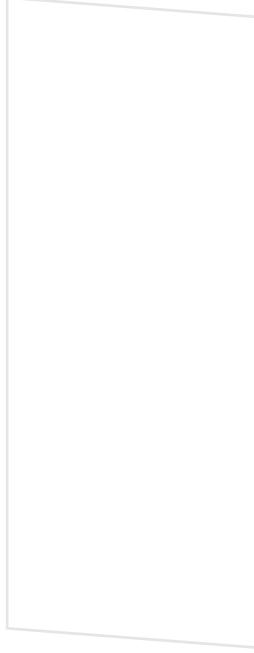


March 2024



First Presbyterian Church of Parkersburg
GATHERING, GROWING, CARING, GOING

1341 JULIANA STREET
 PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

Phone: 304-422-5426

Fax: 304-428-0372

E-mail: office@fpcpborgwv.org

Visit us at:

www.fpcpborgwv.org



facebook.com/fpcpborg

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

Sunday Worship:
 8:30 a.m. in person
 & 10:30 a.m. in person
 or livestream on Facebook



Article Deadline: 15th of each month


If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information: 304-422-5426 or office@fpcpborgwv.org.



first things
FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

March 2024



Blessed be the
God and Father
 of our
Lord Jesus Christ!
 By his great mercy
 he has given us a
new birth
 into a
living hope
 through the
 resurrection
 of Jesus Christ
 from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3, NRSV



Lent is well under way. We started on our knees on Ash Wednesday and have continued by diving into the Lord's Prayer and other practices, grounding our Lenten journey in prayer. In upcoming weeks, we will look at the Lord's Supper and the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving. We'll remember that Jesus tells us to go to God boldly and ask for what we need. And we'll learn more about Psalms of Lament.

As I think about this season of prayer, I think about the various places and times that I have experienced God's presence. When I lived on Long Island NY, there was a popular park that was one of my favorite places to walk.



The trail began in a beautiful wooded area and continued for a mile among the trees. After walking through the woods, the trail would unexpectedly end at the Moriches Bay with a long

stretch of sand to walk on in both directions. It was a beautiful spot, combining beach and woods. I would often go there to refresh and be with God.

Where do you find God? Is it in new life, like the birth of a baby or a kitten? Is it out in creation: the woods, the mountains, or out under the stars? Is it when you're around certain people: remembering that God became a human being experiencing all of the emotions, temptations, and pains of life, as well as the joys. Is it in worship? Through music? The love of family or friends? Or maybe you experience God through reading the bible, devotional books, or prayer.

Throughout the gospels, Jesus is said to "go off to pray". We all have times when we need to retreat for a moment and just be with God, whether through remembering when God has acted previously, or going out and being in those places that remind us of God's presence within our lives. Take some time this Lent to connect to our Beloved Creator, and know that God is listening; God is present. And God loves you more than you can imagine.

Blessings and Peace!

Pastor Annie

Holy Week Schedule



Palm Sunday - March 24

Worship at 8:30 & 10:30

Community Meal at 2:00 in Stevenson Hall



Maundy Thursday - March 28

Worship at 7:00 p.m. / Communion

Interactive Stations of the Cross



Easter Sunday - March 31

**Sunrise Worship at 6:30 in the Prayer Garden
(NO 8:30 Worship)**

Adult Sunday School at 9:15 in Room 204

PW Open House at 10:00 in the Harris Room

Worship at 10:30 in the Sanctuary

Egg Hunt for children following Worship

Easter Open House



**Presbyterian Women
invite you to a special
Easter Open House**

**10 a.m. in the Harris
Room, Easter Sunday,
March 31st**

**Please join them for
special Easter treats and
fellowship before
10:30 Worship.**



EASTER SUNDAY

**March 31, Following
10:30 Worship**

**Kids may bring their own
baskets or use bags
provided by the church.**

* * * * *

**NEEDED: Donations of NEW
plastic eggs, individually-
wrapped candy & small toys.
Leave donations at greeter's
table in the foyer.**

The Session, in its effort to better communicate with the congregation, is now including highlights from their meetings in the newsletter each month. Here are the highlights from their **FEBRUARY** meeting:

Session HIGHLIGHTS



- The Annual Congregational Meeting was set for March 17. It will be held in the sanctuary directly after 10:30 worship.
- Multiple committees shared their goals for 2024. The Mission Committee has joined other local churches in the Community Meal Initiative to serve a free community meal once a quarter. In conjunction with the quarterly Community Meal, the Mission Committee will be kicking off a new program called "Neighbors In Need."
- The church will be having ushers again to pass out bulletins, collect the offering, etc. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the foyer so that anyone interested can sign-up.

Sunday, March 17 Following 10:30 Worship



We will hear 2023 year-end reports from committees and boards and review the approved 2024 Budget

After the meeting we will move to Stevenson Hall to enjoy a **St. Patrick's Day Luncheon** provided by the Deacons. Please plan to be there!

The Session realizes the great value of our volunteers, and each quarter will choose a special volunteer for recognition. Please help us choose that person by nominating someone who you believe is making a difference at FPC.



Pick up a Volunteer Nomination Form from the foyer, fill it out and return it to the Sunday offering plate, or place in the Office mailbox, no later than **April 7**. The winner will be announced in April bulletins and the May newsletter.

MARCH



Happy Birthday!

Emma Kaufman	6th
Audrey Hickman	7th
Dave Hickman	9th
Joe Foley	10th
Rosalie Rogers	13th
Nancy Cutlip	14th
Carl Gheen	23rd
Pat Ellenberger	28th

Happy Anniversary!

Paul & Nancy Brooks	6th
Rod & Sally Emerick	28th

Special Dates in March

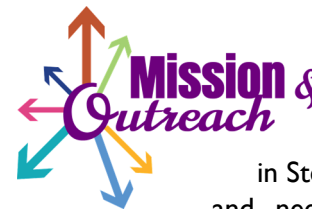
- World Day of Prayer - 1st
- Daylight-Saving Time - 10th
- St. Patrick's Day - 17th
- First day of Spring - 19th
- Palm Sunday - 24th
- Maundy Thursday - 28th
- Good Friday - 29th
- Easter Sunday - 31st



The cross was not a senseless tragedy but the most important redemptive act in

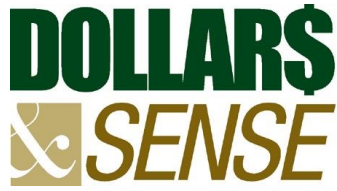
human history. For all who down through the ages have put their trust in Jesus, the cross is their highest blessing as it turns Black Friday into Good Friday.

—R.C. Sproul, *When Worlds Collide: Where Is God?*



FPC has joined other local churches in the **Community Meal Initiative** to serve a free community meal once a quarter. Our first meal will be **March 24, from 2:00-3:30** in Stevenson Hall. We will serve soup & sandwiches and need volunteers to prepare, serve and clean up. There is a sign-up sheet in the foyer if you'd like to help.

Neighbors in Need - In conjunction with the Community Meal, we will be kicking off a new program called "Neighbors In Need". We are collecting **NEW** socks and underwear for men and women, and will hand them out to those who attend the meal on March 24. There is a collection bin outside the church office. For more information, please see the Mission Bulletin Board in the hallway outside the Sanctuary.



Below and on the next page is the latest update on church finances from our Treasurer. Keep in mind, reports are a month behind due to the publishing date of the newsletter. If you have any questions, you may contact Chris Alfred at finance@fpcburgwv.org.

Financial Statement as of January 31, 2024

	Budget	Actual
2024 Budget		
Income		
Sunday Offerings		
<i>Pledges</i>	\$ 126,175.00	\$ 23,285.00
<i>Contributions</i>	\$ 44,624.00	\$ 6,328.50
<i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 452.70
Sunday Offerings	\$ 172,299.00	\$ 30,066.20
<i>Facility Rentals</i>	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
<i>Other Income</i>	\$ 175.00	\$ -
<i>Misc. Income</i>	\$ -	\$ -
<i>Interest from F. Trust</i>	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 263,474.00	\$ 32,066.20
Expenses		
<i>Discipleship</i>	\$ 2,048.00	\$ -
<i>Mission</i>	\$ 500.00	\$ -
<i>Worship & Music</i>	\$ 7,100.00	\$ 234.08
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 149,698.00	\$ 10,975.34
<i>Facilities</i>	\$ 81,630.00	\$ 4,379.35
<i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 3,273.00	\$ -
<i>Communications</i>	\$ 1,225.00	\$ -
<i>Office Expenses</i>	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 1,647.72
Total Expenses	\$ 263,474.00	\$ 17,236.49
Difference	\$ -	\$ 14,829.71

ASSETS

CHECKING

Operating Fund	\$ 15,844.32
Restricted Funds	\$ 97,453.73
Deacons Fund	\$ 3,673.55
Total Checking	\$ 116,971.60

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUNDS

Checking	\$ 2,086.85
Savings	\$ 1,627.84
Total PW Funds	\$ 3,714.69

INVESTMENTS

Deacons CD	\$ 6,058.01
Morgan Stanley Stocks	\$ 4,076.45
United Bank Founders Trust	\$ 66,598.37
Wesbanco Founders Trust	\$ 1,343,834.76
Presbyterian Women Investments	\$ 150,929.29
Total Investments	\$ 1,571,496.88

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 1,692,183.17

March Liturgists

- ◆ 3 Melanie Thompson
- ◆ 10 Lloyd Cowell
- ◆ 17 Barbara Lucas
- ◆ 24 Justin Bosley
- ◆ 31 Kathy Hinkley

Communion Servers

March 3rd

Mikki Bosley
Kristin Holliday
Deb Karr
Becky McGinnis

March 28th

Joyce Boso
Katie Buchanan
Morgan James
Susan Niday





MARCH

- 10th: **Daylight-Saving Time begins**
- 17th: Annual Congregational Meeting - following 10:30
Worship, in the Sanctuary
St. Patrick's Day Luncheon (provided by the Deacons)
following the meeting, in Stevenson Hall
- 24th: **Palm Sunday** - Worship at 8:30 & 10:30 / Community
Meal, 2:00 - 3:30 in Stevenson Hall
- 28th: **Maundy Thursday** - Worship: 7 p.m., in the Sanctuary /
followed by Interactive Stations of the Cross, in
the Harris Room
- 31st: **Easter Sunday** - Sunrise Worship:
6:30 a.m., in the Prayer Garden
NO 8:30 Worship
Adult Sunday School - 9:15 a.m., in Room 204
PW Easter Open House - 10 a.m., in the Harris Room
Worship - 10:30 a.m., in the Sanctuary
Kids' Egg Hunt, following worship



APRIL

- 6th: Festival of Faith (Presbytery event) - FPC, Charleston

Easter Flower Dedication 2024

To dedicate a flower for use in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, complete this form and return it with your donation to the church office, or place in the offering plate.

Suggested donation per flower is \$10.00

Make checks payable to: *First Presbyterian Church*, with notation "Flowers."

~ DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MARCH 17 ~

IN MEMORY OF: _____

TO HONOR: _____

TO CELEBRATE: _____

DONATED BY: _____

NUMBER OF FLOWERS: _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____








Please take your flowers home after worship on Easter Sunday.





He is Risen!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
<p>“For most of us, the prayer in Gethsemane is the only model. Removing mountains can wait.” —C.S. Lewis</p> 					<p>1 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>2 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																										
<p>3 Communion 8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>4 6:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 6:00 PM KOM Knitters</p>	<p>5 5:30 PM PW Board</p>	<p>6 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Juliana Ringers</p>	<p>7 6:00 PM Lenten Study: <i>Spiritual Practices</i> 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>9 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg. 5:00 PM WVCCU Dinner & Meeting</p>																																										
<p>10 Daylight-Saving Time 8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>11 </p>	<p>12 12:30 PM Esther Circle 5:00 PM Financial Mgmt.</p>	<p>13 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Juliana Ringers</p>	<p>14 6:00 PM Lenten Study: <i>Spiritual Practices</i> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>16 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																										
<p>17 Cents-Ability Offering 8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Congregational Mtg. and Luncheon</p>	<p>18 6:00 PM Session </p>	<p>19 First Day of Spring </p>	<p>20 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Juliana Ringers</p>	<p>21 6:00 PM Lenten Study: <i>Spiritual Practices</i> 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>22 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>23 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																										
<p>24 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship 2:00 PM Community Meal 7:00 PM Mission Committee</p>	<p>25 Wood Co. Schools Spring Break thru 4/1 3:00 PM Henderson Hall Docents 7:00 PM Parkersburg Pride Mtg.</p>	<p>26 6:00 PM Worship/ Discipleship Comm.</p>	<p>27 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Juliana Ringers</p>	<p>28  7:00 PM Worship / Interactive Stations of the Cross</p>	<p>29 </p>	<p>30 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																										
<p>31 EASTER SUNDAY 6:30 AM Sunrise Worship 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM PW Open House 10:30 AM Easter Worship Egg Hunt</p>	<p> <i>In John 20:13-15 (NRSV), the same question is repeated twice. The angels ask Mary, “Woman, why are you weeping?” (v. 13). And then Jesus asks Mary, “Woman, why are you weeping?” (verse 15).</i></p> <p><i>On Easter Sunday, perhaps it’s still the question before us: “Why are we weeping?” Why is there still such anguish in the world? Why are we laboring on, burdened and living as though there has been no resurrection?</i></p> <p>Weep no more! Christ has risen!</p>					<p>April 2024</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> </tr> <tr> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
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