#### Are you graduating? Or is someone in your household

**graduating?** We'd like to lift up graduates in a time of prayer during worship and offer a small gift. Please e-mail sandy@fpcmiddletown.com with any names to include.

The Purple Table is offering resources for you to share Godly Play stories at home! Email Lisa (lisa@fpcmiddletown.com) to sign up to borrow a story kit. Story videos are easily accessible online (https://www.storiesofgodathome.com/events).

Join the Purple Table online gathering via Zoom. Check next week's bulletin for date and time of fellowship and activities. (Zoom Meeting ID: 357 756 9746) The Purple Table is a pop-up welcome space, online and in-person, that builds community, affirms, and supports healing. Let us encourage one another as we play, share stories, listen, and find a way through, together! Connect instantly with The Purple Table by visiting the website: https://the-purpletable.mn.co

**"I Am..." Sermon Series:** During the seven weeks of Eastertide, we are going to consider the resurrection through seven images given to us by Jesus. Sometimes, the best way to consider big, unwieldy ideas is to begin with small pieces. Jesus gives us seven zimages when he says "I am the..." In the coming weeks, we will take time to ponder each of these images: I am the resurrection, I am the door, I am the good shepherd, I am the bread, I am the vine, I am the road, and I am the light.

# <u>Prayer list</u>

Please submit any prayer requests for today's service to Michael before the worship service begins, the submitted requests will be included here next week.



# First Presbyterian Church Middletown, Ohio

www.fpcmiddletown.com

April 25, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Children of the Heavenly Father Robert Elmore

Psalm 23

### **Call to Worship**

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil: for you are with me: your rod and your staff they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

Hymn #236

*The Strife Is O'er* Lara Moon, alto

#### **Silent Prayer of Confession**

**Assurance of Forgiveness** 

Hymnal #447

Victory

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

**Circle Time for Young Disciples** 

#### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### John 10:11-18 Ezekiel 34:11-16

Sermon	"I Am the Good Shepherd"	Michael Isaacs
Solo	<i>And Can It Be?</i> Lara Moon, alto	Dan Forrest

#### **Affirmation of Faith**

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us — and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

#### Welcome and Announcements

**Reception of New Members** 

# **Prayers of the People**

## The Lord's Prayer (unison)

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.

## \* Charge and Benediction

Postlude

The Strife Is O'er

Gordon Young



**Leading Worship today:** Michael Isaacs, Pastor; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/Organist; Parker Shablak, Sound Technician; Lara Moon, Soloist.

We are pleased to welcome **Phil** and **Jo Ann Thornbery** to membership at First Presbyterian Church this morning. You may recognize Phil from singing in the choir and Jo Ann made dozens of afghans for our recent blanket drive. They are the parents of member, Sarah Thornbery.

The flowers in the sanctuary were given in celebration of Town and Mary Marshall's 75<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary which was in April of 2020. The flowers were given by their children and grandchildren.

Hearing aids and large print bulletins are available for use during the worship services. Please contact an usher for assistance.

Please continue to be diligent about wearing a mask and social distancing during in-person worship. It is important as ever not to let our guards down in dealing with this public health crisis that it affecting the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of so many people. If you, or someone you know, needs additional hand sanitizer or masks, please call the church office, and we can help provide these important resources.

# Announcements

**Tuesday Morning Bible Study on April 27 at 10:00.** We will be meeting by Zoom. This week we will be reading from Revelation 6-8.

We wish to thank everyone for your prayers, love and thoughts during the very difficult time of Joyce's illness. We have been blessed and encouraged by your prayers and God's unbounding love. Tom & Joyce Zigler