

MISSION @ FIRST

Each month we are highlighting one mission project of First Presbyterian Church on the front page of PresbyNews.

This month: PRESBYTERIAN CAMP AT KIRKMONT

Many of the youth in our church have gone to our Presbyterian camp at Kirkmont, which means “church on the mountain”. Kirkmont is located in Logan County near Bellefontaine and consists of 278 acres nestled among gently rolling hills and pine groves. The site boasts a natural fen, two ponds (one for nature study, and one for canoeing, paddle boating, and fishing), cliffs and natural ravines. Kirkmont center is known as one of the most unique parcels of land in the State of Ohio, and offers many opportunities for universities and adult education.



Kirkmont campers can expect to be surrounded by God’s creation in a place set apart from the distractions of everyday life. The campus includes an outdoor worship area and a labyrinth to provide places for meditation, singing and worship. There are a wide range of activities. Recreational facilities include a canoeing pond, swimming pool, climbing wall and zip line, giant swing, archery range and miles of hiking trails to provide opportunities for exploration and fun.

It also provides a time to make new friends and grow closer to old friends. Laughter, listening, conversation and prayer are part of every week of camp. They explore the bible and learn about how its teachings apply to their own lives. There are many interpersonal connections to Kirkmont from FPC. For example, Bob Cover recently completed several years of service on the board, and now Darrell Templeton is serving in that capacity.

Over the years, FPC has given scholarships to those who would otherwise be unable to go who have some connection to our ministry. For some, it may be one of the times in their lives that are a structured, safe, and somewhat predictable few days, in perhaps a more hectic environment in which they live daily. Camp offers opportunities to explore new things, meet new people, and especially learn more about God and also have some good old fashioned FUN!

Christian Education and Faith Formation

Children Ministries

Children are always welcome in worship! Wiggle bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance to help children feel included and engaged during the worship service. Additional resources for parents and guardians are also available - look for the pinwheel and enjoy!

A loving, Christian environment is provided year-round from 9:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. for infants and children up to 5 years old. This month, Sunday School (children ages 6-12) meets following Circle Time, in the Godly Play Room on April 14, 21, and 28. Children will be dismissed in the Gathering Area following worship.

Easter Egg Hunt!

Come to the Easter Egg Hunt on **Palm Sunday, April 14**, in the courtyard following worship. Donations of individually wrapped candy to fill the eggs would be appreciated. The candy may be dropped off at the church office by April 7.

Youth Ministry

Youth Group will participate in the Middletown Youth Connection **April 14, from 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.** at The Gathering! Would you like to receive updates and reminders about Youth Group via text or email? Contact the church office to learn how you can be added to the contact list.

Vacation Bible School

The Christian Education Team is considering a few ideas for summer faith formation. We typically offer a week-long, morning, Vacation Bible School program. We are wondering if this format continues to best serve the children and families in our congregation and community? We are also exploring ideas for a series of evening dinner events including an adult Bible study as well as faith-based activities for children and youth. We'd love input from YOU! Please contact Lisa Kaufer with your ideas about summer faith formation.

Adult Ministries

Tuesday morning Bible Study will continue their study of the Book of Mark at 10:00 a.m. in the Youth Room.

Sunday Night Live is studying "The Spiritual Brain, a Science and Religious Experience" with Dr. Andrew Newberg of the Center for Integrative Medicine at the Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. SNL is held Sunday nights at 7:00 at the home of Paula and Jay Cohen. All are welcome to come. Topics for this month are:

- April 7—How the Brain Changes God
- April 14—How God Changes the Brain
- April 28—Why God Won't Go Away
- May 5—Reality and Beyond

Music Notes

*Great our joy! Great our joy!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia,
great our joy!*

Lyrics by Fred Pratt Green

Great is our Easter joy as we look forward to continuing our journey through lent with special music on communion Sunday and the excitement and drama of Holy Week.

Our Maundy Thursday Service this year will be service of Tenebrae, meaning "darkness" or "shadows". Once a service for the monastic community, Tenebrae later became an important part of the worship of the common folk during Holy Week.

The Sanctuary Choir is excited to present "Hope in the Shadows", a Tenebrae Service, by composers Lloyd Larson and Joel Raney with narration by Rev. Isaacs and Rev. McNulty from Blue Ball Presbyterian Church. "Hope in the Shadows" recalls Christ's journey to the cross by examining the shadows of betrayal, injustice and agony that marked that journey. It contrasts the selfish exploits of humanity with the divine nature of a loving God. As you take this sacred journey with us, may the words of James be a reminder of the hope which is ours: *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting*

shadows. (James 1:17)

Wishing a joyous and blessed Easter to all from the music ministry staff and choirs!!

SAVE THE DATE!!



COMMUNITY BENEFIT CONCERT

FEATURING THE COMBINED VOCAL CHOIRS OF

**FIRST BAPTIST, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN,
FIRST METHODIST & ST. LUKE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCHES**

SUNDAY, MAY 5

3:00 P.M.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT SHARED HARVEST

(DONATIONS ACCEPTED OF CANNED GOODS AND/OR
MONETARY GIFTS ARE WELCOME.)

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April Birthdays!

01.....Linda Fiora	20.....Carrie Kienlen
01.....Alex Alder	21.....Peter Seifert
01.....James Fields	21.....Tricia Neeley
02.....Diana McVay	23.....Chris Higham
04.....Betty Gay Earls	24.....David Brewer
05.....Polly Lorenz	24.....Jane Ruscher
07.....Beckie Rudd	25.....John Combs
10.....Mary Sue Edwards	27.....Lindsay Becker
10.....Diane Norton	28.....David Newlin
13.....Scott Nein	29.....Doralene Long
14.....Emily Sams	
15.....Stephen Wilson	
17.....Dale Kohler	
18.....Sandy Wertz	

Men's Monthly Meeting

The Men's Monthly Meeting is an opportunity to get together and socialize over a meal outside the church. You're welcome to join them on **Tuesday, April 9**, at the Clubhouse Sports Grille, 250 N. Main Street in Monroe at 5:30 p.m.



Ladies Night Out

ATTENTION: ALL CHURCH
GALS AND FRIENDS!

You are invited to a fun and casual evening at The Spinning Fork, 2220 N. Verity Pkwy on **Tuesday, April 16**, at 6:00 p.m.



We Celebrate the birth of . .

. . . **Cameron Chance Saunders**, born on March 29, to Trevor and Alyssa Roes Saunders. The proud grandmother is Terri Saunders and great-grandmother, Bonnie Saunders.

We extend Christian Love and Sympathy to the families of . .

. . . **Ann Stoutenborough**, who died on March 31

. . . **Gregg Clark**, who died on April 1.



While you do your spring cleaning, be sure to make a pile of things to bring to our annual **Rummage Sale** which will be held **Saturday, May 4**. We have some changes this year. Since clothing sales have been down, we are asking you to take your clothes to the Clothing Depot at the Episcopal Church. Ask Letitia Curless for their hours. Secondly, we will be accepting small items of furniture. Of course, we are taking linens, housewares, tools and sporting goods, toys, decorative items, books, and whatever else you have lurking in your basement. Call Sandi Templeton 424-1157 or Paula Cohen 423-4443 if you can volunteer to help or with any questions.



Each month in PresbyNews, we'll be including a photo with corresponding information for a Prayer Walk through the church. See if you can find the space in the church represented in the photo and you'll discover more info and a beautiful prayer by Dianne Gerber.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER



April 14, Palm Sunday: Renaissance Ringers, Joyful Noize, and the Sanctuary Choir will all help lead worship. An egg hunt for children follows the service.



April 18, Maundy Thursday: The Sanctuary Choir will be leading a Tenebrae Service this Maundy Thursday. This is a service of shadows that will include the stripping of the sanctuary.

April 19, Good Friday: The Middletown Area Ministerial Alliance is sponsoring a seven last words service at the United Missionary Baptist Church located at 719 18th Avenue. The service begins at 6:30 p.m.



April 21, Easter Sunday: Come and witness the resurrection. Music will include a special brass quartet.



EASTER MEMORIALS: What a joy to celebrate Easter and to prepare for Pentecost and our Bicentennial Celebration! The internationally renowned composer, Joseph Martin, is creating a special anthem just for our celebration. This is a great honor for our church and our choir. The proceeds from the purchase of an Easter memorial in honor or in remembrance of a loved one will help to defray the cost of the commissioned music. The cost of each memorial is \$5.00.

I will contribute _____ to the commissioned music fund as a memorial/honorarium for:

In honor/memory of: (Circle your choice)

_____ (Please print information as you would like it listed.)

Given by: _____ (Please print information as you would like it listed.)

Phone _____ Payment Enclosed _____

Orders for memorials must be to the church by Monday, April 15. Please cut this out and place this in the offering plate on Sunday, or send or take it to the church office.

Our Mission

...to **SHARE** the good news

...to **NURTURE** the Spirit

...to **SERVE** members and neighbors

April Worship Services

Sunday, April 7

Communion

Music by the Renaissance Ringers
Tara Downie, Soloist
Suzanne Edwards, Flutist

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 14

Palm/Passion Sunday

Music by the Sanctuary Choir,
Joyful Noize, Renaissance Ringers

Easter Egg Hunt

in the courtyard following worship

Thursday, April 14

7:00 pm

**Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
in the Sanctuary**

Sanctuary Choir presents "Hope in the Shadows",
a cantata narrated by Rev. Isaacs & Rev. McNulty

Sunday, April 21

Easter Celebration Service

Rev. Isaacs will preach
Music by the Sanctuary Choir
and Brass Quartet

Sunday, April 28

Music by the Sanctuary Choir



First Presbyterian Church
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(513) 422-6365

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