



First Presbyterian Church

Middletown, Ohio
www.fpcmiddletown.com

January 28, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.

Prelude

Breathe

Arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

from Psalm 15

Leader: O Lord, who may abide in your tent? Who may dwell on your holy hill?

People: Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right; and speak the truth from their heart.

Leader: Those who do not slander with their tongue and do no evil to their friends.

People: Those who do these things shall never be moved.

All: Let us worship God!

* **Hymn #35** *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* Lobe Den Herren

* **Prayer of Confession (unison)**

God, we have not done what is blameless and right, nor spoken truth from the heart with love. We do not keep your word, and when we participate in gossip, our words and deeds cause pain.

Forgive us by the power of your mercy, that we might stand in the goodness of Christ and walk in the light of his love.

* **Assurance of Forgiveness**

* **Gloria Patri**

We Are Forgiven

Hymnal #447

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.

* **Passing the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

Psalm 119:33-40

Scripture

Luke 2:25-32, 39-40

Sermon "A Wisdom That Surpasses all Knowledge!"

Rev. Brakemeyer

* **Hymn #126** *Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child*

Wonderful Child

First time: Choir

Second time: Choir & Congregation

* **Affirmation of Faith (unison)** (from A Declaration of Faith)

God created human beings with a need for community and with freedom to enter into it by responding to their Maker with grateful obedience and to one another with love and helpfulness. We believe that we have been created to relate to God and each other in freedom and responsibility. We may misuse our freedom and deny our responsibility by trying to live without God and other people or against God and other people. Yet we are still bound to them for our life and well-being, and intended for free and responsible fellowship with them. Since every human being is made for communion with God and others, we must treat no one with contempt. We are to respect and love all other people and ourselves as well.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Jesus, Take My Hand W. Hannibal/B. Hicks
Sanctuary Choir

* **Doxology**

Hymnal #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

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.

* **Hymn #720**

Jesus Calls Us

Galilee

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

I Danced in the Morning

Emma Lou Diemer

* Please stand in Body or Spirit.



Our Life Together...

Leading Worship today: Rev. Randall Brakemeyer, Guest Preacher; Kathy Harris, Worship Assistant; Joyce Zigler, Director of Music Ministries/ Organist; Susan Beagle, Pianist; Sanctuary Choir; Jim Harris, Sound Technician; Debbie Cover, Barista.

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

Wiggle bags are available at each Sanctuary entrance to help children feel included and engaged during the worship service.

Join us for Fellowship Hour in the Gathering Area before and after today's service. Stop by for fellowship and refreshments.

Announcements

Pastor Ed will be back in the office on Wednesday, January 31, which means the Book Study (formerly Bible Study) will meet on that day in his office at 9:30 a.m. The group should have its new book, suggested by a member, *THE THIRD SIDE: Why We Fight and How We Can Stop*. Copies have been ordered and can be picked up at the church office. Beginning in February the Book Study will meet on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

The *Sanctuary Choir* will rehearse Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

CHALLENGING NAT. GEOGRAPHIC SERIES ON CABLE

Beginning on February 1 (Thursday) the National Geographic Channel will begin the 4th season of their *GENIUS* series, this time dramatizing the personal and public lives of Martin Luther King, Jr. & Malcolm X. See the church newsletter for more details. Pastor Ed's review of the series will soon (if not already) be available at visualparables.org.



Valentine Tea and Cookie Exchange: The deacons are pleased to invite you to an afternoon Valentine Tea and cookie exchange on Tuesday, February 13, at 2:00 in Fellowship Hall. We'll provide tea, and ask that you bring two dozen cookies to share if you can. If there are cookies left over, we'll have goody bags available for you to take some home. We're also delighted to have Suzanne Edwards and two of her ensembles providing entertainment. We hope you can join us for a fun afternoon.

Ash Wednesday is a solemn reminder of our human mortality and the need for our reconciliation with God. The ashes imposed on our foreheads symbolize both death and repentance. This lovely service of contemplation begins our journey through Lent to the glorious resurrection on Easter. **Please join us on Wednesday, February 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.** Rev. McNulty will give a brief message and there will be special music. After the imposition of ashes the congregation will leave in silence.

Lenten Film Series

This interactive series led by Pastor Ed begins on Thursday, February 15, at 6 p.m. and runs on Thursday evenings through March 21. Combining a soup and sandwich supper with film viewing & discussion, the discussions will center on Lenten themes such as repentance and redemption, fellowship, and love. See the church newsletter for more details, as well as a list of the films. Those needing a ride should call the church office so that a volunteer can pick them up.