

MISSION @ FIRST

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

This month: WEEKEND MEALS FOR ROSA PARKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Myla Perry, Success Community Liaison at Rosa Parks Elementary, visited last month. During her Minute for Mission, she spoke of some of the ways our congregation helps support families at Rosa Parks Elementary School. She shared some of the impact she has seen as a result of our work. The Mission Committee provides assistance for families on an as-needed basis and helps distribute food to children who may need more food security on the weekends. The Mission Team also regularly asks the congregation to bring in supplies. For example, we are currently accepting winter coats of all sizes for the school.



This month we would like to highlight the weekend meals that we help distribute. Two people from our church go to Rosa Parks Elementary School each Thursday morning. They help unload food from a truck from Shared Harvest. They package the food in the cafeteria. Then the packages of food are delivered to the classrooms where students have requested food. Approximately 80 packages are delivered each week, and it only takes an hour or two.

People throughout the congregation are eager to participate in this program. If you would like to participate, please talk to Marge Wooley from the Mission Team or Sandy Fisher in the office.

Let us offer this prayer for our work with the schools: *Gracious Lord, we thank you for educators, administrators, students, and families. We pray for our schools that they may be safe, inclusive, and nurturing. Lead us in doing our part in supporting families and educators so that all may be lifted up. In your holy name we pray, Amen.*

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 March 10, 17, 24, and 31. Children will be dismissed in the Gathering Area following worship.

Kirkmont Summer Camps

Kirkmont Center, an independent non-profit organization, was founded by the Presbyterian Church USA in 1963. This camp and retreat center serves public and private school groups, non-profit organizations, youth groups, sports teams, music and art associations, churches and faith-based groups of all denominations, families, businesses, and individuals. Kirkmont's goal is to provide participants with a renewing camp, outdoor education, or retreat experience. For many years, our church has supported Kirkmont in a variety of ways, including scholarships that enable campers to participate. Scholarship applications are available in the church office, due by March 10. Visit <https://www.kirkmontcenter.org> or contact Lisa Kaufer for more information.

Youth Ministry

Youth Group will participate in the Middletown Youth Connection March 10, 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.

Lent in a Box

Lent in a Box is a set of devotional materials to help God's children of all ages prepare for the great mystery of Easter. Assemble your set of materials during the **Ash Wednesday** service on **March 6** or pick up a set from the Gathering Area beginning March 10.



Lenten Luncheons

On Wednesdays from March 13 until April 10 we will have lunch from 12:00-12:45 in the Fellowship Hall. Each week, we will have a faith leader from the area address the theme, "*Ordinary*." Lisa Kaufer, Wes Duff, Michelle Terry, Terry Kukuk, and Mark Monroe will speak. A different committee will provide the meal each week. Bring a friend!

Log College Project

The Log College Project is an innovative initiative at Princeton Theological Seminary to help Christian congregations design, test, and implement new models of youth ministry. Selected as one of twelve congregations to participate in the Community of Practice, we will receive a \$15,000 grant to build new forms of ministry that take theology and young people seriously.

In February, we completed the first digital course, Biblical Foundations for Innovation in Youth Ministry, a journey through the book of Acts, looking at how God worked in the early church and imagining how God might be working in our own context.

The Design Team will meet March 10 in the Youth Room following worship, join us and contribute to the process!

Palm Burning

Following worship on March 3, we will hold a short worship experience in the courtyard next to the entrance to the Gathering Area. Last year's palms from Palm Sunday will be burned to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. All are welcome to join.



Adult Ministries

Tuesday Morning Bible Study at 10:00. In March, we will continue with our study of Mark.

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.

Join the Lenten Book Study!

During the season of Lent, we will study the book "Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life" by Tish Harrison Warren. In overlooked moments and routines, we can become aware of God's presence in surprising ways. How do we embrace the sacred in the ordinary and the ordinary in the sacred? Books are available in the church office, suggested \$10 donation. Print, Kindle, and audio formats are also available on Amazon.com. We will have opportunities to discuss the book in-person in the Youth Room following each Lenten Lunch (beginning March 13) and we will also host an online forum.

Reading Schedule

Week #1, March 6: Chapter 1
Week #2, March 13: Chapters 2 & 3
Week #3, March 20: Chapters 4 & 5
Week #4, March 27: Chapters 6 & 7
Week #5, April 3: Chapters 8 & 9
Week #6, April 10: Chapters 10 & 11

March Birthdays!

02.....Seg Dennison	21.....Patti Gage
03.....Barb Pearce	22.....Kathi Howard
03.....David Steele	23.....Lisa Wilson
05.....Miriam Jenkins	24.....Irene Herrmann
05.....Gerry McGuire	25.....Marcia Jenkins
09.....Denise Dennison	27.....Jon Walker
11.....Jessica Walker	28.....Fay Smillie
12.....Bruce Barnes	28.....Ken Thomas
12.....Jessie Jenkins	28.....Grant Nisbet
13.....Linda Bellaw	30.....Stephanie Weidner
13.....Dorothy Shuemake	31.....Ginny Getter
15.....Nadine Raiche	
16.....Bill Triick	
17.....Maxwell Hensler	
19.....Susie Lane	

Plans continue for our Bicentennial Celebration! The official kick-off date is Sunday, June 9, as we celebrate Pentecost. Plans are in the works for a special worship service during which an original anthem to celebrate this occasion will be presented by our sanctuary choir.

Hopefully, you've already read some of the things your committee has started, i.e. "Bicentennial Bits" in weekly bulletins and the Prayer Walk included in PresbyNews. But there's lots more in store for our 200th birthday celebration! Highlights include:

- We have invited several of our former ministers to join us for worship throughout the year. Mark your calendars for Sunday, March 31, when Rob Weingartner preaches.
- On Monday, April 1, Michael will be participating in the History & Genealogy series presented by Midpoint Library in Middletown. The April meeting focus will be on area churches.
- A Wedding Wall will be installed in the Gathering Area this spring displaying wedding photos of those married in our church. Get your photos in to the office soon!
- The library will be transformed in June to showcase many of the artifacts which celebrate the life of our church.
- Video presentations are planned of several of our long time members reflecting on their lifetime memories of the church.

If you have any ideas for our year-long celebration, please feel free to contact Bill Bursk at 513/393-5902 or email him at wbursk@cinci.rr.com. A very special thank you to Ann Veith and Darrell Templeton for their design work on our Bicentennial logo which will be used throughout the coming year.

Music Notes

*Still small voice, still small voice,
God may sing in softest of sounds.
Yes, God's love, like music, abounds.
New life given, daily made new.
Quiet, gentle, God's love for you.*

From "Still Small Voice" arr. Dorothy Christopherson

His love is shown to us in so many different ways. One of those is through the voices of children singing his praises and learning about God's love.

Choralfest 2019 celebrates the 33rd anniversary of this festival. The theme this year is "Singing Around the World". The 114 voice **Choralfest Choir**, including our **Joyful Noize Choir**, will deliver this wonderful message. Our **Joyful Noize Choir** will both sing and ring two solo anthems during the service. The guest conductor this year is **KellyAnn Nelson**, who is Managing Artistic Director of the Cincinnati Boychoir. Both the participants and the congregation will be blessed by this uplifting and exciting service. The participants are Vivien Fields, Lindie Helsing, Jessie Jenkins, Eathan Lewis, Jadelyn Lewis, Saige Ryan, Savannah Ryan, Parker Shablak, Iasis Wilcher, Ryder Wilson and Morgan Lewis.

Directors are Lara Moon, Janet Scott and Joyce Zigler.

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, March 12**, 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, March 19, at 6:30 p.m.

Bicentennial Bits



2019 is going to be an exciting year as we celebrate the 200th Anniversary of First Church. Throughout the year, you'll discover lots of interesting historical tidbits and other fascinating facts relating to our history. Look for **Bicentennial Bits** in your weekly bulletin.

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.

Boards of First Presbyterian Church

The Session

2019 (May)

Jackie Hale
Dianne Gerber
Katherine Oellerich
Tim Rudd
Nancy Strait

2020 (May)

Marty Hensler
Barb Nein
Emily Pheanis
Ann Veith

2021 (May)

Bill Bursk
Lynne Mack
Nancy Peterson
Beth Susco
Tom Scott

Board of Trustees

2019 (May)

Larry Anderson
Donna Chaney
Paul Nisbet

2020 (May)

Ted Miller
Tricia Neeley
Julie Nickell

2021 (May)

Pat Edwards
Joe Newlin
John Peterson

Board of Deacons

2019 (May)

Mary Enochs
Patti Gage
Susie Lane
Emily Sams
Fay Smillie

2020 (May)

Linda Begley
Rebecca Hillshafer
Dolores Malcom
Joann Schechter

2021 (May)

Mary Brehm
Carol Croake
Suzanne Edwards
Corbit Harrison

THE OFFICES OF ELDER, DEACON, and TRUSTEE

The Nominating Committee of First Presbyterian Church is working to prepare a slate of officer nominees to be presented to the congregation in March. Individuals will be nominated to serve three-year-terms as elders, deacons, and trustees.

If there are individuals whose personal faith, commitment to the church, and gifts for ministry suggest to you that they might serve well as a church officer, you may suggest them for the Nominating Committee's consideration by submitting their names and the office in which you believe they might serve well. Please place the completed form in the designated boxes in the Gathering Area or the Narthex. Thank you!

Expectations of church officers include:

- A growing faith that submits joyfully to the lordship of Jesus Christ and all aspects of life.
- An active prayer life that includes prayers for the Church.
- Participation in new officer training
- Faithful attendance at Sunday worship
- Regular participation in study for personal spiritual growth
- Visible involvement in the ministries/programs of the congregation
- Financial support of the congregation's work
- Regular attendance at board meetings; active participation in committee work

Ruling Elders serve on session to exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment and discipline, and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church.

Deacons are called to a ministry of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, or anyone in distress.

Trustees are charged to receive, hold, encumber, manage, and transfer property, real or personal, for the church; to accept and execute the deeds of such property; to hold and defend title to such property; to manage any permanent special funds for the furtherance of the purposes of the church.

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Officer Nomination Form

Name

Church Office

Our Mission

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

...to **NURTURE** the Spirit

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

March Worship Services

Sunday, March 3

Communion

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

Wednesday, March 6

Ash Wednesday Service in Fellowship Hall

6:00 p.m. light supper & crafts

6:30 p.m. imposition of ashes

Music by Joyful Noize

Sunday, March 10

First Sunday of Lent

Luke 4:2-24

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, March 17

Luke 13:31-35

Music by the Sanctuary Choir

Sunday, March 24

Guest Preacher

Music by Lara Moon and Mick Susco

Sunday, March 31

Rev. Rob Weingartner will be guest preacher

Music by the Sanctuary Choir



Once again, we have the perfect place for you to bring all of those things you no longer use, need, or want! Our Rummage Sale will be held **Saturday, May 4**. Please note that we will not accept tv's or clothing.

Donations can be placed in the left hand rooms in 116, or you can call Sandi Templeton at 513-424-1157 or Paula Cohen at 513-423-4443 if you have items to be picked up. Let's make this the greatest Rummage Sale ever!



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