



Lent Devotional Booklet

This year's Lent devotional booklet is titled *The Easter Code*. Embark on a 40-day journey, guided by O. S. Hawkins, to prepare your heart and mind for Easter Sunday. Engage with a daily reflection accompanied by a Code word for the day, an encouraging Scripture, and a prayer. You may pick up a copy in the Narthex on **Sunday, March 2**. If you would like one mailed to you, please contact the church office.

Flood Relief Items Needed:

Once again, our Presbytery has experienced a natural disaster. This latest event hit across Kentucky but much of the worst damage was in the bounds of our Presbytery. While flooding is a way of life for folks in the mountains, these last three floods, have been overwhelming. Many of the communities that were impacted in previous floods were impacted once again. These communities had worked hard on recovering and are now facing a new round of rebuilding and recovery. We here at FPC are collecting the following items:

- A mold or mildew preventer like Shockwave or Microbium
- Scouring pads
- Sponges

- Scrub brush
- Reusable, lightweight multipurpose cleaning towels
- Liquid dish soap (antibacterial preferred)
- Heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (Latex-free preferred. Durable for multiple use.)
- 20-28 heavy-duty or contractor-type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll
- Brooms
- Heavy dust pans
- Push brooms
- Long handled Floor Scrubber/ Brush
- Heavy Shovels (not rounded spades)
- Scoop Shovels
- Box or high velocity fans
- Heavy duty work gloves
- Monetary gifts



Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. We will receive this offering **March 9 through April 20**. Envelopes are available in the pew racks or note on your check: One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank your for your kind response!



HEARTBEATS

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Kim Whitman
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2026

Mitch Hall*

Jan Holbrook
Ryan Whitman*

2027

Lee McCloud*
J.T. Norris*
Jimmy Hall

*2nd term of service



"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying Him, and holding fast to Him, for that means life to you and length of days;" (Deuteronomy 30:19-20a)

We approach Lent this year with a recipe for receiving the blessings of God. It is no secret. It is not hidden. In fact, the reality of God's desire for our blessing is seen in the revelation of Jesus. These next 40 days can provide us with a greater assurance that we are walking rightly with the Lord. A walk that will lead us into Gethsemane, up Calvary to a cross and ultimately with joy, to an open tomb! Each of our steps can draw us closer to the reality of knowing Life (with a capital L).

God presents before us the decision of all decisions. Life or death? Blessing or curse? I know He desires for us His utmost best. He wants us to experience life abundant (John 10:10). He wants our hearts to be assured that when our physical life is over, we can know that eternity with Him is guaranteed.

Over the past several months, Nanette and I have experienced a rollercoaster life. Good news followed by suspicious results of a scan. Hospital "visits" have been taxing. Doctor visits, blood

tests and treatments have all been interesting. I am scheduled for a new scan that may deliver good results. This is our prayer, at least. Regardless, we maintain the faithfulness of God who continues to confirm His presence in our lives. We choose to hold on to our faith. If you are experiencing trying times in your life, we most certainly hope you will choose to remain strong in your faith.

As a result of all this, we continue to trust God's word. In this passage from Deuteronomy, we are given a framework on receiving the life God desires for us. Three simple, yet profound, statements give us the foundation we seek. First, **LOVE** the Lord! Next, **OBEY** Him. Finally, **HOLD FAST** to Him. Very simple and easy to understand. The result is "**LIFE** to you and length of days."

God is gracious in His offer to live. During this season of Lent, may it be that our response to Him is such that we will be able to experience life abundant and eternal. I for one consider it a joy to believe and serve my Creator, Savior and Friend. I do not know how many days remain for me, or you. But I do know that God in His love for us still provides the way to our eternal home. Choose LIFE and really live out your days for the glory of God! He will be pleased.

Pastor Bill

Memorial Gift Given

A memorial gift was given in memory of **Jim Wiseman** designated for the Organ Repair Fund by *James Linkenauger*.

3rd Annual Spring Concert

We are pleased to announce that FPC will host the 3rd Annual Spring Concert, **Saturday, March 1** beginning at **12:30 p.m.** This years program includes Dr. Denine LeBlanc, Max Jackson, Calvin Riggs and members of the First Christian Church Choir. Come and let your spirit be uplifted through song. We will gather in the upstairs choir room. See Bettie George with questions.



Join Us For Brunch!



Join us for “Shrove Tuesday Brunch” on **Sunday, March 2** immediately following morning worship. The menu is: pancakes, sausage, breakfast casseroles, yogurt, fruit, and donuts. The church fair will also take place. This is an opportunity for you to discover the various ministries provided through FPC. You also can sign up for a ministry in which you would like to take part.

Ash Wednesday Service

Join us **Wednesday, March 5** for an Ash Wednesday Service beginning at **7 p.m.** The Imposition of Ashes will be offered. This service prepares us as we begin our Lenten reflection on a journey to a garden, a cross, and an empty tomb.



Community Lenten Services

The AAMA is sponsoring Community Lent Midweek Worship on Wednesdays during Lent. Each service will begin at **noon** with lunch at **12:30 p.m.**

- March 12—*First United Methodist Church*
- March 19—*First Presbyterian Church*
- March 26—*Cornerstone Methodist Church*
- April 2—*Holy Family Catholic Church*
- April 9—*First Christian Church*

An offering will be received at each service in support of the Community Kitchen, Shelter of Hope, and CAREs.

Food Drive Continues

We will continue to collect food for Ashland Blazer Youth Service Center Food Pantry until **Sunday, March 16.**

Items needed:

- Pop tarts
- Instant Oatmeal
- Cereal bars
- Granola bars
- Mac n cheese
- Knorr’s fiesta sides rice
- Spaghetti noodles
- Canned pasta sauce
- Peanut butter



- Cheez-its
- Peanut butter or cheese sandwich crackers
- Gripz
- Trail mix
- Canned tuna
- Canned chicken
- Soup (w/beef, chicken or potatoes)
- Chef Boyardee Dee
- Ramen Noodles
- Packaged cookies

Clothing Swap

Ladies, you don’t want to miss the fun on **Saturday, March 29 beginning at 1 p.m.** Barb Payne does an excellent job organizing this fun event. Please bring in your donated items as soon as possible. You may put them downstairs under the coat rack. If you need anything picked up or have questions, please contact Barb (606.922.6617). And it goes without saying, who doesn’t enjoy finding amazing new (and free) items to add to your wardrobe!



- Sunday Morning Study:** Sundays, 9:28 p.m.
- Armchair Theologians:** Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
- Harmony of the Gospels:** Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Worship:** 10:50 a.m.
- Genesis Bible Study:** Sundays, 5:30 p.m.
- Men’s Bible Study:** Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Bob Evans
- Bells Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
- Spring Concert:** Saturday, March 1, 12:30 p.m.
- Baby Shower:** Saturday, March 1, 2 p.m.
- Shrove Tuesday Brunch:** Sunday, March 2, Noon
- Open Chapel:** Wednesday, March 5, 5:30 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday Service:** March 5, 7 p.m.
- Paper Angels:** Thursday, March 6, 1 p.m.
- Ministry Teams Meeting:** Monday, March 10, 5:30 p.m.
- Men’s Lunch Bunch:** Thursday, March 13, 11:30 a.m.
- Horizons Bible Study:** Thursday, March 13, 5:15 p.m.
- Sew Blessed:** Monday, March 17, 6 p.m.
- Finance Ministry Team:** Tuesday, March 18, 5:30 p.m.
- Lenten Worship:** Wednesday, March 19, Noon
- Paper Angels:** Thursday, March 20, 1 p.m.
- Dames + Dinner:** Thursday, March 20, 5:30 p.m.
- Empty Nesters:** Monday, March 24, 5:30 p.m.
- Session Meeting:** Tuesday, March 25, 5:30 p.m.
- Men’s Lunch Bunch:** Thursday, March 27, 11:30 a.m.
- Clothing Swap:** Saturday, March 29, 1 p.m.



- Kathy Hermansdorfer**—March 6
- Joe Frye**—March 9
- Carol Sanderson**—March 11
- Rachael Adkins**—March 14
- Steve Jackson**—March 15
- Kim Whitman**—March 21
- Adrianna Riggs**—March 25
- Benjamin Weston**—March 25
- Jennifer Dillon**—March 27
- Will Frye**—March 29
- Liza Jackson**—March 29
- JT Norris**—March 29
- Ryan Whitman**—March 30

Special Dates

- **Transfiguration Sunday,** March 2
- **Ash Wednesday,** March 5
- **World Day of Prayer,** March 7
- **Daylight Savings Time Begins,** March 9
- **First Day of Spring,** March 20



Galentine’s Dinner a Huge Success!



Ladies of First Presbyterian Church and their friends (54 ladies in attendance) had a delightful evening at the Galentine's Dinner! Food was delicious. Mike Campbell on piano provided music while we were eating. Teresa Cassity was MC and kept us entertained. Games were fun, challenging, and there were amazing prizes. A big thanks to the Membership Ministry Team and special thanks to our fearless leader Kelly Hanni. We are looking forward to the next Galentine's Dinner!

Hunger Grant Presented to Backpack Ministry

The Hunger Grant check was presented to Mike and Linda VanHoose at Cornerstone Methodist Church while packing bags for the Weekend Backpack Snack bag program. They serve nearly 200+ children per week in the Ashland school system. Thank you First Presbyterian Church and Transylvania Presbytery for all that you do in providing assistance to families in this way.

Photo (left to right): Cathy Wilson, Linda VanHoose, Mary Patterson, and Mike VanHoose.

