

Memorial Gifts Given

Gifts were given in memory of:

† **Martha Gesling** by Chris & Barb Payne; Jane Ehrie

† **Roy F. Stein** by Jean Stein

† **Jim Wiseman** by Chris & Barb Payne; Wendy & Dan Lockett; Teeny & Sandra Lockett; Cora Marsh; Richard & Frances Martin, Pat & Jack Gallaher

SERMON SERIES Pastor's Lenten Sermon Series

Beginning **Sunday, February 11**, Pastor Bill will preach a series of sermons around the theme, "When Easter Comes." These messages will help us understand how the Resurrection of Jesus makes a difference for our lives. Please be in prayer for our Pastor as he shares God's word with us.

Join Us For Brunch!

Join us for "Fat Tuesday Brunch" on **Sunday, February 11** 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, February 14** 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.

Food Pantry Drive

We will once again collect food for the Ashland Youth Service Center Pantry. The Food Drive is **February 18—March 24**. You may place your items in the container in the Narthex. Items needed:

Pop Tarts	Granola Bars	Chef Boy R Dee	Packaged Cookies
Instant Oatmeal	Mac n Cheese	Canned Tuna	Ramen Noodles
Cereal Bars	Knorr's Fiesta Sides Rice	Gripz	Trail Mix
Spaghetti Noodles	Peanut Butter	Peanut Butter or Cheese Sandwich Crackers	Canned Chicken Soup (w/beef, chicken or potatoes)
Canned Pasta Sauce	Cheez-Its		

He said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39)



We will once again offer **Caring With Heart**. It is a 6-week class that will meet on **Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** beginning **March 7**. The class will be led by Kay Ferguson. **Caring With Heart** teaches principles and skills to equip you to provide quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care for yourself and others. Your faith will be deepened as you learn and practice listening, caring, and loving others who need to be heard and valued. During this 6-week class you will learn skills that will help you listen to others at a deeper level, understand your feelings and those of others and explore the importance of healthy boundaries. **There is a sign-up sheet located in the Narthex or see Kay Ferguson.**

Dates: March 7, 14, 28, April 4, 11, 25, and May 2.



- Sunday Morning Study:** Sundays, 9:18 a.m.
- Armchair Theologians:** 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
- Winchester Bells:** Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.
- Chancel Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
- Paper Angels:** Thursday, Feb. 1, 1 p.m.
- Horizons Bible Study:** Monday, Feb. 5, 6 p.m.
- Open Sanctuary:** Wednesday, Feb. 7, 5:30-8 p.m.
- Men's Lunch Bunch:** Thursday, Feb. 8, 11:30 a.m.
- Kids' Chinese New Year:** Saturday, Feb. 10, Noon-2 p.m.
- Fat Tuesday Pancake Brunch:** Sunday, Feb. 11, Noon
- Ministry Teams Meeting:** Monday, Feb. 12, 5:30 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday Service:** Feb. 14, 7 p.m.
- Paper Angels:** Thursday, Feb. 15, 1 p.m.
- Dames & Dinner:** Thursday, Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m.
- First Sunday in Lent:** Feb. 18
- Sew Blessed:** Monday, Feb. 19, 6 p.m.
- Finance Ministry Team:** Tuesday, Feb. 20, 5:30 p.m.
- Men's Lunch Bunch:** Thursday, Feb. 22, 11:30 a.m.
- Parents Night Out:** Friday, Feb. 23, 5:30-8 p.m.
- Second Sunday in Lent:** Feb. 25
- Empty Nest Angels:** Monday, Feb. 26, 5:30 p.m.
- Session Meeting:** Tuesday, Feb. 27, 5:30 p.m.



Congratulations Goodwin Family!

Sunny Lynn Goodwin has arrived! We are excited to announce her birth on Thursday, January 25. The proud parents are Brook and Jessica Goodwin and they celebrate with Sunny's "big" sisters Evelyn and Charley. Please be in prayer for the Goodwin family as they adjust to their newest addition! May God's blessings continue to provide for them in these days.

Calling All Children!

Children of all ages are invited to celebrate the Chinese New Year, an age-old tradition on **Saturday, February 10 from 12-2 p.m.** We will have Chinese snacks, games and crafts. Please RSVP Nancy Compton (606.465.0317) or Kelly Hanni (606.923.7826).



We are collecting candy for the Kids' Easter Jam (March 23), we would like to have all donations by **Sunday, March 17.**



- Aspen Gehringer**—February 1
- Oaklee Gehringer**—February 1
- Paxton Koenig**—February 4
- Jane Justice**—February 8
- Riley Shay**—February 9
- Kathleen Filkins**—February 12
- Evan Jones**—February 14
- Fred Yost**—February 16
- Matt Dillon**—February 23
- Bill Gesling**—February 27

Special Dates

- African American History Month**
- Transfiguration of Our Lord**—February 11
- Ash Wednesday**—February 14
- Valentine's Day**—February 14
- Presidents Day**—February 19
- Leap Day**—February 29



Free Little Library of God's Word!

Check out our "Free Little Library of God's Word" located in the hallway off the Narthex. You may take a book, leave a book, and/or keep a book (Christian books, only.) The best books are shared!



January 31, 2024

Calling all First Presbyterian Women,

You are invited to attend a Spring meeting of the Ashland First Presbyterian Women immediately following church on Sunday, February 18, 2024.

Topics include:

- Electing officers: assistant moderator and secretary
 - Current officers: Ann Wiseman, moderator; Judy Lilly and Bettie George Frye, co-treasurers
- Reviewing bylaws and finance policy
- Sharing, discussing, and voting on a floodwall mural of First Presbyterian Church

If you are interested in being a PW officer, please let us know – Ann Wiseman (606)585-6495; Judy Lilly (606)615-3227; or Bettie George Frye (606)831-8579.

For anyone interested in the Churchwide Gathering, please stay for the “after meeting.”

- The 2024 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in St. Louis, Missouri is August 8-11, 2024. The theme is “Do Everything in Love.” Visit <https://www.2024pwcwg.org/> for more information. For regular updates click on the “Stay Updated” button.
 - Interest in attending in person or virtually.
 - Fundraising ideas.
 - Registration scholarship application: due March 1, 2024.

I hope you will join us!

Grace and peace,
Ann Wiseman, Moderator



HEARTBEATS

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Lent:

A Season of Preparation

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Organist

Nanette Pollack
Administrative
Assistant

Glen Thomas
Facilities Manager

Kara Adkins
Nursery Attendant

SESSION MEMBERS

Mitch Hall
President of
Congregation

Kelly Hanni
Secretary of
Congregation/
Clerk of Session

Cathy Wilson
Treasurer

2024
Lee McCloud
J.T. Norris
Cathy Wilson*

2025
Kelly Hanni
Kim Whitman
Geri Willis

2026
Mitch Hall*
Jan Holbrook
Ryan Whitman*

*2nd term of service

Therefore, prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when He is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. (1 Peter 1:13-14)

“Therefore, prepare.” The time is coming when Jesus will reveal Himself again. These are words of the apostle Peter to the church in his day. He is calling the people of God to action. He is calling those who have been changed by the love and grace of God to remain faithful to the change they have experienced when they received Jesus in their hearts. They once were one way; and now they have been changed...made new through their faith in the workings of God through Jesus.

“Therefore, prepare.” We live in a culture that has become anti-Bible, anti-Church and anti-Jesus. Things that we once took for granted are no longer the norm. We are being challenged by the world to reconsider the Scripture, faith and belief in God. Peter’s words to the church in his day are most certainly applicable to ours as well. In a time when being Christian is more than wearing a cross on a necklace or gathering for worship on Sundays, what are we to think and do?

Lent is a season in the life of the Church when

we have the opportunity to reflect on what is essential for our lives. What matters the most to you and me? What difference does it make? When all is said and done, what will be the result of our convictions?

“Therefore, prepare” might be considered the call for the Church as we enter Lent. As we continue through the 40 day period of consideration and reflection, what is the urgent matter before us? May I offer a word?

Let’s use the coming days of Lent as a time of reconsideration, resolve and rejoicing. Reconsideration, in that we consider what is of supreme importance for our lives. Resolve, to make the changes that will enhance our lives and keep us steady on our journey of faith. Maybe, there is room for learning more of God’s word. Or, we might get involved in a ministry through the church. Most certainly, we can live lives that are glorifying the One who calls us to be a witness to the world. However we choose to respond to the marvelous gift of God’s grace, let us always look for ways to present Christ and His love to those who He presents to us. Rejoicing in the knowledge that God is good!

Knowing that He is coming, “Therefore, prepare.”

Pastor Bill