



*Her children rise up
and call her blessed...*

Proverbs 31:28, ESV



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Easter | Mother's Day

May 11, 2025

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome

Rev. Bill Pollack

Prelude

Winchester Bells

Be Thou My Vision

Arr. Douglas E. Wagner

† Call to Worship

Kim Whitman

L: With steadfast love and growing faith,

P: We come as the people of Christ.

L: With prayers of hope and songs of joy,

P: We come to worship God, the eternal and ever-loving.

L: With thankful hearts and humble prayers,

P: We come to give God glory and praise.

All: Here we are together as people of faith and hope to celebrate the good news of Jesus Christ.

† Hymn of Praise

#250

In the Bulb There is a Flower

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

† Call to Confession

† **Prayer of Confession**

O Holy God of Promise, we so often place our trust in the things we can see, touch and easily believe. But You did not ask us to believe what is easy. You have asked us to believe what is true! Forgive us, Holy One, when we doubt the ways You work. Forgive us when we find it hard to believe an ancient story. Forgive our lack of faith and belief in ways that seem so impossible to believe. Help us to look in faith, to open our hearts, and set aside our doubts. Help us to believe in the One who has come to set us all free. Help us to believe in Him who has been raised from the dead and desires for us to know life abundant and eternal. In the name of the risen Christ, Jesus our Lord, Amen.

† **Assurance of Pardon**

† **Response**

#245 (3)

Christ the Lord is Risen Today!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now your sting? Alleluia!

Jesus died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where your victory, O grave? Alleluia!

✠ **We Listen to God's Word** ✠

Children's Message

Anthem

Chancel Choir

Rejoice!

Joseph Martin

Christ is risen, sing alleluia; love has triumphed over the grave.

Christ is risen, sing alleluia; rejoice this happy day.

Rejoice, alleluia; again I say rejoice.

Come and sing a glad alleluia, Jesus Christ is risen to save.

Come and sing a glad alleluia, this holy Easter day.

Rejoice, let songs go forth, fill the earth with praise.

Rejoice, for He is God, sing alleluia.

Come and lift glad songs to the lord. Rejoice, alleluia!

Prayer for Illumination

The Epistle Lesson: 1 John 1:1–4 (NRSV)

Carli Weston

“We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— ² this Life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it and declare to you the eternal Life that was with the Father and was revealed to us— ³ what we have seen and heard we also declare to you so that you also may have fellowship with us, and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.”

L: The Word of the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God**

Psalm 27 (tune: Lancashire)

#841

God is My Strong Salvation

God is my strong salvation; what foe have I to fear?

In peril and temptation my light, my Help, is near.

Though hosts encamp around me, firm to the fight I stand;
what terror can confound me, with God at my right hand?

Place on the Lord reliance; my soul, with courage wait;

God's truth be thine affianced, when faint and desolate.

God's might thy heart shall strengthen, God's love thy joy increase;
mercy thy days shall lengthen; the Lord will give thee peace.

† **The Gospel Lesson:** John 20:24–29 (NRSV)

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see My hands. Reach out your hand and put it in My side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered Him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

L: This is the Holy Gospel of Christ! **P: Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

Life-Giving Words from an Empty Tomb – BELIEVE!

✠ **We Respond to God's Word** ✠

† Hymn of Response

#840

It is Well with My Soul

When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll,
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul; it is well; it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control,
that Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
and hath shed His own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

He lives: O the bliss of this glorious thought.
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
the trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
even so it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

† Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering Acknowledgement *Special Offering: Organ Repair Fund*

† Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him, all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

† Prayer of Dedication

✠ **We Are Sent in God's Name** ✠

† Hymn of Sending (tune: Dix)

#684

Faith Begins by Letting Go

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,
taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:
pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, keeping memory's roots alive
so that hope may bear its fruit; promise-fed, our souls will thrive,
not through merit we possess but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, stretching minds, enlarging hearts,
sharing struggles, living prayer, binding up the broken parts;
till we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

Postlude

O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing

Jean Francois Dandrieu

† Charge & Benediction

† *Standing as you are able.*

SERVING TODAY

Head Usher: *Geri Willis*

Liturgist: *Kim Whitman*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 78

General Offering: \$1,626.00

Backpack Ministry: \$5.00

Building Rent: \$50.00

Youth/Earth Care: \$1,042.00

Online Offering: \$775.00

Total Offering: \$3,498.00

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

► Sunday, May 11

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m./cancelled

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m./cancelled

Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.

Genesis Bible Study, 5:30 p.m. will resume 5/18

► Monday, May 12

Ministry Teams Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

► Wednesday, May 14

Men's Bible Study, 7 a.m./Bob Evans

Bells Rehearsal, 5:45 p.m. | Chancel Choir Rehearsal, 6:45 p.m.

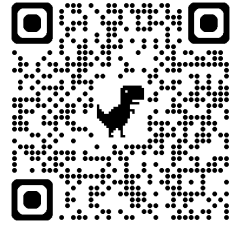
► Thursday, May 15

Paper Angels, 1 p.m.

Dames + Dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Earth Care T-Shirts

To support our Earth Care efforts, we are offering First Presbyterian Church Earth Care tee shirts for order. If you'd like to purchase one, you can find order forms located on the table in the narthex. For an even quicker option, simply scan the QR code. We will be accepting orders for these tee shirts through **Sunday, May 18**. Questions, see Lee McCloud or Kelly Hanni.



Upcoming Congregational Meeting

We will conduct our Congregational Meeting, on **Sunday, May 18** following morning worship. We will be affirming nominations of Elders and the new Nominations Committee. This is for all members of the congregation. Please make plans to attend.

Zumba Classes Offered

Summer PW Zumba Classes are being offered here at First Presbyterian on Wednesdays (5:00–6:00 p.m.) and Saturdays (9:30–10:30 a.m.) beginning **Wednesday, May 21**. In lieu of a fee, consider supporting the Pastor's Discretionary Fund with a small donation. Instructor: Karen Coburn. Questions, see Bettie George.



BABY BOTTLE BLESSINGS

YOUR SPARE CHANGE CAN CHANGE A LIFE!

**Everyone can share in the joy!
Your family, Church, Sunday School Class,
Office Staff or Organization.**

**Life Is
Precious**



**TWO HEARTS
PREGNANCY
CARE CENTERS**

2200 29th Street
Ashland, KY
606-325-7654

207 Marion Pike
Coal Grove, OH
740-532-7654

TwoHeartsPCC.org

Here is how easy it is to be a blessing and change a life. On Mother's Day, you receive a special baby bottle from you church or organization; fill the bottle with your spare change, monies, or a check. Simply return the filled bottle to your church or organization by Father's Day.

That's how easy it is to be a blessing and change the life of women and their children in unplanned pregnancy situations by supporting the ministry of Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Centers.

Baby bottles are currently available in the narthex for those who wish to contribute to the Two Hearts Pregnancy Care Center. We invite you to take a bottle and fill it at your convenience with coins, cash, or a check. The filled baby bottles are due back by Father's Day (June 15). Thanks to your generosity last year, we were able to provide over \$600 to this vital ministry. We are hopeful that with your continued support, we can exceed that amount this year.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending May 8, 2025

Christina Columber (Greg & Geri Willis)
Family of Ernie Pitt (Charlie Holbrook's friend)

Week ending May 1, 2025

Family of Yohana Calvert
Aaron Lewis (Dave & Judy Eby's friend)
Family of Freddy Whelan (Pastor Bill)
Ann Wiseman

Week ending April 24, 2025

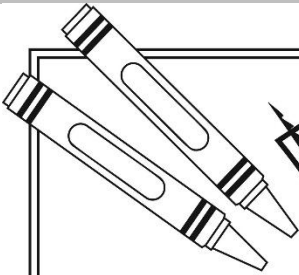
Anna Call (Nanette)
Don Lilly

Ongoing: Pastor Bill; Gretchen Dillon; Bill Gesling; Lee Hall;
Charlie Holbrook; Kenny McGill; Derek Payne; Nancy Payne;
Bonnie Pettijohn; Tim Shephard; Kim Whitman; Jan Winans; Ann
Wiseman

Kingsbrook Care Center: Barry Barbour

The Lantern: Carolyn Graber

Military: Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins);
Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike
Whitman); Greg Weston (Kuwait); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US
Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)



PUZZLE

A blessed woman

The last chapter of Proverbs describes a woman who loves God and strives to be a good wife and mother.

Directions: Use the picture clues to complete Proverbs 31:15, 28.

She gets _____ while it is still _____ ;



she provides _____ for her _____



Her _____ rise _____ and



_____ her blessed.



PROVERBS 31:15, 28 (NIV)

STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2025	2026	2027
<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>
<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>
<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>
*2nd term of service		

MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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