



# HEARTBEATS



A monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church

Volume 5 | Issue 2 | February 2023

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Kelly Hanni  
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Clerk of Session

Cathy Wilson  
Treasurer

2023  
Mitch Hall  
Ryan Whitman

2024  
Cathy Wilson\*  
J.T. Norris  
Breck Tarr

2025  
Kelly Hanni  
Kim Whitman  
Geri Willis

\*2nd term of service

## A Call to Love



By Rev. Bill Pollack

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. (John 15:12-14, 16-17)*

February is probably one of the easier months to consider when writing an article for your consideration. Already, the stores are adorning their shelves with everything to do with Valentine's Day. You can't miss it. The attraction is brutal and costly! But we buy nonetheless for those we love. Admit it, you know I am right! We are willing to do a lot for those we truly love.

God is no different. He is willing to do His utmost for those whom He loves. And that entails the whole world—good, bad and indifferent. That includes us all, doesn't it? And further more, this good news should delight our hearts.

Our scripture above reminds us of how far God is willing to show this love. **"No greater love...to lay down one's life for one's friends."** Would you spend a few moments contemplating the enormity of these words? Repeat them over and over. This is what Jesus did for the world. This is what He did for you and me. This is what He did because of His immeasurable love for everyone. The hymn writer captures the depth of this act of love – **"What wondrous love is this, O my soul . . . What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul...!"** Can you feel the passion, the pain, the love that was visible on the cross? This is how much He loves!

And this is why He does not hesitate to invite us – **to call us** – to love in this same manner. When we are willing to offer ourselves to aid someone who is dying spiritually; through our acts of compassion and care; we show ourselves as Jesus' friends. For those of us who call First Presbyterian Church our spiritual home-base, we understand the blessings of reaching out into our community and beyond. In these days leading to Lent, let us love as we have been loved! This will please God and open so many other opportunities to be His friends! ✝

**Honorarium & Memorial Gift Given**

An honorarium gift has been given in honor of **Charlie & Jan Holbrook** by Pastor Bill & Nanette.

Memorial gifts have been given in memory of **Judy Fannin** by Patricia & Roger Hall; Kathy Hermansdorfer.



  
**FEBRUARY**

<p><b>Sunday Morning Study:</b> 9:18 a.m.  <b>Sunday Morning Worship:</b> 10:50 a.m.  <b>Pastor Led Bible Study:</b> Sundays, 5:30 p.m.  <b>Men's Bible Study:</b> Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Bob Evans  <b>Bell Rehearsal:</b> Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.  <b>Chancel Choir Rehearsal:</b> Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Men's Lunch Bunch:</b> Thursday, Feb. 9, 11:30 a.m.  <b>Ministry Teams Meeting:</b> Monday, Feb. 13, 5:30 p.m.  <b>Dames for Dinner:</b> Thursday, Feb. 16, 5:30—7 p.m.  <b>Fat Tuesday Pancake Brunch:</b> Sunday, Feb. 19, Noon  <b>Sew Blessed:</b> Monday, Feb. 20, 6 p.m.  <b>Finance Ministry Team:</b> Tuesday, Feb. 21, 5:30 p.m.  <b>Ash Wednesday Service:</b> Feb. 22, 7 p.m.  <b>Men's Lunch Bunch:</b> Thursday, Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m.  <b>Session Meeting:</b> Tuesday, Feb. 28, 5:30 p.m.</p>
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**Fat Tuesday & Ash Wednesday Service**

Following **Morning Worship , Sunday, February 19**, we invite everyone to a meal of pancakes and fixins as we celebrate **"Fat Tuesday"** in a way that only we at FPC can! Make plans to stay and fellowship.

On **Wednesday, February 22** we will join with other Presbyterians and guests from our community for an Ash Wednesday Service here at First Presbyterian Church beginning at **7 p.m.** This service will help us to begin our Lenten reflection as we journey to a garden, a cross, and an empty tomb. Beginning with Transfiguration Sunday, February 19, Pastor Bill will be sharing a series of messages – *"Questions on the Journey to Resurrection."*

**member spotlight**



What do you call someone who keeps busy with activities here at the church? Someone who maintains our Sew Blessed fellowship/ ministry along with other mission projects through our congregation? We call her Geri Willis!

This month we recognize Geri in our Member Spotlight in recognition of her tireless efforts on behalf of many in our community. Geri currently serves as our Missions Ministry Team Chairperson. Her responsibilities involve coordinating our mission priorities here at FPC as we seek to make a difference for the Kingdom. Thank you for everything you do! We are grateful to you for all your efforts.



- Aspen Gehringer**—February 1
- Oaklee Gehringer**—February 1
- Paxton Koenig**—February 4
- Jackie Stevenson**—February 6
- Riley Shay**—February 9
- Evan Jones**—February 14
- Lindsey Brown**—February 23
- Bill Gesling**—February 27

**Geri Presents Check to Backpack Program**



Geri presented a check to the Weekend Backpack Snack program from the Transylvania Presbytery and our Communion Sunday offering. The backpack program serves 149 children each week with snacks (as healthy as possible). 100% of your contributions goes directly to the purchase of snacks. Volunteers deliver to

four elementary schools and the middle school in Ashland. FPC volunteers (from left to right) are Lisa Stevens, Mary Patterson, Kaitlyn Stevens (doing community service as part of her med school rotation) and Cathy Wilson. They volunteer each Friday at Cornerstone United Methodist Church. Keep it up FPC, you truly are the "Heart of Ashland!"



**Ladies Clothing Swap Fellowship Event**




Start cleaning out your closet for the spring event.....March 11  
2:00 - ?

*Bring in your gently used items now (please put in the hall by the kitchen)*

Contact Barb Payne at (606) 922-6617  
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