



LIFELINE

Last week when the snow began, I flung the doormat aside so I could shovel the snow from our porch. We got enough snow that day to cancel church, and to quickly bury the doormat. Today is a dreary Monday, and about the most promising thing I think I can see from my window is the doormat emerging from the melting snow.

Yet there is also beauty in the color of the stern-looking, slate gray sky. And I can celebrate that Poor Will's Almanack announced the first week of early spring. The certainty of the vernal equinox coming on March 20 promises the beauty of natural color to emerge with the crocus, daffodil, and forsythia.

I offer you something different for Lent 2025 – an encouragement to listen and look for beauty. Every day. Get outside - or look outside and pay attention. Listen for the bird to sing or the wind to blow. Look for the flash of color when a bird or butterfly flit or flutter by, or when something begins to grow or bloom in green, yellow, or purple.

As for me, I will be taking the news and social media in smaller doses. I want to read or watch enough to know what is happening but will resist dialing in too deeply. I do not need to know everything happening in the world at every moment. I do not wish to deny the truth of what is happening in the news, or on either/ any side of a political perspective. What I do want is a balanced perspective of other things that are true.

I pray that a Lenten practice of looking and listening for beauty will remind me of what is real. It is real that I am in the third third of the span of my years on this planet. It is real that the history of the world is a long span of beauty as in nature, human community, discovery, literature, art, and music. It is also real that human beings have a capacity for cruelty, selfishness, and greed that will take your breath away. But the grand truth is that God's grace and mercy will breathe the breath of abundant life in Jesus Christ into those who will walk in his ways. I also pray that I will not miss an opportunity to work for God's peace and justice.

This Lent, begin a practice of looking and listening for beauty. Keep a journal of what you see and hear. Speak up for God's justice and righteousness. And, as Walt Whitman wrote, "dismiss whatever insults your soul; and your very flesh shall be a great poem."

"Great are the works of the Lord, studied by all who delight in them." (Psalm 111:2)

+ Pastor Joe



As the Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th, Pastor Joe will be offering ashes and prayers to anyone who chooses to drive through. He will be in the parking lot by the front door from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and then again from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The Lenten season concludes the day before Easter, Saturday, April 19th.





CLERK'S CORNER

Session Notes for February 2025

Session did not meet in February. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 16, following worship.

Additional Information and REMINDERS:

- Scout Sunday including their annual pancake breakfast was approved to be held on February 16. Due to weather issues, the church was closed that day. The Scouts agreed to change the date to February 23.
- Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025. Watch the Weekly Update for more details. Easter is April 20, 2025.
- A Special Presbytery meeting via ZOOM will be held on March 11, starting at 2:00 P.M. This meeting will be held to act on the proposed amendments to the *Book of Order*. Here is the link to the amendments which are document I-4 and a summary of the amendments on I-5

[Presbytery of the Miami Valley Documents](#) | [Presbytery of the Miami Valley](#)

Kathleen Seewer

2024 Clerk of Session

A NOTE FROM ECCLESIAL—OUR RESIDENT CHURCH MOUSE

Can you believe we are entering the Lenten Season already? It seems we just came out of Advent. This is a special time in our church, and I hope you all will take time to remember the meaning of this season. We are coming out of a cold, snowy month where we did good for our community. We had a great time at our Souper Bowl Sunday event where we enjoyed soup, games, and visiting with one another, while providing donations of food and cash to our local FISH Pantry. As always, the Senior Center lunch was well attended and much appreciated. Some of the leftovers (if there are any) come back to the church and we appreciate those! The Cornerstone Class is studying Ephesians, and it always amazes myself and my wife on the discussions that happen as a result of these classes. Pastor Joe spends time preparing for the classes - but they always end up going down a "rabbit hole" which makes him have to think fast on his feet! And the snacks - OH MY! If you haven't attended Cornerstone, you need to put it on your calendar. A new session will start at 2:00 pm on March 12th - topic is yet to be determined. If you have any suggestions, please let PJ know. Some of you will be going to Matthew 25 ministries to volunteer a couple hours of your time (the Ecclesial Family always stays behind to keep an eye on the church). And of course the Senior Center Free Lunch is always the 4th Wednesday of every month (except November/December). PJ will be imparting ashes at his Drive Up on Ash Wednesday - March 5th. This has become a tradition since it was his brainchild during COVID, and it is a success not only for all of us, but to the community also. We hope to see you there!



Minute for Mission

Lenten Project for Heifer International—March 23 and March 30

As a project for Lent, the youngest members of our congregation will once again be collecting money to purchase animals for Heifer International. The children will have their own box to collect money in the Lounge after worship on two Sundays, March 23 and March 30. When all the donations are totaled, the children will choose which animal(s) they want to buy - goat (\$120), sheep (\$120), pig (\$120), flock of chicks (\$20), flock of ducks (\$20), heifer (\$500), water buffalo (\$250), or hive of honeybees (\$30). So bring your loose change or dollar bills to support our young people as they learn more about helping others.

Heifer International is an organization which works to end hunger and poverty in partnership with the communities they serve. Their programs support entrepreneurs around the world, creating lasting change from the ground up. Their mission is to support smallholder farmers in order to sustainably address hunger and poverty in their communities while caring for the Earth. From Heifer International—
 "We refuse to stop until every person is living a dignified life with access to nutritious food, resources, education, health care and money saved for emergencies."





SOUPER BOWL DAY of CARING—February 9, 2025

We gathered together in the sanctuary, wearing our favorite team spirit wear, on “Souper Bowl Day of Caring”. After worship we met in the Fellowship Hall for lunch with chili, hot dogs, chips, and ice cream. This nationwide event, coinciding with the NFL’s Super Bowl, was started by a Presbyterian youth group in 1991. It encourages communities to come together to tackle hunger locally. Your generosity enabled us to donate food items as well as make a monetary donation of \$250 to FISH. Thank you.



SCOUT SUNDAY—February 23rd

The Scouts from Troop 72 opened our worship by Posting the Colors and then presented our church with the charter for both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. In addition to serving a delicious pancake breakfast for us this day, they have gone on several camping trips and done many numerous community service events-including trimming bushes and picking up litter and sticks for us on our grounds. Thank you Troop 72!

And did you know—Troop 72 has been meeting in our church for the last 65 years. Michael Seewer’s father’s Sunday school class, which included Max Fueger, was responsible for the scouting program-including creating Troop 72. Michael’s father assisted with the troop, arranging hikes and outings. He was also involved with the Cub Scouts which existed at the church. Michael was in the troop serving as Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Bugler, and Troop Librarian. When not at Camp Birch, the scouts camped in World War II army surplus pup tents.



Happy Birthday!



- Mar**
- 5 Sam Cline
 - 9 David Sellers
 - 10 Colton Barson
 - 13 Norm Willoughby
 - 17 Joyce Burnette
 - 22 Dan Kulhanek
 - 26 Linda Hartsock
 - 28 Christy Brewer
 - 30 Paul Schneider

Matthew 25 Ministries Field Trip—March 17th

We are volunteering at Matthew 25 Ministries in Cincinnati on Monday, March 17. Please let Diane know if you plan to attend. We will meet in the church parking lot at 10:15am to carpool and return by 3:00pm.



2025 Church Directory

We are planning on having the 2025 Church Directory out in early April. If your address, phone numbers, or email address has changed, please send an email to the church office with your new info by March 24th.



Daylight Savings Time begins at 2:00am on Sunday March 9th



Memorial Gifts

Gifts in memory of Evelyn Fueger were received from John and Cindy Feltz, James and Emerita Morgan, Diane Sondergelt, Faye Tuttle, and Dan and Monica Woolfe.



Dear First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for your generous donation of \$500. Your contribution enables us to offer meaningful, inclusive, and welcoming summer camps, family events, retreats, and more. It invests in a place of spiritual nurture; a place where relaxation, recreation, and rest lead to renewal; a place where each person feels comfortable being their true, authentic self knowing that they will be loved and accepted exactly as they are.

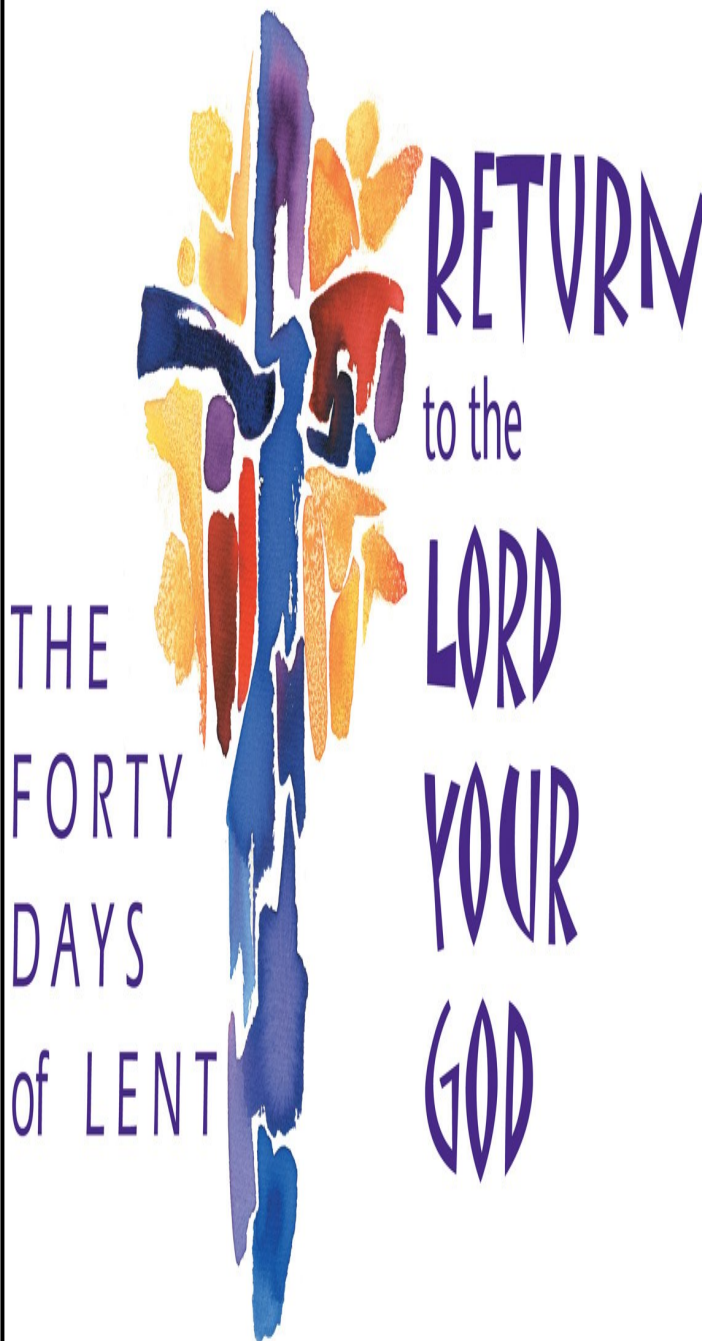
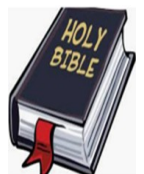
In order to live out our mission and continue to support and encourage a world of shared humanity and generosity we rely significantly on the kindness and benevolence of our donors. Thank you for your support! We can't do what we do without you. Be of good courage and know that you care loved.

Sara Metzler
Kirkmont Center



Cornerstone Class

The Cornerstone Class meets at 2:00pm every Wednesday for Bible study and discussion. There is no class on Ash Wednesday. Class will resume on March 12th with a new topic of discussion. There are snacks! Come join us!



March 2025

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 10:15 am Worship with Communion	3 1:00 pm Hope Circle— Lounge	4	5 Ash Wednesday Drive Thru 11:00—1:00 4:00—6:00 	6	7	8 
9 10:15 am Worship	10	11	12 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	13	14	15
16 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Session Mtg	17 10:15 am Matthew 25 Field Trip St. Patrick's Day 	18	19 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	20 	21	22
23 10:15 am Worship 11:30 am Deacon's Mtg	24	25	26 11:30 am Sr Ctr Lunch 2:00 pm Cornerstone Class —Lounge	27	28	29
30 10:15 am Worship	31					

SCHOOL PANTRY NEEDS

A shopping list is provided for your use. Any items collected will be given to the Fairborn School Pantry. You can leave items in the bins in the narthex. If you need help with shopping or with pick-up and delivery, just let me know. I'll be happy to help.

Linda Hartsock
School Pantry Coordinator



Pasta Noodles	Oatmeal	Crackers
Pasta Sauce	Pancake Mix (add water only)	Snacks
Ravioli (Can or individual)	Pancake Syrup	Canned Vegetables
Soup	Poptarts	Juice
Rice and Noodle Mixes	Nuts	Paper Towels
Mac and Cheese (Box or individual)	Pudding	Toilet Paper
Tuna and Chicken cans	Fruit cups	Shampoo/Cond.
Vegetable Oil/Spray	Peanut Butter	Body Wash
Cereal	Jelly	Feminine Hygiene
Breakfast bars/muffins		

Lifeline—the monthly newsletter of the
First Presbyterian Church of Fairborn, Ohio
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phone: 937-878-3954

email: firstpresbyterianfairborn@gmail.com

Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 10 am—2 pm
 Thursday 9 am –11am and 1 pm—3 pm
 (closed Monday and Friday)

“The Friendliest Church in Town”

Sunday Worship: 10:15 am with an on-line option from the church website

Pastor: Reverend Joe Hinds

email: pastorjoe1stpres@gmail.com

Financial Secretary: Carolyn McMillan

Organist: Jeff Firestone

Choir Director: Shelda Cox

Director of Chancel Ringers: Rena Leatherman

SESSION

Moderator: Reverend Joe Hinds

Clerk: Kathleen Seewer

Ruling Elders: Julie Brown, Linda Hartsock, Dixie Jenkins, Art Myers,
 Kathleen Seewer, David Sellers, Kim Sellers, Roland Sommer, and Diane Sondergelt

Articles for next month’s Lifeline need to be in the office by March 27th.

**There will be a limited number of copies of the *Lifeline*
 in the lower narthex if you want to pick one up.**

**Please let the office know of any meetings that you have scheduled in the church building
 so that we can maintain an accurate calendar and answer questions as folks call.**