



First Presbyterian Church

April 2024

OUR RESURRECTION STORIES

From Rev. Annie Melick

“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” — John 11: 25-26, NRSVUE

Resurrection= coming back to life after death.

From Easter Sunday (March 31) to Pentecost Sunday (May 19) the church is in the liturgical Season of Easter. That means we continue to focus on resurrection during this time: Jesus’s resurrection, what kinds of resurrection we might experience, and identifying the areas of our lives that need resurrection. This year we will share stories each week – Resurrection Stories- about people who found courage, kindness, strength and overcoming in their lives. We will talk about what keeps us locked up inside ourselves, what binds us from experiencing the fullness of God’s plan for us, and how to experience the joy of life.

A Prayer: Thank you for new life: spring flowers bursting out, trees bragging green again, the cycle of life bringing birth on the heel of death, healing the hurts in secret corners of our souls, and forgiveness. May we bring new life to the world through the way we live our lives. May we be generous, kind, joyful, and full of grace. Amen.

Brunch Church. April 7 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The youth will fix pancakes as a mission trip fundraiser and some of the congregation will bring other breakfast dishes. The mission service projects for this time will be putting together personal hygiene bags at the church, and shoveling dirt at the Community Garden.

Peace ~
Pastor Annie



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Gathering Place Reserved 1-4:30	2	3	4 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	5	6
7 Brunch Church Youth Pancake breakfast Youth mission meeting	8	9 Mom's Group 9am	10 Miriam Circle 10:00am	11 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	12 Kirkmont Women's Retreat	13 Kirkmont Wom- en's Retreat
14 Communion Session Meeting	15 Sewing Group 10:00am	16	17	18 Elizabeth Circle Dinner	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Men's Breakfast 9:00am
28	29	30				

APRIL Birthdays

1st		17th	
2nd		18th	
3rd		19th	Beth Pool
4th		20th	Blake Clabaugh
5th		21st	
6th	Jessyca Eiler (Newton) Jeff Shoemaker	22nd	
7th		23rd	Luke Bowers
8th	Taylor Clabaugh Vickie Volkerding	24th	
9th	Annie Melick	25th	
10th		26th	
11th	Brady Cooper Wendy Stonecash	27th	Bob Beeghly Susie Hitch Cindy Kinner
12th	Russ Mann	28th	Marilyn Shepherd Gideon Smith
13th	Keith Schmidt	29th	Doris Barker
14th	Rylie Haynes Hannah Schmidt	30th	Zack Pool Cora Jean Murray
15th	Brenda Michael	31st	
16th			

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Where two or more are gathered in my name, I will be there - Jesus

WOMEN'S CIRCLES *Where women gather to share life's ups and downs together.*

Miriam Circle

This group of ladies meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 10am.
Contact Arthella Pollock for more information.

Elizabeth Circle

This group will meet Thursdays from 6:30-7:30pm from January 18 through April 11, with a dinner celebration on April 18. The group will be doing a book study on *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor. Contact Pastor Annie for more information.

Moms Group – April 9 at 9am

Moms meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 9am in the church nursery. Bring your children along! After we get the children settled and grab a cup of coffee, Pastor Annie will lead us in a devotion, prayer and a parenting lesson.

MEN'S BREAKFAST *Where men gather for food, laughter, and thoughtful conversation.*

Come for a good breakfast and good discussion on the 4th Saturday of the month at 9am. Men take turns bringing the food and providing a program on various topics, along with doing special projects to help around the church and reach out to our shut-ins. Contact Jack Mann for more information.

ADULT COFFEE SHOP DISCUSSION GROUP *Where adults gather to share life and learn.*

Join us on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month from 9:30-10:00am for a "Coffee Shop" discussion group. There will be a topic of the day to learn a little about, and then we will discuss it around the table over coffee or tea. This group will begin on January 14th and go through May 26th. Contact Pastor Annie for more information. The discussion topics for Winter and Spring will be about following Jesus in "Worship" and "Comforting Those Who Mourn."

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT EATON FPC

LOGOS is finished for this semester and the kids had a wonderful time preparing their Ribbon dance and The Lord's Prayer for Palm Sunday. Children's Church is every Sunday, except when it's Brunch Church or Communion Sunday. The children head downstairs after the Children's Story in worship and have a lesson planned just for them. When we don't have Children's Church for Communion Sunday the children can pick up a bulletin with activities for them at the back of the Sanctuary. Watch for news about this summer! We will be talking about Compassion Camp soon.

ADULT MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me. Matthew 25:40b

Adult Mission Team – No meeting this month. Will help with the Brunch Church on April 7th.

Sewing Group - We completed the curtains in the Gathering Place in March. We hope you all enjoy the new look. Our next meeting to work on the quilts will be Monday, April 15 from 10am to 2pm. If you have any questions please contact Ann Murray. Everyone is welcome.

Domestic Violence Shelter - We are accepting donations of larger size women's clothing, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent and other personal items.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Children's Church on Sundays – for elementary children and older preschoolers

After the children's story in worship (about 10:50), the children go downstairs for an age-appropriate and fun lesson from the Bible. They are given a light snack and are led by loving volunteers from the Congregation. There will be No Children's Church on Communion Sundays.

Nursery on Sundays – for babies and younger preschoolers

The nursery is staffed during worship by volunteers from our congregation. The children are cared for in a bright safe room with age-appropriate toys and activities.

Mission Trip Meeting - the youth and parents will meet after Brunch Church on Sunday, April 7 for a parent meeting. The \$150.00 deposit will be due at that time. There will be paperwork handed out and dates for fundraisers.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

The Congregational Care Committee would like to start sending cards to our parishioners who are in college and in the service. If you have a family member FPC member in college or the service, and would like them to receive cards; please send their name, address, birthdate, and whether they are in the service or college to Mary Neavin at mneavin@icloud.com

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Session
First Presbyterian Church of Eaton
January 14, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Session was held in person at the church following worship, starting at 12:25. A quorum was present. Pastor Annie opened the meeting with prayer.

Members present: Bill Brower, Margie Benge, Jillian Ditmer, Molly Hurd, Keith Jones, Carmel Mann, Shelley Moore, Mary Nevin, David Sikora, Susan Schaurer, Luke Pool, and moderator, Pastor Annie Melick. Also, present were Beth Pool, Christian Education Director; Treasurer, Doug Moore; and Clerk of Session, Rachel Krotz Kelley. **Members excused:** Bill Clayton, Amber Fogle, and Marie Hayes

Treasurer's Report: Doug emailed the 2023 Annual Treasurer's report prior to the meeting on Jan 7, 2024. Doug answered a few general questions for new session members, regarding Per Capita, Capital Campaign and invested funds. **On motion**, approve the treasurer's report as written. Motion carried.

Report of the Clerk: Minutes of the Dec, 10, 2023, meeting were emailed on Dec 16 to the outgoing session. The minutes of the Dec 17 Congregational meeting and the Dec 10 session meeting were emailed to the incoming session on Jan 16, 2024. **On motion**, to approve the Dec 10 meeting minutes as written and receive the minutes of the Dec 17 congregational meeting. Motion carried.

Marie Hayes will begin serving as Clerk of Session, starting in Mar 2024. Rachel will continue as clerk through Feb 2024. The PCUSA's 2023 Church Statistical Report was prepared and distributed at the meeting. **On motion**, approve the 2023 Statistical Report as written. Motion carried.

Betty Barker was removed from rolls by death, Dec. 18, 2023. Zachary Pool and Andrew Pool to be removed from the rolls by member request.

Business of the Day

Annie prepared and gave all Session members (Ruling Elders) a Session Handbook that outlines duties, responsibilities, expectations, and relevant information as part of Session orientation and training. Much of the meeting was going through the handbook.

The format for the Annual meeting on Jan 28, 2024, will be different than in past year. After worship, we will have a carry-in lunch followed by the congregational meeting and ministry fair, all to take place in the Fellowship Hall.

On motion, to approve the dates communion will be served in 2024, generally the second Sunday of the month, 1/14, 2/11, 3/10, 3/28 (Maundy Thursday), 4/14, 5/12, 6/9, 7/14, 8/11, 9/8, 10/6 (World Communion Sunday), 11/10, 12/8. Motion carried.

Report of the Moderator

Annie asked for advice on changing the time of the Ash Wednesday (Feb 14) service time to 5:30, because of Valentine's Day. Session agreed to try this.

We will again have 2 services on Easter-early service at the Benge's and 10:30 service in the sanctuary. Also need to change Brunch Church to Apr 7, because Easter falls on Mar 31, the 5th Sunday in March. Annie has asked for vacation 4/1-4/7 and Study Leave 5/6-5/12.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer With session business concluded, the meeting adjourned with prayer at 1:38pm, and the session members divided into Committees to discuss ministry focuses for 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Krotz Kelley
Clerk of Session

Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
First Presbyterian Church of Eaton, OH
January 28, 2024

The annual congregational meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall following a carry-in lunch. A quorum was present, and Pastor Annie opened the meeting with prayer. The 2023 Annual Report, an overview of the ministries of the committees and financial statement for Eaton First Presbyterian Church, was distributed.

Treasurer Doug Moore provided a brief overview of the financial report. The 2024 Report on Compensation for Installed Pastors/Designated Pastors of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley for Rev Annie Melick, based on the session approved 2024 budget, was also reviewed. **On motion**, approval of the 2024 Report on Compensation for Installed Pastors/Designated Pastors for Rev Annie Melick. Motion passed unanimously. Copies of the 2023 Annual Report can be obtained upon request. Pastor Annie closed the meeting with prayer. Session Committees had prepared posters with information on past and upcoming activities, highlighting ways for the congregation to become involved and volunteer. Attendees then had a chance to sign up to volunteer for committees or activities that interest them.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Kelley
Clerk of Session

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Session
First Presbyterian Church of Eaton
February 11, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Session was held in person at the church following the Souper Bowl Luncheon and Painted Bowl Auction Fundraiser for the food bank. A quorum was present. Pastor Annie opened the meeting with prayer at 12:36pm.

Members present: Bill Brower, Bill Clayton, Molly Hurd, Keith Jones, Carmel Mann, Shelley Moore, Mary Nevin, Luke Pool, Susan Schaurer, David Sikora and moderator, Pastor Annie Melick. Also, present were Treasurer, Doug Moore and Clerk of Session, Rachel Krotz Kelley. **Members excused:** Amber Fogle, Margie Bengé, Jillian Ditmer and Marie Hayes

Treasurer's Report: Doug emailed the treasurer's report for Jan to session, prior to the meeting. Doug discussed the report regarding the new accounting system he is using. **On motion**, approve the treasurer's report as written. Motion carried.

Communications: Bonnie Smith has requested to use the church Friday, Mar 1, 12-3 pm for a family gathering. **On motion**, to approve this building request. Motion carried.

Elders Bill Clayton and Shelley Moore attended the Special Called Meeting of the Presbytery on Jan 30, 2024.

Report of the Clerk: Minutes of the Jan 14 meeting of session and the minutes from the congregational meeting, Jan 28, were emailed Jan 28. On motion, to approve the minutes of the Jan session meeting and receive the minutes of the Jan 28 congregational meeting. Motion carried. Rachel reminded session members that committee annual reports should be given to the clerk before the end of the year to aid in putting the annual report together. Project for 2024 will be updating and preparing our church's Administrative Manual. PVM clerk has samples and what should be included.

Report of the Moderator: Annie is preparing for Lent.

As part of session training, Annie explained the Book of Order (BOO), what it is, its significance and how it is used. Electronic copies are available on the PCUSA website. Hard copies are available from the clerk.

**Reports of the Permanent Committees
Stewardship, Finance and Congregational Care**

Susan Schauer provided the Committee with background information on the issue of Trust Funds A, B, and C. An audit was discussed and decided to conduct an internal audit, using a qualified FPC member. Bill Clayton will make contact. FPC has a safety deposit box at LCNB. Currently, we have no access to it or knowledge of its contents. An action plan was formed to gain access.

Worship and Fellowship

Carmel sent around the head usher sign-up sheet. Ash Wednesday service will be Wed Feb 14 at 5:30p. Maundy Thursday service will be on March 28th and extending an invitation to the United Church of Christ (UCC) congregation, time TBD. Good Friday service on March 29th, to be held next door with the UCC congregation, time TBD. The Easter Sunrise service will be held at Guy and Margie Bengé's at 8:00 am on March 31st. Coffee and breakfast offerings will be provided by the youth of our church. Second service will be at 10:30am in the sanctuary. It was agreed to purchase a recorder, case, and memory card for \$375.74 to serve in the accompanist role for the choir. The equipment will be purchased from the Music Fund.

A discussion was held on the role of the Head Usher for funerals held in the church. Reminders need to be given concerning running the vacuum, if needed and ringing the church funeral bells.

Christian Education and Missions

Souper Bowl lunch is February 11, 2024. Donations will be given to the Food Bank.

The committee seeks approval from Session for the following youth mission trip fundraisers:

1. March 9 - St. Patrick's Day dinner
2. Pancake Brunch Church, Apr 7
3. Mission May 5K, date in May TBD
4. Garage sale, date TBD

On motion, to approve the above fundraisers for the youth mission trip. Motion carried.

Adjournment and Closing Prayer With session business concluded, on motion, the meeting adjourned with prayer at 1:14pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Krotz Kelley
Clerk of Session

Women's Spiritual Retreat

Registration is now OPEN!!



**Women's
Spiritual
Nurture
Retreat
April 12-14,
2024**

**“Women at the Well:
Dropping Our Labels to
Live as God Intended”**
Friday evening - Sunday Worship
**Kirkmont Center,
Zanesfield, OH**

2024 Worship Leader –
Nancy Ross-Zimmerman
Speakers - Beth Pool, Ann Melick,
and Cindy Wakeland

Register at kirkmontcenter.org
Cost \$200 – Full and partial scholarships
are available
Email info@kirkmontcenter.org for more
information or questions

This year's retreat focus is based on the Bible story of the woman at the well (John 4). The retreat starts on Friday evening and ends Sunday morning following worship. There will be small group study and discussion, activities such as yoga, nature hikes, a book study, as well as free time to relax and renew your spirit in the natural surroundings of Kirkmont Center. The cost is \$200/person which includes programming, 2 nights lodging and 5 meals. Attending Saturday only is also an option available for \$100 to cover meals and programming. Full or partial scholarships are available upon request. Please indicate when registering if a scholarship would be required for you to attend the retreat. For lodging, we will be using all the buildings on campus, except for Habitat House. If you can use an upper bunk, let us know. If you have a housing preference, let us know. If you have mobility issues, let us know. We can't promise but will do our best to accommodate your needs. Beds are all twin beds or twin bunk beds. Check out the lodging photos and descriptions on the Kirkmont Center website, kirkmontcenter.org. Please request roommates if you want to share lodging with a specific person/people from your church. And while you are there, register for the retreat! From the entire 2024 Women's Spiritual Retreat planning team, we hope to see you in April!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Beth Pool, Rachel Kelley or Pastor Annie.

The new curtains in the Gathering Place have been completed and installed. Stop in and take a look, they really brightened up the room. Thank you to all who helped make this possible.



Thank you to everyone who donated candy and toys to the Easter Egg Hunts.



FPC Children's Egg Hunt

Triangle Therapy Egg Hunt



Some of our Egg Stuffers and Hiders



Baptism of:

Victoria Hodgins

Annabelle Smith

Griffin Smith



Confirmands:

Annabelle Smith

Victoria Hodgins

Noah Hurd

Griffin Smith

Dillon Graves

Josie Mondello-Garrett

Callie Fogle

Anthony Fomin

Ben Cooper



Welcome!



Archer Clark Gerst

March 20, 2024

8lb 9oz.

Parents: Alex & Morgan Gerst

Sister: Isla Gerst

Proud Grandparents: Cullen & Melissa Phillips



Jonah Lewis Crist

March 30, 2024

8lb 9oz 21 inches

Parents: Jared and
Jessica Crist

Proud Grandparents:
Lyle and Pastor Annie
Melick

Prayers of First Presbyterian Church Family and Friends

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you"

~Jeremiah 29:12

In our continuing prayers:

Countries of War

Sarah Gregg –Continuing cancer treatment, Cy Acheson's granddaughter

Cy & Flossy Acheson - pray for strength and healing

Logan Eifort - tumor shrinking, Keith & Chris Jones grandson

Zoe Barnes - home but still a long way to go, Kelly Smith's cousin

Remember and Uphold:

Penny Ulrich-Vancrest

Betty Stewart-Greenbriar

Betty Bourne –Vancrest (Vickie Volkerding's mother)

Our Shut-Ins at Home:

Doris Barker

Marge Jordan

Julia Withrow

Elaine Hawley

For our Nation and those who serve

Church Members & Friends In The Service

Lt. Mac Altom/ U.S. Army

Zack Pool/ Air Force

Addam Moore/ U.S. Marines

Jeremy Barnes/ Navy

Tanner Crabtree/ Army

Brett Barnes / Navy

Caleb Cosmi / Air Force

Cameron Rife / U.S. Navy

Doug Crouse / Air Force

Nicholas Rife / U.S. Navy

Grant Davis / Army Reserve

Justin Foust / Army

Laura Soper/ Air Force Reserve

Richard (Alex)Trogon/ Navy

Ryan Hall / Army

Cliff Garey / Navy

Grace Wagner / Basic Training

Ryan Kiracofe / Air Force

Wyatt Hanson / Army

Miguel Martinez/Army Reserve- Active

Drew Roach / Navy

Soldier's Prayer

Dear Lord, please bless our soldiers, protectors of our land. Servants called to battle when our country takes a stand. Our country's prayers are with them no matter where they roam. Please listen when they are lonely and return them safely home.

Please contact our prayer chain coordinator, Ann Murray, 937-336-0116, email: annmurray916@yahoo.com, [call the church office](tel:937-456-3754), 937-456-3754, office@eatonfpc.org, or drop a note in the offering plate with updates.

