

Run to the Tomb

Peter, however, got up and ran to the tomb. Bending over, he saw the strips of linen lying by themselves, and he went away, wondering to himself what had happened. (Luke 24:12)

We've been enjoying the stories of Peter's journey with Jesus throughout the Season of Lent. The series will conclude on Easter Sunday with this Scripture about how Peter got up and ran to the tomb when he heard the news that it was empty. Peter got up, ran, saw, went away, and wondered. What a great example of how we should all respond to the news of Jesus's resurrection!

We too should get up and run to see what Jesus has done. Getting up and running indicates we would have some urgency about how we practice our faith during Holy Week. The church will provide you a number of opportunities to experience the stories of Jesus that week. I hope you will come and see as we worship together, and then spend some time wondering on your own as you contemplate the Good News of Jesus resurrection.

Easter, often called Resurrection Sunday is the High Holy Day of our Christian year. The life, death and resurrection of Christ are what our Christian faith is based on. Every other Sunday of the year is a type of "mini-Easter." Holy Week is special because we get to work through the stories of Jesus's experiences at the end of his life. We allow ourselves to experience Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, with the suffering of Jesus as the focus. We take our time as we go from the parade on Palm Sunday, to the upper room on Maundy Thursday, to the cross on Good Friday, and then to the empty tomb on Easter Sunday.

I hope you will be able to participate in these Holy Day services at the church, at our neighbor church, and outdoors for Easter sunrise service. I hope you are able to set aside time to meditate and wonder about our amazing Lord. Let's all schedule time on our calendar to practice our faith this month in a deeper meaningful way. Let's be like Peter and run to see what God is doing.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday March 24, 10:30am. Children should meet at the back of the Sanctuary before the service to distribute palms. Our children and youth from LOGOS will lead the Lord's Prayer and Affirmation of Faith that day, and will present special music.

Maundy Thursday Service March 28, 7pm. Join us for this service of remembering the Last Supper. Our neighbors at the UCC will join us.

Good Friday Service March 29, 7pm. At the UCC We will join our neighbor church for this moving service outlining the events of Jesus's last days before he died.

Easter Sunrise Service March 31, 8am at the Benge's (911 W. Main St.) Park at Triangle Therapy and then either walk down the hill or take the transportation provided. The service will be around the campfire with refreshments afterward. Please bring a chair.

Easter Sunday Service March 31, 10:30am. Come to the great celebration in our sanctuary!

Peace ~
Pastor Annie



Sun	Mon	TUE	WED	Тни	FRI	SAT
					1 Fellowship Hall reserved	2
3	4	5	6 LOGOS 5-7 - Cancelled	7 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	8 Sewing Group 10:00am	9 Youth Fundraiser dinner 6-9:00pm
Adult Discussion Group 9:30am Session meets	11	Mom's Group 9:00 am	13 Miriam Circle 10:00am LOGOS 5-7 St. Patrick's Day Choir - 7:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm	14 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	15	16
17 New Member class following worship	18	19	20 LOGOS 5-7 Aloha Luau	21 Elizabeth Circle 6:30pm	22	23 Men's breakfast 9:00am Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 Benge's property Triangle Therapy Easter Egg Hunt
24 Adult Discussion Group 9:30am	25	26	27	Maundy Thurs- day here with UCC at 7:00pm	Good Friday services at UCC 7:00pm	30
31 Sunrise Service at Benge's 8am						



1st	Braden Schmidt	17th	
2nd		18th	Don Pollock Jone Simpson Alaina Schaeffer
3rd	Jack Mann	19th	Tom Weaver
4th	Kathy Courtney Matt Shoemaker	20th	Jillian Ditmer
5th	Brad Neavin	21st	Aubrey Smith
6th		22nd	Josh Haynes
7th	Lois Morrow	23rd	
8th		24th	Doug Moore Jackie Wright
9th	Jim Shepherd Kelly Smith	25th	
10th	Sharon Kramer	26th	Tom Hypes
11th	Tonna Ditmer	27th	
12th		28th	
13th	Claudia Anderson Brian Wright	29th	Amber Fogle
14th	Luke Pool	30th	
15th		31st	
16th	Beth Mickelson		

CHOIR

Adults and older youth are invited to join our choir. You do not need to be able to read music. Rehearsals are the Wednesday evening before we sing in church (1st and 3rd Sundays) and other times as needed. Rehearsals are from 7-8pm in the Sanctuary. For more information, please contact Kelly Smith.

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Where two or more or 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. Next meeting will be March 13th and they will start their new study, Life Lessons from John and will be ready for Intro and Chapter 1. Contact Arthella Pollock, 937-456-1289 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.

In the New York Times bestseller An Altar in the World, acclaimed author Barbara Brown Taylor continues her spiritual journey by building upon where she left off in Leaving Church. Taylor shares how she learned to find God beyond the church walls by embracing the sacred as a natural part of everyday life. In An Altar in the World, Taylor shows us how to discover altars everywhere we go and in nearly everything we do as we learn to live with purpose, pay attention, slow down, and revere the world we live in.

MOMS GROUP - March 5th at 9:00am

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 - March 23rd at 9:00am

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."

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 - Friday, March 8th from 10:00 to 2:00. We will be finishing up the Curtains. Come anytime that works for you.

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 ageappropriate 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.

LOGOS Wednesday night programming – 5-7pm

Youth, older preschool and elementary children gather on Wednesday evenings for a night of worship, Bible lessons, games, crafts and dinner. Drop off at The Sanctuary at 5pm and pick up in the Fellowship Hall at 7pm. Parents are always welcome to stay; let us know if you will need the nursery. Here are the themes for February:

March 6 - Get on Board, The Train's A'coming

March 13 - Saint Patrick's Day

March 20 - Aloha Luau

Elementary Children Will Learn The Lord's Prayer

The elementary group in LOGOS will be learning the Lord's Prayer and what it means. They meet on Wednesdays from 5-7pm. On March 24 they will be in worship to lead the congregation in saying the Lord's Prayer. Their teachers this semester are Stacey Barton and Pastor Annie.

1st Mission Trip Fundraiser

March 9, 2024, St. Patrick's Day Dinner - 6-9:00pm. Come join us for a delicious meal of Irish Stew or Shepherd's Pie, along with side salad, bread & dessert! You will be served by our mission youth as they start their fundraising for the 2024 FPC Youth Mission. Sign up at church and choose entrée or email the office.

Brunch Church April 7, 10:30am in the Fellowship Hall. The youth will fix pancake 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.

Mission Project Needs - For the Brunch Church mission project we are in need of travel size personal hygiene items. Please drop off in the baskets by the office.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Session First Presbyterian Church of Eaton December 10, 2023

The regular meeting of the Session was held in person at the church following worship and Advent fellowship, starting at 12:38. A quorum was present. Pastor Annie opened the meeting with prayer.

Members present: Joe DeLuca, Jessica Falkner, Marlene Frantz, Keith Jones, Rachel Kelley, Carmel Mann, Shelley Moore, Kathy McCreary, Susan Schaurer and moderator, Pastor Annie Melick. Also present was the Treasurer, Doug Moore.

Members excused: Ashley Mondello-Garrett, Ricky Mondello-Garrett, and Amber Fogle

Report of the Moderator: Annie has been planning and coordinating worship components for Advent. Treasurer's Report: Doug presented the treasurer's report that was emailed prior to the meeting on Nov 30, 2023. Doug also noted that all but \$500 for the Capital Campaign has come in to cover expenses of the remaining slated projects. This news was happily received with applause. **On motion**, approve the treasurer's report as written. Motion carried.

Communications On Dec 8, 2024. Brooke Hartwig emailed session to inform them of her resignation as Director of Christian Education, Children's Ministry and Missions Program. Her last day will be Dec 17, 2023. She graciously thanked session for allowing her to serve her church family in this role. Tom Courtney resigned from session, effective immediately on Dec 1, 2023, by email. After much discussion, Jessica Falkner and Marlene Frantz also regretfully asked to resign from their remaining terms of service, 2yr and 1yr respectively. On motion, session sadly accepted the resignation of Tom, starting Dec 1, 2023, and Jessica and Marlene effective at the end of this meeting. Motion carried. Session expressed thanks and gratitude for their service.

Report of the Clerk: Minutes of the Nov 12, 2023, meeting were emailed on Nov 18. **On motion**, accept the minutes of Nov 12 meeting as written. Motion carried.

Dec 17, 2023 will be the Congregational Meeting to elect officers. Marie Hayes will begin serving as Clerk of Session, starting in Mar 2024. Rachel will continue as clerk for Jan and Feb 2024.

Reports of Committees

Finance and Congregational Care:

The committee made a motion to approve the proposed 2024 Budget as presented. Session members had the opportunity to express opinions on the budget. **On motion**, to approve the 2024 Budget as presented. Motion carried. Joe updated that the roofing and painting projects which have not been completed yet will resume in the spring.

Worship and Fellowship: The committee met Dec 3, following worship. Advent fellowship will be Dec 10 and 24 th, following the morning service. Signup sheets are out for advent fellowship to get volunteers to bring items. Brunch church is Dec 31. Service will be very relaxed and there will be no mission projects.

Christian Education and Missions: CE and Children's Ministry report was emailed on Dec 8. Children's Christmas Pageant will be Dec 17, during the worship service.

Other Business A treasurer's audit committee will be selected after the first of the year for an audit.

Adjournment and closing prayer: Meeting adjourned, and Annie closed with prayer at approximately 1:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Krotz Kelley

Minutes of the Congregational Meeting First Presbyterian Church of Eaton, OH

December 17, 2023

A congregational meeting was held following worship in the sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting was to elect officers nominated by the Nominating Committee. Rev Annie Melick served as moderator and opened the meeting with prayer at 11:17 am. A quorum was present.

Ricky Mondello-Garrett presented the slate of officers for election:

Elder Class of 2024: Margie Benge

Elder Class of 2025: Molly Hurd and Mary Neavin

Elder Class of 2026: Marie Hayes, Bill Brower, Bill Clayton, and David Sikora

Youth Elder, Class of 2024: Luke Pool and Jillian Ditmer

Memorial Committee: Class of 2026 Guy Benge

Financial Agent Anne Grim

Nominating Committee representatives from the congregation Jack Mann and Teresa Schmidt

There were no nominations from the floor. Members present voted by voice.

The ballot was affirmed unanimously.

Recognition was given to Kathy McCreary and Joe DeLuca for their 6 years of service.

Rev Melick closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Hayes

Women's Spiritual Retreat

Registration is now OPEN!!



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.

Easter Egg Hunt Information and Links

Come join us in the annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 23 at 11:00. Kids 3- 5th grade will hunt for filled eggs and the elusive golden egg in the woods and meadow on the Benge's property. Our teens (6th-12th grade) will meet to fill and hide the eggs from 10:00-12:00. Join our much-loved tradition!

Egg Hunt donations: FPC Egg Hunt March 23- We are asking for bags of candy for our traditional FPC Egg Hunt.

The Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt for Triangle Therapy is March 23. The Special Needs Egg Hunt historically has about 70 children and we are expecting more this year. This is a wonderful event for the families of Triangle Therapy as they feel this is a safe place for their children to participate in an Egg Hunt. If you are able we would greatly appreciate donations of any of the items listed below. We need them by March 17.

Stickers

Mini Fidget Sensory Pop Toys (24 pack) https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BN7QC3FP/ref=ox-sc-saved-image-1?smid=A382RKPDFTS3ME&psc=1

Finger Puppets (20 pack) https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B09Z1YCBN3/ref=ox_sc_saved_image_8?smid=A18C22KS7CWMAU&psc=1

Easter Bracelets (50 pack)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BKSG9YTF/ref=ox_sc_saved_image_5?smid=A3KFPA997F43HK&psc=1

Mini Lego People (24 pack)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0828YKSB2/ref=ox_sc_saved_title_4?smid=A16UVA5B7Q80OO&psc=1 Mini Cars (12 pack)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BL6483GG/ref=ox_sc_saved_title_10?smid=A3KFPA997F43HK&psc=1
Animal Squish Toys (24 pack)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0BPXSXMQ5/ref=ox_sc_saved_title_8?smid=A2Z6QBBX90NLNH&psc=1
Mini Rainbow Slinkys (50 pack)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B06XXD7X5X/ref=ox_sc_saved_title_3?smid=A2N1TAF4DP8S1N&psc=1

Mini Porcupine Balls (72 pack)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B003FPZWM8/ref=ox_sc_saved_title_7?smid=A2UDNPGKURPVSY&psc=1

Easter Egg Squeeze Balls (8 pack)

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B0B51CQ4JT/ref=ox sc saved title 2?smid=A3TQ5PMIUL2H3E&psc=1

PRESBYTERY OF THE MIAMI VALLEY

Preparing, equipping, nurturing, and connecting congregations in their ministries for God's mission.

"The Color Purple" - A Film Discussion Tuesday, March 5 at 7:00 PM on Zoom

Hosted by the Committee on Representation and Diversity of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley



Join nationally known film reviewer and PMV's own **Ed McNulty**, in a discussion of the film *The Color Purple* (2023) *Tuesday, March 5, 7:00 PM, on Zoom. The discussion is hosted by the Committee on Representation and Diversity of Presbytery of the Miami Valley.*

Adapted from Alice Walker's 1982 novel of the same name, *The Color Purple (2023) tells the story of Celie, an African American woman living in the early 20th century South. It is one woman's journey of resilience and hardships overcome, who ultimately finds independence, extraordinary strength, love, and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood.*

How to participate

In the privacy of your own home with family and friends, watch the film *The Color Purple* (2023). The film is available online at Amazon Prime Video, on YouTube Primetime, Apple TV, Google Play Movies, and Vudu.

To receive the Zoom link so that you can participate in the discussion, register by Monday, March 4.

If you are interested in registering contact the office and the link will be forwarded to you.



Working on their Escape Room challenge.

Installation of our new Session members



Confirmation Class Lock-In





















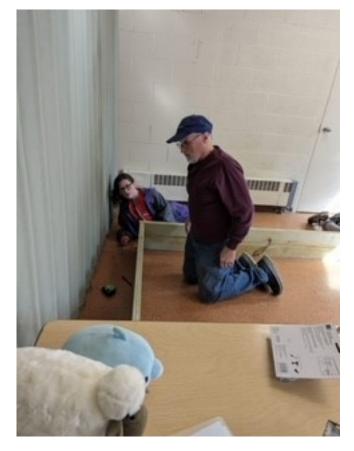












Our Adult Mission Team met at Vancrest to work on Birthday bags.



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 Dale Robertson - recovering at home Stella Davidson - recovering from a fall, currently at Vancrest

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 Alex Trogdon/Navy Ryan Hall / Army Allen Trogdon/Navy 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, 937-456-3754, office@eatonfpc.org, or drop a note in the offering plate with updates.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH P.O. BOX 125 123 W. DECATUR STREET EATON, OHIO 45320

Our Mission: Listening to God's call, following in the way of Jesus and serving neighbors through the Spirit.

Church Contact Information

123 West Decatur Street / P.O. Box 125 Website www.eatonfpc.org
Phone (937) 456-3754 Email office Hours 10-2, Mon.—Thurs.
Worship - Sunday's at 10:30am Adult Sunday School starts at 9:30am

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Annie Melick pastorannie@eatonfpc.org (440)-308-7664

Director of Youth Ministries: Beth Pool eatonfpcyouth@gmail.com (937) 248-1671

Office Administrator: Ann Murray office@eatonfpc.org (937) 336-0116

Session Contacts

Moderator of Session: Pastor Annie Melick

Clerk of Session: Marie Hayes

Elders and Members of Session by Committee:

Finance & Congregational Care: *Bill Clayton, Bill Brower, Mary Neavin, David Sikora

Worship & Fellowship Committee: *Carmel Mann, Keith Jones, Susan Schaurer, Marie Hayes

Christian Education & Mission Committee: *Shelley Moore, Margie Benge, Jillian Ditmer,

Luke Pool, Molly Hurd, Amber Fogle

Personnel Committee: *Ssuan Schaurer, David Sikora, Margie Benge

Memorial Committee: *Guy Benge, Tonna Ditmer, Brian Pool, Bill Clayton, Carmel Mann,

Shelley Moore

Treasurer: Doug Moore, treasurer@eatonfpc.org

Financial Agent: Anne Grim

* Chairperson

Social Media Accounts

Website: www.eatonfpc.org

To Give On Line: www.eatonfpc.org, click Giving Tab

YouTube Channel: Eaton First Presbyterian Services

Facebook Page: Eaton First Presbyterian Church

Facebook Group: First Presbyterian Youth