



Pastor's Pen: April Fool

The time for jokes and jesting is almost upon us. April Fools' Day is just around the corner. No one knows for sure the origins of this special day. Some have suggested that changing from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in the 1500s created some confusion concerning the beginning of the new year. Perhaps, the day is to commemorate the confusion. Others believe that some ancient king or emperor was tired of being the butt of every joke. As a result, the ruler made some jester "king-for-a-day" to teach the weight of the office and inspire kinder criticism. A few even believe that the fickle weather this time of year "fools" us into wondering if winter or spring is here.

No matter the origin, I agree with Mark Twain on the purpose of April Fools' Day, "This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four." In life, we are constantly given opportunities to look foolish, and we rarely avoid them. Of course, foolishness comes in different levels or degrees. Being a fool for an outdated fashion sense is one thing, but being a fool for prejudice or hatefulness is another. In the Scriptures, the Apostle Paul gives still us another reason to be the fool.

"Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He catches the wise in their craftiness,' and again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile.'" (1 Corinthians 3: 18-20)

The follower of Jesus Christ who holds to the truth, loves his neighbor, and forgives those who slight him will look foolish to the rest of the world. Christians are supposed to be a little out of step. After all, our central claim is about a man who was crucified rose from the dead. That looks a little "foolish" to those who do not believe. The foolishness of Christ's resurrection sets us apart. For us, that foolishness is the source of our eternal joy.

For those who think they are wise, their pride often leads to arrogance. Ironically, greater wisdom is found among those who know they are fools. The poignant question remains for us: If we are fools, for what reason are we foolish? For Christ or for the world?

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

James M. Hedden

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday (March 28th)
8:30 & 10:45

Holy Thursday (April 1st)
7:00pm

Dinner at 5:30 pm

Good Friday (April 2nd)
7:00pm

Easter Sunday (April 4th)
8:00, 9:30, 11:00am

Easter Egg Hunt at 10:30 am



Take advantage of the end of winter sales for **Christmas** in **July**
Purchase now Discounted Winter Coats, hats, and gloves.



Rummage Sale.....

We accept your treasures year round!
You can bring all your goodies to the church during business hours or if you need after hours contact Wende Mersereau and coordinate another time.



THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

Breakfast @ 6:30am Service @ 7:00am

Guest Speaker: Sheriff Todd Corbin
First Presbyterian Church

NEWS FROM THE SESSION

February 2021

VBS week is June 14-18, 2021.

Forty-five people enjoyed the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Plan to attend the Maundy Thursday dinner on April 1st.

Maumee Valley Presbytery Mission Committee donated to Bob Sands' Inspiration Station program.

Sheriff Todd Corbin will speak at the National Day of Prayer service on May 3rd.

Pastor James attended the MVP meeting, a Pittsburgh Theological Seminary lecture, and a PCUSA regional Fellowship Community meeting.

The MVP Per Capita of the year is \$37.23 per member.

Bell Choir has resumed rehearsal and will play in March.

Installation of Sanctuary and narthex flooring is completed. New pew cushions arrive in early March.

Fifty-eight desks designed by Bob Huston have been distributed to children in Port Clinton, Norwalk, Inspiration Station, Western Reserve, and Citizen Leadership Academy. Community members donated the material for the desks, Norwalk Furniture cut the pieces, and Bob and Ray Chapin assembled the desks.

FPC will host the Red Cross Blood Drive on April 22 and November 30, 2021.

An Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled between the Easter morning services. Lilies were ordered to decorate the sanctuary.

The Investment Policy Task Force meets quarterly with Croghan Investments and have updated the FPC's Investment Policy and Guidelines.

WITH MANY THANKS

To Our Church Family,

The last few weeks have been trying but its people like you who Bless Our Lives. All my tests came back normal, but I still have the pain and concerns. But your thoughtfulness has touched my heart and I thank you for all the very nice cards, telephone calls and nice homemade notebook on my doorstep. All of you are Angels who brighten our days.

God Bless You,

Audrey Trimble

To the First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for all the thoughts, prayers, and cards during the loss of my mother. The love that is shown from this church warms my heart. Thank you for making me feel such a part of this family.

God Bless,

Lorri Shane

Office Coordinator



~ April 2021 ~

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | 1 7a Women's Small Group 12p Men's Small Group 7p Maundy Thursday | 12 Good Friday 10a AA Meeting 7p Good Friday Service | 3 7a Men's Small Group |
| 4 Easter EASTER SUNDAY FOOD BANK SUNDAY 8a Worship Service 9:30a Worship Service 10:30a EASTER EGG HUNT 11a Worship Service | 5 OFFICE CLOSED 5:45p Worship & Music | 6 10a AA Meeting 6p CE Meeting | 7 7a Men's AM Group 10:30a Women's Circle Board Meeting 6:15p Bell Choir Practice 7:30p Al-anon Meeting | 8 7a Women's Small Group 12p Men's Small Group 6:30p Deacon's Meeting 6:30p Mission Meeting | 9 10a AA Meeting | 10 7a Men's Small Group |
| 11 12 8:30a Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Service 5p Bible Study 5p Fusion 7p Catalyst | 11 12 10a Staff Meeting 7p ACT Board Meeting | 13 10a AA Meeting 7:15p Fellowship Meeting | 14 7a Men's AM Group 10a PIVA Board Meeting 12p Stewardship Meeting 4:30p Women's Weds. Small Group 6:15p Bell Choir Practice 7:30p Al-anon Meeting | 15 7a Women's Small Group 10a Morning Circle Small Group 12p Men's Small Group | 16 10a AA Meeting | 17 7a Men's Small Group |
| 18 19 8:30a Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Service 5p Bible Study 5p Fusion 7p Catalyst | 18 19 10a Staff Meeting 7p Bible Banter Small Group | 20 10a AA Meeting 6:30p Outreach | 21 Administrative Professionals 7a Men's AM Group 12p Joyce Ditz Round table 4:30p Afternoon Circle Small Group 5:45p Building & Grounds 6:15p Bell Choir Practice 7:30p Al-anon Meeting | 22 Earth Day 7a Women's Small Group 12p Men's Small Group 1p Blood Drive 6:30p Session Meeting | 23 10a AA Meeting | 24 7a Men's Small Group |
| 25 World Immunization Week 8:30a Worship Service 9:30a Sunday School 9:30a Sunday School 10:45a Worship Service 5p Bible Study 5p Fusion 7p Catalyst | 26 10a Staff Meeting 7p Bible Banter Small Group | 27 10a AA Meeting | 28 7a Men's AM Group 4:30p Women's Weds. Small Group 6:15p Bell Choir Practice 7:30p Al-anon Meeting | 29 7a Women's Small Group 12p Men's Small Group | 30 Arbor Day 10a AA Meeting | Notes: |

Now Accepting Applications

We are looking for someone to lead our Youth Ministry into the future.

Call **419-668-1923** or email ishane@firstpresbyterian.net

If Huron County increases to a level 3 or 4 on the Ohio Public Health Advisory Map, **all Fusion and Catalyst events and meetings will be cancelled for that week.** Maps update every Thursday afternoon. Please check after Thursday evening to see if we will be cancelled for the following Sunday.

Check the Fusion and Catalyst pages on the church's website for weekly updates.

Bible Banter is FPC's virtual small group. We will be meeting on Mondays at 7 PM for one hour. This group is open to anyone from anywhere, but you need to register. Contact the church office or Pastor James if you are interested.

BIBLE BANTER

A virtual small group via Zoom
Mondays at 7pm

Wednesdays
9-11 AM

Cross Ministry

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Volunteers are needed for our Cross Ministry program. Each Wednesday morning, from 9-11am, we will be working on the crosses that we have been sharing. Please join us to help construct the crosses and share God's love

Volunteers Needed

We are gearing up for another Blood Drive on April 22, 2021 from 1-6 pm. If you are able to come and help folks register for an hour or two, we would appreciate it. Please let the church office or Wende Mersereau know if you are interested. Thank you

Red Cross Blood Drive

2021 Youth Group

**Yes! We're
BACK**



fusion

APR. 4

**NO
Youth
Groups**

**Happy
EASTER!**

APR. 11

Fusion
5-6pm

Catalyst
7-8pm

APR. 18

Fusion
5-6pm

Catalyst
7-8pm

APR. 25

Fusion
5-6pm

Catalyst
7-8pm

MAY 2

Fusion
5-6pm

Catalyst
7-8pm

MAY 9

Fusion
5-6pm

Catalyst
7-8pm

MAY 16

Fusion
5-6pm

Catalyst
7-8pm

MAY 23

Fusion
5-6pm

Catalyst
7-8pm

LAST DAY!



Announcements:

1. **WE ARE BACK IN PERSON!!!** As of April 11th, we will be resuming our regular Sunday night Fusion and Catalyst meetings! No more checking the Ohio counties map to see what level we are currently in - we feel confident in our ability to move forward safely.
2. Like everywhere, we will be taking precautions so as to limit the spread of the virus. Everyone **MUST** wear masks while in attendance, and social distancing will be monitored.
3. Also beginning on April 11th, you can join us for **IN-PERSON** Sunday school, every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:30am. Pastor James will be leading the Middle school/HS class and taking a closer look at that week's sermon. Class meets beside the church library.



Have questions? Contact Kathleen Wheeler, kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net, 419-706-0765

SERVING IN APRIL

LITURGIST

Easter Sunday:

8:00 Abby Keefer

9:30 Alice Pleasnick

11:00 Bev Miller

8:30am

April 11 Eric Weisenburger

April 18 Amy Bower

April 25 Ty Keefer

10:45am

April 11 Aundrea Gordon

April 18 The Fries Family

April 25 Peggy Case

USHERS

Easter Sunday:

8:00 Bob & Marilyn Huston

9:30 Roger Knight Family

11:00 Joel & Wende Mersereau

8:30am

April 11 Ty Keefer Family

April 18 Newcomer/Tkach

April 25 Becky Chapin

10:45am

April 11 Jon & Joyce Ditz

April 18 Brian Klett Family

April 25 Donna Allen

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

1st Sunday of the month.

Next one will be April 4, 2021

SEPARATE FLOWERS

April 4 Diane Eschen

April 11 Sandy Shope

April 18 Michele Graves

April 25 Cynthia Kniffin

DELIVER FLOWERS

April 4 Diane Eschen

April 11 Aundrea Gordon

April 18 Kayla Eyer

April 25 Jeanne Helgeson

MAY 2021 *Messenger*

Deadline is Thursday, April 15, 2021

CHURCH FINANCES

As of January 2021



YTD Income \$ 81,093.27

YTD Expense \$ 67,775.17

Net Income \$ 13,318.10

Details available from Treasurer

(Pat Babcock)

Per Capita for 2021 \$37.23

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

21 Firelands Boulevard
Norwalk, Ohio 44857

Phone: 419-668-1923

Fax: 419-663-5115

Web Page: <http://www.firstpresbyterian.net>

Non Profit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

NORWALK, OH

Permit #20

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. James Hodsdon, Pastor

jhodsdon@firstpresbyterian.net

Rev. Clair H. Brewer, Parish Associate

Lorri Shane, Office Coordinator

lshane@firstpresbyterian.net

Kathleen Wheeler, Director of Children &
Family Ministries

kwheeler@firstpresbyterian.net

Michael Matter, Director of Worship and Music

mpmatter@gmail.com

Serena Bowles, Organist

Patricia R. Babcock, Treasurer

pbabcock@bex.net

Kayliann Schwinn, Worship Media Coordinator

craftyteacher246@gmail.com

Tasha Prather, Nursery Caregiver

Kay Leimeister, Custodian

Burt W. Zimmerman, Custodian

Rooted in Grace...

Growing in Christ...

Reaching Out in Love

SERVICE TIMES

8:30am & 10:45am

FACEBOOK, YOUTUBE 9:30am

