



March 31 through April 6, 2024



Dear Friends in Faith,

“Early in the morning...” John 20:1

Oh what a difference a day can make. From the deepest of grief to something that had to be, well, simply beyond amazement. We encounter these beautiful verses in the gospels year in and year out. The ones that tell of the women arriving at the tomb early in the morning of the day after the Sabbath. Two days prior, they had witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus...huddled together at the foot of the cross...watched the soldiers gamble for Jesus' clothing. It could not have been a darker day. Hearts laden with sadness, the skies turning black.



Now, early in the morning, skies just beginning to gray, the women work their way along the path to the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, where Jesus' body had been taken. And as they approach they see that the stone has been rolled away. In a mind bending matter of moments, these faithful followers, who had journeyed with Jesus for so long, were challenged to jump from sorrow to ... to what? It really is impossible to go all the way to resurrection belief in the nano second after the angel's declaration that “He is not here, He is risen!”

Changing gears takes time. Our minds may move at a speed as fast as the most amazing computers, but our emotions, our inner ability to grasp and grapple with the reality before us takes a little time. Perhaps a significant amount of time. When I think back to working with foster children, there were times when we got upset with each other. In most instances the child was fairly quick to forgive and move on. I, on the other hand, needed more time to ‘get over it.’ I needed time to think through my actions, words and feelings. It takes time. I couldn't do it in a flash, but by morning, what a difference a day could make.

The Easter story is much more than a momentary event. It was a life changing event for the followers of Jesus ‘early on the first morning of the week.’ Resurrection joy continues to touch and change lives today. The message of Jesus' resurrection is one we celebrate this Sunday and throughout the year. For each day that we walk with Jesus is a resurrection day. Come, celebrate with us this Sunday and on each Sunday that follows!!

with great joy,

pastor bob



Worship

- We gather for worship Sundays at 10am
- 104 in worship on March 24, Palm Sunday
- Choir rehearsal, Thursdays at 7pm

Congregational Care

- Adult Sunday School is at 9am
- Children's Sunday School, for children 3 yrs. old – 6th grade, following the Children's Chat in worship
- No Sunday School March 31
- Story Time continues at 10am on Wednesdays
- Women's Association Meeting is on April 2 at 6:30pm
- **An Exploring Membership** class will be held April 7 & 14 following worship. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall with child care provided. If you are interested please speak with Pastor Bob or Elder John Martin
- Ruth Circle Bible Study is on April 10 at 1pm

Missions

Operations

- February YTD expenses– \$34,492 & YTD receipts-\$30,679

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Communion

March 28, 7 PM

At Concord Church with friends from New Sewickley,

One in Christ and the Ohio Presbyterian Churches

Available online at concordpreschurch.org

Click on the worship on youtube link

Easter Alleluias

March 31, 10 AM

Celebrating the Joy of Our Risen Lord

You are invited to an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30am on
the hill beside Concord Presbyterian Church



MARCH BABY SHOWER MONTH

Thank you for your donations!



Lenten Mission Project

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” – John 7:37-38

Thank you to all who generously shared in our Lenten mission project. To date donations total \$4,034.00. We have joyfully exceeded our goal of \$3,000.00!! A special thank you to the children for sharing their coins and helping with the collections. Our offering will go to the Presbyterian Giving Fund to dig a well where there is a need and it will also go to the Water for Woodlands water bank in Butler.



APRIL

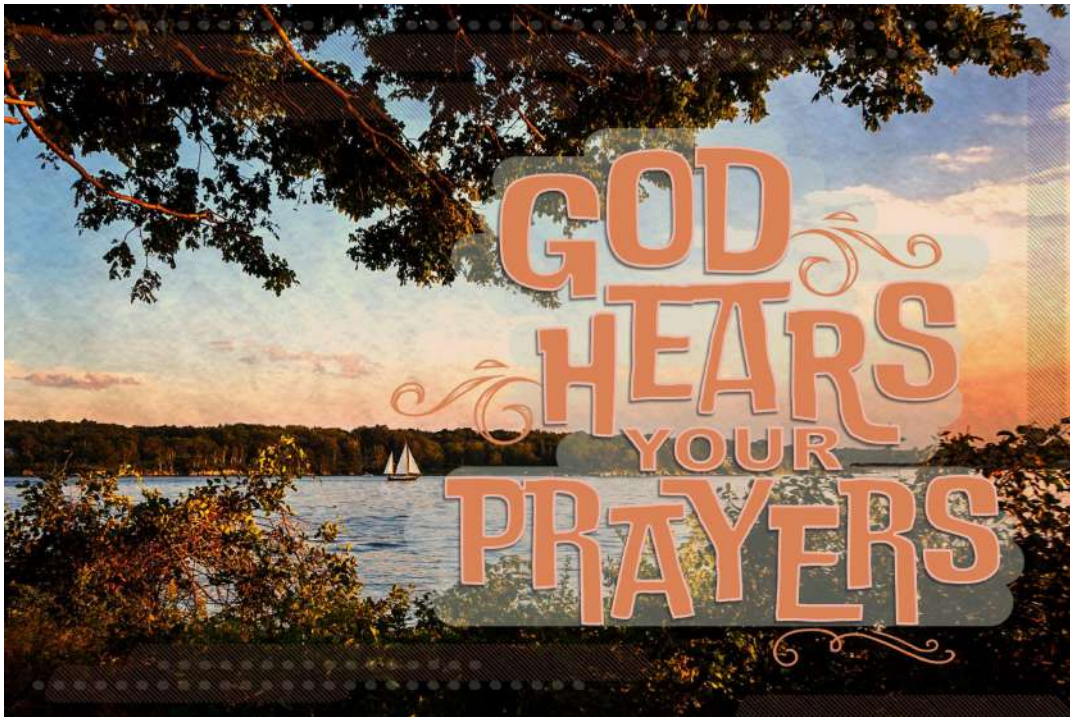
Birthdays & Anniversaries

<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Michael & Crystal Saxon 4/13	Holly Diccio 4/1	Logan Palochak 4/9	James Williams 4/20
John & Bonnie Martin 4/14	Ivonne Markish 4/1	Doug Murdoch 4/11	Jason Arzberger 4/21
Chris & Denise Mathias 4/25	Jeff Davis 4/2	Denise Mathias 4/16	Nathan Burak 4/24
Kenneth & Patti Strominger 4/30	Jason Cagnon 4/9	Donna Olexick 4/18	Paul Magee 4/27
	Evelyn Lawson 4/9	Hannah Lanctot 4/20	



March 31 – EASTER Sunday

No Youth Group Meeting



- Peggy Franzese –Thank you to Eleanor and Rich Pike and the Arzbergers for cleaning the van
- Lynn Smith–A joy that Bob Keller came home on Saturday.
- Diane Gennaro–Donna Olexick is having a D&C on the Monday after Easter.
- Chris Hurni–Prayers of healing for a friend’s mother (90 years old) who fell and injured her back.
- Nancy Lucas–Prayers of joy that Lois Kearns’ surgery went well
- Prayers of comfort for Eleanor and Rich Pike on the passing of Rich’s stepfather, Bob Gallagher, on March 20.
- Please be in prayer for the family of Lisa Meanot who passed unexpectedly on Monday. Many of you know her as one of the smiling receptionists at Jamie’s Physical Therapy.

Thank you to our loving church family for your prayers, cards and spoken words of sympathy on the passing of our Stepfather, Bob Gallagher. Special thanks to Pastor Bob for conducting a beautiful funeral service for our family.

Rich and Eleanor Pike

Home Communion

Would you like to receive Home Communion because you were unable, for any reason, to come to church when communion was served? Please call the church office by April 14 and someone will contact you to make the arrangements. The office number is 724-378-3690.

Highlights from March 12th Session Meeting

- Session/Deacon Team Matrix was reviewed.
- To raise money for the 225th Anniversary of Ohio UPC, Gina Arzberger will work with Jen Davis to pick t-shirt color(s) and a design which will be available for sale soon.
- Had the first reading of the Ohio UPC Safety & Security Program Policies & Procedures Manual.
- Jen Davis informed Session about a security situation that occurred at the church. Best protocol is to have the Longvue Avenue entrance door locked at all times with someone posted to let those who don't have a key fob in before the start of a meeting or event.
- May 7th is the date scheduled for Session to receive the Confirmation Class. They will be presented to the congregation at Pentecost which is May 19th.
- By consensus the Session approved looking into selling the silver communion set which is not been used for quite some time.
- The Audio Visual team purchased a backup microphone for the sanctuary.
- The VBS team is looking for someone to take on the responsibility of providing snacks during vacation bible school.

Clerks Report

- The death of member Maude Williams (97) occurred 2--25-2024.
- On Sunday, March 3rd, 2024, Terri Owczarzak was installed as a Deacon (Class of 2025).

Joe Glatz, Clerk of Session

225th Anniversary T-Shirt Sale

We're looking forward to celebrating OUP's 225th anniversary this year! To kick things off, we're having a t-shirt sale! These super soft tees are available in red, grey and a sapphire blue. You may mix colors on your order. Sizes are from Toddler to 3XL. All will be imprinted on the left chest with OUP's logo, name and 1799-2024. The back will showcase our mission statement: "Loving God. Loving neighbors. Helping our neighbors to love God."

Cash or checks made out to Ohio U.P. please. Deadline to order is April 21. Don't miss out!

See Jen Davis with any questions.



CELEBRATE OHIO U.P.'s 225TH ANNIVERSARY

WITH A NEW T-SHIRT FUNDRAISER!!

Please indicate which colors and sizes you need per the information below. You may mix colors and sizes on one order. Orders will be collected until April 21st. Cash or checks accepted. Please make checks payable to Ohio United Presbyterian Church and indicate t-shirts on the memo line. All orders must be paid in full before production will begin. Please contact Jen Davis with questions.

NAME _____

*TODDLER \$17 each QTY RED GREY BLUE

2T_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

3T_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

4T_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

5T_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

6T_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

*YOUTH \$18 each QTY RED GREY BLUE

XSMALL_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

SMALL_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

MEDIUM_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

LARGE_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

XLARGE_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

ADULT S-XL \$20, 2XL \$21, 3XL \$23

 QTY RED GREY BLUE

SMALL_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

MEDIUM_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

LARGE_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

XLARGE_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

2XLARGE_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____

3XLARGE_____:_____/_____/_____/_____/_____



Save the Date

VBS

@ Ohio United Presbyterian Church

June 10th-14th 9:30am-12pm

4yrs-finishng 5th grade

Sign-Up coming soon!

(Contact Casey Honess – casey.honess@gmail.com

or the church office if you would like to volunteer!)

VBS 2024 - Our theme this year is BREAKER ROCK BEACH -Exploring the North Pacific Coast

UPDATED! Thank you for all the cardboard donations! I believe we now have enough cardboard for the decorations for VBS this year. I am still collecting BROWN shipping paper. The shipping paper can be brought to church and placed in the collection box located in the cry room.

I am looking for 2-3 Christmas trees (all shapes and sizes) to use for decorating. Also, a small pup tent (child size would be best).

Please contact Christina Palmer, rpalmer79@comcast.net, for the larger items so she can arrange pick up or drop off.

Solar Eclipse at Camp Lambec

Friday, April 5-Monday, April 8

Camp Lambec
13110 Old Lake Road
East Springfield, PA 16430

Come for the weekend or come for the day. The eclipse is scheduled to occur between 3 and 4 pm on Monday, April 8—come early and stay late. Activities will be offered including faith explorations, crafts, games, biking and relaxing. Lodging and meals are available for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. See bulletin board in Narthex for more information.

Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 13
10am to noon
Lunch following

Camp Run Church
489 Church Road,
Harmony

Meals on Wheels (Zelienople), a mission project supported by Camp Run Church, will be highlighted. Pat Vagias will speak on CEED (Christian East African & Equatorial Development Trust) a mission project supported by North Sewickley Church. Donation for lunch is \$10. Reservations are appreciated by Monday, April 8 by calling 724-758-2053 or emailing cpcnew2@aol.com More information on bulletin boards.

Summer Camp Scholarships

The Ohio Church offers scholarship support for our young people attending Christian Summer Camps. Now is the perfect time to explore a camping experience as you plan your summer!! One week at camp can transform a lifetime. While we encourage you to explore any of the following Presbyterian camps, this is not an exclusive list. Western Pennsylvania has many wonderful Christian camping opportunities.

Camp Lambec, on the shores of Lake Erie; camplambec.com

Ligonier Camp, Pastor Bob's alma mater; ligoniercamp.org

Camp Crestfield, near Slippery Rock; crestfieldcc.org

Pine Springs Camp, near Jennerstown; pinesprings.org