



OHIO UNITED

Presbyterian Church

March 3 through March 9, 2024



Dear Friends in Faith,

A carpet of purple caught my eye this morning as I cruised down Pine Run Road between Sunflower Corners and Freedom. It's a road many of you might not know as it's on the other side of the river. A smaller strand on the spiderweb of options between home and church for me in these days. But let me not get too far afield. The purple patch in this yard stretched from roadside to front porch, from driveway to tree line...crocuses I'm guessing...Spring emerging!!



Meteorological Spring is upon us this week, as opposed to astronomical Spring which comes in around March 20. I'm a fan of the former and this year's prediction by Punxsutawney Phil of an early Spring. All this begs a rather simple question. How much do a few weeks matter?

Does it really matter, in the grand scheme of things, if Spring comes early or late? Does it really matter if we accomplish a goal that we've set for ourselves in the exact amount of time we'd hoped? What if it takes an extra week, or month, or more? Not all projects take the same amount of time. But, it seems to me, we can get a bit over eager at times. Over eagerness can result in anxiety...anxiety equals stress.

Not all stress is necessarily bad but too much stress can be hard on oneself and similarly difficult for a congregation. Something to ponder this week...how do we react to stress? Do I/we ask questions that seem to raise stress...lower it? Maybe we just ignore it and hope it goes away.

In a healthy family system we can talk about anxiety and walk alongside each other through the more challenging times in life. Perhaps this is a week we can sit back and just enjoy the earliest buds of spring...

with joy, pastor bob



Worship

- We gather for worship Sundays at 10am
- 97 in worship on February 25
- Choir rehearsal, Thursdays at 7pm
- Communion is on March 10

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
- Story Time is back at 10am on Wednesdays.
- **Ruth Circle** is starting a new study "Women in the New Testament". Our first meeting is Wednesday, March 13 at 1:00pm in the Library. All women are welcome to attend. If you need a study book, call Karen Keller at 724-378-9278

Missions

- **Lenten Mission Project**–Join us in reaching our goal of \$3000 to provide a well and access to clean water for a community abroad, as well as to donate to a water bank in Butler County, providing clean water for more than 40 families without access. You can give during the children's collections (**through March 24**) by dropping money in the well or by designating the Lenten Mission Project in your giving.

Operations

- January expenses– \$11,007, receipts– \$14,886
- Property Meeting is on Monday, March 11 at 6:30pm

FOR THE LENTEN SEASON

Local Pilgrim: A Wandering, Wondering Daily Devotional for Lent will invite us to purposefully explore, discover and reflect on our community leading to meaningful contemplation and sacred discoveries. Copies are available in the narthex.

A **Lenten Bible Study**, *Walking the Way of the Cross with Paul*, will be held on Wednesdays, through March 20. Supper for those who'd like to share a meal at 5:30, study at 6:30 in the Gathering Place.

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

Approximately 784 million people around the world are without basic access to clean water. That is roughly 1 in 10 people on Earth. More people die from unsafe water, than from all forms of violence, including war.

Through Presbyterian Giving, we can provide the resources necessary for a community to receive a well for just \$1,500. It will provide a reliable source of clean water for drinking, bathing, washing, and irrigation. This access to clean water, close to home, can transform lives – improving health, hygiene, and economic prospects.

Our goal is to be able to raise \$3000 to purchase one well and to also provide a donation to a water bank run by a Presbyterian church in Butler, called Water for Woodlands. It provides water to more than 40 families who experienced deteriorating water quality, and can no longer drink, nor safely cook or bathe in their water.

Join us in giving – during the children’s collections (February 18th & March 24th), by dropping

225th Anniversary!

“In 1799, around the time the area west of the Appalachian Mountains was settling more quickly, a new Presbyterian congregation known as the Flaughtery’s Run Congregation was established....Services were held outside, in a tent, or a member’s barn if the weather was too inclement....The first semi-permanent structure was near the home of member Peter Eachleas at what is now known as Five Points. In 1827 or 1828 the tent was moved close to where the building of the Ohio U.P. Church stands today.”

-from the Bicentennial History, 1799-1999

This year will mark the 225th anniversary for the Ohio Church so it’s time to celebrate. A committee is being formed to organize and lead a time to mark this special year. If you’d like to help out in some way please contact Lynn Smith, Dianne Kanitra or Dick Klein.





MARCH

Birthdays & Anniversaries

<u>Anniversaries</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthdays</u>
Jason & Liz Cagnon 3/5	Mark Muslin 3/1	Logan Gregory 3/14	Betty Solinski 3/25
	Brenlee Knox 3/4	Harper Shaffer 3/14	Evelyn Cagnon 3/27
	Savannah McLynden 3/9	Rich Palmer 3/16	Kasey Hoth 3/27
	Michael Duganich 3/11	Daniel Fox Sr. 3/21	Debbie Ceccarelli 3/29
	Libby Urick 3/12	Casey Honess 3/23	

For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Psalm 91:11



- Jen Davis–Joy for mom’s 81st birthday and thank you to the deacons for all the cards they send her.
- Chris Mathias–Prayers of peace and comfort for co-worker, Maria, who lost her father
- Marcus McCowen–Prayers of healing for neighbor’s great nephew who is having seizures
- Kristen Nan–Joy that Kennedy Pavlisko will finish chemo and ring bell at Children’s Hospital this week.
- Marsha Douglass-Prayers of comfort for the family of Madeline who passed this week.
- Symphonies for the family of Maude Williams, aged 97 who joined the Church Triumphant late Sunday evening. At the family’s request all services will be private.
- Linda Duganich–Prayers for her friend Ken Kearns who was admitted to the VA for testing. Linda is also asking for prayers for her husband Mike who has COVID. He is on Paxlovid and feeling better. Prayers of healing, recovery and that Linda doesn’t contract it.
- Patti Strominger is asking for prayers for her family as they mourn the passing of her brother John who passed peacefully at home after a valiant battle with cancer.
- Tom & Terri Owczarzak’s son Captain Donald Sanders has fulfilled his commission with the United States Army. He has been awarded and accepted a full scholarship to the MBA fall program at Carnegie Mellon University

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 March 9 and someone will contact you to make the arrangements. The office number is 724-378-3690.



****Please Volunteer to Help ****

February 18 – Boyce Park Snow Tubing 12:30-2:30

February 18 – Confirmation Class at the Manse

February 25 - 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

March 3 - 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

March 10 - 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

March 17 - 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

March 24 - 6-7:30 Meeting at the Manse

March 31 – EASTER Sunday



MARCH BABY SHOWER MONTH

The Women's Association is collecting donations for Adoption Connection, Pa. Donations can be placed in the marked box in the cry room every Sunday of March.

The items most needed are:

Diapers-size newborn-6, and wipes
Shampoo, conditioner, & body wash
Feminine hygiene products
Baby wash and lotion
Hairbrushes, combs, toothpaste and toothbrushes
New underwear and socks (all sizes)
Deodorant, both men and women
Gently used clothing of all sizes

Thank you for your donations!