

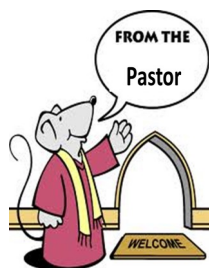
MARCH 2020

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MINERAL RIDGE



VOL. 48 NO. 2

WWW.FPCMR.ORG AND FACEBOOK



Beloved Partners in Ministry,

Our 2020 Lenten journey has begun. Over the next six weeks we will be challenged to look for Jesus in the world around us. Matthew 25 reminds us that in loving and serving our neighbors, we are loving and serving Jesus.

Throughout Lent, we will witness biblical characters come to life as talented friends share with us stories from Scripture.

March 1: "When did we see you sick or in prison?" Two brothers plagued by demons are freed from their affliction.

March 8: "When did we see you lonely?" A leper, forced to live apart from his family is healed by Jesus loving touch.

March 15: "When did we see you thirsty?" The woman at the well shares her encounter with Jesus.

March 22: "When did we see you hungry?" The boy who shares his lunch with 5000 people speaks of how Jesus provided food for those who were hungry.

March 29: "When did we see you a stranger?" A Canaanite woman's daughter shares how her mother was able to change Jesus' mind after a conversation about God's kingdom.

Each week in worship we will pray, "Help us to see you" as we listen to these stories of God working in the lives of others. We will be invited to open our eyes to the way that God continues to work in our world. To help us think about our own context, prayer banners will line the walls of the sanctuary offering us an opportunity to share our own stories and prayers. The banners will focus our thoughts on where we see God in our lives, in our church, in our world, and in our neighbors.

Having our eyes open to seeing God in the people we meet is not always easy. It will take practice, focus, and discipline. As we journey together through Lent, I invite you to use the following prayer practice to keep you focused. At the beginning of each day, ask God for help. "God, help me to see you in the people I meet, and in the world around me." As each day closes, again, ask God for help. "God, where did I see you today?" If journaling is helpful for you, jot down these thoughts so you can share them on our prayer banners.

May our eyes be opened to the face of Jesus in our neighbors and God at work in the world. Amen.

In Christ's peace,

Pastor Jamie

March Responsibilities

Elder: Nicole McMullen

Deacon: Valerie Meyers

Liturgists:

3/1 Yvonne Rentz
3/8 David Rummell
3/15 Darren Garris
3/22 Michael Craver
3/29 Ken Wilson

Greeters:

3/1 Marty O'Neill &
Chuck Hudzik
3/8 Sandy Larmey &
Gayle Hollowell
3/15 Joe & Diane Koch
3/22 Scott & Yvonne
Rentz
3/19 Paul & Debby
Wasilewski



Lent 2020

February 26

April 12

NEWS AROUND THE CHURCH



Our sympathy to the family and friends of **Andria Crawford** who entered the Church Triumphant on February 1. She joined FPC in 1988. Andria served as a Deacon in the church from 1996 through 2001. She also served on the Board of Niles Community Services.

Jeff Meyers thanks everyone for the cards and prayers he received during his recent hospitalization. He is continuing his recovery at home now.

Coffee Pot? Have you borrowed a large coffee pot from the church? Perhaps you did and set it in a corner of the garage until you had a chance to return it. We have several events in the near future where we need to use a large pot. Thank you.

Keep us up to date. E-mail your news to the church office:

Jane.fpc@sbcglobal.net or call 330-652-5712

**FACEBOOK
LIVE**

We have begun streaming our services online via FaceBook Live. If you are ever unable to join us on a Sunday or wish to share our worship experience with your friends or family, you will be able to find us at <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresMineralRidge/>. You DO NOT need to have a Facebook account to view the live stream.

PHANTOMS HOCKEY GAME

SATURDAY, MARCH 14



Church Growth & Fellowship Committee is sponsoring our annual trip to a Youngstown Phantoms Hockey game. The game is Saturday, March 14 and tickets are available at \$5 per person. It will be Irish Night at the arena with discounted hot dogs and beverages. Interested persons can sign up in Fellowship Hall or may call/text Tyler Crozier at 330-502-1083. All sign ups and money must be in by March 10. Thank you.

We are still collecting Recyclables:

Clean plastic bags (basket outside office)

Box Tops for Education (marked box on coat rack shelf outside office)

Ink & toner cartridges (office)

The following can be placed in the bin in Fellowship Hall by elevator: hair care packaging, skin care packaging, cosmetics packaging, tooth brushes, toothpaste tubes, drink pouches, laptops, net-books, notebooks, E-readers, tablets, I-Pads, I-Pods, cell phones.



Members to Remember

Jim Sewell June Keeley

Health Concerns

Kathy Graham Abel Rios Joe Shoemaker
 Terrie Rios Jeff Meyers Betty Garland
 Mary Alice Seaborn Andrea Maron
 Bob Hibler (Chelsea's father)
 Bob Hollowell (Gayle's cousin)
 Karen (Sue McCabe's friend)
 James Tincher (Marlene's son)
 Amos Rodgers and Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)
 Patricia McMahan (Sandy Larmey's friend)
 Zac Weber (Kathy Graham's son-in-law)
 Craig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)
 Grady Oprean (Ron & Andria Crawford's friend)
 David Giudici (Emily Pugh's friend)
 Michael Scholl (Ted & Darlene Smith's brother-in-law)
 Debra Miller (Debbie Rendes' friend)
 Justin Glaum (Mineral Ridge firefighter)
 Clayton and Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)
 Eric Gelsomino (Niles Community Services board member)
 Kareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney Craver's mother)

Larry Schmidt (Meyers' friends)
 Karlene Adams (friend of Pugh and Postlethwait families)
 Aynsley Zmarelli (Kathy Graham's grand daughter)
 Debbie Weiss (Rambo's friend)
 Don Miller (Anita's husband)
 Jim Flores (Marty O'Neill's boyfriend)
 Brenda Milton (Pastor Jamie's mother)
 Chuck Jorza (Linda Frayer's brother-in-law)
 Richard Duffet (Matt Glidewell's step father)

Sympathy, Concern, Nurture, & Support

Rev. Jamie Milton, Minister
 Eastminster Presbytery and staff
 Someplace Safe Needle's Eye
 Niles Community Services
 Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
 Disaster victims World Leaders Refugees
 Casa de Buen Trato
 Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)
 Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)
 Our PC(USA) coworkers Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker

PRAYER LIST

Names will be kept on the prayer list for approximately six weeks unless the office hears otherwise.



Deacons
 Called To Serve

Get the Scoop on Buying Prescriptions on the Internet.

What could happen if I buy from fraudulent online pharmacies? You could get a fake drug with the wrong ingredients, which could lead to a bad reaction—potentially making your condition worse—and even result in death. At best, these medicines may be less effective or have unexpected side effects. Also, most fake online pharmacies lack adequate safeguards to protect personal and financial information, and some intentionally misuse the information you provide.

How can I recognize a fake online pharmacy from a real one? It may not be obvious. Many online pharmacies use fake storefronts that closely resemble legitimate ones. They might sell drugs with a prescription or by completing an online questionnaire. They might offer discounts or cheap prices that seem too good to be true. They might be located outside the U.S. They might send unsolicited email or other spam offering cheap medicines.

How can I ensure an online pharmacy is safe? Check the pharmacy's license through your state board of pharmacy. The FDA has an online tool that allows you to search by state to locate state-licensed online pharmacies (www.fda.gov/BeSafeRx). Also make sure they require a valid prescription.

OUR DEACONS

Marnie Bonsall
 Rusty Garland
 Darren Garriss
 Sherry Gleason
 Melissa Keeley
 Diane Koch
 Valerie Meyers
 Marty O'Neill
 Sue Rentz
 David Rummell



From our Parish Nurse

Reminder!

Blood Pressure Screening
 1st Sunday of every month—after worship in the office.

INTERPRETATION & STEWARDSHIP



The I & S committee reported that the church ended 2019 in the black for the first time in several years. In January, we continued the positive financial trend where our receipts exceeded our expenditures by \$1639.08. This is great news for the church!

Chicken and Biscuit Dinner

The church hosted another successful Chicken and Biscuit Drive-thru dinner on February 9. Receipts from the fundraiser totaled \$1498.00. Thank you to all who volunteered to help with the dinner and to the members of our church family who purchased meals after worship. We will host another dinner following worship on March 29. ***Please stop down after worship for a delicious meal.***

Per Capita for

2020

will remain the same as last year

\$32.00

Can be paid anytime!

Update on Per Capita

We currently have received a total of \$1899.00 towards per capita from a total of 51 church members. Thank you to all of the members who have contributed their payment. Last year we collected \$2596.00 in per capita. Our goal is to collect at least half of the \$4576 that we pay to the greater PCUSA. That amount is \$2288 and we are just \$453 from reaching our goal. The amount per member is \$32.00. If you no longer receive envelopes, the I & S committee has created envelopes that have been placed in the pews at church designated for Per Capita. Please prayerfully consider paying Per Capita and helping to reach our goal.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported on One Great hour of Sharing (see below) all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees. ***Receives 32% of funds raised.***



Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. ***Receives 36% of funds raised.***



Self-Development of People invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. ***Receives 32% of funds raised.***

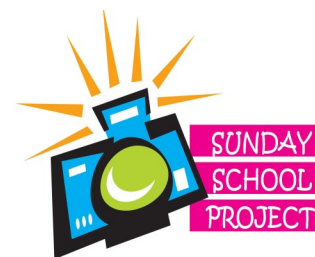
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS



Children's Church School Mission Project #1

Our church school children are learning what it means to give to the least of these. They are engaged in bringing in coins to purchase two goats to be given to a family in need. When they get \$178 in their glass container, they will have enough to purchase a pair of goats by giving the money to the Presbyterian Church mission.

These goats will enhance food security through milk, cheese, butter and yogurt. These valuable foods offer nutrition to those who need it most. These goats are a gift that will keep on providing.



Children's Church School Mission Project #2

We are guessing that our children received some new toys for Christmas and are not playing with some of their older toys. Therefore, we are asking them to bring some gently used books or toys into their classroom and we will take them to children that will be happy to have them. Your Christian Education Committee is hoping that we can instill in the children the heart of giving. These are two projects that are simple but effective.

First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge WON at our Souper Bowl!!

Once again, our congregation won our Souper Bowl Game by giving their dollars. The congregation gave \$411 after worship on Feb. 2. Then we had two persons step up to give partial matches and another person gave a full match. Hooray! That means we had \$1022 to help with our back pack program and other hunger needs at Seaborn Elementary School. Thank you once again for being such a giving congregation. It has been decided that next year on Souper Bowl Sunday we will also be asking for cans of soup in addition to your dollars.



Christian Education Committee is giving away \$10 to all who qualify

To qualify you must sign up to attend the Presbytery-wide Leadership Gathering. With the \$10 we will give you; you will purchase your lunch at this event. Mark your calendar for March 21 and be ready to ride to Kent P.C. for a day to learn more about the special offerings that we take four times a year. Looks like a wonderful day to enjoy being with other Presbyterians and learn as well.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

SPECIAL OFFERINGS WE RECEIVE:

One Great Hour of
Sharing

Pentecost

Peace & Global
Witness

Christmas Joy

WE ARE A MATTHEW 25 CHURCH!



As part of our commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these 3 areas of focus.

Our congregation has accepted the PC(USA)'s invitation to follow Jesus' teachings in Matthew 25:31-46 by becoming active disciples and making a difference in our community and the world.

As part of our Matthew 25 commitment, we pledge to embrace one or more of these three areas of focus:

- ◆ Building congregational vitality by deepening and energizing our faith and growing as joyful leaders and disciples actively engaged with our community as we share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed.
- ◆ Dismantling structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color.
- ◆ Eradicating systemic poverty by acting on our beliefs and working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor.



SESSION NOTES FROM FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Approved approve the minutes as corrected of the January 28, 2020 Stated Session meeting.

Approved the Annual Statistical Report for 2019

Receive Treasurer's Report for January and approved it for audit.

Heard that membership as of February 25, 2020 was 146.

Approved employing a person to mow the lawn and the position will pay \$35 per mow.

Approved the Youngstown Mirror and Glass quote to replace the front door which will be paid for from the Building Fund at a cost of up to \$6,000.

Approved the Story Circle Attendant's Position Description.

Approved Vacation and Continuing Education for the Pastor in April/May.

Approved building usage for Little Rams Cheer Sign Ups on March 28.

Elect Representative, Carole Rummell to attend the Presbytery Meeting on March 3.

Heard that Nicole McMullen is the Elder for the month of March.

Heard that next Committee Night will be March 17, and the Session meeting will be March 24.

Prayers were offered up for those we know to be in need of prayer.

MATTHEW 25 INITIATIVE

Free Community Breakfast

Our church will serve as the location for a March 28th breakfast, much like the one we hosted at Christmas. Our neighbors at Ohltown United Methodist Church will cook and serve the breakfast from 9-11am that morning. Each child will receive a treat bag filled with popcorn provided by our church. The Easter food distribution will be held in the lounge during the breakfast.



What you can do to help:

- * Volunteer to help in the lounge with the food / voucher distribution and/or to carry bags of groceries out to cars. Please let Sherry Gleason know if you can help on the 28th.
- * Come to Fellowship Hall on Monday, March 23rd at 10 am when we will sort groceries in preparation for the packing of grocery bags.
- * Come to the Fellowship Hall on Monday, March 23 at 6pm when we will pack groceries with other community members.
- * Come to the breakfast, enjoy a delicious breakfast and get to know our neighbors.

We are a
MATTHEW 25
Church!



Easter Eggs for First Graders at Seaborn

We will be collecting filled plastic Easter eggs again this year for our 70 friends in the first grade at Seaborn Elementary School. Please make sure the candy you place inside the plastic eggs is wrapped. Also, because some students have allergies, we have been asked to donate gluten free and peanut free candy. Some examples of gluten free and peanut free candy are: Smarties, Sweet Tarts, Jolly Ranchers, Skittles, Air Heads, Hershey Chocolate Kisses, Milk Duds, Mike and Ike, Dots, Lifesavers, Pez, Starburst and Tootsie Rolls. Please place the plastic eggs / candy on the designated table in the Fellowship Hall.



Food for pantry and backpacks

We appreciate all of your food donations made to the Community Food Pantry including food for the Backpack Program. Thanks to the Mineral Ridge High School, we received a large donation of canned goods for our food cupboard. We are still in need of the following items to help fill out our food bags: peanut butter, jelly, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, boxes of mashed potatoes and snacks (pudding cups, crackers, fruit snacks juice boxes) for children. The next time you find yourself shopping, please pick up an extra item or two to help our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity.



LENT 2020 AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

LENT 2020 AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



On the walls of our sanctuary, you will find four prayer banners, each with a different heading. Throughout Lent, you are invited to write on them places where you have seen God during the week. If you find yourself having trouble encountering God, you may write a prayer asking God's help in opening your eyes. You may use these banners at any time (before or after worship, during the passing of the peace, whenever you feel led, etc.)

Lenten Prayer Cross: At the front of the sanctuary, you will find a big wooden cross. During Lent, you are invited to share the names of people you are praying for on this cross. Beside it is a table with markers and slips of paper. Please take a tag with you and pray for that person or situation during the week and bring the tag back the next time you visit.



Lenten Soup and Service: 2020 Offering of Letters

Matthew 25 says, "When I was hungry, you gave me something to eat." Hunger is a real issue in our community, our country, and all around the world. There are things that we can do locally: contribute to our food pantry or Niles Community Services or serve free meals to the community. In addition to what we can do in the Mahoning Valley, we can make our voices heard by writing our congressional representatives and letting them know that we stand with those who are hungry.

*Bread
For the
World*

Join us on **Wednesday, March 11 at 6:00 pm** for soup and to participate in Bread for the World's 2020 Offering of Letters campaign. Come to learn more about national and global poverty and hunger issues. Come to advocate for our children and the most vulnerable. Come to fellowship with friends. Come to share a meal with brothers and sisters. Come so you don't have to cook!

Mission Project

"40 Days — 40 Items"



Everyone that wishes will receive a large trash bag and instructions to daily remove one piece of clothing from your closets that you want to donate. When the 40 days of Lent conclude, please donate them to a charity of your choice or bring them to church for the Deacons to donate to Niles Community Services.

Lent



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

3654 Main Street
Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440
330-652-5712 Fax 330-652-8145

PastorJMilton@gmail.com
Jane.FPC@sbcglobal.net

The *Church Mouse* is the monthly (except in July & August) newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church. All visitors are welcome to worship with us each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. (except Memorial Day through Labor Day when worship is at 10:00 a.m.)

CHECK US OUT
ON FACEBOOK &
WWW.FPCMR.ORG

**THIS IS GOD'S HOUSE
ALL ARE WELCOME!**

MARCH 2020

Non Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Permit #11
Niles OH

Return Service Requested

MISSION STATEMENT

Guided by the teachings of Jesus Christ, we joyfully strive to create a community of faith that welcomes and nurtures all who seek to experience God's love and grace.

With this as our mission, we willingly choose to develop a fellowship through which we will no longer e strangers, but friends in Christ.

Drive Thru / Take Out
Chicken & Biscuit Dinner

Sunday, March 29

12—2:00pm

MENU:

Chicken & Biscuits

Mashed Potatoes with Gravy

Green Beans

Dessert



Adults—\$8.50

Child—\$4.00