



VOL. 51 NO. 03

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of  
Mineral Ridge, Ohio

March 2023



Every year, I forget how surprised I am by the return of springtime. Winter is fine and alright, but when those first few days of warm weather and sunshine start to peak through, I'm reminded of just how much I need sunshine to function. I know we'll have some more cold weather before spring truly arrives, but the tulips and daffodils poking through the ground and the fact that it's getting dark later make my heart sing.

This Lenten season, we'll be traveling with Jesus to Jerusalem using Ecclesiastes 3:1-13. Now, Ecclesiastes is an interesting book of the Bible, mainly because the author paints a bleak picture of life. However, despite the author's existential crisis, the author ultimately decides that hope can be found in wisdom and fear of the Lord.

In chapter 3, the first 13 verses might be familiar. This is where we get the saying that there is "a time for everything." As I understand this passage, it means that life is going to go through it's ups and downs. There will be good things and bad things and everything in between. Sometimes life is mundane and sometimes life isn't. Sometimes life is winter and sometimes life is like the springtime.

In the 9th chapter of Ecclesiastes, my Bible titles it "Take Life as It Comes," which feels like an apt description of the world right now. Right now, we are in the beginning days of Lent, a time for remembering the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. It's a reminder that Good Friday is coming, and Jesus' death on the cross is approaching. We haven't quite yet reached the "alleluias" of Easter morning, but we're getting there.

Perhaps you resonate with the solemnity of Lent, and need a space where it's okay to recognize that life doesn't always happen the way we want. I hope that these forty days reminds you that it's okay to sit with the winter of life.

And perhaps you feel that it's been winter for far too long, and are hoping for springtime again. May these forty days remind you that there's a time for everything, and that just as the seasons cycle, so too does our life.



Peace to you,  
Pastor Kori

## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MARCH

ELDERS: JANE MEYERS

LITURGISTS:

03/05 SAMARA FABIAN

03/12 MARTY O'NEILL

03/19 JILL FABIAN

03/26 LISA SORG

DEACON OF THE MONTH:

LORI BRENDLINGER



## *Church News*

Keep us up to date. E-mail your news to the church office: [admin@fpcmr.org](mailto:admin@fpcmr.org) or call 330-652-5712

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Logan Morris. Please pray for the Morris family and their friends as they navigate this loss.



Sympathy is extended to the family of Glen Duncan after his recent passing. Prayers of comfort are requested.

**PLEASE NOTE**

**A Congregational Meeting has been called for March 26<sup>th</sup> for the purposes of hearing from the Nominating Committee.**



### **Community Pantry**

**Our first quarterly food distribution will be held on Tuesday, March 28th from 10am-2pm.**

**Don't forget our Little Free Library. This may be the weather that you may want to snuggle up with a good book. Check our offerings in the lounge. We have large print and many current authors. In addition the Trumbull County Bookmobile will be in Mineral Ridge on Mondays 3/20 and 4/10 from 9:15 – 11:45.**



**Reminder : We are still collecting the pop top tabs, container on counter in Fellowship Hall.**

## PRAYER LIST

### MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Mary Alice Seaborn Shirley Dull  
Marlyne Young

### Health Concerns

Betty Garland  
Megan Taylor (Carole's cousin)  
Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)  
James Tincher (Marlene's son)  
Bill Reddersen (Ted & Darlene Smith's friend)  
David Giudici (Emily Pugh's friend)  
Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)  
Barb and Alan (friends of Suzie McCabe)  
Linda Lukehart (Betty Garland's Daughter)  
Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)  
Jim Flores (Marty O'Neill's boyfriend)  
Karen (Sue McCabe's friend)  
Matt Smith (Kathy Graham's friend)  
Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's father)  
Dennis Eggert (January Rendes' father)  
Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)  
Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney's mother)  
Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' Daughter)  
Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)  
Bill Happney  
The Keeley family  
Shannon Poole (daughter of Sherry and Tim Gleason)  
Dale Jaquin (January Rendes' Uncle)

Pam & Sam Clay (Cousins of Debbie Rendes & Diane Reinhart)

### Sympathy, Concern, Nurture, & Support

Eastminster Presbytery and staff  
Needles's Eye  
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family  
Niles Community Services  
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions  
Coronavirus caregivers and patients  
World Leaders  
Refugees  
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)  
Peace and healing for our country  
Casa de Buen Trato  
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)  
Someplace Safe  
Our PC(USA) coworkers Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker  
Ukraine  
The community of East Palestine  
The Family of Logan Morris  
The Family of Glen Duncan



*Please call the church office to add or delete names to our prayer list. Names will be kept on the list for approximately six weeks unless the office hears otherwise.*

## **Backpack Program/Food Pantry News**



The backpack program is still ongoing. We have a total of 23 families and 34 students in our backpack program! We are in need of fruit cups, boxes of macaroni & cheese, ramen noodles, and snacks (snack bars, chips, pudding cups, packs of crackers or cookies, etc)

for this program. The number normally rises during the school year so any help you can provide is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please reach out to January or Debbie Rendes.

As we continue to provide free groceries to families in need within our community, our community food pantry needs Cereal, Spaghetti Sauce, boxes of Macaroni and cheese, and Ramen Noodles. If you are able to donate, we greatly appreciate it. Our next food distribution will be March 28th, 2023, for our Easter Distribution. Should you have any questions please reach out to January or Debbie Rendes.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

160 years  
1863 - 2023

## Leadership to Celebrate

As we celebrate our 160 years as a congregation, it is fitting to recognize some who have led the church as teaching elders (pastors), ruling elders, trustees, and deacons. The list is long and obviously, not all can be acknowledged; however, we will strive to mention some highlights in pastoral leadership this month.

When the first small group of original 11 members were formally organized as FPCMR Rev. J. H. Scott was preaching for them. On January 26, 1865, the church building was dedicated and the new pastor, Rev. B.F. Sharp was installed to serve the church. Rev. Sharp also served the Ellsworth church about the same time. An elderly Elder of that church told our pastor, Rev. Calvin Martin (in the 1950s) that he heard his father talk about Rev. Sharp riding one horse, while leading a spare as he traveled between churches. A preacher on horseback was a common sight in the early days of the Western Reserve.

In the past 160 years, more than 30 pastors have filled our pulpit full-time with several interims in between. Here are a few interesting items of mention -

1916 - Rev. Kirkbride received a call to serve as pastor for \$500 / year, use of the manse and 1 month vacation.

1927 - Rev. Darwin received \$1000 / year, use of the manse, and the church paying into his pension fund.

1933 - Rev. Mitchell offered to take a 33-1/3% cut of his \$2170 salary during the Great Depression.

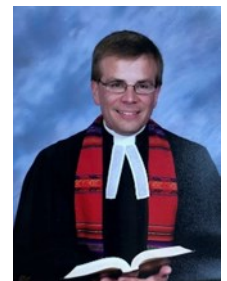
1942 - Rev. Funk was granted leave of absence for war duty for the duration of World War II. Mrs. Funk remained at the manse, but Rev. Yorke was called as supply pastor and given the salary. During these years, a building committee was formed to remodel the building. The process, which lasted many years, was led by Rev. Yorke and then, Rev. Kiskaddon with the dedication in 1949.

1955 – Rev. Cal Martin, a student supply pastor, led the congregation while attending seminary. Upon completion of his studies, he was certified by Presbytery and answered our call. He was a driving force and during his tenure the education wing was added.

1963 – Rev. John Francisco oversees the Centennial Celebration of the church.

1978 – Our congregation called a woman, Rev. Joan Youst, as pastor.

1994 – Rev. Mark Phillips is ordained and serves the longest tenure of our pastors, over 15 years.



Our church has a reputation for calling pastors straight out of seminary. In addition to Rev. Martin, our last 3 pastors, Rev. Phillips, Rev. Milton, and our current pastor, Rev. Robbins fall into that category. We offer these pastors a fertile training ground, a chance to fulfil their vision of ministry, and a loving church family.

Stay tuned - next month we will take a look at the many families that have contributed to the life of our church.



THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

Our congregation is so generous, and for that we are thankful. Also, the people who receive our offerings are also very thankful. Our Souper Bowl offering resulted in a total of \$1590. That means that our Back Pack Program will receive \$795 and Niles Community Services receives \$795.



Now it is time to turn our thoughts to how we can give to the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**. Perhaps giving a \$5 bill every Sunday would be a way – thus giving \$30 to OGHS by Easter. Or giving \$10 a Sunday would result in \$60. Wouldn't that be great. We just may hit our goal if we all reach in our pockets and give a little at a time. Thank you again for your generosity.

## Worship Committee

The worship committee met for Committee Night on February 21<sup>st</sup>. We discussed having Communion on Maundy Thursday as well as Easter Sunday. Motion was passed at Session meeting to have communion on Maundy Thursday April 6<sup>th</sup>. Palms have been ordered for Palm Sunday. We had a beautiful Ash Wednesday service. Thank you, Pastor Kori, for the Taizé service which included special music from two YSU students Andrew Karkosiak on the guitar and Erick Ramos on the violin. Anyone wishing to be liturgist please contact Lisa Sorg at 480-427-9032. If anyone is interested in planning worship, please join us for our next committee night March 21<sup>st</sup>. We'd love for you to join us. We will partake in communion on March 12<sup>th</sup>.



- February 22nd - Ash Wednesday
  - Ashes to Go: 11:30-1:30 & 3:30-5:30, FPCMR parking lot
  - Fish Supper: 6:15pm, Fellowship Hall
  - Taizé, 7pm
- Lent #1 - February 26: Worship at 10:30am
- Lent #2 - March 6: Worship at 10:30am
- Lent #3 - March 12: Worship at 10:30am
- Lent #4 - March 19: Worship at 10:30am
- Lent #5 - March 26: Worship at 10:30am
- April 2 - Palm Sunday
- April 6 - Maundy Thursday
  - 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall
- April 7 - Good Friday
  - 6:30pm, Tenebrae
- Easter Sunday - April 9



### FORTY DAYS FORTY ITEMS

DONATING CLOTHING TO THOSE IN NEED  
THROUGHOUT THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT, WE CHALLENGE EVERYONE TO REMOVE ONE ITEM FROM YOUR CLOSET THAT YOU NO LONGER WEAR OR NEED AND PUT INTO A TRASH BAG. AT THE END OF THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT, DONATE THESE ITEMS TO A PLACE THAT CAN SHARE THEM WITH THOSE THAT NEED THEM. THE COMMITTEE HAS PUT TOGETHER BAGS FOR US, AND WILL HAVE THEM TO PICK UP AFTER WORSHIP ON THE 26TH.



## One Great Hour of Sharing

This special offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) is received during the season of Lent. It is a longstanding ecumenical effort (begun in 1948) aimed at raising funds necessary to provide relief and reconstruction for communities in the aftermath of disaster. It will make a difference in the world through three impactful programs.

**Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.**

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - 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

PDA is already at work in East Palestine:

### East Palestine Update

**TE Fritz Nelson: Pastor, First United, East Palestine**

**Thank you, Thank you, Thank you! on behalf of the East Palestine Church**

- The East Palestine session, Presbytery, and PDA are all working together to support of the church and community. In the short-term, the church was recently awarded a \$7,500 PDA grant and a \$1,250 grant from Presbytery. In the long-term, conversations and plans continue as we learn what the needs are/will be.
- Gifts of support can be sent directly to First United Presbyterian Church / 109 W Rebecca St / East Palestine OH 44413.

The Way Station is in need of cleaning supplies to distribute to the community. They are asking, however, that donations be in the form of relief cleanup buckets purchased through PDA to allow for easier organization and distribution. Visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/page/kits/#bucket> for more information. They will also accept monetary donations. Go to [www.thewaystationinc.org](http://www.thewaystationinc.org) and click on donate.

Once again, thank you. The support from presbytery, our sister churches, PDA, and surrounding communities has been overwhelming and very much appreciated.

Please give generously to OGHS. Offering envelopes are in the church pews. You can also send a check to the church please mark on your check (OGHS). Thank you.



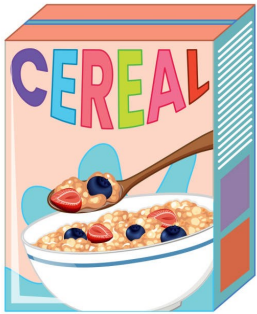
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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, USA



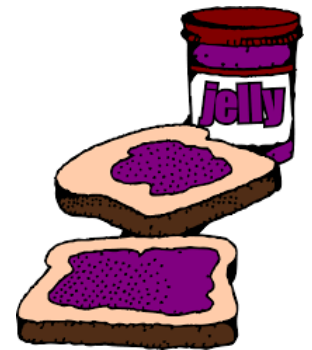
## ***Easter Flowers***

*It is that time of year, the Deacons will be selling flowers for the Easter Holiday. This year we will be selling Daffodils and Tulips; they will be \$9.00 each. We will have the order forms to order the flowers in Fellowship Hall after Church March 5th - March 19th. We will be accepting cash or checks. Checks can be made to First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge.*

## Communion Sundays will be Deacon's Sundays



To help our Deacons fund their projects and ministry, Session has decided that Communion Sundays (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month) will be an opportunity to give to the Deacons' Fund (as well as our normal offering.) In addition to that, to help our Food Distribution and Backpack Program, Communion Sundays will be an opportunity to bring in specific items that the Distribution needs to provide food to our community. On March 12, please bring jelly and cereal. During the offering, we'll give special thanks, not just for our normal offering, but also for contributions to the Deacons.



### FPCMR Shirts

This is a friendly reminder that we are selling new FPCMR shirts. If you are interested please let January Rendes know. She will have the signup sheet in church for the next 2 weeks.

We are offering T-shirts, Long Sleeve crewnecks, Crewneck Sweatshirts, and hoodies.

The prices are listed below:

Sweatshirt Small-XL = \$30 2XL-3XL = \$35  
Crewneck Sweatshirt Small-XL = \$20 2XL-3XL = \$25  
Crewneck (Long Sleeve) Small-XL = \$25 2XL-3XL = \$30  
T-Shirt Small-XL = \$15 2XL-3XL = \$18 4XL = \$20

Please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge.

If you are not able to make it to church please feel free to reach out to January Rendes via email or phone to place an order.

[January.Rendes@gmail.com](mailto:January.Rendes@gmail.com) 315-254-0255



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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Mineral Ridge, Ohio 44440  
330-652-5712

Admin@FPCMR.org

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

CHECK US OUT ON



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



Please feel free to take a look at our newly designed website @ [www.fpcmr.org](http://www.fpcmr.org)

**YOUR FEEDBACK IS IMPORTANT TO US. IF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR THE WEBSITE**

**PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO  
ADMIN@FPCMR.ORG**



### 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 be strangers, but friends in Christ.*

## LETS STAY CONNECTED!

### HERE ARE WAYS FOR YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US:

Our weekly worship service will be available In-person, via Zoom, Facebook, and YouTube at 10:30am and can be accessed in the following ways:

by joining a "Zoom" meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/8613610300?pwd=QnN2TUERMUUVVQIRGalJ1c3A5QTRSQT09> (you may want to test this link ahead of time to make sure you have the necessary file downloaded to join the feed). If you already have the Zoom app, you can just enter the meeting ID# 861 361 0300 and the password 6525712.

calling 929-436-2866 and entering the meeting ID 861 361 0300 # and the password 6525712.

through Facebook at [www.facebook.com/FirstPresMineralRidge](http://www.facebook.com/FirstPresMineralRidge) (you do not have to have a Facebook account to watch, but you would need one to share comments)

through YouTube by searching for "First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge" or at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQyB2URdu5Kxxkk62GXWipQ/>

**We are also worshipping together in our sanctuary!**

**Masks are now optional!**