



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**4th Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024**

Welcome to our church! It is a joy to worship with you on this morning. Please join us after worship in Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation.

**Please stand in body or in spirit.*

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

We Gather as God's People

OPENING PRAYER – *Let us pray.*

Abundant God, we gather around tables to fellowship with those we love. Food is what sustains us for the journey ahead and we dine with those who you have called to serve with us.

Help us widen our gaze.

Inspire us to draw the welcome circle wider.

Instill within us the truth that your love knows no

bounds. Gather us this day and forever more in your holy and powerful name. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** – (*Malachi 1:11, Psalm 24:1*)

Please stand and join me in the call to worship.

The name of the Lord is great among the nations,
from the rising of the sun to its setting.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it –

The world, and those who live in it.

***HYMN #473** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

*For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
Over and around us lies.*

Refrain:

*Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our hymn of grateful praise.*

*For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light, **Refrain***

*For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight, **Refrain***

*For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth, and friends above,
For all gentle thoughts and mild, Refrain*

*For Thy church that evermore,
Lifteth holy hands above,
Offering up on every shore
Her pure sacrifice and love, Refrain*

CALL TO CONFESSION – *Please be seated.*

*Friends, the invitation list to the Lord's Table
is larger than any of us could ever imagine.
Let us confess the ways in which we have sought to
limit that invitation, first in silence.*

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION - *Please join me in
saying the unison prayer of confession.*

**O God, Source of all that makes life possible,
Giver of all that makes life good:
We gather to give you our thanks, yet we confess
that we have often failed to live our thankfulness.
What we have, we take for granted, and
we grumble about what we lack.
We have squandered your bounty, with little
thought of those who will come after us.**

**We are more troubled by the few who have more
than by the many who have less.**

Forgive us, O God.

In this hour of worship, accept our thanksgiving;

**and teach us to make gratitude our way of life;
through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

KYRIE #572

“Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon
us, Lord have mercy up on us.”

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Jesus said, “God didn’t send the Son merely to tell
the world how bad it was...but that you might have
real and eternal life, more and better life than you
ever dreamed of. (from John 3:17, 10:10, *The Message*)

Friends, believe the good news.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

SUNG RESPONSE #582 (GtG)

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, who grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
Amen.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE – *at this time, all children are
invited up to hear a short message! After, kindergarten
and younger can be dismissed to Story Circle with
Olivia Meyers. Those older than kindergarten may
return to their pews. We have activity bags available for
their use in the back.*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION— *Let us pray.*

Holy Spirit, lift these words from the pages of scripture like the aroma of freshly baked bread. Help us to hunger for these words, to be fed by your grace, and to share what you offer with all of your children on this earth. Amen.

FIRST READING *Genesis 1:26-31*

Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’

So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’ God said, ‘See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.’ And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed,

it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SECOND READING *Matthew 14:14-29*

When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Jesus Walks on the Water

Immediately he made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for

the wind was against them. And early in the morning he came walking towards them on the lake. But when the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified, saying, 'It is a ghost!' And they cried out in fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, 'Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.'

Peter answered him, 'Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.' He said, 'Come.' So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came towards Jesus.

*The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.***

SERMON

Rev. Meta Cramer

We Respond to God's Love

***HYMN #285** *God You Spin the Whirling Planets*

*God, You spin the whirling planets,
Fill the seas and spread the plain,
Mold the mountains, fashion blossoms,
Call forth sunshine, wind, and rain.
We, created in your image,
Would a true reflection be
Of Your justice, grace, and mercy
And the truth that makes us free.*

*You have called us to be faithful
In our life and ministry.
We respond in grateful worship
Joined in one community.*

*When we blur Your gracious image,
Focus us and make us whole.
Healed and strengthened as Your people,
We move onward toward Your goal.*

*God, Your word is still creating,
Calling us to life made new.
Now reveal to us fresh vistas
Where there's work to dare and do.
Keep us clear of all distortion.
Polish us with loving care.
Thus, new creatures in Your image,
We'll proclaim Christ everywhere.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

All creation is good.

We sing of the Creator,

**who made humans to live and move
and have their being in God.**

In and with God,

**we can direct our lives toward right relationship
with each other and with God.**

**We can discover our place as one strand in the web
of life.**

We can grow in wisdom and compassion.

We can recognize all people as kin.

**We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a
curse,**

**but as a challenge to make our lives and choices
matter.**

(from "A Song of Faith," The United Church of Canada, 2006)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE – *You may be seated.*

Trusting indeed that you are always there, we pray to you now as your Son taught us, saying together,

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING

In the kingdom of God, we find that generosity of spirit, generosity of possessions & the radical sharing of skills are practiced openly. All gifts are important to God, so as the offering plate comes around, place your hand over it, committing to God that you will use your time, talent and treasures for furthering the work of God's kingdom.

OFFERTORY

(If you prefer to give online you may scan this code to be directed to the Giving Page)



***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #694 (GtG)**

Great God of every blessing,
of faithful, loving care
You are the fount of goodness,

the daily bread we share.

How can we hope to thank you?

The praise is but a start.

Sincerely and completely, I offer you my heart.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** – *Please join me in saying the prayer of dedication.*

God of grace, you are the source of all we have gained, but your greatest gift is the new life we receive in Christ. We offer these gifts as signs of our commitment to claim Christ's resurrection as your gift, for you have claimed us in his life. Amen.

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN** *God is Known*

(sung to the tune of #356 *Come Thou Fount*)

*God is known in all creation,
In the oceans and the trees,
In the plains and in the mountains,
In the storms and in the breeze.
God is known every being,
In its birth and life and death.
God infuses every motion,
Every heartbeat every breath*

*God is known in evolution,
in the ways we grow and change.
God is known in our connections
With all creatures close and strange.
God unfolds in our unfolding.*

*God evolves as we evolve,
Coaxing order out of chaos,
Full of patience and resolve.*

*God is known in human action,
In the work we do to learn.
God is known in our amazement
And the joy we find in turn
As the knowledge we develop
Of the earth on which we live
Draws us closer to the holy,
To the heart of all that is.*

*Now we sing in celebration
Of the love that has no end,
Ever shifting and unfurling,
An astounding, whirling blend
Of the known and the unknowable,
Wondrous mystery breaking through.
God is known in all creation,
Making all things ever new.*

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING RESPONSE** *Go On Your Way in Joy*

Go on your way in joy, my friends.

Go on your way in joy, my friends.

Go on your way in joy, my friends.

Let your left foot say, "Glory"

And your right say, "Amen."

Prayer List

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Marlyne Young Shirley Dull Helen Redmond

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH, SUPPORT AND CONCERN

Names will be taken off after 6 weeks, unless otherwise noted.

Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)
James Tincher (Marlene's son)
Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)
Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)
Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's father)
Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' Daughter)
Chuck & Bonnie Jorza (Linda Frayer's Sister-in-Law)
Cheryl Beanblossom (Valerie Copanic's sister)
Joan Williams
Rusty Garland
Kathy Garland
Vince Fazio (Marty O'Neill's friend)
Shirley Brodie
Mary Jane Hileman
Mason Blackburn (Mary J. Shaffer's friend)
Jim Meyers (Darryl's brother)
Terry Keeley Sr
Alan Bray (friend of Terry Keeley Sr.)
Joe Scafuri (Terry Goodman's father-in-law)
Pam Clay (Cousin of Debbie Rendes & Diane Reinhart)
Dawn Wilson
Cameron Watkins
Family of Joe Koch
Family of Mary Alice Seaborn

Prayers for the World

Eastminster Presbytery and staff
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family
World Leaders
Refugees
Peace and healing for our country and the world
Niles Community Services
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Mission
Our PC(USA) coworkers
Ukraine
Citizens of Israel and Palestine

Announcements

*Session is convening a Safety Planning Committee.
More details will be coming soon.*

A Mother's Day Bake Sale will be held on Sunday, May 12th. Please contact Rosie Rebraca or January Rendes if you would like to donate any items for this event.

Birthday Wishes



Robin Warrick 04/17

Bret Warrick 04/21

Responsibilities



Pastor- Rev. Meta Cramer

Liturgist- Cindy Kaschak

Elder- Sue McCabe

Deacon- January Rendes

Music- Anita Miller

Story Circle- Olivia Meyers

Media- Samara Fabian

Thank you for your generosity!

(We need \$3,000 weekly to make our budget!)



04/14/24 \$1,313

04/07/24 \$2,174

03/31/24 \$813

*(2024 Per Capita needed \$4,420
Received to date \$1,266.50)*



This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, April 21	9:15am 10:30am	Church School Worship/ Fellowship
Monday, April 22	6:30pm 7:00pm	Deacon's Meeting Al-Anon & Al-Ateen
Tuesday, April 23	6:30pm	Session Meeting
Wednesday, April 24	6pm-8pm	Small Church Options - Poland
Sunday, April 28	9:15am 10:30am	Church School Worship/ Fellowship

Staff

Pastor

Reverend Kori Robbins
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Christian Education

Carole Rummell

Administrative Assistant

April Dahl
330-652-5712

Custodian

Patty Postlethwait

Story Circle Attendant

Olivia Meyers

Media

Samara Fabian

Hours

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am-3pm

General Office Hours

Tuesday/Thursday
9am-1pm

Church Info

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