



First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge

**4th Sunday in Lent
March 19, 2023**

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.*

Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our inmost being, only to find you already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the work of justice and peace. Amen.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** – *Please stand and join me in the call to worship.*

Children of God: welcome!

Welcome to this place of love and grace,

Welcome to this place of hope and perseverance.

God invites all of us to be a part of the beloved community,

God invites all of us to share in the good news:

We are welcome, just as we are. We are loved, just as we are.

In gratitude for all of this, let us worship God.

***HYMN #467** *How Great Thou Art*

*O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed; Refrain*

Refrain:

*Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, My Savior God, to Thee,
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!*

*When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze; Refrain*

*And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on a cross, my burdens gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; Refrain*

*When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art!
Refrain*

CALL TO CONFESSION – *Please be seated.*

In the season of Lent we are invited to consider how we live as followers of Christ – to look at our decisions and our actions straight on, and to hold them up to the example of Christ, and to make amends. In this time of silence, and in our prayer together, let us look at our lives. We pray, first in silence.

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

Holy God, Creator of all that is, Donor of Grace, and Giver of Life: Hear our prayer. There are chasms in our lives, deep valleys that separate us from one another and from You. We confess that we have allowed those rifts to grow, for fear of admitting our part in the separation, for fear of being rejected when we reach out. You call us to a reconciled life, to healed relationships, to a wholeness with each other and with You. Mend us, we pray, and make us new creations through the power and love of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

KYRIE #572

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

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Hear the Good News: we are forgiven! We are set free to go out into the world and be the loving, gracious, hopeful people of God!

Amen.

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.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Suzie McCabe

Kindergarten and younger children may now leave with Olivia Meyers for Story Circle in Fellowship Hall. For children above kindergarten there are worship bags with activities to use in worship.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION— *Let us pray.*

Your eyes miss nothing, O God—you look not only at the things we can see but also inside, where we can only imagine. Open our eyes this day to see as you see. Open our ears to hear as you speak. Open our hearts to receive your wisdom, to know your voice, your truth, your grace. As we come together to your word, lead us in your way. Amen.

FIRST READING

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.

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

SECOND READING

Matthew 22:1-14

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ‘The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again, he sent other slaves, saying, “Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.” But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, maltreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, “The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.” Those slaves went out into the streets and

gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

‘But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, “Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?” And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, “Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” For many are called, but few are chosen.’

*The Word of God for the People of God. **Amen.***

SERMON *The Invitation is Yours* *Judith Bender*

We Respond to God’s Love

***HYMN #522** *Lord, When I Came Into This Life*

*Lord when I came into this life
You called me by my name;
Today I come commit myself,
Responding to Your claim.*

*Within the circle of the faith
As member of Your cast,
I take my place with all the saints
Of future present past.*

*In all the tensions of my life,
Between my faith and doubt,
Let Your great Spirit give me hope,
Sustain me lead me out.*

*So help me in my unbelief
And let my life be true:
Feet firmly planted on the earth,
My sights set high on You.*

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

In life and in death we belong to God. Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel, whom alone we worship and serve. We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles and rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

***RESPONSE OF PRAISE #324**

Open my mouth and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee, ready my God,
Thy will to see;
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit Divine!

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

Creator God, you call us to join in your work of love in the world, and you equip us with all we need to follow your lead. Now make us generous of hand, heart, and mind, as you are. As we return to you a portion of your gifts, we pray you would receive them as a sign of our gratitude for your

unending love, and guide us as we offer our whole selves in your service, seeking your abundant life for all. Amen.

EXTINGUISHING THE LENTEN CANDLES

We Go Out to Serve God

***HYMN #87** *The Glory of These Forty Days*

*The glory of these forty days
We celebrate with songs of praise;
For Christ, by whom all things were made,
Himself has fasted and has prayed.*

*Alone and fasting, Moses saw
The loving God who gave the law;
And to Elijah, fasting, came
The steeds and chariots of flame.*

*So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
Delivered from the lion's might;
And John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
The herald of Messiah's name.*

*Then grant, that we, like them, be true,
Consumed in fast and prayer with You;
Our spirits strengthen with Your grace,
And give us joy to see Your face.*

***BENEDICTION**

***CLOSING RESPONSE #743**

Step by Step

O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
O God, You are my God and I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

Prayer List

MEMBERS TO REMEMBER

Mary Alice Seaborn

Marlyne Young

Helen Redmond

Shirley Dull

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH, SUPPORT AND CONCERN

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

Betty Garland

Megan Taylor (Carole's cousin)

Amos Rodgers & Cody Tittle (Marlene's friends)

James Tincher (Marlene's son)

Clayton & Eileen (Bev Myers' family friends)

Barb and Alan (friends of Suzie McCabe)

Paul Stevens (Bev Myers' son)

Marty O'Neill

Dennis Copanic (Val Copanic's 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

Shannon Poole (daughter of Sherry and Tim Gleason)

Samara Fabian

Bonnie Jorza (Linda Frayer's Sister-in-Law)

Lora McGlynn (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Family of Glen Duncan (Marty O'Neill's friend)

Dale Jaquin (January Rendes' Uncle)

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

Andreas Reichart (Carole Rummell's cousin)

Lacie Weber (Kathy Graham's Daughter)
Kristen Graham (Kathy Graham's Daughter-in-Law)
Amanda (Jessica Painter's friend)
Family of Logan Morris
Family of Glenn Duncan
Sue Rentz
Rick Henniger (Judy Henniger's Husband, Yvonne
Rentz' Dad)

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Eastminster Presbytery and staff
Our Mineral Ridge Church Family
Niles Community Services
Warren & Youngstown Rescue Missions
Refugees
Rev. Kade Mastra (Indonesian Partner)
Peace and healing for our country
Casa de Buen Trato
Ukraine
World Leaders
Jed and Jenny Koball (Peru)
Our PC(USA) coworkers
Revs. Scott & Elmarie Parker
Earthquake victims in Turkey & Syria
The Community of East Palestine

Announcements

Information sent after Thursday at 9 am may not make it into the bulletin.

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that 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. 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. Offering envelopes are in the church pews. You can also send a check to the church please mark on your check (OGHS). Thank you.

Please remember to send in your “per capita” offering for 2023 if you are able. The amount is \$32.50 per member. This offering is an apportionment to help hold the PC(USA) together and pay for a large number of services that support the church's mission. Please consider making this a part of your giving in 2023. Please mark “Per Capita” on your checks. Thank you.

To help our Deacons fund their projects and ministry, Session has decided that Communion Sundays (the 2nd 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.

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.

Sue Rentz has moved. Please note her new address is: Wickshire Poland, 335 W. McKinley Way, Room 222, Poland, OH 44514.

A Congregational Meeting has been called for March 26th for the purposes of hearing from the Nominating Committee.



Birthday Wishes

03/22 Ken Rambo

03/23 Kim Crozier

03/24 Mackenzie Caple



Anniversary Wishes

Dianne & James Stoddard

03/23

Responsibilities

Preacher- *Judi Bender*

Liturgist- *Jill Fabian*

Elder- *Jane Meyers*

Deacon-*Lori Brendlinger*

Music- *Anita Miller*

Story Circle - *Olivia Meyers*

Media- *Alyssa Strange*

Thank you for your Generosity

March 12th \$1,950

March 05th \$3,771

February 26th \$133



THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, March 19	9:15am	Church School
	9:30am	Tiny Tots
	10:30am	Worship/Communion/ Fellowship
Monday, March 20	7:00pm	Al-Anon & Al-Ateen
Tuesday March 21	6:30pm	Committee Night
Sunday, March 26	9:15am	Church School
	9:30am	Tiny Tots
	10:30am	Worship/Congregational Meeting/Fellowship

Staff

Pastor

Reverend Kori Robbins
(406)-560-5548
Pastor@FPCMR.org

Christian Educator

Carole Rummell

Administrative Assistant

April Dahl
330-652-5712

Custodians

April Mohn/
James Boyce

Story Circle Attendant

Olivia Meyers

Media

Alyssa Strange

Hours

Pastor's Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
9am-3pm

General Office Hours

Tuesday/Thursday
9am-1pm

Church Info

Address- 3654 Main Street
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Phone

330-652-5712

Website

www.fpcmr.org

Clerk of Session: mrfpcclerk@gmail.com.