



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.  
—John 3:16

Vol. 52 No. 03

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
of  
Mineral Ridge, Ohio  
Celebrating 160 Years!



March 2024

What a joy it is to journey with you all in Lent! We've been working our way through the Gospel of Mark, and hearing about the ways in which Jesus doesn't adhere to human rules to bring God's kingdom to Earth. I've enjoyed it, and I hope you have too.

We've got lots of things coming up this March, and I hope you'll join us for all of it. We'll be releasing more information about our holy week schedule soon, so be on the lookout for that. Palm Sunday is the 24<sup>th</sup>, with services at 10:30, followed by a time of fellowship. As our fellowship winds down, we'll open up the hall to dye Easter eggs with our kids and have an Easter egg hunt in the sanctuary.

Maundy Thursday services are at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall, and Good Friday will be at 6:30 in the Sanctuary. Easter is early this year, on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March, and our Lenten task force will be hosting a breakfast potluck style (information will be shared about that shortly!). Mr. Baker's doves are back, and we're excited to welcome them once again. It's sure to be a great day for the resurrection!

Even though the weather is trying to trick us right now, and my tulips are already coming up, it's easy to forget that we're not quite out of winter yet. Hopefully March brings warmer temperatures!

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 and windy 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 happy.

As we walk through Lent together, I invite you to sit a little longer in the winter, sit with the solemnity of Lent and find spaces to be closer to God.



Grace and Peace,  
Pastor Kori

# 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

## RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MARCH

ELDER: CAROLE RUMMELL

DEACON: ROSIE REBRACA



LITURGISTS:

03/03 JILL FABIAN

03/17 MATT GLIDEWELL

03/10 TIM GLEASON

03/24 LISA SORG

03/31 JANUARY RENDES

**Lent Task Force Committee** will be putting up a sign-up sheet in fellowship hall in a few weeks for the Easter Morning Brunch (Pot luck). We will be providing the main course. Please feel free to bring anything that you would like to share. Fruit, breakfast rolls, casseroles of any kind...just to give an idea. We have many terrific cooks out there, so anything is welcomed.

Sue McCabe and Debbie Rendes have been going through some of the dishes that we have in our possession and will be putting out some platters, gravy boats, sugar and creamers etc. Please feel free to take anything that you fancy or if you know someone in need of dishes and the like let us know. We do not do the large dinners that we did in the past. Any questions, just ask us.

A big thank you to our congregation for the many donations of snacks for the **backpack program** and to all who donated pancake mix & syrup for each family for the upcoming Easter food distribution. Gods Blessings for sure.

Debbie



**On Sunday, March 24th, we will be hosting "Coloring Easter Eggs with the Pastor!". The event will begin shortly after Church (around 12PM). We will be providing a small meal for those participating as well. If you are interested in participating please reach out to January Rendes or Pastor Kori to ensure we have enough eggs for each child!**



## Worship Committee

The worship committee met on Committee night Tuesday February 20 and finalized plans for Lent. We had a good turnout for ashes to go on Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup>. The Ash Wednesday service took place at Canfield Presbyterian church at 7pm. Pastor Kori along with the 5 other local PC USA ministers took part in the service. The children of our congregation will parade in on Palm Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have Maundy Thursday service at 630 pm on March 28 along with communion being served. Good Friday service will take place on March 29<sup>th</sup> at 630 pm with a Tenebrae service. Easter breakfast will be served prior to service along with the releasing of the doves on Easter morning. Anyone interested in being liturgist please contact Lisa Sorg at 480-427-9032. We'd love for you to join us in planning worship. Our next committee meeting will take place Tuesday March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Members to Remember**

Mary Alice Seaborn Shirley Dull  
Marlyne Young Helen Redmond

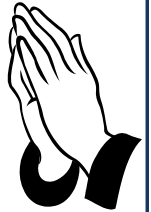
Alan Bray (friend of Terry Keeley Sr.)  
Joe Scafuri (Terry Godman's father-in-law)  
Logan (Friend of Abbie Postlethwait)

**Prayer List**

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)  
Graig Colantone (Nicole Pugh's father)  
Dareen Craver-Angeloff (Rodney's mother)  
Cheryl Fisher (Bev Meyers' Daughter)  
Ella McBride (friend of Sherri Craver)  
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)  
Jodi Jorgensen (Lisa Sorg's friend)  
Shirley Brodie  
Mary Jane Hileman  
Mason Blackburn (Mary J. Shaffer's friend)  
Jim Meyers (Darryl's brother)  
Terry Keeley Sr

**Prayers Around the World**

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  
Victims of Natural Disasters  
Citizens of Israel/Palestine



*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.*



As we continue to provide free groceries to families in need within our community, our community food pantry needs Cereal, Jelly, Spaghetti Sauce, Beef raviolis, spaghetti O's, and Hamburger/ Tuna/Chicken Helper. If you are able to donate, we greatly appreciate it. Our next food distribution will be March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, for our Easter Distribution. Should you have any questions please reach out to January or Debbie Rendes.



The backpack program is still ongoing. We have a total of 25 families and 40 students in our backpack program! We need fruit cups and snacks (snack bars, chips, pudding cups, packs of crackers or cookies, etc) for this program. If anyone is interested in helping pack the food weekly for the backpack program or has any questions, please reach out to January or Debbie Rendes.

**The Deacons will be selling Easter Flowers again this year. We will be selling the flowers on Sunday March 3rd and Sunday March 10th in Fellowship hall. If you are interested in purchasing Easter Flowers please reach out to a Deacon. The price will be \$10.**





CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION



**The Souper Bowl Offering** was received on Feb. 11. This generous congregation gave \$288.55 in the soup pots that morning. We then had two persons that each matched the congregational giving. That got us up to \$865.65. The next Sunday another of the congregation gave \$100 more. In total we had \$965.65 for our back pack program. We had another person match the congregational giving and it was designated for the General Fund. Thank you to all who helped us raise these funds.

**We were privileged to learn more about Mental Health** from a representative from the National Alliance on Mental Illness on Saturday morning, Feb. 24. There were 10 persons in attendance. We learned about how the brain works, human Interactions, Escalation, and overall Safety. **“As long as we call it ‘Mental Illness’ people will think it is about ‘thinking.’ WE MUST call it what it is – it is Brain-Illness.** She encouraged us to have a plan for safety. This morning was well worth attending.

**Our Little Free Library** is still open. In it you will find some books of all types. Stop in and take one or two for good winter reading. The library is located in the lounge. If you need help just ask Marnie Bonsall, Debbie Rendes, Lori Brendlinger or Carole Rummell. If you have books that you are finished with you are welcome to bring them to the lounge and just leave on the table and someone will shelve them for others to use.



Church Growth will be putting together a group outing to a Phantoms Hockey Game. It will be one of the last regular season playoff games. The game will be Saturday April 6th at 7:05PM. The tickets will be \$12/person. If you are interested we will have a sign up in Fellowship hall until March 24th. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to any member of the Church Growth Committee. We look forward to spending the evening with you!

**Interpretation & Stewardship Committee**  
**Keeping you informed on the financial health of our church.**

**CAN WE DO IT?**

As you can see below our giving has dramatically decreased over the last 4 years. We are asking you to help maintain our church by giving what you are able to give to see that we continue our ministry. Our committees are working hard to stay within the budget. Our budget for 2024 is \$139,277. **The average monthly amount needed to support the 2024 budget is \$11,606. Let's see if we can do it!**

**COMPARISON OF GIVING THE LAST 4 YEARS**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
January	10,593.00	7,073.00	7,986.00	7,918.00	10,732.00
February	11,850.00	11,733.00	8,646.00	7,241.00	
March	11,729.00	7,303.00	10,355.00	7,931.00	
April	9,302.00	11,643.00	9,874.00	9,736.00	
May	10,743.00	11,221.00	10,559.00	6,553.00	
June	10,144.00	7,348.00	7,941.00	9,019.00	
July	7,250.00	8,584.00	13,140.00	7,192.00	
August	10,079.00	8,052.00	8,027.00	7,053.00	
September	9,200.00	7,513.00	8,059.00	8,645.00	
October	8,850.00	10,319.00	7,584.00	8,770.00	
November	10,928.00	8,624.00	9,346.00	10,223.00	
December	<u>18,218.00</u>	<u>16,666.00</u>	<u>21,186.00</u>	<u>17,871.00</u>	_____
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>128,886.00</b>	<b>116,079.00</b>	<b>122,703.00</b>	<b>108,152.00</b>	<b>10.732.00</b>

**Souper Bowl of Caring Offering was held on February 9**

Our "Little Ones" were at the sanctuary doors collecting for this offering. They collected \$288.55 in their pots. Then 2 generous people matched that amount bringing the total to \$865.65 to help with the Backpack Program that our Deacons provide at Seaborn Elementary. Yet another donor matched the \$288.55 and donated to the General Fund!

**One Great Hour of Sharing - Special Offering received during Lent. GOAL \$1,500**

This offering is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. The three programs it supports are:

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** - goes to communities after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters. **Presbyterian Hunger Program** - takes action to alleviate hunger. **Self-Development of People** - invests in communities to teach people to help themselves.

**Per Capita** - Special envelopes will be in the pews throughout the year. This offering is used for the administrative work of Eastminster Presbytery and the Presbyterian Church, USA. Our church will pay \$4,420 this year, which is calculated for each active member

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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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=QnN2TUErMUVVQIRGalJ1c3A5QTRSQT09> (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!**