



Vol. 52 No. 02

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

of
Mineral Ridge, Ohio

Celebrating 160 Years!



February 2024

Hi Church family!

I can barely believe it but Lent begins this month! It seems like only a few days ago, we were celebrating the birth of our Savior, and now we march towards his death and resurrection.

This year, Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. It feels like an appropriate day to begin Lent as we remember the acts Jesus gave in love for us.

Your Lenten Task Force has been hard at work preparing for Lent and Easter this year, and we hope you join us for all of our services and activities! We'll have devotionals available soon, as well as a flyer detailing worship services and other important information.

As we move into Lent this year, I encourage all of us to think deeply about things that keep us from drawing closer to God. Sometimes this takes the form of fasting or sacrificing something in imitation of Christ's sacrifice during his journey into the desert. We might give up coffee or bacon or some other thing that we'd miss consuming. Or we might choose to commit to doing something that brings us closer to God, like intentional prayer time, a Bible study or listening for God's voice. This year, my Lenten practice will be listening to my favorite prayer audio devotional Pray as You Go from the British Jesuit Ministries.

Whatever you choose to do, Lent is a time for repentance and forgiveness, which isn't always easy. It's hard to admit that sometimes, we're complicit in the world's problems. Sometimes, it's hard to admit that we're not perfect. But it's important to remember that God offers us grace and mercy in the midst of our own faults and failures.

I hope you'll join us on this Lenten journey. We begin with Ash Wednesday on February 14th. FPCMR will be hosting Ashes to Go on that Wednesday from 11 am to 1 pm and again from 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. We recognize that it's sometimes hard for folks to attend services in the middle of their workday, but they still want to participate and receive ashes. Use the driveway between the church and the manse (like during our Chicken & Biscuit Drive-thru!) to receive ashes and prayer. Additionally, we've partnered with other area PCUSA to offer an Ash Wednesday worship service on the 14th at 7:00 pm at Canfield Presbyterian Church. Communion will be served as will the imposition of ashes. Your very own Pastor Kori will be preaching with Rev. Annie Parker from Heritage Presbyterian Church! Want to attend but don't want to drive? Contact us and we'll figure out carpool arrangements!



FROM THE
Pastor

Peace,

Pastor Kori

Church News

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

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FEBRUARY

ELDER: ANDY KONSOL DEACON: PATTY POSTLETHWAIT

LITURGISTS:

02/04 BROOKE KASCHAK 02/18 DEBBIE RENDES
02/11 LORI BRENDLINGER 02/25 BETHANY GLIDEWELL



Hello Church Family!

Please be on the lookout for upcoming activities that our **Church Growth Committee** is working on. We are in the works of planning a day of bowling very soon; a Youngstown Phantoms game, and many more new ideas. If anyone is interested in helping plan these fun activities or has any ideas please reach out to a member of the **Church Growth Committee!**

Worship Committee

The worship committee met on Committee night Tuesday January 16 and began the preparations for the New Year. It was decided that we would continue to have communion the second Sunday of each month. Communion will be served February 11th.

With Lent starting next month we discussed Ash Wednesday which is February 14th. Pastor Kori has spoken with the pastors from 5 other Presbyterian churches in our area, and it was decided that we will have a service together. The service will take place at Canfield Presbyterian church at 7pm. Pastor Kori will be preaching along with Pastor Annie from Heritage Presbyterian Church. Ashes to go will once again be distributed at our church from 11 am to 1pm and from 4 pm to 5:30. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter plans were also discussed. Plans are being finalized. More information will follow in next months newsletter.

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 February 13th.

We have some shower curtain panels and hooks on the table in fellowship hall if anyone is interested. They were used to separate the double classroom some time ago. Please help yourself or if you know anyone interested or in need, they have been washed and the hooks are counted out.

Members to Remember

Mary Alice Seaborn Shirley Dull
Marlyne Young Helen Redmond

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)
Rich Pilla (Lisa Sorg’s step-dad)
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
Alan Bray (friend of Terry Keeley Sr.)
Joe Scafuri (Terry Godman’s father-in-law)
Logan (Friend of Abbie Postlethwait)

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.



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. The number normally rises

during the school year so any help you can provide is greatly appreciated. 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.

As we continue to provide free groceries to families in need within our community, our community food pantry needs Spaghetti Sauce, Peanut Butter, Jelly, canned fruit, Corn, and green beans. If you are able to donate, we will greatly appreciate it. Our next food distribution will be March 19th, 2024 for our Easter Distribution. If anyone is interested in helping pack groceries for our Easter Distribution, please reach out to January or Debbie Rendes.





February 11

In 1990, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Since then, more than \$170 million has been generated for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring. It has become a powerful movement of God’s Grace that transforms the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and caring for those in need.

Through this mission, people learn they can make a positive difference in the world as they collect food, raise money and serve at hunger-relief charities and show caring and compassion in local communities across the country.

Share in God’s love for our children in need and give generously on Souper Bowl Sunday. All of the donations collected will go directly to our Back Pack Program.

As of December there were 38 students from 22 families who receive a back pack to take home from school on Fridays to give them nourishment for the weekend.



Consider giving at least one dollar (or more) on Feb. 11 Super Bowl Sunday to our children as they hold soup pots at the doors of the sanctuary for your offering.

Carole Rummell will be asking if anyone wishes to match all or partial giving of the Feb. 11 congregational offering.



Sunday School is back in session. We have classes for all ages even our youngest children. Think about taking a chance and trying out a class. The adults meet in the lounge at 9:15 and all others meet on the second floor – Tiny Tots at 9:30 and others at 9:15.

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.



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



Interpretation & Stewardship Committee

Keeping you informed on the financial health of our church.

DID YOU KNOW?

COMPARISON OF GIVING THE LAST 2 YEARS

2022 Offerings \$115,683

2023 Offerings \$ 97,213

OFFERINGS WERE DOWN LAST YEAR BY

\$ 18,470

Looking Ahead

Souper Bowl of Caring Offering - February 9

Our youth will be at the doors holding their soup pots to collect your \$\$'s. We are looking for some members to match the amount that is collected at the doors. **The total amount will go for the Back Pack Program that we support at Seaborn Elementary.**

One Great Hour of Sharing - Special Offering received during Lent.

February 14 - March 31

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.

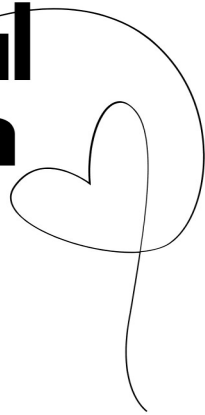
Self-Development of People - invests in communities to teach people to help themselves.

Our GOAL this year is \$1,500!

Per Capita remains at \$32.50. 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 \$4,518 this year for each active member we had in 2022 (139). You can pay this anytime during the year.



Mental Health 101



Join us for a training presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) as we talk about mental health in our community!

Saturday, Feb. 24th
9 am to 12 pm
Donuts and Coffee provided.
First Presbyterian Church of Mineral Ridge
3654 Main St.
Mineral Ridge, OH
44440

One of our Christian Education Committee goals for 2023 was to host an informational session about mental health in our community. Unfortunately, we had to cancel our fall session, but were able to re-schedule it for February 24, 2024!

The prevalence of mental health issues is ever-increasing. Folks are reporting higher instances of anxiety and depression. According to the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) “Mental illness is a biological condition that affects the brain and it’s functioning. It affects a person’s ability to think as well as their emotions, mood and at times, judgement. Mental illness often impairs a person’s ability to relate to others as well as how they function in their daily lives. Because the brain is highly complex, each person experiencing mental illness can have different symptoms and experiences, even people with the same diagnosis.”

As a church community, we want to be supportive of those experiencing mental health issues, and become more informed about how to care for our members and friends. Join us on February 14th at 9 am to hear

a presentation about mental health diagnoses, effects on our community and the family. In addition, NAMI will teach us basic crisis intervention skills.



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. BAGS CAN BE PICKED UP ON FEBRUARY 18TH IN WORSHIP.



Lenten Services

First Presbyterian Church, Mineral Ridge

Ash Wednesday, February 14

- Ashes to Go:
 - 11:00am – 1:00pm & 4:00–5:30

- Worship Service at Canfield Presbyterian Church, 7:00pm

Palm Sunday, March 24

- Kids gather at 10:15 in Fellowship Hall for parade
- Easter Eggs with kids, 12-2 in Fellowship Hall

Maunder Thursday, March 28

- 6:30pm, Fellowship Hall

Good Friday, March 28

- 6:30pm, Tenebrae

Easter Sunday, March 31

- Worship at 10:30

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

3654 Main Street
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

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 (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!