

April 2020

The Cornerstone News

First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Volume 6 Issue 4



Thoughts from Ian...



James 1:2-4: **Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of**

your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

We did not know what to expect. It was a whole new world to us. Almost ten years ago, Alissa and I boarded a plane to live in a country we have never seen. We would eat food with utensils we could not use. Chopsticks took months to learn. We would work with co-teachers and children who did not share our language. We knew that there would be many challenges, learning experiences, and inconveniences.

We decided that through all of these struggles we needed a mantra. I don't mean the Buddhist practice of repeating a sound for meditation. I am talking about a statement or slogan to repeat often for encouragement. We settled on a quote from the Christian author G.K. Chesterton "An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered; an adventure is an inconvenience rightly considered." For two years in South Korea, that quote was repeated dozens of times a week. It helped reframe our experience as we met our own trails.

In small ways, frustrations turned into opportunities.

Do you have any mantras that get you through tough days? Scripture is a wonderful place to go for verses that can become mantras for our life. Christian mantras can help us obey what God tells us to do in James 1:2-4. We are told to consider trials with joy, knowing that God is working in us to make us mature. "Consider" means a belief resting not on one's inner feeling or sentiment, but on the due consideration of external grounds, the weighing and comparing, of facts (Thayer's Greek Lexicon). We are to change our thinking in light of the facts, i.e., God's working in our lives through troubles.

In James chapter 1, instead of looking *at* our trials, we are being told to look *through* our trials to its potential outcome. Joy does not come by looking at our trials but, by faith, looking to our God who can use these trails to make us "complete" (v.4). Paul considered his trials in light of God's greater purposes when he stood before King Agrippa and say it as an opportunity for his defense and preaching of the gospel (Acts 26).

This pandemic will cost each of us. It will not be fun but we can choose to look past these trials to something more. The great Bishop of Alexandria, Dionysius, wrote of the epidemic of his day in 252AD "Other people would not think this a time for festival [but] far from being a time of distress, it is a time of unimaginable joy." To be clear, Dionysius was not celebrating the death and suffering that accompany epidemics. Rather,

he was rejoicing in God's continued work in the midst of the epidemic. It was an opportunity for God to spur Christian growth—to go out of our way to love and serve our neighbors, spreading gospel hope, in both word and deed, in times of great fear.

During this pandemic, consider adopting a Christian mantra. The joy of the Lord is my strength (Nehemiah 8:10). This is the day the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in Him (Psalm 118:24). Consider it pure joy (James 1:2). Alissa and I love Psalm 118:24 because we can sing it together. If you choose to sing your mantra or not, look through these trials and consider what God is doing in and through you.



Opportunities for giving

The church office is open from 1:00 to 4:00 Monday through Thursday. You can stop to pray, to visit, to drop off your offering. You may also sign up for on-line giving through the secretary's office, this goes through State Bank, or explore other avenues through a visit with Pastor Ian (from the safe 6 foot distance).

April 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday	6	7	8	9 Maundy Thursday	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24 Session 7:00	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 Writers' Group 7:00				

<p>April</p> <p>3rd - Joseph Reineck</p> <p>4th - Brock Verfaillie</p> <p>5th - Candi Koenig</p> <p>6th - Darla Cline</p> <p>10th - Megan Fife</p>	<p>10th - Nikki Verfaillie</p> <p>16th - Caitlin Pennington</p> <p>18th - Tucker Stoller</p> <p>21st - Samuel Ferguson</p> <p>23rd - Paul Panches</p> <p>27th - Christy Stoller</p>	<p>29th - Deston Verfaillie</p> <p>April Anniversaries</p> <p>10th - Matt and Christy Stoller</p>	<p>We have new people that I have no birthday or anniversary information for, we love including everyone. Please give info to the office.</p>
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Session Highlights

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For the first time in memory, elders met via conference call on Tuesday, March 17th. Pastor Ian and Dr. Larry were at church; Matt, Barb and Bud were at home. It was not determined if everyone was wearing their St. Paddy's day green finery.

During the course of the meeting, elders:

*discussed the unprecedented Covid-19 times we are all feeling our way through. It was determined to cancel all face-to-face activities.....Lenten lunches, Lenten suppers and worship, Sunday School, worship services..... for the next three weeks, which is through Palm Sunday. Everyone was cautiously hopeful that perhaps we might be able to worship together on Easter Sunday, depending on guidelines and restrictions in place at that time. Only time will tell.

*agreed with Ian's social media plan for the intervening time. Pastor Ian and Sue Crossland will record worship together.....organ music, prayer, sermon, some hymns.....and that will be posted on the church website by Sunday morning. Additionally, Pastor Ian will present a more casual gathering, ala a Fireside Chat, live on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am. This will include some praise music, some prayer, and a devotional time, as well as prayer and announcements. Separate directions about how to access these times of worship can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and in a letter mailed to your home.

*decided to ask Dave and Jane Nice to work with the NA meetings on how their meetings and use of our building might look during the Covid-19 restrictions.

*were delighted to welcome new members Doug and Patty Radel and Grace Meyer. These three individuals met with Session on Wed., Feb. 26 to express their interest in membership, and were welcomed during worship on Sun., March 15. Tony and Maria Adams are also interested in joining our congregation.

*discussed coming regional and national meetings.....Presbytery in Northville MI on May 15-16 and General Assembly in Cordova, Tennessee on June 23-26. We are entitled to send three voting commissioners to each of these assemblies in addition to Pastor Ian. Elders are to think if they might be interested in going, and time will tell if these meetings will actually take place in the current pandemic conditions.

*heard a little about the Feb. 21-22 Presbytery meeting, where Ian, Barb Searing and Paul Patches were privi-

leged to hear missionary Andrew Brunson speak about his time in Turkish prison.

*received the updated Policy Manual descriptions for the Congregational Life committee and the Clerk of Session. As the year progresses, each committee's description will be reviewed.

*learned that the two hardbound volumes of Session minutes have been received back from the bindery.

Keep your church family, your church, and your pastor in prayer during this exceptional time.

Barb Searing, Clerk of Session

Organizational Matters for 2020 (repeat)

At the January 21st Session meeting, Barb Searing was again appointed as clerk, and Carol Razo as treasurer.

Committee assignments for elders are:

Christian Education: Bud Koenig

Worship: Sue Crossland

Personnel: Bud Koenig

Missions: Larry Fishbaugh

Finance: Matt Reineck

Nominating co-elders: Larry Fishbaugh & Bud Koenig

Congregational Life: Barb Searing

Property co-elders: Sue Crossland & Matt Reineck
(Bud Koenig is the person to talk to for observed needs)

Women's Board: Barb Searing

Please note that the elder on each committee is the conduit to Session, and does not necessarily chair the committee.

If you have an interest in various areas and wish to contribute or serve on a committee, these are the people to talk to! Any committee would welcome your participation.



Donate to the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry

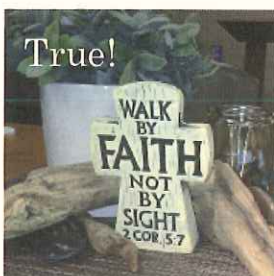
The need is great during winter. Please donate any item that you think you might use in your home as that same item will be needed in most homes. Also needed are personal hygiene items, household cleaners and paper product.

Watch for information on the possibility of these services being held:

Maundy Thursday April 9,
evening service here

Good Friday April 10,
Church of the Nazarene at noon

Easter Sunday April 12,
United Methodist at 7:30 AM



During the Lenten season, we are once again doing a \$5 gift card drive (from Paulding businesses only) to stock the drug court reward basket. The participants really appreciate these!



Please buy gift cards and place them in the box at the top of the stairs throughout Lent.

Drug Court Gift Basket



Help our less fortunate Paulding neighbors afford their utilities this winter. Contributions will be rolled into one check by the church and forwarded to the Paulding County office of Northwest Ohio Community Action which will administer the funds to Paulding families for utilities, rent, or emergency services. Checks should be made out to the church, please put Warm Hearts/Warm Homes in the

memo line. 100% of these funds will be used in Paulding County. The Women's Fellowship Board, which started this project in 2005, will match donations made during February and March, up to \$1000. Thank you

Make your dollar count:
Matching funds for donations, up to \$1,000.00
Warm Hearts/Warm Homes

Prayer Requests

We ask that the Lord remind us that He is in control, we have no need to panic

Ronnie Phlipot, recovering from farming accident where he lost lots of blood and his arm

Dustin Dobbeleare, recovering from plane wreck

Jay Wilson, traveling in Asia, unable to get back to USA

Kim Mileto, moving into assisted living

Jim Smith: heart issues, currently in St. Rita's

Al Demerath; stroke but improving slowly

Rick Speakman: stroke

Curtis Gawronski: bone marrow transplant

Eileen Thomas: Ruby Crossland's mother

June Koenig

Andrea, drug court participant

Our national leaders

Health care providers nation wide

So many battling various cancers:

Arlene Cline

Ken Wagner

John Relyea

Page Gillett

Holly Kobe

Bob Egler

Mary Becker

Joe Bowyer

Nancy Stoller

Dan Sutton

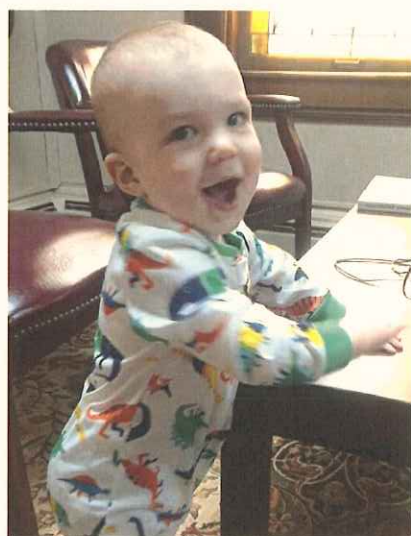
The family of Jane Caserta

The family of Marie Moore

Praise:

Chris Buzzell is doing well, some fatigue but cancer free

Prayer requests from bulletin:



Happy
First
Birthday
Smiling
Henry
Ferguson



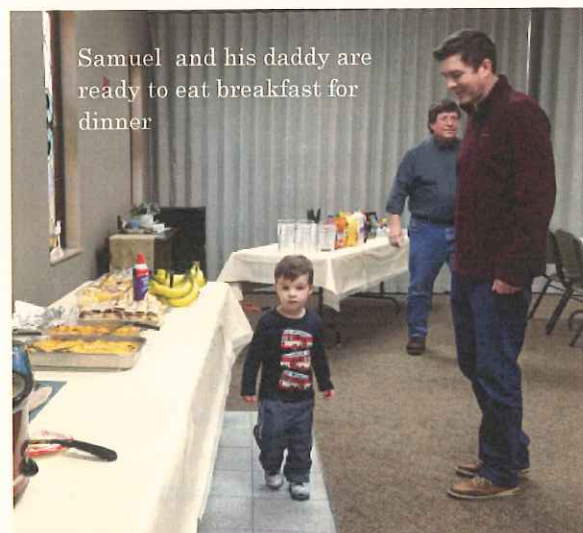
Rhee Adams and Jane Nice



Doug Radel and Isaac Nice cooking pancakes



Dave Nice taking coffee to the dining room



Samuel and his daddy are ready to eat breakfast for dinner

Adult Sunday School served breakfast for dinner at the March 4th evening meal.

Photos from Two of Our Lenten Suppers



Dick Paulus's 88th birthday was celebrated on March 11th. Thanks Deacons for hosting the party.

Photo on left, from left to right, Dianna Karlstadt, Kacie Karlstadt, Dick Paulus, Sue Paulus, Pam Leever, Carol Razo and Erin Karlstadt.



Do you know who created the beautiful stained glass dove that is in a door in our sanctuary? Or who it is in memory of?
Answer on page 7

This devotion was written to reflect on the day after Christ was crucified when no one knew what would happen next. Appropriate for today also. Taken from *Come Walk With Me* written by Susan Paulus.

Crushed

“Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart; and wait for the LORD!” Psalms 27:14 NIV

Come walk with me. What do you see? In the bleak landscape, my eyes are drawn to the huge flat stone blocking the entrance to the burial site. I can’t look away. Flanked by two Roman guards, both in full armor, both standing at attention in total silence, the entrance is secure. No one can steal this body. Jesus is dead. Nothing I can do to change this, he is dead.


Hot sun. No breeze, no shade to cool me. Tears and sweat mingle on my face, run down my cheeks. Still staring at the stone, I sit in the dust, amid the rocks, brokenhearted at the memory of Friday. For three hours, in inexplicable middle-of-the-day total darkness, he hung on that cross. Never have I witnessed such cruelty, such pain borne by a man. So many who loved him were here, inconsolable. His mother, crying, longing to comfort, to hold him at death as she did at birth; John, accepting responsibility to care for Jesus’ mother. No one should have to watch a loved one die such a brutal death, no one. I stayed with him, watching from a distance. He didn’t struggle, though at one point he seemed distressed, wondering why his father had forsaken him. Is he asking about Joseph? He even asked God to forgive those who tortured him.

Following the struggle, the pain, the moment of his death was peaceful, like he was telling God he was ready to go. “It is over.” He said it is over, but is it? At his death the earth thundered in protest, the temple shook in defiance. He is dead. It seems that the hope for Jerusalem has died. I tell myself to stop, quit hoping for more. Quit hoping, peace has died, all our dreams have died.

Come walk with me. What do you hear? I sit in emptiness. It is as though God is silent. I listen to my heart beat. I listen to the silence of the earth as it continues without him. Today’s grief is silent. After the terrible noises of yesterday—the cracking whip, the screams, the hammer on nails, the taunting of the guards, the executed struggling to breathe, the terrifying earthquake—the silence is eerie. Yet I wait in anticipation. For what? Even Jesus said it is over. He tried for three years, but he is gone now. His failure is complete. Yet, slowly, quietly, I seem to sense—not really hear—God saying “Wait. Watch.”

Come walk with Me. Wait for Me. Wait and watch what happens next. Be strong, be courageous, but wait. There is always more for you, always tomorrow. Just say “Thank you.” And wait.

Financial Tidbits from February

Designated Gifts:		
Amount	Purpose	
\$200.00	Agape Fund	
\$280.19	Nicelley investment dividend	
\$60.00	Per Member Asking	
\$200.00	Warm hearts warm homes	
Notable Expenditures:		
Amount	Payee	Purpose
\$108.25	Ohio Dept Commerce	Renew elevator certificate
\$80.00	HF Group	Hard binding Session minutes
\$435.50	Midwest Presbytery	Per member asking 1/2 year
\$770.50	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Per member asking 1/2 year
\$96.00	Susan Kayser	Substitute organist fee plus mileage
\$1,020.00	Wycliffe Bible Translators	Ron & Donna Schumacher
\$1,020.00	Wycliffe Bible Translators	Brian & Beth Schwartz
\$1,020.00	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Benjamin & Monica Bailey
\$1,020.00	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	Tim & Karen Mindling
\$1,020.00	ABWE	Don & Karen Taber

Ken Robinson created the stained glass dove that is in the sanctuary in memory of his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Crowell.



A recent visit to the Gods Share Program in Zephyrhills, Florida found it to be thriving in its new building. There is so much more space in the thrift store and a separate room just for the shelves with things for the missionaries. GSP now provides for missionaries in 65 different countries as shown on the flags in the hall way (see pix). Proceeds from the thrift store help support the many missionaries. We were able to deliver our church's old sound system (which had been sitting in a storage closet for 6 years) to Florida where it will be shipped to Missionaries in the Philipians. Shown in the missions room with founder Kim Short is our old system being boxed up (see pix). Glad we could help out (in more ways than one!). We have been able to deliver old music, old Christian Ed materials, as well as well as the sound system from our church which are greatly appreciated by missionaries in countries with very limited resources or none at all. Thank you GSP and God for helping us to make one persons junk—another person's treasure! Also, many thanks to our church for its continuing financial support. Kim is Phyllis Crossland's niece.

Susan and Phyllis Crossland



God's Share Program

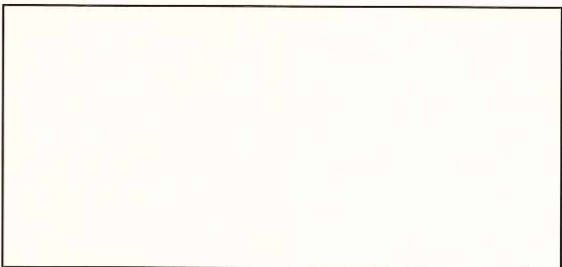
First Presbyterian Church

PO Box 366
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Paulding OH 45879

firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

**In Essentials, Unity.
In Non-Essentials, Liberty.
In All Things, Charity.**

Phone: 419-399-2438
Secretary's e-mail: fpcpaulding@gmail.com (new)
- www.firstpresbyterianpaulding.com (new website)



Sunday School 9: 00
Worship Music 10:15
Worship Service 10:30

***First Presbyterian Church
Corner of Caroline & Cherry,
Paulding OH 45879***