



First Presbyterian Church, Paulding Ohio

Thoughts from Ian...

March 2023 Newsletter

Samuel came tearing up the stairs into my bedroom one morning a few days ago shouting "Daddy! Daddy! Chris has a new shell!"

You may have heard our family has two new babies. Well, okay. They are not human offspring, but our new hermit crabs are treated as if they were. Their names are Chris and Martin, named after the hosts of a PBS show, *Wild Kratts*. The Kratt brothers inspired a love of animals in my sons. Samuel could spend hours telling you animal facts. Henry could spend hours running around the house acting like an animal. I have been learning a lot about our new pets.

Chris and Martin love warm, humid weather. A heating pad and a spray bottle are often needed to make them comfortable. They need a large habitat with plenty of substrate (bedding). Hermit crabs are social (who knew?). As they molt and grow, they need plenty of new shells to move into. This is what Samuel was so excited about the other morning. Chris had done away with his old shell and it was on to the new! This reminded me of Ephesians 4:22-24.



"...put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness."

Ephesians is all about the gospel of Jesus. Though we were dead in our sin, God graciously called us to be saved by faith in him. Jesus' work on our behalf unites us with all of God's people into one body, the Church. Since we are given new lives, we should put off our old, sinful lifestyles.



We are given a new life and as we grow, we should "put off the old self" and "put on the new self" which is like Jesus, righteous and holy (v24). Like Chris, the old should be done away with and it is on to the new! By the power of the Holy Spirit, all of us should be growing spiritually and continue to discard old, sinful ways and put on the new shell of righteousness and holiness.

The Apostle Paul then goes on to give many examples of how we can put on our new selves. Speaking the truth instead of lies or doing honest work instead of stealing. The ultimate expression of this life is found in chapter 5 verse 1-2, "be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."

This transformation is a process, and it is not easy, but God does call us to live out our new lives. As Paul tells the Corinthians in 2 Corinthians 3:18, "we are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit."

It is all about the good news of Jesus' death on the cross for our sins and his resurrection life he shares with us. Our new life begins with faith in the gospel and it continues in light of the gospel. This Easter, as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the dead, do so by taking off that old shell of sin and put on that new shell of righteousness.

APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8 AM Men's Breakfast Past Time Cafe
2  9:00—Sunday School 10:30 Worship Service	3	4 9:00 Deacons Meeting LDL – 11:30 Senior Center	5 7:00 PM Choir	6 7PM- Maundy Thursday Service NA meets 7:30	Noon- Good Friday Service— United Methodist	8
9  EASTER 7AM Sunrise Service 9:00 Sunday school 10:30-Worship	10	11	12 7:00 PM-Choir	13 NA meets 7:30	14 Drug Court	15
16 9:00 Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service	17	18 Session 7PM	19 7:00 PM-Choir	20 NA meets 7:30	21	22
23 9-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service 30-9:00 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	24	25	26	27 7:00 PM-Choir NA meets 7:30	28 Drug Court	29



March 2023 Session Highlights

A regular Session meeting was held Tuesday, March 21, 2023, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

Committee assignments for 2023 were discussed and then chosen:

Property – Sue Crossland

Christian Education - Sue Crossland, Marcia Wiebe, and Ruby Crossland

Clerk of Session – Ruby Crossland

Congregational Life (including Women's Board) - Marcia Wiebe and Ruby Crossland

Finance – Larry Fishbaugh and Alex Straley

Missions - Marcia Wiebe and Larry Fishbaugh

Nominating – Alex Straley and Larry Fishbaugh

Personnel - Alex Straley

Worship – Sue Crossland

Many of these positions will require extra people to help carry out the activities they introduce or plan. If you have any questions or are interested in planning and/or helping with anything our church is involved in please don't hesitate to let any Elder know. We would gladly appreciate and accept all volunteers willing to serve our God in any capacity!!!

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

Ian Ferguson, Moderator

APRIL BIRTHDAY

3rd-Joseph Reineck

4th-Brock Verfaillie

5th-Candi Koenig

6th-Darla Cline

10th-Megan Fife

10th-Nikki Verfaillie

16th-Caitlin Pennington

18th-Tucker Stoller

21st-Samuel Ferguson

23rd-Paul Punches

27th- Christy Stoller



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

10th- Matt and Christy Stoller



No Compromise! Dinner Theater

Tickets are on sale now for the *No Comprise!* (author Jane Nice) Dinner Theater to be held April 14, 15, and 16 at the Antwerp Methodist Church. Tickets are \$40 each and may be purchased at the Paulding Chamber of Commerce, or in Antwerp at the West Bend News or Petals and Vines.

The play tells the true story of the Reservoir War in Paulding County in 1887. Lots of church members are in it: Don and Ruby Crossland, Ian Ferguson, Jane Nice and our famous Bargain Bin Lady, Rhonda Smalley. It is a fundraiser for the Antwerp Chamber of Commerce with proceeds going toward their downtown mural project.

Above picture– Pastor Ian touching on the subject during a Sunday message.

	A	B	C
1	FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM FEBRUARY		
2	Designated Gifts:		
3	Amount	Purpose	
4	\$200.00	Missions	
5	\$9,000.00	Missions - From 2022 Carryover	
6	\$171.70	Nicelley investment dividend	
7	\$330.00	Per member asking	
8	\$5,893.51	PPC Project	
9	\$42,000.00	PPC Project - From 2022 Carryover	
10	Notable Expenditures:		
11	Amount	Payee	Purpose
12	\$1,500.00	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	2023 mission allocation - Mindling
13	\$1,500.00	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	2023 mission allocation - Bailey
14	\$1,500.00	Wycliffe Bible Translators	2023 mission allocation - Schwartz
15	\$1,500.00	ABWE	2023 mission allocation - Taber
16	\$600.00	Caring Sharing Food Pantry	2023 mission allocation
17	\$600.00	Gods Share Program	2023 mission allocation
18	\$600.00	Transfer to Drug Court Fund	2022 mission allocation
19	\$1,000.00	Transfer to Mission Trip Fund	2023 mission allocation
20	\$955.00	Ethan Crosby Enterprises	Snow removal
21	Budget vs Actual Income:		
22	\$25,999.28	Budgeted Income	
23	\$30,120.13	Actual Income	
24	\$4,120.85	Difference	



From
Treasurer
Carol Razo

HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Women's Board will meet not meet this month .
- *Men's Breakfast is Saturday, April 1st. Meet them at 8:00 AM at the Past Time Café.
- *Deacons will meet on Tuesday, April 4th at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- *LDL will meet on Tuesday, April 4th at the Senior Center at 11:30 AM. Time change for this month only. \$3 minimum donation. Arrive a little early.
- *Maundy Thursday Service (6th) will be at 7:00 PM here at the Presbyterian Church.
- *Good Friday Services (7th) will be at the United Methodist at noon.
- * Presbyterian Church is hosting Sunrise Service on Easter morning at 7AM, with a light breakfast to follow prepared by the Women's Board.
- *Session meets Tuesday, April 18th at 7 PM
- *Drug Court will meet this month on the 14th and the 28th.
- *Sunday School is meeting at 9 AM every Sunday morning. Pastor Ian will be finishing up with Romans and preparing new lessons to begin after Easter.
- *The designated Deacon for April is Patty Radel. However, any of the Deacon's may be approached for questions or concerns.
- *If you have a newspaper article or item for the hall bulletin board (pertaining to our church or church members), please give it to Marcia Wiebe, or put it in Marcia's mailbox in the church office. Thank You !!



Left and Above--
March 1st, United Methodist hosted the Lenten Lunch with Pastor Brian Arnold sharing.



Left and Above- -
March 8th- Divine Mercy hosted the Lenten lunch with Fr. Ammanniti giving the message.



March 8th Lenten supper was served by the Sunday School class.

Left- Jane Nice instructing Pastor Ian on how to flip the perfect pancake.

Right- Dave Nice conversing with Eric Jones, with Reba Hurtig to the right.





Right and Below– Lenten supper, March 15th, the Deacons prepared a taco bar and presented Pastor Ian with a piece of birthday cake with a candle while the group sang *Happy Birthday*.

Right– March 15th Lenten lunch was hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church with Pastor Clyde Singh's sharing his message about *Importance*.



Right– Larry Fishbaugh, Rick Craft and Paster Ian caught in what looks like, a serious discussion after one of the Lenten suppers.



Above–Rev. Dr. Sandra Jenkins from the First Christian Church spoke at the March 22nd Lenten Lunch.



March 22nd Lenten spaghetti supper was prepared and served by the Choir. The kitchen crew (**Above left**), Patty Radel, Martha Punches, Ruby Crossland, Rhee Adams and Rhonda Smalley. (**Above Middle**) Pastor Ian showing off his “juggling skills”. (**Above Right**) Doug Radel is pictured preparing the sauce. The secret, apparently, is in the stirring. **Left**– The supper crowd celebrated with Henry Ferguson as he celebrated a belated birthday. Pastor Ian spoke on being an ‘*Advertisement for God*’.



Above– Samuel and Henry assisting Patty Radel make some of the snacks.

Rhee Adams introduced 14 ladies to two of her friends from Jakarta, Indonesia. Lilis (professor of culinary studies) and her sister, Yansinta showed them how to prepare a snack and a main chicken dish, which the ladies enjoyed with a cup of hot lemongrass tea.



Above– Lilis Prihantini, Rhee Adams and Yasinta Asih.



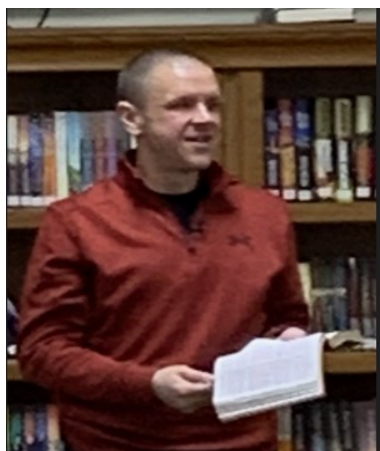
Below– On March 29th, Pastor Jeremy Thompson from the Church of the Nazarene ministered to the Lenten Lunch crowd to *‘Let Your Light Shine’!*



Above Middle and Right– On March 29th Session offered various kinds of pizza and salad for the last Lenten Supper of the year.

Gracie (granddaughter of Smalley’s) and Claire (granddaughter of Nice’s) became fast friends during supper.

Brynn helped her daddy, Pastor Ian, deliver the message after the meal.





Left– There was a good turn-out for the March- Ladies (and a little boy) do Lunch at Fiesta Habaneros.

Left to Right– Samuel Ferguson, Patty Radel, Marcia Wiebe, Becky Riley, Becky Craft, Rhee Adams, Barb Searing, Martha Punches, Sue Crossland, Phyllis Crossland, and Alissa Ferguson. Join us this month at the Senior Center on April the 4th at an earlier starting time, meeting at 11:30.



Left -Cara Lou Hyman Strahley presented a hand crafted wooden cross to Pastor Ian and the church. This cross was created by Cara Lou's daughter, Angela and her husband Tony Zartman.

The Hyman family has been a part of this church since 1884, with Frederick William Hyman (Cara Lou's great grandfather), and her parents Harvey and Juanita Hyman. Along with Cara Lou's parents and grandparents, her aunts, uncles, siblings and children, contributed and worshiped as they gathered strength from within the walls of the First Presbyterian Church.



Above-Jill S. has beautifully prepared the church and Fellowship Hall for the Lenten and Easter season.



Above– Ruby and Don Crossland recently visited with heir son, Marty, in Arizona during Spring Training.

Below- The Sing into Spring Community Concert was well attended on March 26th. Barb Searing joined in the singing to help raise over \$13,000 for Caring & Sharing Food Pantry Building Fund.



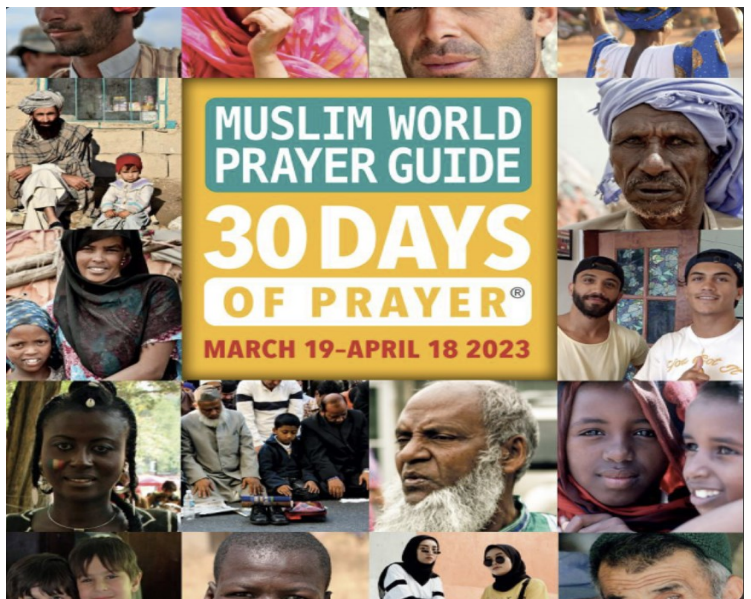
Missions



Left-Sue and Phyllis Crossland presenting our church mission donation check to Kim and Donald of God's Share Program. This program serves missionaries in over 60 countries.

The Mission Committee wants to thank everyone again for their Operation Christmas shoebox donations. We received an update from Samaritan's purse and they collected and distributed over 11 million shoe boxes last year. That means that since 1993, they have distributed over 200 million Christmas gifts to children. That means 200 million gifts, gospel presentations, and discipleship opportunities to families around the world. They could not do this without people like you. So, thank you for donating and being a part of bringing the good news of Jesus to others! (The picture **(Upper right)** shows children in Romania receiving shoeboxes and the message of Jesus.)

Right-Missionaries Tim and Karen Mendling invite us to pray for the Muslim community during Ramadan. In order to earn their way to heaven, Muslims believe every adult must follow certain religious practices. During the month of Ramadan, Muslims eat throughout the night instead of the day. You can join Tim and Karen every weekday from 1:30-1:45 by Zoom.

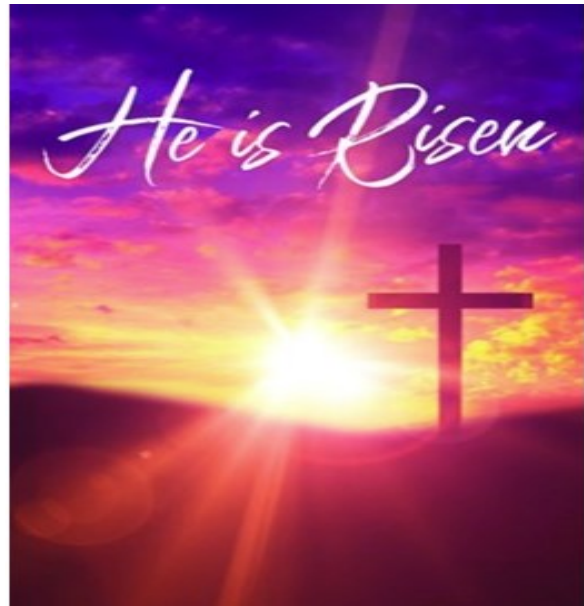


The Mission Committee wishes to thank all who participated in the Hands of Hope March fundraising meal. The Presbyterians reserved and enjoyed 21 meals. The Hands of Hope Leaders certainly appreciate our support. Such a worthy cause in our Paulding community.

Sunday School at 9:00

Worship Service 10:30

**First Presbyterian Church
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firstpresbyterianpaulding.com

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

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