

Volume 10 - Issue-3 First Presbyterian Church, Paulding

Thoughts from Ian... Ohio



March 2024

In my kitchen growing up, there was a large circular charred spot on the floor. It was a bit smaller than a dinner plate, but it was a scar on the linoleum which will never wash off. The reason for the spot goes as far back as the early 90s.

For every Easter of my childhood I can remember, my parents borrowed an incubator and picked up some fertilized chicken eggs from my dad's childhood pastor. The new life of Jesus was remembered by the new life of two or three dozen fluffy little chicks in our kitchen which would hatch close to Easter. (My parents did this as an Easter illustration for the church's Sunday School children.)



Once they hatched, the chicks lived in a large cardboard box in our kitchen for a few weeks, allowing for us and other children of the church to enjoy them. Our care for them included food, water, and a large circular heat lamp which hung over one side of the box. The chicks loved the warmth.

I imagine it was a bit drafty next to the set of long windows which ran along their side of the room. The early spring nights could bring a chill and the heat lamp provided much comfort...until it didn't.

One day, the heat lamp fell. We don't know how, but it fell straight into the cardboard box and quickly started to burn through the cardboard. When he smelled smoke, as quick as lightning he swooped in before the box caught on fire. He had saved the house, but he had not saved that square foot of flooring. Thankfully, the chicks survived. New life had nearly been choked by smoke and flames.

As I was reflecting back on this Easter story from my childhood, I remembered a parable Jesus once told, the Parable of the Soils. It is a parable about fragile new life in danger of being choked out.

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells of a farmer who goes out to sow seeds (seed represents God's word about His kingdom) and this seed falls on different types of soil (soil representing different people's hearts). Some seeds fall on good ground and produce an abundant crop. Other seeds fall on hard, rocky, or thorny soil. These seeds may quickly spring up, but ultimately wither and die. For example, the seeds which were cast among the thorns quickly began to grow but were choked by the weeds.

Jesus explains to the disciples the warning a few verses down, in **verse 22, "The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful."**

The thorny soil does receive the good news of God's kingdom and new life springs forth, but it is fragile. This new life is threatened by the anxiety of the world and what F. Dale Bruner calls "the humbug of wealth." When these worries loom over us. How should we respond to this anxious and greedy world?

To the anxiety of the world, **Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."**

To the humbug of wealth, **Matthew 16:26 "What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?"**

I was thankful that my dad saved those chicks. Swooping in, he was the superhero who saved the day. How very much more does Jesus do this for us? We are as helpless as those precious chicks were—unable to save ourselves. As Romans 5 tells us, while we were still helpless, at just the right time Jesus died for the ungodly. This is how God demonstrates his love for us, Jesus died for us while we were still sinners! Let us look to him and find life that is real life this Easter.

MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 8 AM Men's Breakfast Past Time
3 9AM-Sunday School 10:30-Worship Service COMMUNION	4	5 9am Deacons Grounded Noon-LDL Nini's	6 Noon- Lenten Lunch 5:30 Lenten Supper 7PM Choir	7 NA meets 7:30PM	8	9
10 9AM- Sunday School 10:30- Worship Service	11	12	13 Noon- Lenten lunch 5:30Lenten Supper 7PM-Choir	14 NA meets 7:30 PM	15 Drug Court graduation lunch	16
17 9AM Sunday School 10:30- Worship Service	18	19 10AM- Care- giver Support Group-Senior Center Session-7PM	20 Noon- Lenten Lunch 5:30-Lenten Supper 7PM Choir	21 NA meets 7:30 PM	22	23
24 Palm Sun- day-9AM-SS 10:30-Service ***** 31-EASTER 7AM-1st Christian Presbyterian 10:30-Service	25	26	27	28 Drug Court 9:30AM Maundy Thursday Service 7PM NA meets 7:30	29 Good Friday Noon- St. Paul Lutheran	30



February Session Highlights

A regular session meeting was held Tuesday, February 20, 2024, in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00pm.

Noteworthy Events

- Lenten meals have begun as of February 14th and will continue every Wednesday through March 20th. All are welcome to attend the lunches at noon provided by various churches in our community and held in our Fellowship Hall. The evening meals begin at 5:30 and are prepared by groups within our church. Anyone may attend these, also. The meals are free (you may donate to the Food Pantry) and there is a devotional provided at each meal. This is a wonderful opportunity to worship the Lord with others in our community!!
- Please check the calendar of events for more information regarding the Easter Season!!

New Business

- Session accepted a report from Pastor Ian regarding his and Sue Crossland's attendance at the Midwest Presbytery General Assembly. He also noted the next Presbytery meeting will be May 10-11 at Oakhill Presbyterian Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Anyone wanting to learn more about our denomination is allowed to attend - just ask Pastor Ian for more information!!
 - Session heard several reports from committees and the deacons dealing with proceedings for this coming year.
- Our next meeting will be held March 19th at 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Ruby Crossland, Clerk of Session

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1-Becky Mayer
3-Marcia Brune
6-Anna Karlstadt
8-Tiffany Razo
10-Sarah Buzzell Morgan
16-Kristen Razo
16-Ian Ferguson
20-Henry Ferguson
23-Kim Mileto



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NONE

	A	B	C
1	FINANCIAL TIDBITS FROM JANUARY		
2	Designated Gifts:		
3	Amount	Purpose	
4	200.00	Agape Fund	
5	100.00	Capital Projects Fund	
6	3,000.00	Capital Projects Fund - from 2023 Carryover	
7	200.00	Daily Bread Pantry Fund	
8	200.00	Drug Court Fund	
9	85.00	Fellowship Hall Rental	
10	1,000.00	Lifewise Academy	
11	2,200.00	Missions	
12	5,000.00	Missions - From 2023 Carryover	
13	1,851.31	Nicelley Dividend Income	
14	200.00	Organ Repair Fund	
15	447.00	Per Member Asking	
16	200.00	Presbyterian Womens Fund	
17	50.00	Warm Fuzzy Tree	
18	Notable Expenditures:		
19	Amount	Payee	Purpose
20	\$100.00	Manz Web Design	Web site updates
21	\$1,243.02	Schlatters	Furnace repairs
22	\$1,000.00	Lifewise Academy	Offering for Lifewise Academy
23	\$1,500.00	Evangelial Presbyterian Church	2024 mission allocation for Mindlings
24	\$1,500.00	Evangelial Presbyterian Church	2024 mission allocation for Baileys
25	\$1,500.00	Wycliffe Bible Translators	2024 mission allocation for Schwartzes
26	\$1,500.00	ABWE	2024 mission allocation for Tabers
27	\$600.00	Gods Share Program	2024 mission allocation
28	\$600.00	Hands of Hope Pregnancy Center	2024 mission allocatioin
29	\$600.00	Caring Sharing Food Pantry	2024 mission allocation
30	\$1,129.91	Paulding County Treasurer	Real estate taxes
31	Budget vs Actual Income:		
32	\$14,287.10	Budgeted Income	
33	\$16,940.77	Actual Income	
34	\$2,653.67	Difference	



From
Treasurer
Carol
Razo

HAPPENINGS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Deacons will meet on Tuesday, March 5th, 9AM at Holly's.
- *Ladies Do Lunch are gathering at the Nini's (north side of square) on Tuesday, March 5th at noon.
- *Women's Board will meet on Thursday, March 7th at 7PM in the Fellowship Hall.
- *Men's Breakfast is on Saturday, March 2nd, at 8AM at the Past Time Café.
- .*Drug Court will meet this month on March 15th and 28th, with a graduation luncheon on March 15th.
- *There are N.A. open meetings on Tuesdays at 6 PM at the Antwerp Community Church, as well as in our Presbyterian Church basement every Thursday evening at 7:30 PM.
- *The designated Deacon for March is Patty Radel. However, any Deacon may be approached for questions or concerns.



LEFT- Ladies did lunch at the Fiesta Habaneros on February 6th. From left to right-Phyllis Crossland, Sue Crossland, Marcia Wiebe, Martha Punches, Barb Searing and Alissa Ferguson. Catch the ladies on the 5th of March at Nini's Ice Cream on the north side of the square.

SCHEDULE FOR REMAINING LENTEN LUNCHESES AND SUPPERS

LUNCHESES

(All lunches and suppers will be held at the Presbyterian Church)

3/6/24-St. Paul Lutheran Church

3/13/24-Nazarene Church

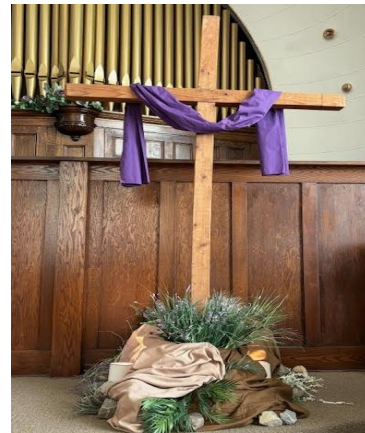
3/20/24-United Methodist Church

SUPPERS

3/06/24-Sunday School Class

3/13/24-Choir

3/20/24-Session



3/28/24 - Maundy Thursday service— 7PM - Presbyterian Church

3/29/24– Good Friday Service-noon-St. Paul Lutheran Church

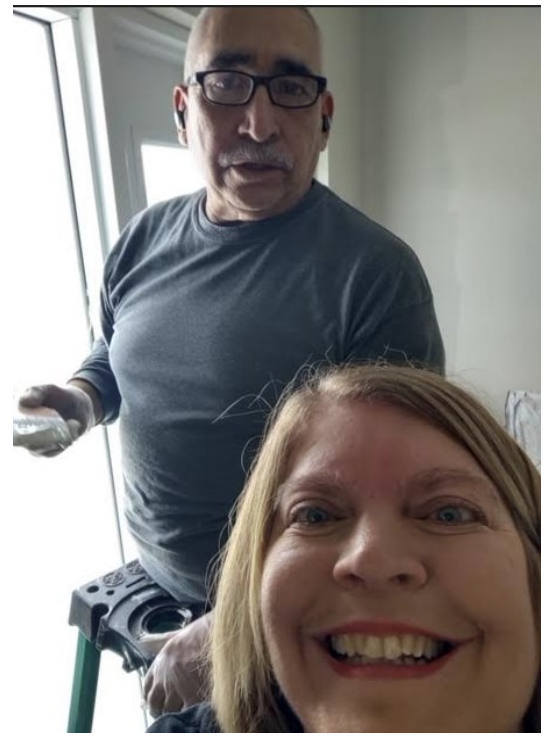
3/31/24 - Easter Sunday Sunrise-7AM - First Christian Church



Alpha is a series of 11 sessions exploring the Christian faith. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Each session will include a 30-minute video around one of the big issues around faith followed by questions and discussion on the basics of Christianity. Sunday @ 9am



A couple of the Ferguson men, Ian and Samuel (**left**), and Art and Carol Razo (**right**) took time out of their day to save the Caring & Sharing Food Bank thousands of dollars by volunteering to paint the walls at their new facility.



Below-Flowers in memory of Lora Anne PUNCHES.



Above-Our warm and fuzzy tree reached the halls of Grover Hill Elementary School.





Above-The bushes by the garage needed a major trim and are no longer hanging out in the parking lot. Little helpers, Henry and Samuel loaded the whole truck themselves!

Right-After receiving a high water bill and finding the outside spigot occasionally dripping, a shut off valve was installed inside behind the door.



Above-The Women's Board 'working' on lunch. Names were withheld to protect the not-so-innocent.



Left- Shown here keeping their love alive, Stan and Barb Searing received yellow roses from Pastor Ian for being married the longest at 55 years at the first Lenten Lunch on Valentine's Day.



Left and Above- Ash Wednesday Lenten Lunch, hosted by the Women's Board for First Presbyterian Church. Thanks to Barb Searing who is always on top of things and the generous ladies that give up their time and talents to help.



Above-February 21st found the First Christian church serving the Lenten Lunch. Elder Paul Long shared a message after lunch.

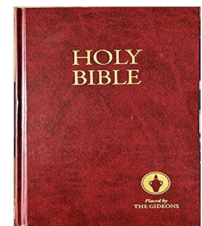


Above-On February 25, Gideon Ray Etzler spoke to the congregation of their ministry to communicate to the communities and how they are funded. Gideon Etzler told stories of how he shared one on one to bring individuals to bring them to Christ.

If you feel so led, please send a donation to the following address:

*The Gideons Institute
P.O. Box 426
Paulding, Ohio 45879*

For reference– the small Bibles are \$1.56 and the large Bibles that they put in the hotels are \$5.00. All donations stay local.



Above-Tim and Karen Mindling, church supported missionaries, prepared an authentic Afghan meal for the Lenten Supper on February 21st. The food was delicious! After the meal, Tim and Karen shared stories of their work in Detroit. After not being able to return to Afghanistan, they set up their missionary work with the Afghan community in Detroit. The Mindlings help them get settled into a home, assist them in retrieving the needed necessities to live and help them find a church. Karen also teaches the ladies English.

Paulding Writer's Group Conference

This conference will be held at the Paulding County Library on April 20, 2024 beginning at 8:30 AM and lasting until 3:45 PM, with lunch being served. There will be a wide variety of speakers, including our own Jane Nice, Sue Paulus and Erin Karlstadt, with keynote speaker, Danielle M. Haas. Had a hankering to start on that book? Watch for flyers and more information.

Taken from Our Daily Bread, March 31

Jesus Christ is Risen Today!

Before Charles Simeon attended university in Cambridge, England, he loved horses and clothes, spending a huge sum on his attire yearly. But because his college required him to attend regular Communion services, he started to explore what he believed. After reading books written by believers in Jesus, he experienced a dramatic conversion on Easter Sunday. Awaking early on April 4, 1779, he cried out, “Jesus Christ is risen today! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!” As he grew in his faith in God, He devoted himself to Bible study, prayer, and attending chapel services.

On the first Easter, life changed for the two women who arrived at Jesus’ tomb. There they witnessed a violent earthquake as an angel rolled back the stone. He said to them, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said: (Matthew 28:5-6) Overjoyed, the women worshipped Jesus and ran back to tell their friends the good news.

Encountering the risen Christ isn’t something reserved for ancient times-He promises to meet us here and now. We might experience a dramatic encounter, such as the women at the tomb or as Charles Simeon did, but we might not. In whatever way Jesus reveals Himself to us, we can trust that He loves us.

Amy Boucher Pye

Matthew 28:6 He is not here, he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where He lay.



NOT
Lucky
JUST
blessed

Drug Court graduate Leighton “Buck” Mullings celebrated his accomplishment with a lunch hosted by Westwood Behavioral Health at our church on Friday, February 23rd. Buck is graduate number 57 for the Paulding County Drug Court Program.

Left to Right-Jane Nice, Buck, Dave Nice and Judge Tiffany Beckman.

Editor’s note– The church wants to thank Dave and Jane Nice for the time and effort they put into this program.

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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