

The Evangel



FOR
I WILL
forgive
THEIR INIQUITY,
and I WILL
REMEMBER
THEIR SIN
no more.

Jeremiah 31:34

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2024



“Keep or Give”

What should we keep, and what should we give away? That seems like a simple question, and yet it's often a rather complicated one. One thing I've learned over the years is that often couples are made up of one spouse who wants to keep *everything*, and one who wants to get rid of *everything*. Sometimes, hilarity ensues from that combination; other times, friction ensues. And sometimes, those keeping and giving urges can be taken to extremes. The popular TV show *Hoarders* features people who compulsively collect things to the point that it adversely affects their lives. On the other end, Japanese lifestyle guru Marie Kondo has made a name for herself by promoting a lifestyle of stark simplicity; she advocates only keeping things that “spark joy.” I can only imagine what would happen if a hoarder lived with a follower of Kondo's method! There would certainly be some friction!

The Bible talks about things we should keep and things we should get rid of, as well, and not surprisingly, the organizing principle is *love*. As Christians known by our love (Cf John 13), we are to be people who keep our promises. We are to be people who keep our word – we say what we mean and we mean what we say, and we follow through on the things we say we're going to do. Similarly, in answer to Cain's age-old question, we are to be our brothers' and sisters' keepers, as well (Cf Genesis 4). In love, we are to care for them, provide for them when they need help, pray for them, protect them when we can, and in general, do all we can do to show love and care for them. Those are things that, in love, we are called to keep.

On the other hand, because of that same love, there are things we need to get rid of. The big one is bitterness and unforgiveness. Those things are incompatible with love, and the Bible is clear that we are to root them out of our lives (Cf Hebrews 12:15). Paul clearly teaches that love “keeps no record of wrongs” (1 Corinthians 13:5, NIV), and Jesus teaches over and over that if we are to truly receive His love and forgiveness, then we must be willing to give that same love and forgiveness to others (Cf Matthew 6 and 18). Of course, that's always easier said than done – but still, Jesus doesn't give us any wiggle-room here. When we are called to account for how we have chosen to live, I don't think God is going to allow the excuse that we didn't forgive because it was hard or we just didn't feel like it!

So, this month, as you gather up all the receipts you have kept to get ready to do your taxes, and as you begin thinking about spring cleaning and cleaning out closets and drawers, spend some time thinking about the spiritual things you should keep and purge. For God's love for us demands that we grow more and more in His image and likeness - that is, we are called more and

more to love each other as Jesus loves us (Cf. John 13)! So let us get rid of the things that trip us up and entangle us, and let us keep His love in our hearts and minds - and to Him alone be the glory!

In Christ's Love,

Joshua

Scripture Memorization Returns! In 2024, we will return to having a memory verse for each month of the year. This is a wonderful opportunity to commit more of the Word to memory so that we have it when we need it! Our February memory verse is:

"But God shows His love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
-Romans 5:8

Adult Sunday School



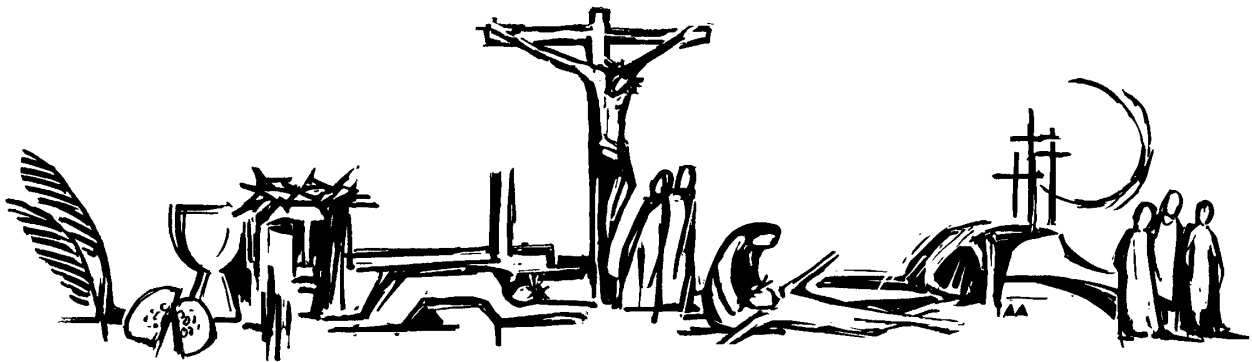
For the Lenten season, we will be studying Philip Yancey's classic, *What's So Amazing About Grace?* Through the series we will explore the concept of grace and what it looks like in action.

Sunday Morning Adult Study

Our Sunday School Class meets each Sunday morning in the Conference Room at 9:30am. We begin class after the 8:30am Worship Service ends. Please join us! If there are any questions, contact Sean McCauley.

"He that cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass if he would ever reach heaven; for everyone has need to be forgiven."

- George Herbert





Coffee & Tea With the Pastor

Coffee and Tea with the Pastor: Our next meeting will be on February 14 from 2-4pm at the Coffee Peddler downtown (112 Harrison Avenue). This is a wonderful time in which you can come and ask your pastor *any questions* - about the Bible, about theology, about the Church, about anything! Please join us for good conversation and delicious caffeinated beverages! All are welcome!

The Pastor's Bible Study continues!

Come join us on Monday evenings at 7pm in the Conference Room as we study The Gospel of John together. This is a great opportunity to dig into God's Word with brothers and sisters in Christ! All are welcome!
NOTE- there is NO BIBLE STUDY on February 19.



Lent begins! Our annual 40-day season of preparation begins with **Ash Wednesday** on February 14. We will have our traditional Ash Wednesday service with our brothers and sisters at Providence Presbyterian Church at 7pm that evening. The imposition of ashes will be offered. Meanwhile, **Lenten devotionals** will also be offered to help us prepare to mark the solemn events of Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Library Book Club Review

In February, we will have "Puzzles and Prayers" on Tuesday, February 20, from 10am until noon. This is also a good way to spend a Tuesday morning!

March will be "Puzzles and Prayers" with Sherry Caito as your host! March 19th from 10am to noon.

Looking forward to April 16 when the Library Book Club will meet again. Mark your calendar to visit and perhaps join this fun group. We meet from 10am to noon.



Terry Barnes turns 90!!!

Please come celebrate with us
American Legion (Campbell Rd., Harrison, OH)
Saturday 2/10/24

Stop by any time between
4pm to 8pm

Your presence will be the best gift you could give him!

Discernment Team Update

Our Denomination Task Force is busy planning upcoming education events. On **February 11th** a representative of the **EPC denomination** will make a presentation on the distinctives of their denomination and will have a time of Q&A with the congregation. Lunch will be provided. Additionally, we will have more informal info and Q&A sessions in the future. Please continue to pray for our church and congregation. To God be the glory!



The pastor will be on vacation in North Canton, OH from Friday, February 16 through Friday, February 23. If you have a pastoral care need during this time, please contact the church office and our Administrative Assistant will put you in touch with a local pastor. Per our Worship & Music Committee policy, there will be **NO 8:30 SERVICE** on Sunday, February 18, but we invite all to join us at 10:45 that Sunday as the Rev. Jason Hannon preaches. Please also note, there will be **NO PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY** ON Monday, February 19.

Sunday, **February 4** is **Scout Sunday**. Please be sure to join us that Sunday at 10:45am as members of our scout troop help lead us in worship. All are welcome!



The Presbytery will have its quarterly meeting on Saturday, February 17 at 9am at Union Presbyterian Church in Union, KY. If you are interested in attending, please contact the church office.



Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee is looking for some new ideas for this year, for fun get togethers. If you have an idea, or would like to join our committee, please let Janna Corcoran know. We will be meeting on January 30th at 5:30pm in the library. If you just want to pass on an idea, you can email me at tjc81@aol.com or contact me at (513) 543-1690.

Hope to see you soon!



**TWO CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION IS
February 11**

Please look for the gold pots at both entrances to the sanctuary to place your monthly donations. If you are not able to make it to a service, please feel free to mail your donation to the church. It goes to a good cause of helping feed the hungry. As always, thanks for your generous donations.

~ The Mission Committee



Four ways to watch our service:

**Church
Secretary**



During the service live-stream our 10:45 service each Sunday on our church website (harrisonpresbyterian.com) using the link.

After the service is over:

- Send an email to video@harrisonpresbyterian.com to receive a link to the full service.
- Watch the sermon on our YouTube channel- "First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, OH."
- Call the Office to have a DVD prepared for you.

Healing Prayer is available upon request. All who wish to receive anointing, the laying on of hands, and prayers for healing are welcome to call the church office.



Meal Ministry

Our free community meal, **Bountiful Hearts**, continues on the first Saturday of every month. Our next meal will be on Saturday, **February 3** from 11am – 1pm here at our church.

We will need **donations of dessert items**, either homemade or from the bakery/grocery store. Please let Tamela Hinson or Christine Luca know if you would like to volunteer; **we also need drivers**. We greatly appreciate your donations, both of time and financial contributions; they are what make this meal possible.

“Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until he has something to forgive.” - C.S. Lewis

Looking Ahead to...



- * **Lent continues!** Throughout the month of March, please continue to use these days as a time to prepare your heart and mind for Holy Week, when we yet again remember all that our Savior Jesus has done for us!
- * **Prayer Vigil!** Friday, March 1 is the **World Day of Prayer**. To honor this special day, we will be having a 12-Hour Prayer Vigil here in our chapel - this means that for 12 straight hours, we will have someone in our chapel praying for our world, our nation, our church, and anything and everything else! If you would like to sign up for a half-hour slot to pray, please look for the prayer vigil sign-up sheet in Faith Hall near that time, or call the church office. Prayer guides will be provided. Let us get on our knees and pray to the Lord, who promises He will always hear us!
- * **Daylight Saving Time** begins on Sunday, March 10. Please remember to “spring forward,” or you will be an hour later to Sunday School and worship!
- * **Holy Week** begins at the end of March. Please join us for the special worship opportunities:
 - **Palm Sunday** is March 24. Join us in worship at 8:30 and 10:45am as we wave our palms and shout “Hosannah!” to Jesus Christ!
 - **Maundy Thursday** is March 28. Join us in worship at 7pm in the sanctuary as we have our traditional Tenebrae service.
 - **Good Friday** is March 29. Again, join us in worship at 7pm as we host our brothers and sisters from Providence Presbyterian in Bright. All are welcome!
 - **Resurrection Sunday** is March 31. Join us in worship at 8:30 and 10:45am as we give praise to our Living Lord!

Annual Report



If you were unable to attend the annual congregational meeting last month but would like to have copies of our 2023 Annual Report and our 2024 financials statements, please be sure to pick those up in the church office.



**A LOOK
at the
BUDGET**

(Exchange between General Oglethorpe and John Wesley)

GENERAL OGLETHORPE: "I never forgive."

JOHN WESLEY: "Then, sir, I hope that you never sin."

Calling All Prayer Warriors!

Join us each Wednesday at noon in the church library as we lift up our world, our church, and all our other joys and concerns in prayer. All are welcome! See you here!



Young Youth Group

Our next YYG meeting will be on 2/4 (a week earlier than usual) at 6pm.. We now have 2 YYG groups. Our younger group will continue to enjoy games, crafts and snacks and meet in SonRise Hall. The second group will enjoy discussions and will meet in the Youth Room at 6pm. Any questions, please contact Mary Craft (513-616-7207).

Congratulations

Thank you to Marilyn Bourquein, who answered God's call to service as a new deacon. May God bless you as you perform his work.

Notice: Our February-March Love Thy Neighbor mission is for Christ's Loving Hands. They are requesting: protein products, such as canned tuna, canned chicken and stew. Also Chef Boyardee, peanut butter and cereal. The Mission Committee thanks our wonderful congregation for their continued support of Love Thy Neighbor program. If you have any questions, please see the





Senior Saints

Evelyn Stutzman Jim Mendell
Vivian Talley Shirley Quinn Dick Morris

Prayers For Our Church

Our Missionaries: Warmuths, Garrigans & Joneses;
Christ's Loving Hands: Our February/March "LTN" Mission;
Joy Riegel: recovering from cataract surgery on 1/24;

Prayers For Others

Deb Menninger: for Joey & Hank's health;
Marilyn Bourquein: for grandson, Kent's, health;
Mary Ann Pickens: for brother, Paul's health and her diagnosis of Parkinson's disease;
Sandra McCauley: for brother, Rodney, awaiting a kidney transplant;
Nancy Schmidt: for grandson, Alfred, awaiting a kidney transplant;
Joshua Long: for sister, Rebekah, recovering from radiation treatments;
Vivian Talley: for son, Paul, recurrence of cancer;
Reta Crone: for Tom Jr., recurrence of cancer, starting chemo and for family member, Linda, has an aggressive cancer;
Barry Fury: for neighbor, Lora Lind, receiving chemo therapy;
Marcia Merse: for husband, George, in hospice care;
Nancy & Alan Wolfram: grieving loss of Andi Borgman, (Brandon's MIL);
The Moul Family: grieving loss of Belinda's father, Larry Lang;
Bev Hughes: for brother, Jim Moreland, recovering from bowel surgery and for niece, Susan McManus, diagnosed with cancer;
Nancy Francis: has Parkinson's and is in hospice care, and for Jerry as he handles nursing duties;
The Landfried family: grieving loss of Dan's father, Stephen;
Susie Palmer: grieving loss of brother-in-law;
Carol Vassil: for niece, Valorie, diagnosed with breast cancer;
Christine Luca: for friend, Carol, diagnosed with breast cancer;

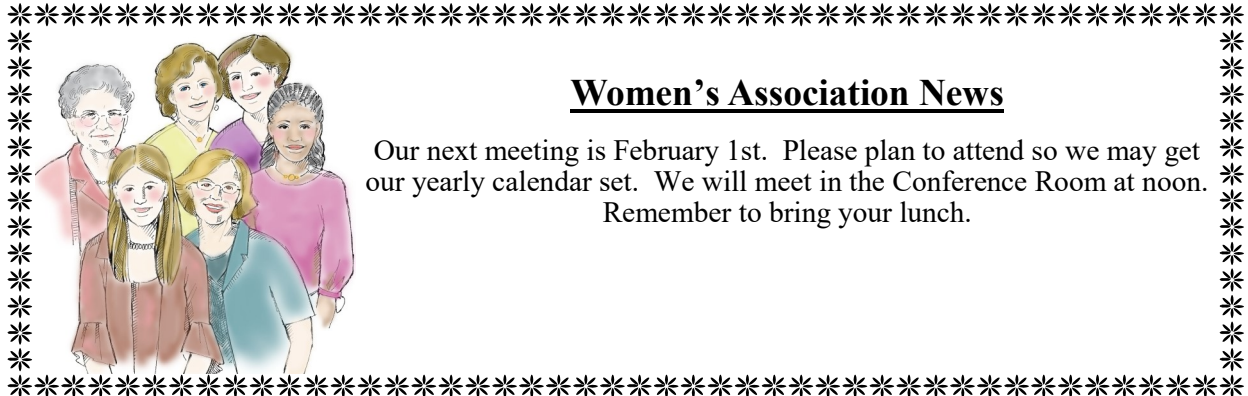
Ongoing Health

Needs

Carter Jones
Louanna Smith
JoJean Kleinfeld
Arlene Anderson
Fran Myers



PRAYER CHAIN CALLS: The Prayer Chain is a group of people who are committed to praying daily for those requesting prayer. This ministry is administered through our Board of Deacons. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Mary Tabor (513)290-5623 during the day** or **Phyllis Wolfram 367-4578 during the evening**. For two weeks, the people on the chain will pray daily for the person or situation requested.



Women's Association News

Our next meeting is February 1st. Please plan to attend so we may get our yearly calendar set. We will meet in the Conference Room at noon. Remember to bring your lunch.



Online Giving

Online Giving is available for First Presbyterian Church. Visit our webpage at harrisonpresbyterian.com and click on the GIVE NOW button or scan this QR code. Call the office with any questions.



- 2 Sherry Caito, Walt Rueger
- 6 Audrey Haesnahr
- 8 Pam Fury
- 11 Terry Barnes, Andrea Velez
- 16 Tom Snape
- 19 Vivian Talley
- 20 Reta Crone
- 26 Mike Dirr
- 27 Marilyn Bourquein
- 28 Diane Arel, Mary Craft,
Linda Hellmann, Kathryn Pierson

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Bulletin Deadlines: Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

March Evangel Deadline:
February 19 by 12 Noon

Send all bulletin and Evangel items to Judy at

office@harrisonpresbyterian.com, call the office (367-4301) or drop by the office.

Please remember that Fridays are the pastor's Sabbath day. He is available for emergencies only on that day. Thank you.



FEBRUARY FELLOWSHIP TABLE

- Feb. 4 Bountiful Hearts
- Feb. 11 EPC Meeting
- Feb. 18 Karen Wolff
- Feb. 25 Debbie McCane

Please fill out the form below if you would like to purchase a lily for Easter to be placed in the sanctuary for a loved one to be remembered or honored.

We must have your order (with money) into the church office no later than Monday, March 25. Each flower is \$15.00 and you may take your flowers with you after the Easter service. If paying by check, please make payable to "First Presbyterian Church" with "lilies" in the memo line.



No. of flowers @ \$15.00 ea. _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

NAME _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

Lenten Sermon Series

Christianity Today recently published an article "Top 5 Heresies Among American Evangelicals." Aren't you curious about what those top heresies might be, and how we can avoid them? Please join us during the Season of Lent as Joshua preaches a 4-week sermon series on these errors and the truth that Scripture teaches to contradict them. (This series will begin on the 2nd Sunday in Lent.)

- * **25 February:** "No Other Name" (John 14:1-6, Acts 4:1-13). Common Heresy: *Jesus isn't the only way to God.*
- * **3 March:** "No, Not One!" (Psalm 15:1-9, Romans 3:9-26). Common Heresy: *Humans aren't sinful by nature.*
- * **10 March:** "Jesus, the One and Only" (John 10:22-42, John 14:8-11). Common Heresies: *Jesus was only a great teacher; Jesus wasn't fully God or fully human, etc.*
- * **17 March:** "Live By the Spirit" (John 14:15-31, Galatians 5:16-26). Common Heresy: *The Spirit is an impersonal force, not a personal being.*



First Presbyterian Church
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Pastor: Dr. Joshua Long
Church Phone number: 367-4301
Church email: office@harrisonpresbyterian.com
Pastor email: jlong@harrisonpresbyterian.com
Website: www.harrisonpresbyterian.com

OUR CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, Ohio is growing in faith by building stronger relationships with God and community through prayer and worship. The reading and understanding of God's Word strengthens our commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through love and service to our neighbor so that all may experience God's grace.

