

The Evangel



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2024



“Now What?”

I don't know about you, but I sometimes find this time of year to be a bit of a let-down. After all, we have celebrated the Resurrection; we have celebrated the most joyful holiday of the Christian year. We've celebrated the Good News of our salvation, proven once-for-all at the cross and the empty tomb. We've hit that mountain-top high. So now what?

Like I said, it can feel like a bit of let-down since it is impossible to sustain that level of joy and celebration everyday. Inevitably, we have to come down to the business of figuring out how to *live* as people of the resurrection – and that is much, much harder than just celebrating the resurrection. Being resurrection people, being people of the empty tomb, being *Christians* is much more difficult – because it isn't natural. We have to fight against our sinful nature to live that way, and that is counter-cultural and counter-intuitive. It's something we have to *learn*, a new way of life we have to put into practice.

And it's all-encompassing. Being a follower of Jesus puts a claim on every part of our lives. There is no piece of our lives that Jesus does not claim as His own. There is no piece of our lives that Jesus does not want to heal and transform. As Paul tells us in Romans 12, we are called to “present (our) bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is (our) spiritual worship” (Romans 12:1b, ESV). In other words, we are to lay our bodies, and indeed, our whole lives, down on the proverbial altar as a sacrifice to God. We are to give our very selves to Him as an offering. In gratitude for all He has given for us and how He came to live and to die and to live again for us, we now are to live our lives as an offering to Him.

And if you want guidance on how to do that, you can find it throughout the New Testament. But I've found that, if you want to focus on just one chapter as a guide for living the Christian life, you could do worse than looking at Romans 12. Besides teaching about being living sacrifices and about humility as a member of the Body of Christ, Paul then goes on to give this list of teachings:

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰ Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another. Do not be

haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷ Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it^l to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” ²⁰ To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:9-21, ESV)

Paul covers a lot of territory there, doesn't he? He talks about love. He talks about generosity and showing hospitality. He talks about forgiveness. He talks about showing love and kindness to our neighbors and even to our enemies. He talks about patience, hope, prayer, zeal . . . it's a pretty comprehensive list! And taken all together, it can be a bit overwhelming.

Which is why I challenge each of us to pick just one thing from Romans 12 to focus on this month. What if we each chose *one thing* – one teaching, one idea, one commandment – and we made that the thing we are focusing on in this month? As people of the resurrection, as people of the empty tomb, as *Christians*, what if we each chose one thing to work on – perhaps being patient in affliction, or being generous and hospitable, or living at peace with others – and we prayerfully, faithfully made that something we strove to put into practice in our lives? What if we read Romans 12 each day this month and prayed that God would make it a part of us? What if we put a reminder on our bedroom mirror, or on the fridge, or on the car dashboard, to see each day? What if we asked a good friend to hold us accountable for this? What blessings would we see in our lives by the end of this month?

I hope you will prayerfully consider this as you live as a person of the resurrection this month! I will be joining you and will pray for you – will you also pray for me?

May the Lord bless us as we seek to live for Him! Hallelujah! To Him alone be the glory!

In Christ's Love,

Joshua

“A visitor saw a nurse attending the sores of a leprosy patient. ‘I would not do that for a million dollars,’ she said. The nurse answered, ‘Neither would I, but I do it for Jesus for nothing’” - Corrie ten Boom



Coffee & Tea With the Pastor

Coffee and Tea with the Pastor: Our next meeting will be on April 10 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!

A New Book for The Pastor's Bible Study!

We have finally finished our study of the Gospel of John! Now, we will finish out our school year together by studying the epistle of 1 John. If you have not been joining us, this would be a great time to commit to a short study with us - we meet every Monday at 7pm in the Conference Room. We hope to see you there!



The Women's Association **Rummage Sale** is coming up! Time to gather your "stuff"! The prep work begins on Sunday, March 31st with the sale on April 5 & 6. Bring your donations Sunday morning, March 31 through Wednesday, April 3, from 9am to 3pm (Tuesday, till 7pm). We need help sorting, pricing, selling and clean up. We have a good time with fun and fellowship during this week. Please join us!

Library Book Club Review

April showers - that's a good time to stay inside and READ a book from our library! The Library Book Club will meet on April 16, from 10am until noon in the library. There's always great reviews and swapping of books. Mark your calendar to visit and perhaps join this fun group.

May 21 will again be Puzzles and Prayers. We have jigsaw puzzles, word search, and Bible crosswords. Or, bring your own puzzle! We meet 10am until noon in the library.

June 18, Puzzles and Prayers

July 16, Book Club

Need more information? Contact Phyllis Pridemore.



"Service means the activity of the spiritual life. It is man's spontaneous love offering to God." -Sundar Singh

Our Lenten Mission Project

Our Lenten Mission Project has gotten off to a slow start - we have currently collected \$508.45. However, the children's collection has been outstanding! Their donation goal of one beehive has turned into **two** beehives so far! We will continue to collect donations until Pentecost, so if you haven't donated yet, you still have time. Remember that our donation will be doubled by a sponsor through Heifer International. Every donation counts!



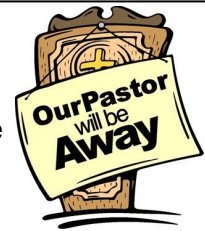
Heifer International is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, value-based holistic community development. Heifer distributes animals along with agricultural and value-based training, to families in need around the world as a means to providing self sufficiency. The animals give families a small business, providing wool, milk, eggs and more. Animal donations can provide families a hand up, increasing access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. To get more information go to :

info@heifer.org.



A memorial service for Terry Johnson will be held on Saturday, 20 April here at the church. Visitation will be from 11am to 12pm with the service to follow in the sanctuary. A meal will be offered for Terry's family and friends following the service. For more information, please contact the church office.

The **Pastor will be on study leave** from Friday, April 26-Friday, May 3 in Ottawa, IL. If you have a pastoral care need during this time, please contact the church office and Judy will put you in touch with a local pastor. Please note that there will be NO 8:30 SERVICE on Sunday, April 28. But do please join us at 10:45 on that day as the Deacon Debbie McCane fills the pulpit for us!



Scripture Memorization Continues!

This month's memory verse is Romans 12:1:

"I appeal to you, therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship." (ESV)

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!



**TWO CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION IS
April 14**

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:



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, **April 6** 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.

“The measure of a man is not how many servants he has but how many men he serves.” -Dwight L. Moody

Looking Ahead to...



- * Thursday, May 2 is the **National Day of Prayer!** Be sure to set aside some time on that day to pray for our nation!
- * **The Administrative Assistant will be on vacation** May 6-9. Please be sure to get any bulletin information for early May to her early, as she will be printing some bulletins early!
- * **Mother's Day** is Sunday, May 12. Remember to call your mommy!
- * **The presbytery** will be holding its quarterly meeting on Tuesday, May 14 at 6pm at the Presbyterian Church in Loveland, OH. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact Terry Frenz or Tom Steuver.
- * **The Day of Pentecost** is Sunday, May 19! This is the third of our three joyful holidays on the church calendar, the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit in a new way and the birthday of the church. Be sure to join us in worship at 8:30 or 10:45, and for birthday cake after the second service! And as the liturgical color for Pentecost is red, *remember to wear red!*
- * **Trinity Sunday** is Sunday, May 26. Be sure to join us in worship at 8:30 or 10:45 as we celebrate our one God in three persons!
- * **The office will be closed** on Monday, May 27 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday.
- * **Save the Date - May 14, 2024**, Universal Church Directories will be here for a photography session. Be sure to sign up for a time slot. More information to follow in the bulletin.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

Notice: Our Love Thy Neighbor collection for April/May is a new one. We will be collecting items for **Heart House**, a homeless shelter in Dearborn County. This wonderful place gives shelter to families in need. They are requesting: **canned vegetables** (the very large cans, as they feed up to 70 people per meal), **hygiene products** (bodywash, shampoo), **linens** (towels and new bed pillows), and **socks and underwear** in various sizes (men, women and children). The missions committee would like to thank our congregation for their continued support of our communities needs! If you have any questions, please contact Judy Gibbs or Rebecca Scherzinger.

Young Youth Group



Our next YYG meeting will be on **4/21 and 5/19** at 6pm.. We now have 2 YYG groups. One 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).



Sunday Morning Adult Study

Adult Sunday School

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. Who planted the church in Rome? Who were Phoebe and Tertius and what roles did they play in the early church? What passage of Scripture finally moved St. Augustine to faith in Christ? Find out the answers to these questions and so much more as the Adult Sunday School Class begins the study of Paul's letter to the Romans. We begin on Sunday, April 7th at 9:30AM (after the end of the first worship service). Come join us! Contact Sean McCauley for more information.



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.



- 4 Jeff Biddle, Christine Luca, Evelyn Stutzman
- 12 Joy Riegel
- 13 Steve Coleman
- 15 Emma Trabel
- 17 Sean McCauley, Wayne Brown
- 18 Jim Mendell
- 21 Barb Wolf
- 22 Mary Ann Pickens
- 24 Gene Troy
- 25 Stephanie Trabel
- 27 Tori Steuver

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

Monday - Thursday

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

May Evangel Deadline:

April 15 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.



APRIL FELLOWSHIP TABLE

- 7 Mindy Sindiong
- 14 Debbie McCane
- 21 Barb Wolf
- 28 Phyllis Pridemore



Senior Saints

Evelyn Stutzman Jim Mendell
Vivian Talley Shirley Quinn Dick Morris

Prayers For Our Church

Our Missionaries: Warmuths, Garrigans & Joneses;
Heart House: Our April/May “ LTN” Mission;
Nancy Platt: recovering from foot surgery;
Art Wolfram: continuing cancer treatment;

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 Parkinson’s disease;
Sandra McCauley: for brother, Rodney, recovering frm gallbladder surgery;
Nancy Schmidt: for grandson, Alfred, awaiting a kidney transplant;
Vivian Talley: for son, Paul, recurrence of cancer;
Reta Crone: for Tom Jr., recurrence of cancer, and for family member, Linda, has an aggressive cancer;
Barry Fury: for neighbor, Lora Lind, recovering from cancer surgery;
Marcia Merse: for husband, George, in hospice care;
Carol Vassil: for niece, Valorie, has breast cancer;
Linda Hellmann: for daughter, Stacy, has breast cancer;
Mike & Donna Young: for neighbor, Jim, who has oral cancer;
Mona Weiner: for family members with health issues;
Bob Doyle: Harriet Rolfes’ husband, has mesothelioma;

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 **Jean Gibbs (513)715-1048 or (513)207-5419 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.

First Presbyterian Church
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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.

