

The Evangel



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2024



“Know Thyself”

“Know thyself.” I remember learning this maxim during one of my philosophy classes in college.¹ It’s pretty good advice, for, after all, if you don’t know who you are, then you don’t know what you need to do to become who you want to be, or who you ought to be! If you don’t know who you are, then you can’t live wisely, because you won’t know how to control your behavior, or what triggers your need to be on your guard for, or any other number of things that we need to know to live well. There’s a reason younger people tend to be more foolish – so many are still figuring out who they are; they’re still in the process of gaining wisdom.

The Bible tells us that *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom* (Proverbs 9:10). In other words, having a proper reverence and awe before God is the starting place for gaining wisdom in life – and if you don’t start with a proper relationship with God, then you’ll never become wise. This fits with what we were talking about earlier, since the Bible also tells us that humankind was created in the Image of God (Genesis 1:27). So, to know ourselves, we first have to know who God is, since we were created in His image. John Calvin, whose theology has helped to form our Reformed and Presbyterian tradition, famously writes that “it is certain that man never achieves a clear knowledge of himself unless he has first looked upon god’s face, and then descends from contemplating him to scrutinizing himself.”² The reason so many people are struggling so mightily in their quest for self-knowledge is that they are looking in all the wrong places – if we just look to God and to His Word, we will learn so much about ourselves!

But besides this, there are some very practical questions we can ask to learn about who we are – for instance, what is it that gets you really worked up? This will tell you a great deal about what is important to you, for good or for ill. In the Book of Jonah, we see the prophet getting really angry because God showed mercy and relented from destroying the people of Nineveh. That exposed an ugly side to Jonah’s heart – his desire for his enemies to be destroyed! (See Jonah 4). Similarly, in the Gospels, we see Jesus weeping over the city of Jerusalem as He looks ahead in history and sees the terrible judgment coming upon the city for its rejection of their Savior (See Luke 19:41-44). Contrary to Jonah, Jesus is heartbroken that Jerusalem will be destroyed; Jonah is angry about the revival that happens while Jesus is heartbroken over the lack of it. Both incidents tell us a lot.

¹I tried to look up who first said this, but the various internet sources I consulted all gave a dizzying number of answers as to who supposedly said this first, from Heraclitus to Socrates, with many others thrown in just to make things difficult. So someone said it a long time ago, and he was probably Greek! And that’s good enough for me.

²John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1.i.1. Published in *The Library of Christian Classics*, vol. XX, ed. By John T. McNeill, trans. by Ford Lewis Battles. (Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1960).

When I was young, whenever I would leave the house, my Dad would say to me “Remember who you are and Whose you are!”³ The older I get, the more I see the wisdom in that saying, for we do remember who we are when we remember whose we are! And the more we know the One to whom we belong, the more wisdom we will have about our identity – about who we are, and about what we need to do to become who He wants us to be. As we learn these things, the more Christ-like we will be – and the more we will be stirred up by the things that stir His heart.

This month, pray that you would grow in your knowledge of God, and in wisdom to know yourself! And as always – to Him alone be the glory!

In Christ’s Love,

Joshua

³My mother would then add, “. . . And act like you know something!” I never actually had to know anything – just to act like I did.

“You can’t access wisdom by the megabyte. Wisdom is concerned with how we relate to people, to the world, and to God.” -Edmund Clowney

Summer Music

Summer time is quickly approaching and that means that our choir will be taking a break. The last date the choir will be singing is June 2nd. That means that Summer music will commence on June 9th.

Please reach out to Beth Snape if you are interested or have any questions. You can find her before church, after church or reach out to her cell, via text or a phone call. (513) 265-8425. Thank you!



Congratulations to those who had perfect or nearly-perfect attendance at the Pastor’s Bible Study for this past school year! Christine Luca had perfect attendance. Linda Pandolph and Debbie McCane missed only one lesson all year. We honor you for your faithfulness! Way to go!



Coffee & Tea With the Pastor

Coffee and Tea with the Pastor: Our next meeting will be on May 8 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 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! If you would be willing to staff the office during her absence, please let Judy know.



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!*

The office will be closed on Monday, May 27 in observance of the Memorial Day holi-



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.

Library News

Puzzles and Prayers will be on hiatus until further notice.

The next Library Book Club will be on July 16, 2024, in the library from 10am to noon. If you have any questions, contact Phyllis Pridemore.



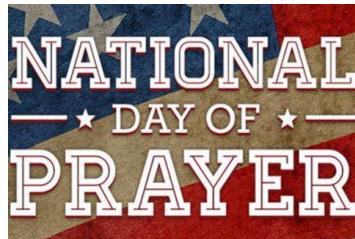
“The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.” -C.S. Lewis

Our Lenten Mission Project

We have currently collected \$3708.90. 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!



Thursday, May 2 is the **National Day of Prayer!** Be sure to set aside some time on that day to pray for our nation!



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. Remember to call your mommy!



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 **Pastor will be on study leave** through 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.

Church Photo Directory



Don't forget your photography session on either May 14 or 15! Questions: see Deanna Jones or Janna Corcoran

Scripture Memorization Continues!

This month's memory verse is "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6, 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
May 12**

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, **May 4** from 11 am – 1 pm 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.

“It is better, much better, to have wisdom and knowledge than gold and silver.” -Proverbs 16:16, NLT

Looking Ahead to...



- * **Choir Appreciation Sunday** and **Graduate Sunday** are June 2. Be sure to join us in worship that day as we say “thank you” to all the musicians who have aided us in worship, and as we pray for and bless our graduates!
- * **A Summer in the Psalms!** Join us throughout the summer as Joshua preaches a second sermon series on the Psalms! (Our first series was during the summer of 2021.) Worship with us each week as we look at the following psalms:
 - * **June 2:** “The Peaceful Fruit of Righteousness” (Psalm 6:1-10; Hebrews 12:3-17)
 - * **June 9:** “Engraved on the Palm of His Hand” (Psalm 13:1-6; Isaiah 49:14-18)
 - * **June 16:** “One Thing” (Psalm 27:1-14; Psalm 84:1-12)
 - * **June 23:** Pastor on Vacation - Guest Preacher
 - * **June 30:** “Defend the Weak” (Psalm 41:1-13; Jeremiah 22:11-17)
- * **Father’s Day** is June 16. Remember to call your Dad - and remember to give thanks and praise to your Father in Heaven!
- * **The pastor will be on vacation** during a week in June (dates to be determined). If you have a pastoral care need during this week, please call the church office and Judy will put you in touch with a local pastor. Watch the bulletin and Evangel for information on who will fill the pulpit for us and for changes in our worship schedule.
- * **Our first summer book study!** This June, we will be studying the book *Just Ask: The Joy of Confident, Bold, Patient, Relentless, Shameless, Dependent, Grateful, Powerful, Expectant Prayer* by J.D. Greear. Copies will be available for free in Faith Hall beginning in late May. Be sure to pick up a copy to read, and then join us in late June (date TBD) in the Conference Room for a lively discussion. All are welcome! If you have any questions, please call the church office.



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 congrega-

tion 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 **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 Fred Hellmann
- 5 Mary Kirschner
- 7 Bob Moul, Rachel Rivera
- 9 Bill Snape Sr.
- 10 Megan Westrich, Barry Longhauser,
- 11 Tamela Hinson
- 12 T.J. Rivera,
- 13 Joan Loos
- 16 Hank Menninger
- 17 Jake Rivera
- 22 Karl Thiele
- 28 Mary Tabor
- 30 Josephine Landfried

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

Monday - Thursday

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

June Evangel Deadline:

May 20 by 12 Noon

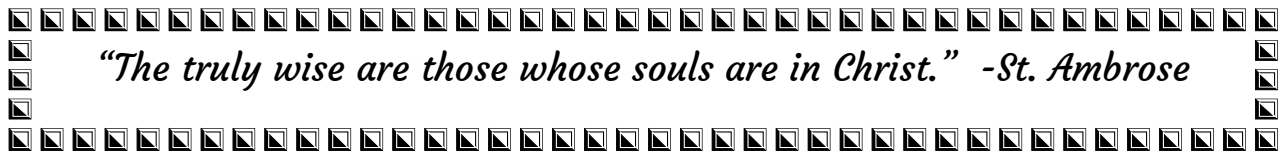
Send all bulletin and Evangel items to Judy at office@harrisonpresbyterian.com, call the office (367-4301) or drop by the office.

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

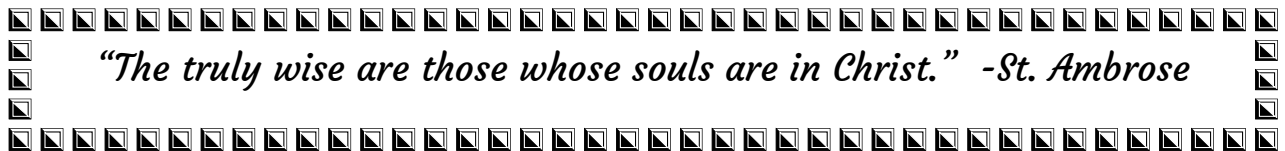


MAY FELLOWSHIP TABLE

- 5 Bountiful Hearts
- 12 Karen Wolff
- 19 Pentecost cake
- 26 Mindy Sindiong



"The truly wise are those whose souls are in Christ." -St. Ambrose





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;
Family of Art Wolfram: grieving his loss;
Lieschen Turchina: recovering from gallbladder surgery;
Nancy Schmidt: recovering at Harrison Trail;

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, receiving cancer treatments;
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;
Family of Valerie Bleser: Mary Tabor’s step-daughter, Valerie diagnosed with cancer and sister has cancer;
Janet Acra: grieving loss of niece, Kelly Jackson;
Pam Fury: prayers for sister, Pat Bentle and family, having heart problems;

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.



Women's Association News

Thursday, May 2 - tram tour of Spring Grove Cemetery. The tour features angels on the tombs. Meet in church parking lot at 9am. Lunch following at Cabana on the River.

Rummage sale made \$2,279.00. Thanks to all who donated stuff, and gave of their time, sorting, pricing, selling and cleaning up.

First Presbyterian Church
115 S. Vine St.
Harrison, OH 45030
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.

