

The Evangel

————— Hebrews 12:1 —————

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us *run with endurance* the race that is set before us...”



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MAY 2025



“Lay It Aside”

In one of his many books, author and pastor Max Lucado tells a story of an “emergency” that happened to his grandson, Max Wesley, who was three years old at the time. It seems that Lucado and his wife, Denalyn, heard Max Wesley’s older sister Rosie yell “Help! It’s an emergency!” one day, and as they went to investigate, they found the two wee tykes playing in the back yard – only Max Wesley was having a problem: he couldn’t stand up! Upon investigation, they found that Max Wesley’s troubles were not due to a fall, an injury, or anything like that. Instead, in the words of his sister Rosie, “He loaded rocks in his pockets. His pants fell down to his ankles. He’s stuck and can’t stand up.”¹ After some discussion between grandfather and grandson, young Max Wesley agreed that he needed help, and as Lucado writes, “He let me help him remove the unnecessary loads one by one, rock by rock, weight by weight. Next thing you know he hitched up his jeans and began to play again.”²

We’ve all been there, haven’t we? Oh, we may not have loaded our pockets down with rocks per se, but we have loaded ourselves down with sins, haven’t we? We’ve gotten ourselves tangled up with lies, loaded down with jealousy, weighed down with anger, or burdened with an out-of-control lust. Or, similarly, we have loaded our lives up with too many possessions, too many appointments on our schedule, too many priorities we are chasing, too much *stuff* in general, that before you know it, we find ourselves overwhelmed, exhausted, ineffective, far from the Lord, and, in general, knocked down on our behind and unable to get up, like young Max Wesley.

So, what do we do? Well, Lucado tells us: we have to get rid of the rocks! The author of Hebrews tells us the same thing: “. . . let us lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith . . .” (Hebrews 12:1b-2a, ESV). I love that image of running a race, and of the things that trip us up and cause us to fall on our face. If you’re wondering what those things are, remember the key piece of information that Hebrews gives us – that Jesus Christ Himself is our goal line, and that He is the prize. Hebrews tells us that we need to *keep our eyes on that prize, to look to Jesus Christ as we are running*. Our goal is to be with Him.

So, what are the things that keep us from being with Jesus? What are those rocks which weigh us down, trip us up, and knock us over? Well, obviously, as Hebrews tells us, *sin* is one

¹Max Lucado, *Stories For Your Soul: Ordinary People, Extraordinary God*. (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2024), 199-200.

²Ibid., 200.

of the things that *clings* to us and weighs us down. We need to lay our sins aside, because the more we choose them, the further we will be from Jesus. Similarly, *worldly cares and desires* keep us from Jesus. Just think – how often have you said that you’re just too busy to pray, too caught up in other things to spend time in Scripture, too occupied with other things to come to worship? There’s nothing wrong with working hard, and there’s nothing wrong with being involved in other activities – but when those things keep us from having a robust relationship with Jesus Christ, then they have become rocks in our pockets, and we need to lay them aside. And Jesus Himself tells us that we must be ruthless sometimes: “If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.” (Matthew 5:29-30, ESV).³

So, this month, what rocks do you need to unload from your pockets? And what do you need to do to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus Christ, the Author and Perfector of our faith? Let’s keep running as we worship and serve Him together – and to Him alone be the glory!

In Christ’s Love,

Joshua

³In case I need to say this: This is a metaphor! Jesus is talking about being adamant in our efforts to root out sin! Please don’t make me visit you in the hospital because you cut off your hand!



Library News

Do you like to READ? Why not check out the Library at our First Presbyterian Church of Harrison. Our library books contain a wide range of topics such as Religion, Biography, and Fiction. There is also a book club which meets quarterly. This is a fun group where individuals select a book from our library to report on. EVERYONE is invited whether you are a reader or not. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 15, at 10am in the library. Contact Phyllis Pridemore if you should have any questions.

**“God is never weary in showing kindness to His people.”
- John Calvin**



Coffee & Tea With the Pastor

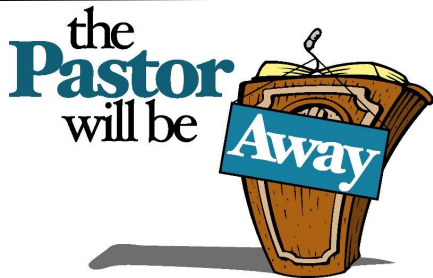
Coffee and Tea with the Pastor: Join us on Wednesday, **May 14** from 2-4pm at the Coffee Peddlar downtown (112 Harrison Avenue) for good conversation, delicious treats, and a chance to ask your pastor (almost) *anything*! We hope to see you there!

The Pastor's Bible Study continues!

Our study of Paul's letter to the Ephesians will wrap up this month. Join us on Mondays at 7pm in the Conference Room for our final lessons for this school year as we dig into God's Word! (NOTE: There is NO Pastor's Bible Study on May 5 or May 26!)



The presbytery will hold its second meeting of the year on Tuesday, May 13 beginning at 6pm at Bethel-Murdoch Presbyterian Church in Murdock, OH. If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact the church office.



The Pastor will be on study leave from Friday, May 2 through Friday, May 9 in Ottawa, IN. 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 join us on Sunday, May 4 as we welcome Rev. Dr. Chuck Testas to our pulpit! (NOTE: there will be NO 8:30 SERVICE that Sunday!)

"The only way to demonstrate that Christianity is the best of all faiths is to prove that it produces the best of all men."

- William Barclay



The Monthly Prayer Focus Continues!

This month, our prayer focus is **the Session**. Let us be sure to keep our elders in prayer as they lead us in our walk with Jesus. Be sure to lift up the following in prayer each day: Mary Craft, Terry Frenz, Judy Gibbs, Tamela Hinson, Doug Jones (Clerk), Sandra McCauley, Rebecca Scherzinger, Jeff Sindiong, and Tom Steuver.

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

YYG will be meeting at 6:00pm in SonRise Hall **May 4th**. Come and join the fun! Any questions, please contact Mary Craft.



Notice: Our May Love Thy Neighbor mission is for **the Miamitown Elementary School Children**. We are looking to collect 100 boxes of cereal. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping the less fortunate in our community.

The Essentials Sermon Series Continues! Join us throughout May as we continue in this series on the things that unite all believers in Jesus Christ - the essentials of our faith!

- **4 May** - Pastor on study leave - Rev. Dr. Chuck Testas preaching
- **11 May (Mother's Day)** - "You are the Body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 12-31) - the Holy Spirit, part two
- **18 May** - "The Just One Justifies" (Romans 3:9-20; 21-26) - Justification
- **25 May** - "Life Through His Spirit" (Romans 8:1-17; 18-30) - Sanctification

This series will conclude in June!

**TWO CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION IS
May 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:

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 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.

"No one ever lost out by excessive devotion to Christ."
- H.A. Ironside

Looking Ahead to...



- **The Essentials Sermon Series Concludes!** Join us each Sunday in June as we wrap up this sermon series!
 - * **1 June** - "The Invisible Church" (Matthew 13:24-35, 36-43) - The Church
 - * **8 June (Pentecost Sunday)** - "The Marks of a True Church" (Acts 2:42-47, Ephesians 4:1-16) - The Church, part two
 - * **15 June (Trinity Sunday, Father's Day)** - "Personally, Visibly, Bodily" (Revelation 20:11-14, 21:1-27) - The Second Coming of Jesus
 - * **22 June** - "Total Committment" (Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 12:9-21) - The Great Commission
- Our Administrative Assistant, **Judy Gibbs**, will be on vacation for two weeks in June, from June 8-21. Watch the bulletin and next month's *Evangel* for more information about how you might be able to help in the office during this time.
- **Pentecost Sunday**, the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit in a new and permanent way, is June 8. Be sure to join us in worship as we give thanks for the gift of God Himself, and as we celebrate this birthday of the Church!
- Sunday, June 15 is **Trinity Sunday**, the day we celebrate the unique three-in-one nature of our God! This day is also **Father's Day**, so be sure to remember to call your pop! We look forward to seeing you in worship with us on this special day!
- **The summer book studies return!** Calling all readers! Join us on Monday, June 23 for the first of our two summer book studies! Book titles will be announced, and free copies will be available for pick-up at the beginning of June.
- Summer time is quickly approaching and that means our choir will be taking a break. The last date the choir will be singing is June 1st. **Summer music** will commence on June 8th. 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. Her number is (513) 265-8425. Thank you!

The office will be closed on Monday, May 26 in honor of **Memorial Day**.



Mother's Day is Sunday, May 11. Remember to call your mommy!





- 4 Fred Hellmann
- 5 Mary Kirschner
- 7 Bob Moul
- 9 Bill Snape Sr.
- 10 Megan Westrich, Barry Longhauser,
- 11 Tamela Hinson
- 13 Joan Loos
- 16 Hank Menninger
- 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 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.



MAY FELLOWSHIP TABLE

- 4 OPEN
- 11 Nancy Platt
- 18 Mindy Sindiong
- 25 Debbie McCane



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.



Rummage Sale

We made \$3996!

Thanks to all who helped.



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 **Mindy Sindiong (513) 235-3778 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.



Senior Saints

Dick Morris **Vivian Talley** Shirley Quinn Sherry Schlager
Fran Myers Joy Riegel Kathryn Pierson Marian Brandenburg

Prayers For Our Church

Our Missionaries: Warmuths, Garrigans & Joneses;

Ed Flick: health issues;

Monthly Prayer Focus: Our senior saints;

Bill Gregg: testing for cancer;

Carol Vassil: has cellulitis;

Ron Beathard: in hospital;

Ongoing Health

Needs

Louanna Smith

JoJean Kleinfeld

Arlene Anderson

Prayers For Others

Deb Menninger: for Joey & Hank's health;

Marilyn Bourquein: for grandson, Kent's health;

Mary Ann Pickens: for her health and brother, Paul's health;

Marcia Merse: for husband, George, under special care at home;

For our loved ones with cancer: Kelly Sebastian, Jenny Swope, Valerie Blesser, Carmen Garrigan, Leigh Ismael, Stacy Eckstein, and Beth Ann Willis;

Kelsey Loos: for brother, Ryan, deployed overseas;

Mary Craft: for her patient, Auggy, is in need of a miracle;

Phyllis Wolfram: for Gloria Minges, health problems;

Lisa Steuver: for co-worker, Judy Roesch, awaiting test results from brain tumor biopsy;

Karen Wolff: for granddaughter, Kenzie, a difficult pregnancy;



Books of the Old Testament

R	A	N	M	X	N	B	L	S	E	L	C	I	N	O	R	H	C	U	J	D	C	R	J	C	V
S	I	H	N	Y	B	O	R	S	C	H	J	S	A	M	U	E	L	W	K	D	S	O	R	A	A
U	H	E	B	M	B	R	O	C	Y	R	S	J	E	A	W	H	A	I	N	A	H	P	E	Z	A
N	K	X	P	O	A	T	Q	L	F	O	Q	X	R	N	U	M	B	E	R	S	T	O	D	Q	T
P	U	O	W	N	Z	R	G	V	Y	S	F	Z	X	E	J	M	E	S	S	S	B	M	N	D	X
F	K	D	F	O	I	A	H	N	S	O	E	E	U	Y	Y	O	I	K	P	A	L	V	J	H	L
N	C	U	A	R	S	G	N	I	K	N	S	E	O	D	R	I	N	T	V	K	Y	U	Z	I	L
Z	U	S	E	E	D	I	J	I	O	G	N	E	F	Y	N	B	S	A	P	F	D	G	S	M	C
J	H	V	M	T	I	K	G	P	L	O	B	L	J	S	T	L	O	M	H	G	Z	R	Q	A	N
K	O	R	Y	U	N	C	W	A	N	F	Y	R	F	I	D	E	R	H	E	U	J	I	D	L	E
I	W	S	L	E	S	K	R	L	A	S	D	H	Y	S	O	V	M	S	C	N	N	N	J	A	H
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W	R	Z	W	U	Q	J	I	T	U	L	H	B	H	N	L	T	H	V	N	A	A	X	L	H	M
Z	U	Q	N	H	A	C	I	M	M	O	S	Z	O	E	T	I	I	G	X	W	I	B	Y	I	I
O	S	R	I	R	Q	B	P	L	L	M	I	C	S	G	J	C	U	Y	L	P	D	M	N	J	A
V	Z	O	M	C	U	Q	E	U	E	O	F	C	E	R	P	U	X	A	R	S	A	K	C	R	H
P	Z	Y	M	J	D	N	S	N	O	N	Q	F	A	G	X	S	M	E	T	J	B	U	O	P	K
G	X	B	K	A	S	L	Y	N	J	W	Y	Z	W	T	C	E	H	O	E	J	O	K	V	P	H
X	A	E	K	M	U	R	S	V	A	E	A	S	E	E	N	T	H	L	M	E	I	K	C	X	A
Z	G	O	L	N	F	K	A	E	B	V	T	P	Z	T	S	F	E	B	S	R	A	A	E	I	I
Y	T	A	V	S	B	R	E	V	O	R	P	E	A	E	N	D	O	D	Y	E	G	B	T	K	R
I	S	T	K	R	X	F	L	B	F	E	K	T	W	R	K	J	C	M	Q	M	G	A	R	A	A
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Q	R	W	I	S	A	I	A	H	E	O	F	P	C	N	J	B	X	E	U	A	H	U	S	C	C
X	D	A	N	I	E	L	V	L	N	C	C	S	A	J	X	B	N	S	O	H	Y	C	B	X	E
G	C	P	E	U	S	E	T	S	A	I	S	E	L	C	C	E	L	P	T	T	Q	I	D	R	Z

Genesis

Deuteronomy

Samuel

Nehemiah

Proverbs

Jeremiah

Hosea

Jonah

Zephaniah

Exodus

Joshua

Kings

Esther

Ecclesiastes

Lamentations

Joel

Micah

Haggai

Leviticus

Judges

Chronicles

Job

Song Of Solomon

Ezekiel

Amos

Nahum

Zechariah

Numbers

Ruth

Ezra

Psalms

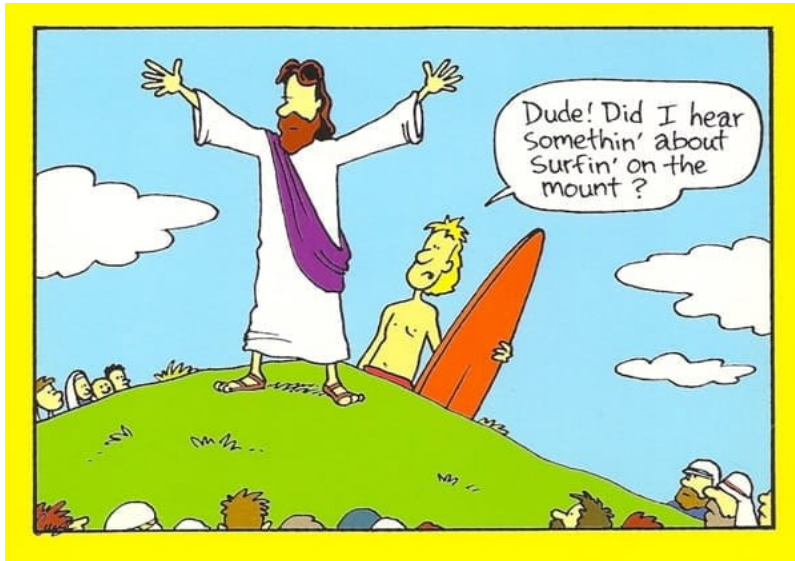
Isaiah

Daniel

Obadiah

Habakkuk

Malachi



“If you were a hundred times worse than you are, your sins would (still) be no match for His mercy.” - Tim Keller



First Presbyterian Church
115 S. Vine St.
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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.

