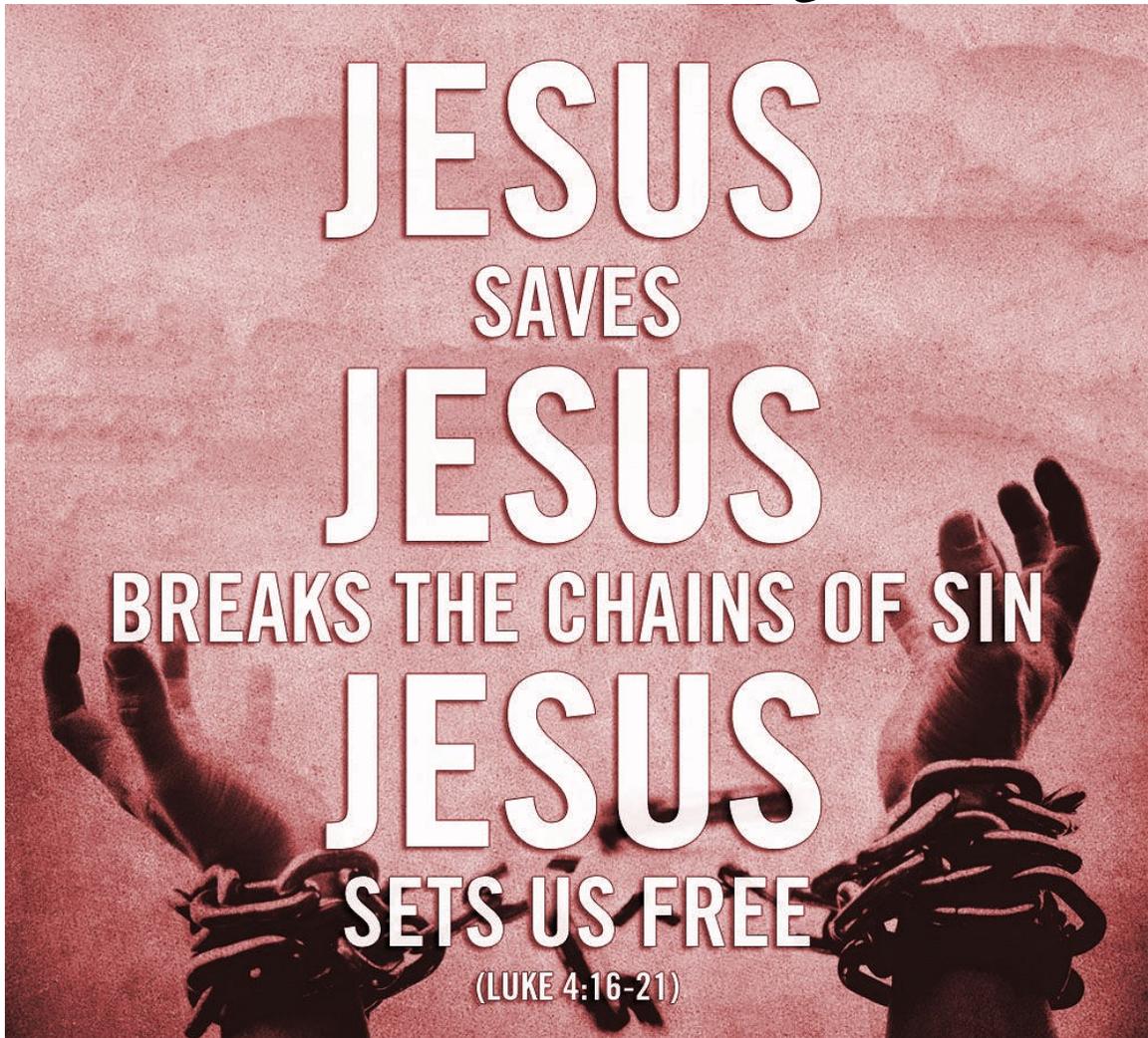


The Evangel



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2026



“It’s Not Fair - And That’s the Point”

It’s a scenario we are all familiar with: your brother or sister makes a mess. They’ve managed to slop their breakfast all over the table, or they’ve left their toys all over the place, or they’ve managed to track mud in all over the floor. And then, Mom says something that makes your blood run cold: *Help your brother* or *Help your sister clean up that mess.*¹

Me?! Help them clean up a mess I didn’t even help to make? *No! I will not help them – because it’s not fair! It’s not my fault that the mess is there – I shouldn’t have to help clean it!* Now, of course, you probably don’t say that *out loud* because Mom usually wasn’t interested in your opinion on the matter. But you sure thought it! And you sure grumbled under your breath. Because it wasn’t fair. And everyone needed to know that!

And that instinct for fairness doesn’t go away once we become adults. Just think about how you would react to the following situations:

- Your boss sends down a memo saying that, from now on, the microwave is going to be removed from the break room because too many employees have complained about people microwaving fish and other noxious foods. So now everyone is going to be punished for bad actions of one or two people.
- A halfway house is going to be built in your neighborhood. People who just got out of prison, or people who are recovering from addiction, are going to be coming back into society in a facility down the street from you – and your property values are probably going to be affected by that.
- Someone in government has mismanaged public funds, so now there is a choice – either some important programs are going to have to be cut, or you are going to have to pay more in taxes to support them.

If your blood pressure went up just reading those examples, might I suggest putting this article down for a minute and doing some deep breathing exercises? Are you feeling better now? Then let’s go on.

Of course, most of those things would make us angry – because, of course, *it’s not fair!* It’s not fair that everyone should lose privileges just because of one bad actor. It’s not fair that your neighborhood’s property values should go down because of the sins and crimes of other people. And ultimately, it’s not fair that people should have to pay for the bad behavior of someone else.

¹I am grateful to the late Timothy Keller for this illustration. He used it in a sermon podcast I listened to recently. Unfortunately, I did not write down the details of that sermon, so I cannot cite it here.
Bad Joshua!

And yet . . . isn't that the very message of this season of Lent? That *someone paid for our bad behavior? That our Lord Jesus Christ paid our debt to sin, that He hung on the cross in our place, that He paid the price we could not pay so that we could be forgiven and freed?* Many times, an instinct for justice and fairness is a good thing. Of course, whenever possible, everyone should be treated according to the same standards. Of course, I should be expected to pay for my own mistakes and not for anyone else's. But as your Mom or Dad probably said to you many times: *sometimes, life isn't fair.* Sometimes, we have to help clean up other people's messes. Sometimes, we have to be willing to bear the burden of others because they can't bear it themselves. And sometimes, Someone comes and pays a debt we cannot pay simply as a free gift, simply by grace, simply because of His great love for us.

And as this season of Lent begins this month, we have forty days to again bask in how incredibly, gloriously *unfair* it is that our Lord Jesus has paid this debt on our behalf! And if we are not willing to accept that unfairness, if we are not willing to receive this tremendous gift of grace, if we instead insist on what is *fair and just*, then what we are insisting upon is nothing less than *eternal hell* for ourselves. Because none of us are able to pay the debt we have accrued for our sins – not one of us is good enough to please God or to earn our way into eternal life with Him. The only way to that eternal glory is through the *utterly unfair, utterly undeserved, utterly by grace alone* gift of Jesus Christ. He freely gives it because He loves us. We must accept it and make it our own!

And with this, *we also must be willing, sometimes, to be gracious and loving to others, and to help them even when it's not fair.* This is what Jesus means when He tells us to “go the extra mile” for people (Matthew 5:41), or to “turn the other cheek” when they sin against us (Matthew 5:39), and to “bear one another's burdens” (Galatians 6:2). In other words, because Jesus has given us this incredible love to us, a love that went all the way to a cross, He now calls us to love each other in the same way (John 13:34-35). If we object, if we say *well, they got themselves into that mess, and they can just get themselves out of it*, then what we are really saying is *I want grace for me and justice for everyone else.* And that's not how this works!

This month, meditate upon the incredibly gracious love of Jesus Christ for us, and in your prayers, ask Him: *how can I show this same unfair love for others this month?* And as you do, and as always – to Him alone be the glory!

In Christ's Love,

Joshua

Our New Website!

Make sure to check out our new website! The address is the same www.harrisonpresbyterian.com, but it is much easier to navigate and use.



Coffee & Tea With the Pastor



Come Ask your Pastor Anything! Do you have questions about the Bible or about some aspect of the Christian faith? Do you want to discuss something going on in the church or something from Sunday's sermon? Come join us at Coffee and Tea with the Pastor on Wednesday, February 18 at the Coffee Peddler in downtown Harrison (112 Market Street). We meet every third Wednesday from 2-4pm (you are welcome for all of that time, or come and go for a portion of it!) Come join us for fellowship, good discussion, and delicious caffeinated beverages! All are welcome!

Our February Memory Verse!

This month, we are together working on committing this wonderful verse to memory:
"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another." -1 John 4:11 (ESV)

Join us for Scout Sunday! Yet again, our wonderful Scouts will be helping us lead worship on Scout Sunday this year. Be sure to join us at 10:45 on Sunday, February 8 so you can be blessed by their time with us! All are welcome.



The Presbytery of the Midwest will have its first meeting of the year here in the Cincinnati area! Our new presbytery will be meeting at Christ Covenant Church (2191 Struble Road, Cincinnati) on Friday, February 6 and Saturday, February 7. If you would like to join our representatives at this meeting, please contact a member of Session. This would be a great way to see all the exciting things our new denomination is doing! We hope to see you there!



Updated Information

Karl & Kay Thiele:
kthiele1496@gmail.com

Mary Craft:
majocraft12@gmail.com

Gene Troy: gtroy2025@gmail.com
& (513) 788-7662

"There is nothing but God's grace. We walk upon it; we breathe it; we live and die by it; it makes the nails and axels of the Universe." -Robert Louis Stevenson



The Pastor's Bible Study Continues!

Every one of us, no matter who we are, has a need to grow in our knowledge and understanding of God's Word - so why not take the opportunity to grow together with your fellow church members and friends? Join us every Monday night at 7pm in the Conference Room as we finish 2 Thessalonians and begin 1 Timothy! This is a relaxed, informative study that includes brand-new Bible students and those who have studied God's Word all their lives - all are welcome! We hope to see you there!



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!

Ash Wednesday is February 18! This year, we will again join with our brothers and sisters from Providence Presbyterian Church in Bright for a worship service at 7pm at Providence. The imposition of ashes will be offered. Join us as we begin our 40-day journey to again praise God for all He did for us on Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday.



The Season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and continues throughout the rest of February and March. This season, as you prepare again to celebrate our Lord's saving work on the cross and at the empty tomb, be sure to pick up our special Lenten devotions to help you in the preparation. We will again offer a free devotional and a free bookmark with Scripture readings for each day of Lent. If you have any questions, please contact the church office!



The Soup-er Bowl continues!

The Bengals may not have made it to the actual Super Bowl this year, but we can still celebrate with a SOUP-er Bowl here in Harrison! Yet again, we will be collecting cans of soup up through Sunday, February 8 for Christ's Loving Hands to re-stock the shelves of our local food pantries. Food donations are usually down during this time of the year, so this is a great way we can help local folks who are in need. Last year we collected over 1,100 cans of soup (a record setting number) - do you think we can beat that this year?



Lenten Sermon Series! This Lent, our pastor will be preaching through a sampling of the “one another” passages in Scripture - where we are commanded to do something each for the other as an expression of our love for Jesus Christ and for each other. Join us in worship for the following sermons in February and March:

- **22 February:** “Submit to One Another” (Ephesians 5:15-33; Philippians 2:1-11)
- **1 March:** “Don’t Bite One Another” (Galatians 5:13-15; Colossians 3:12-17)
- **8 March:** “Live in Harmony with One Another” (Romans 12:9-21; 1 Peter 4:7-11)
- **15 March:** “Stir One Another Up to Love and Good Works” (1 Thessalonians 5:8-11; Hebrews 10:19-25)
- **22 March:** “Bear One Another’s Burdens” (Galatians 6:1-5; James 5:16)
- **29 March (Palm Sunday):** “Love One Another” (John 13:1-20, 31-35)

Pastor is on Vacation



The pastor will be on vacation from Monday, February 9 - Sunday, February 15. If you have a pastoral care need during this time, please contact the church office, and Judy will put you in contact with a local pastor. Please note: there will be **NO PASTOR’S BIBLE STUDY** on Monday, February 9, and **NO 8:30 SERVICE** on Sunday, February 15. But please join us at 10:45 as the Rev. Dr. Tim McQuade again fills the pulpit for us!

Westminster Sunday School Class

There will be a new Sunday School class starting on February 22, 2026. Called the Westminster Sunday School Class, it will be a detailed discussion class going over the Westminster Confessions, Larger Catechism and Bible references. This class will be held in the classroom on the 2nd floor across from the Music Room at 9:30am. If you are interested in discovering and discussing more about what, why and where the Westminster Confessions and Catechism came from in the Bible, please join this new adult Sunday school class. We will be doing an in-depth discovery and discussion. If you have any questions, contact Mindy Sindiong.

Library News



If you haven't visited our library, winter is the best time to check it out and pick up a book or two. There are approximately 5000 books, covering various topics. Last year alone, 20 new books were added! Plus, by chance, you may meet Library Helper Linda Lehrter! She is a Harrison library retiree and is actively reconciling the card catalog!! Also, we have an active Book Club that meets once a quarter with the next club meeting to be held in April. Come join the fun! Phyllis or Linda are willing to help with any questions or more library information.

Our Lenten Mission Project

This Lent, the Missions Committee is challenging our congregation to support an exciting mission cause - **Wycliffe Bible Translators**. WBT is named for John Wycliffe, who is credited as the first person to translate the Bible into English, and is continuing in that work by striving to translate the Bible into every known spoken or signed language in the world. To that end, WBT is currently engaged in projects in 2,918 languages; they support 2,747 staff in 65 different countries. \$35 supports the translation of 1 verse of the Bible in a new language - therefore, in addition to committing to pray for WBT's missionaries, translators and their work in general, we are also hoping to raise at least \$2,500, which would cover translation of the Book of Joel (73 verses) in a new language. If we are able to raise \$3,000, that would cover translation of the Book of Ruth (85 verses) or the Book of 2 Timothy (83 verses). Will you prayerfully consider how you can support us in this worthy project? Thank you!

We Need Your Help!

The vast majority of the work done in our church is done by our Session committees. Of course, we hope that everyone is including these committees in your regular prayers! But in this new year, would you also prayerfully consider joining one or more of these committees to help us with that work?

The Worship & Music Committee oversees all matters concerning the worship services and our music program. They meet the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 6pm in the library. This year, the co-chairs are Tom Steuver and Terry Frenz.

The Christian Education Committee oversees all matters concerning our congregation's spiritual growth, both for adults and for our young people (eg., Sunday School, Bible Study, Youth Group, Inquirer's Classes, etc.) They meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6pm in the classroom across from our pantry. This year, Becky Hayes-Heckman and Rebecca Scherzinger are co-chairs.

The Outreach Committee oversees all evangelism, advertising, and other reaching-out or welcoming types of ministries. They usually meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 5:30pm in the library, although sometimes this meeting does get moved. This year, Jeff Anders and Jeff Sindiong are co-chairs.

The SPA (Stewardship, Personnel & Administration) Committee oversees everything related to our church finances, as well as the administration of the church office and oversight of our non-ordained staff. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the library. This year, Sandra McCauley is our chairperson.

The Missions Committee oversees all the mission work of our congregation, including our Bountiful Hearts meal, the support of our missionaries, and all other work for the poor, the needy and the lost. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the Parlor. This year, Tamela Hinson is our chairperson,

The Facilities Committee oversees the maintenance and upkeep of our building and grounds. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6pm in the Facilities Office (though this day/date may change soon). This year, Doug Jones is our chairperson.

If you would like to get involved with one or more of these committees, please contact the committee chairperson for more information - or just show up for a meeting! Thank you for your support!

**TWO CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION IS
February 8**

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, **February 7** 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.

“I am not what I ought to be; I am not what I wish to be; I am not what I hope to be; but by the grace of God, I am what I am.” - John Newton

Looking Ahead to...

- **Our Prayer Vigil returns!** Once again, we will be holding a **12-Hour Prayer Vigil** here in our chapel to mark the World Day of Prayer. Be sure to sign up for a half-hour time slot (or more!) on Friday, March 6. We hope to have someone from the church praying here for twelve straight hours, from 6:30am to 6:30pm. Our sign-up sheet will be available in the office or in Faith Hall in late February. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.
- **Daylight Saving Time begins** at 2:00am on Sunday, March 8. Be sure to “spring forward” an hour, or you will be late to Sunday School and worship that day!
- **Palm Sunday** is March 29. Be sure to join us that day in worship as we wave our palms and sing “Hosanna” to our King of kings!



The **giving statements for 2025** will be available by January 31, 2026. They will be available to pick up in Faith Hall on February 1st.

END OF YEAR
GIVING
STATEMENTS



The Inquirer's Class is starting! If you're interested in learning more about church membership, this is the class for you! The class is designed to help people explore their faith, learn about Harrison First Presbyterian as well as the EPC our congregation recently joined, discover their Spiritual Gifts, and learn the next steps in becoming members. These are all Thursday evening dates and go from 7pm to 8:30pm.

We will meet in the church library. **February 12th, 19th, 26th and March 5th.**

If you have questions or are interested in attending, please let Sean McCauley know by either email (seanm647@gmail.com) or text (513-702-4345).

Young Youth Group

Come and join us on February 8th and March 8th as we explore our faith. If you have any questions, contact Mary Craft.



“Grace is love that stoops and rescues.” - John Stott



- 2 Sherry Caito, Walt Rueger
- 6 Audrey Hasenohr
- 8 Pam Fury
- 16 Tom Snape
- 19 Vivian Talley
- 20 Reta Crone
- 27 Marilyn Bourquein, Susie Palmer
- 28 Diane Arel, Mary Craft,
Linda Hellmann

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

Monday - Thursday

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

March Evangel Deadline:

February 16 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

- 1 Open**
- 8 Mindy Sindiong**
- 15 Debbie McCane**
- 22 Open**



Dear First Presbyterian Church of Harrison,

What a blessing it was to have a place like yours to call home within the chaos of college. I am beyond grateful to say that my faith wouldn't have grown anywhere near as much as it has without this church and the people in it. The congregation always welcomed me with open arms and joyful hearts and showed me firsthand why community is so important in Christian life. You all have given me the greatest gift of all which is knowing and believing in our savior, Jesus Christ. What I learned here gave me the strength and boldness to pursue Christ at school which has set me up for success for the rest of my life. So thank you to each and every person who makes this church a church. You all truly reveal the character of Christ simply by living and loving the Father in such a profound way.

Love, Jenna Walton

P.S. (And thank you for my beautiful picture!!)



Online Giving is available for First Presbyterian Church. The account is on our website: harrisonpresbyterian.com at the GIVE NOW button. This is the new QR Code.



WE'RE CLOSED Due to Weather

Look for Worship and Sunday School cancellations and delays at the following TV channels & websites. You can also check the Church's Facebook page for updates.

- * WCPO—Channel 9
www.wcpo.com/closingsadmin
- * WKRC—Channel 12
www.schoolwatch.com
- * WXIX—Channel 19
www.fox19.com

GOD'S
RICHES
AT
CHRIST'S
EXPENSE
- Author Unknown



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LOVE THY NEIGHBOR



Notice: Our February/March Love Thy Neighbor mission is for **Christ's Loving Hands**. Items needed are: canned fruit (pineapple, mandarin oranges, peaches, pears), refried beans, ketchup, mustard, mayo, ranch dressing, barbecue sauce, small jars of peanut butter, cups of Chef Boyardee beef ravioli, Hamburger Helper cups, Campbell soup cups, Spaghetti O's, Maruchan instant lunch chicken flavored ramen cups. I want to stress that the last items should be **individual cups**, as children take these for lunches and snacks. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping the poor and lost in our community.

CHRIST COVENANT MEN'S RETREAT

*Join Christ Covenant Church for a Weekend
Retreat about becoming Men of Virtue*

Speaker: Chris Voltz



FRI AND SAT, FEBRUARY 13-14

5:00 PM FRI- 2:00 PM SAT

3820 LOGAN CREEK LN, WEST HARRISON

Chris Voltz was an associate pastor at a church in Dayton, OH, for ten years before founding the disciple making ministry, "For Dayton." He will be sharing about becoming men of virtue, looking at Hebrews 13:1-6.



★ <https://christcovcincy.org/ministries/mens-discipleship/>



Senior Saints

Vivian Talley Shirley Quinn Sherry Schlager
Fran Myers Joy Riegel **Marian Brandenburg**

Prayers For Our Church

Our Missionaries: Warmuths, Garrigans & Joneses;
Karen Wolff: possible knee surgery;
Pam Biddle: undergoing radiation therapy;
Family of Terry Jackman: grieving his loss;
Anna Scherzinger: is home now;
Marian Brandenburg: in hospice care;
Foster Harris: recovering at home;
Family of Kathryn Pierson: grieving her loss;
Janet Walton: for safe travels and for her mom, recovering from the flu;
Arlene Brackett: fell, dislocated shoulder and doing physical therapy;
Family of Dick Morris: grieving his loss;

Prayers For Others

Deb Menninger: for Joey and Hank's health;
Marilyn Bourquein: for grandson, Kent's health;
Mary Ann Pickens: for her mental health and for brother, Paul's health;
Marcia Merse: for husband, George, under special care at home;
For our loved ones with cancer: Kelly Sebastian, Linda Schmidt, Jenny Lehmann, Rob Parsons, June Tucker, Carol Scott, Joy Benson McAdams and Beth Ann Willis;
Julie Dills: for friend, Sandra Jones, recovering from back surgery;
Lana Bybee: for brother, Ray Shearer, has circulation problems;
Joshua Long: for friend, Melody, recovering from back surgery;
Mindy Sindiong: for niece, Elizabeth, admitted to hospital with severe migraine;
Pam Mains: for cousin, has a fractured neck and now has a feeding tube;

Ongoing Health

Needs

Louanna Smith
JoJean Kleinfeld
Arlene Anderson
Pam Mains
Anne Troy
Pam Biddle



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.



Women's Association Meeting

Our next meeting is Thursday, February 5 at noon in the Conference room.
Discussion on kitchen clean-up and Rummage Sale.



My
Heart
belongs to
Jesus

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.

