

The Evangel



THE STEADFAST LOVE OF
THE LORD NEVER
CEASES, HIS MERCIES
NEVER COME TO AN
END; THEY ARE NEW
EVERY MORNING;
GREAT IS YOUR

Faithfulness.

-LAMENTATIONS 3:22-23 NRSV

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2026



“Compassion and Contentment”

It’s a new year – can you believe it? I’m still trying to wrap my mind around the idea that it’s the Year of our Lord 2026.

I know for some, a new year just brings a new set of anxieties. This year, will I have enough time to do all the things I want to get done? This year, will I have enough energy to manage all the responsibilities I have, especially now that I am going to be a year older? This year, will I have enough resources, especially as things continue to get more expensive? I’m feeling anxious even as I type these sentences!

And yet, in this new year, we have Good News – the same Good News that carried us through the Year of our Lord 2025: the same God who sits on the throne of the universe continues to sit on that throne *and will always sit on that throne!* Moreover, that God *loves us* – He *so loves us* that He gave His one and only Son to live and to die for us. Hallelujah!

Moreover, this God *grants us new mercies each morning!* Jeremiah tells us in Lamentations: “The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness!” (Lamentations 3:22-23, ESV) Here’s what author and pastor Louie Giglio has to say about this:

*Imagine how you would feel if you woke up each morning and your first thought was, **I have new mercies for today!** And not just new mercies, but the specifically tailored-for-today mercies. Well, that’s your reality! You have daily mercies – strength when you feel weak, hope when you feel downcast, love when you feel unworthy – handcrafted for every hurdle and hardship you will face today.¹*

And beyond this, we don’t just have daily mercies – we also have daily provision! Jesus commanded us to pray for our *daily bread*. My friends, He wouldn’t have commanded us to pray that unless He planned to answer that prayer and to give us *daily bread – the bread, the provision, the energy and resources we need for each day!* What Good News!²

What if, each day of this new Year of Our Lord 2026 we remembered this Good News – that we have daily mercies and daily bread? That we have compassion and contentment from God?

¹Louie Giglio, *Grace & Glory: 365 Devotions for a Life Transformed by Jesus*. (Nashville: Passion Publishing, 2024), devotion for November 1.

²Ibid.

That we have all we need for that particular day?³ Would not that Good News of *God With Us*, of *God's Steadfast Love*, *God's New Morning Mercies*, *God's Daily Bread Provision* – would it not cancel out our anxieties? Would it not enable us to live each day stronger, more faithful, holier, more joyful? My friends, let's join together in this new year to claim this compassion and contentment for ourselves each day! Let's not rob ourselves of these blessings that God wants to give to us in the days to come. Write a reminder and put it in your Bible, put it by your phone, put it on the bathroom mirror, or someplace you will see it each morning so you can remember to give thanks for God's fresh new mercies and His daily provision. For He is good – and His love endures forever! Hallelujah!

To Him alone be the glory!

In Christ's Love,

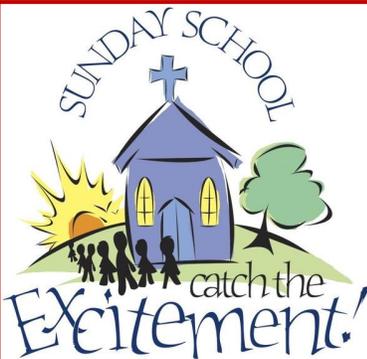
Joshua

³Ibid.



Library News

Our Library Book Club will be held on Tuesday, January 20th from 10am to noon. Hope you are able to pick out a book from our Library and join in the fun. Any questions, please contact Phyllis Pridemore.



We will begin a new study titled, "Everyday Revolutionary" by Pastor and Bible teacher J. D. Greear. Tired of being a pawn in the culture war? Feeling squeezed between political and theological extremes? How do we live faithfully when we don't feel at home in this increasingly secular culture? During this study, we will discover what it means to "live quietly" in this world while "testifying loudly" for Christ - whether that is in your workplace, children's school, neighborhood, or on social media. We will discover how to live as an exile in today's Babylon. Our class meets each Sunday at 9:30am (we begin after the early service ends) in the Conference Room. Questions? Contact Sean McCauley (seanm647@gmail.com).



Coffee & Tea With the Pastor

Coffee and Tea with the Pastor Continues on Its New Day! Coffee and Tea with the Pastor has moved now to the *third* Wednesday of each month - so join us on Wednesday, **January 21** from 2-4pm at the Coffee Peddler downtown (112 Harrison Avenue). We meet from 2pm - 4pm (you are welcome for all of that time, or can come and go for a portion of it!) when we will enjoy fellowship, good discussion, and delicious caffeinated beverages! All are welcome!



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!

A Return of our Monthly Memory Verses!

This year, we will again take up a monthly memory verse which we will learn together in worship. In January, we will be learning the following verse: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, ESV).



Epiphany Sunday is January 4. Join us in worship as we remember the coming of the Magi to worship Jesus. All are welcome!

Necrology Sunday is January 11. Be sure to come worship with us as we remember those from our number who went to their eternal reward in 2025. See you there!



"God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

- John Piper



The Pastor's Bible Study Continues!

Studying God's Word is one of the most important –and most valuable!- things we do together as a congregation. It doesn't matter if you've got the whole Bible memorized, or if you are opening it for the first time - plan now to join us every Monday at 7pm in the Conference Room. This month, we are continuing with our study of Paul's letters to the Thessalonians. Our lessons are relaxed and (hopefully!) informative –and quite often, we have tasty treats to share! All are welcome.

Congregational Meeting

We will have a **congregational meeting** on Sunday, January 25 after the 10:45 service for the purpose of approving the pastor's terms of call, electing the 2026 Nominating Committee, receiving the 2026 budget, and receiving the 2025 Annual Report. Watch this space and the bulletin for more information! All active members are encouraged to attend.



Now that we have completed our journey into the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, be sure to join us for our pastor's **Installation Service**, and a **Celebration** to follow! On Sunday, January 18 at the 10:45 service, Joshua will be installed (again!) as pastor of our church during the 10:45 service. (Note: there will be NO 8:30 SERVICE that day!) Following the service, we will then have a celebration in SonRise Hall with a delicious meal. More details to follow! If you have any questions, please contact the church office. See you there!

The Soup-er Bowl returns!

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 restock 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?



**TWO CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION IS
January 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



**Church
Secretary**



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, **January 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.

“The secret of contentment is the realization that life is a gift, not a right.” - Author Unknown

Looking Ahead to...



- **The Soup-er Bowl** collection comes to an end on Sunday, February 8. Make sure you have your cans of soup in to the church by that date so we can deliver them to Christ's Loving Hands! Thank you for your generosity!
- **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 any or all of 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!
- **The pastor will be on vacation** for a week in February. Watch the bulletin and Evangel for more information.
- **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. Join us in worship each Sunday as we look at some of the "one another" passages in Scripture - how we are commanded to "love one another", "confess our sins to one another", "pray for one another", and my favorite, "don't bite, devour, or consume one another", among others. Also, this season, be sure to pick up our special Lenten devotions so you can prepare yourself again for the Good News of the cross and the empty tomb. If you have any questions, please contact the church office!

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



Weekly Offering

Your new 2026 **Offering Labels** were available for pick-up starting at the end of December. If you are unable to pick up your new labels, please contact the church office to make other arrangements.

Young Youth Group

Come and join us on January 11th, February 8th and March 8th as we explore our faith. If you have any questions, contact Mary Craft.



“Contentment makes poor men rich; discontent makes rich men poor.” - Benjamin Franklin



Inquirer's Class

A new inquirer’s class will be starting early next year, and we are looking to see who is interested in learning more about becoming a member of Harrison First Presbyterian Church. During the class, we will explore such topics as the history of the Presbyterian Church, our mission, spiritual gifts, our individual faith journeys, and what it means to be a member of Harrison First and the EPC. If you are interested or just have questions about the class itself, contact Sean McCauley at seanm647@gmail.com.





Online Giving is available for First Presbyterian Church. Since our original giving platform was through PC(USA), we have developed a new online giving account. The new account is on our website: harrisonpresbyterian.com at the GIVE NOW button. The new QR Code is below.



If you have been giving through the original online giving platform you need to IMMEDIATELY switch to the new online giving platform. Erwin J. Hein (513-608-1090) will walk you through the steps to cancel your giving under the original platform and to input your giving on the new online giving account.

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

The office will be closed on January 1 in honor of the New Year's Holiday.



Missions and the Siberian Tatars

The EPC challenged each presbytery to choose a group around the world to take under their wing and spread the Word of God too. The Midwest Presbytery, which we will belong to, chose the Siberian Tatars and they are translating the Bible into their language and bringing Jesus to them. The Presbytery has asked each congregation to donate \$600 per year to this worthwhile cause. The Missions Committee is excited to support this evangelistic effort and we donated \$500 this year. We can't wait to see what happens in the new year. If you would like more information on this worthy effort, please talk to a member of the Missions Committee!



- 4 Foster Harris
- 5 Jo-Jean Kleinfeld, Evan Kessler
- 7 Belinda Moul, Abby Willman
- 14 Dick LePere
- 16 Elizabeth Landfried
- 17 Chris Hellmann
- 19 Tracy Anders
- 20 Jim Trabel, Patty Kelley
- 25 Louanna Smith
- 27 Marcia Merse
- 31 Greg Bybee, Sandra McCauley,
Clara Hayes

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

Monday - Thursday

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

February Evangel Deadline:

January 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.



JANUARY FELLOWSHIP TABLE

- 4 OPEN
- 11 Pam Fury
- 18 OPEN
- 25 OPEN

**“Next to faith this is the highest art - to be content with the calling
in which God has placed you. I have not learned it yet.”
- Martin Luther**

New Addresses

Joan Loos: 6109A Johnson Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45247
cellphone (513) 607-9028 no landline or email

Gene & Anne Troy: 10460 Progress Way, Rm #810, Harrison, OH 45030
Harrison Trail Health Campus cellphone (513)386-8082 Send mail to Anne c/o Gene per the
above address.

Dr. Richard Morris: 5209 South Ridge Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45224 (513)853-2369.



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;
Marian Brandenburg: recovering at Shawnee;
Karen Wolff: possible knee surgery;
Debbie Tenhover: has diverticulitis;

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, Carol Elkins, Linda Schmidt, Jenny Lehmann, Rob Parsons, June Tucker, Carol Scott, Joy Benson McAdams and Beth Ann Willis;
Mary Craft: for friend, Barbie and her husband, she has breast cancer;
Debbie McCane: for brother, Mike, recovering from hip surgery and has Dementia and for Birdie McCane’s sister, Karen, diagnosed with breast cancer;
Christine Luca: for friend, Larry Jester, has cellulitis in lower legs;
Peggy Roudebush: for Chase Hartung, in Children’s Hospital with cancer;

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.

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.

