

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

May 2, 2021                      5th Sunday of Easter                      10:00 AM

**PRELUDE**                      *Come, Ye Thankful People Come*                      Mark Hayes

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE & POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS**

*Worship is marked by lighting the Christ candle, a reminder that Christ is present among us. The pouring of the water reminds us that in baptism we are cleansed, delivered, raised, forgiven, reborn, anointed, restored, and strengthened for a life of faith.*

**INTROIT**                      *Come Inside*                      Don Besig

**CALL TO WORSHIP**                      Liturgist: Abraham Roos

Leader: Today is a new day!

**People:** **New life is rising among us!**

Leader: Today we are challenged to live fully in God's love!

**People:** **So we will greet one another in love and praise the God who uplifts each of us in grace!**

**All:** **Alleluia! Amen!**

**\*HYMN #327**                      *From All That Dwell Below the Skies*                      Lass tuns erfreuen

**CALL TO CONFESSION:**

Leader: Come one and all. Come and admit our flaws, our honest shortcomings, our sin for Christ welcomes all to a full relationship with Him. Come rejoicing in our forgiveness.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

Gracious God, Healer of all relationships, we admit that we have no loved You or our neighbors as you command. Because of where we live or what we do, we begin to think we are better than others. How subtly we look down on persons who are a different color or race or sexual orientation or belief. We find it easy to like people similar to us and to turn away from those who are not like us. As we muffle Your commandment which challenges our comfort and prejudice, we fall into spiritual peril. Forgive us, O God; teach us the liberating power of genuine love.

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Leader: Have you not heard, did you not know that we are forgiven?

**People:** **That is such wonderful news! It's almost too Good to be true!**

Leader: Live and believe that love wins, that all is forgiven! That we have a new life to live!

**People:** **Thanks be to God for our love and life and our forgiveness.**

**All:** **Hallelujah!**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

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*Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah! Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!  
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah! Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**A MOMENT FOR EDUCATION**

**ANTHEM**                      *River in Judea*                      John Leavitt

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**                      Acts 8:26-40

**SERMON**                      *Why Shouldn't I be Baptized?*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)**                      *(From: A Brief Statement of Faith)*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live in one community.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the Covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER ("debts")**

**OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS**

Offertory

\*Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;*

*Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Prayer of Dedication

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Elements

Prayer

**\*HYMN #300**                      *They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*                      Scholtes

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**                      *Closing Prayer*                      Don Besig

**POSTLUDE**

**Today's Prayers:** Pam & Stewart Orr family, Carol Lashuay, Ron Stout, Judy Sanderson, Annie Titus (Ann's granddaughter), Carol Wilson's son (Rob), Abe Conde, Marsha Foster, Mary Frances Moss, Jason Sybert, along with all those on the front line sacrificing so much for the rest of us, all teachers, all victims of abuse, racial inequalities, all those adversely affected by the Covid-19 and for our nation.

**STAFF MEMBERS**

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**"A More Light Church"**

We Believe in a God of Abundance

**We believe God is bigger than we could ever imagine. We**

**are all created in the image of a God of abundance, of limitless possibilities and expansion.** We strive to live out God's call of welcome to all of God's beloved children (and we mean ALL). No matter where you find yourself on your walk of faith, you are welcome here! Single, married, divorced, widowed, of all racial and ethnic identities, of all sexual orientations and gender identities, (LGBTQIA+) conservative, liberal, progressive, or apolitical: you are welcome here!

One parishioner shared, "Life leads us in interesting directions; God led me to FPC in BG. The church family is my refuge, my base, my strength. The Bible-based theology challenges me to help build God's inclusive world. This church family inspires me with its sense of mission in the community and world."

Christ welcomes all! All are welcome here!

# First Presbyterian Church

A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
126 S. Church St., Bowling Green, OH 43402



***Why Shouldn't I be Baptized?***

**May 2, 2021**

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**Webpage: [www.firstpresbyterianbg.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianbg.org)**



## Worship Overview – April-May 2021

Join us each **Wednesday evening at 5:30** for lectionary Bible Study on Zoom and then join us each **Sunday on Facebook Live at 10 am** for worship.

### **6th Sunday of Easter, May 9**    *My Mother's Table - Mother's Day*    **Acts 11:1-18**

When we pick up our story in the Holy Bible, Peter has some explaining to do. Peter, this good Jew who kept kosher law all his life was now visiting with “those other people,” “the unclean,” “the forbidden ones,” “the Gentiles.” He wasn't only visiting with them, he was eating with them! Scandal of all scandals! So, Peter has some explaining to do but instead of arguing with their accusations, he tells them his story. Peter is moved by his dream which opens to door to fellowship and community beyond the Jews. Hear how Peter's dream opens the doors to you and me.

### **7th Sunday of Easter, May 16**    *Matthias' Mantle*    **Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

Peter boldly addresses the 120 gathered after the resurrection without excuse or a cover-up said, “One of our own, who shared in our ministry betrayed our Lord and is now gone. We need someone to replace him, who should that be?” They came up with the sole criteria that this person be one who had been with them from the beginning. As we, at FPC BG, look for volunteers, helpers, committee members, leaders, what do we look for? What is the criteria to serve Jesus Christ?

### **May 23 - Pentecost**    *New Life in the Spirit*    **John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15**

Pentecost is messy business for us Presbyterians. Pentecost means that we are not in control. Pentecost provides us “decently and in order” folks a time to squirm in our seats and be moved by something other than “what is proper and socially acceptable.” It is problematic for us refined, intelligent, God-fearing, logical Presbyterians. Friends of the social order and proper etiquette, beware! The story of Pentecost is the story of God cutting loose demonstrating God's involvement and God's will with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



## Week of May 2 thru May 9

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>Refreshment Table/Say “thank-you” to Choral Scholars</b>
	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Deacons' meeting in the parking lot or F.H.</b>
	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Confirmation Class &amp; Mentors in the F.H.</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lectionary Study via Zoom</b>
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Mission meeting via Zoom</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Red Cross Training in the F.H.</b>
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service/Grand “Re-Opening”</b>

Drop by the refreshment table after worship today and give a word (or a gift) of appreciation to our four talented choir members who are all leaving us for bright futures. All four are graduating from BGSU. **Thank you: Christina Csernyik, Soprano; Hannah Salo, Alto, Brock Burkett, Tenor, Abraham Roos, Bass.**

**Today at 11:30 the Deacons** will be holding their monthly meeting in the parking lot.

**Today at 1 p.m.** the Confirmation Class and their mentors will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall.



**Maintaining Safe Distancing in the Sanctuary** - Welcome back to the sanctuary and thank you for masking up and maintaining safe social distancing. Even though many of us are vaccinated, there may still be vulnerable friends with us today. Please respect the ushers directions and limit your movement around the sanctuary. To encourage distancing while exiting the sanctuary at the end of the service, we ask that you stay in your seat until an usher releases your row. A controlled exit will help us space out and keep everyone safe.

**Changes to Service** - A few changes are necessary for the worship service. Singing will be limited to designated soloists or prearranged groups. The offering plate will not be passed, but will be available before and after service for your offering. Social distancing will limit the sharing of the peace to waving and speaking to friends across pews. We ask that people do not move around the sanctuary to greet and visit with friends.



## ***From All That Dwell Below the Skies***

1. From all that dwell below the skies let the Creator's praise arise:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Let the Redeemer's name be sung through every land,  
in every tongue. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
2. In every land begin the song; to every land the strains belong:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! In cheerful sound all voices raise and fill the  
world with joyful praise. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
3. Eternal are thy mercies, Lord; eternal truth attends thy word:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
till suns shall rise and set no more. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

## ***They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love***

1. We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord; we are one in the Spirit;  
we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all unity may one day be restored:

**Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.**

2. We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand; we will walk with  
each other; we will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news  
that God is in our land: **Refrain.**
3. We will work with each other; we will work side by side; we will work with  
each other; we will work side by side, and we'll guard human dignity and  
save human pride: **Refrain.**
4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, and all praise to  
Christ Jesus, God's only Son, and all praise to the Spirit,  
who makes us one: **Refrain.**

## **First Presbyterian Church of Bowling Green**

**is proud to be a part of this year's NAMI Walk!**



NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness. NAMI Walks promotes awareness of mental health, raises funds for NAMI's free, top-rated programs, and builds community by letting people know they are not alone.

Members of our congregation aim to meet at **Simpson Garden Park in Bowling Green at 10 AM and will be walking a total of 3 miles to raise funds/awareness for families within our community impacted by mental illness.** You are welcome to create a personal page through our team page below to raise personal funds or can simply walk with us on the 22nd. **Interested in donating?**

**Check out our church's fundraising page at**  
<https://www.namiwalks.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=donordrive.team&teamID=41528>