

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

March 19, 2023

4th Sunday in Lent

10:00 AM

\*Please stand if you are comfortable standing.

LITURGIST: Christina Guenther

**PRELUDE**

*I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

Charles Maggs

First Presby Bell Choir

**WELCOME**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

**INTROIT HYMN**

*Now All the Woods Are Sleeping*

J.S. Bach

**CALL TO WORSHIP** (responsively)

One: Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**All: We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.**

One: Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

**All: We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!**

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**All: We praise God for the grace that has saved us. Alleluia! We rejoice!**

**\*HYMN #180**

*Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit*

Authority

**CALL TO CONFESSION** (One)

We remember our Lenten commitments with these words from Psalm 51: "The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Let us confess our sins to God and before one another.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (unison)

**God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**CHORAL KYRIE**

*Lord Have Mercy*

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON** (responsively)

*based on 2 Corinthians 5:16-17*

One: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Receive the good news of the gospel:

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

Hymnal #585

*Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!  
Glory to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit!  
To God be glory forever! Alleluia, Amen!*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**MOMENT FOR EDUCATION**

Fry Bread

**ANTHEM**

*Our Souls In Silence Wait*

William Bradley Roberts

**SCRIPTURE READING**

John 9:1-41

**SERMON**

*"Confounding Healing"*

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; the life everlasting. Amen.

**JOYS AND CONCERNS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** and Lord's Prayer ("debts")

**OFFERING** of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

Offertory

*I Want Peace Like a River*

First Presby Bell Choir

\*Doxology (Unison) Hymn #710 *We Lift Our Voices, We are An Offering*

*We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives;  
they are yours: we are an offering.*

*All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.*

*We lift our voices; we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you:*

*we are an offering; we are an offering.*

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*HYMN #719**

*Come, Labor On*

Ora Labora

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Abide In Me*

Stephen Deeter

**POSTLUDE**

*Amazing Grace*

Hal Hopson

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** All those adversely affected by war and all acts of violence, all victims of hate crimes, the family of Steve McEwen, Scarlett Nic, Linda Smith's sister, Carol; Julius Peter (Eniko's brother), Linda Myers, Ken Oman, Mike Carver, Jan McLaughlin, Dean Clark (son of Mary Clarke), the LGBTQIA+ Community, all victims of abuse, racial inequalities, those picking up and trying to recover from surgery and loss.

# First Presbyterian Church

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

## This is a MORE LIGHT Presbyterian Church!

A "More Light" Presbyterian church welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons to full participation in the life, ministry, and witness of the congregation. We work to expand the inclusiveness of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



*There are no closed doors here.*  
**Christ Welcomes All Here!**

First Presbyterian Church [http:// firstpresbyterianbg.org](http://firstpresbyterianbg.org)  
More Light Presbyterians [www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)

### STAFF MEMBERS

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### SPRING IS COMING!

**Opening the Garden** is planned for **April 8<sup>th</sup>**. Help us clean up and fix up the garden beds. Turn, dig out, and distribute compost. And rototill all the beds so planting can commence. Any questions can be directed to Corky Dunsmore 419-345-8415 or [cdunsmore@woh.rr.com](mailto:cdunsmore@woh.rr.com).



**Summer Sermon Series: "What About...?"** - "What about predestination?" "What about hell?" "What about religious fundamentalism?" "What about Christian nationalism?" "What about what happens after death?" This summer, the sermons will all be centered around your most burning "What about...?" questions. It's a sort of, everything-you-ever-wanted-to-know-but-were-afraid-to-ask series. So, send your sermon topic ideas to Pastor Jeff, leave them in his mailbox, or drop them off in the "What About...?" box in Fellowship Hall. All submissions need to be in by Sunday, April 16.



## "Confounding Healing"

**March 19, 2023**

**Phone: 419-352-5176**

**Email: [firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com)**

**Like us on Facebook**

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

### ***Silence! Frenzied, Unclean Spirit***

1. “Silence! Frenzied, unclean spirit,” cried God’s healing, Holy One. “Cease your ranting! Flesh can’t bear it. Flee as night before the sun.” At Christ’s voice the demon trembled, from its victim madly rushed, while the crowd that was assembled stood in wonder, stunned, and hushed.
2. Lord, the demons still are thriving in the gray cells of the mind: tyrant voices, shrill and driving, twisted thoughts that grip and bind, doubts that stir the heart to panic, fears distorting reason’s sight, guilt that makes our loving frantic, dreams that cloud the soul with fright.
3. Silence, Lord, the unclean spirit, in our mind and in our heart. Speak your word that when we hear it all our demons shall depart. Clear our thought and calm our feeling; still the fractured, warring soul. By the power of your healing make us faithful, true, and whole.

### ***Come, Labor On***

1. Come, labor on. Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain while all around us waves the golden grain? And to each servant does the Master say, “Go work today.”
2. Come, labor on. Claim the high calling angels cannot share; to young and old the gospel gladness bear. Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly. The night draws nigh.
3. Come, labor on. Cast off all gloomy doubt and faithless fear! No arm so weak but may do service here. Though feeble agents, may we all fulfill God’s righteous will.
4. Come, labor on. No time for rest, till glows the western sky, till the long shadows o’er our pathway lie, and a glad sound comes with the setting sun, “Well done, well done!”

## **Week of March 19 thru March 26**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship</b>
	<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Refreshments &amp; Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall</b>
	<b>11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Deacons’ meeting in the Green Lounge</b>
	4:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts in Green Lounge
	7:00 p.m.	Meditation Group in the FH
<b>MONDAY</b>		<b>OFFICE IS CLOSED</b>
	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Seed Exchange at the church</b>
	<b>4:30 p.m.</b>	Horizon Youth Theatre play practice <b>Kindred Spirit Circle in the Library</b>
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Bible Study via Zoom</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>		<b>April Newsletter Deadline by 12 noon</b>
	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Book Group in the Green Lounge</b>
	5:30 p.m.	La Conexion Classes (Nursery, Youth Lounge, Drama Room)
	8:00 p.m.	A.A. in the Green Lounge
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Sorting Clothes in the Deacons’ Shop</b>
	<b>12:00 p.m.</b>	<b>BULLETIN DEADLINE EVERY WEDS.</b>
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lenten Lunches – this week at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church</b>
	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>We Meet Dinner &amp; Fellowship in Fellowship Hall</b>
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Deacons’ Shop is open to the public</b>
	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Staff Mtg. in Pastor Jeff’s office (office will be closed)</b>
	5:30 p.m.	La Conexion Classes (Nursery, Youth Lounge, Drama Room)
	<b>6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Bell Choir Rehearsal</b>
	6:00 p.m.	Girl Scout meeting in the Green Lounge
	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>
	8:00 p.m.	Meditation Group in the Green Lounge
<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:30 a.m.	Horizon Youth Theatre play practice
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Worship Service</b>
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Youth Group</b>

**Just for funsies** - The church will soon be employing a robotic vacuum for Fellowship Hall. Please submit your suggested name for our new robot friend. All submissions need to be made by this Wednesday, March 22 to Pastor Jeff or the church office. Let your silly, creative side run wild!



**Kindred Spirits Circle** will meet on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> in the library at the church. Julie Smith Maekask will lead the discussion on Sabbath and self-care.



**Triple Your Gift!** - A notice from our friends at the Bowling Green Christian Food Pantry: We have worked out a unique fundraiser with Meijer. On **Saturday, March 25 (and for this day only!)**, anyone who purchases \$10 (or more) of Simply Give donation cards will have their gift matched two times over by Meijer. That means \$10 becomes \$30 to the BG Christian Food Pantry!

**We Meet meets every Wednesday in March from 5:30 - 6:30**

for Dinner. After dinner this week we will be having a class from 6:15 until 7:00 on artistic expressions of faith and we will be doing a take-home artistic expression activity. are more than welcome to! Please place a W next to your name in the friendship pad if you plan to come or tell Amanda so we have enough food.



**Zoom Bible Lectionary Study is Mondays at 5:30 p.m.** The Zoom link is sent out every week by Pastor Jeff and if you are interested in joining, please let Pastor Jeff know by emailing him at [fpcbjeff@gmail.com](mailto:fpcbjeff@gmail.com). **This next week the sermon, "A Confounding Delay" is based on the scripture reading from John 11:1-45. No one**

*can quite understand why Jesus is so slow to make it to His friend Lazarus' side when Lazarus is sick. But Jesus knows why He waits. Oftentimes, we wonder why God isn't intervening on our timeline, at a pace we find acceptable, and to those moments we remember this story and its lessons about God's power to both heal and raise.*

The **Bowling Green Ministerial Association** is again doing a **Lenten luncheon** series during the Lenten season. The lunches are at Noon at different churches that are part of the association. **The lunch begins at 12:05 and is at St. Mark's Lutheran Church this week.**



## One Great Hour of Sharing

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. **In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.**

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

*We will be receiving the OGHS offering on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.*



**New Church Directory** - During coffee hour in March, committee members will be available A new membership directory will be available later this fall so that we can include our new staff and update our church family. We need everyone's help with the updating process.

Members of our congregation can review and approve their current contact and family information and indicate their photo preference by stopping at the table set up in the Narthex before service or downstairs in Fellowship Hall after service.

Friends of our congregation, whether you are considering joining at some future date or not, are also invited to be listed in the directory. Just stop by the table in the Narthex before church or Fellowship Hall after church and fill out an information form. You can also indicate whether you would like a photo included in the directory.

Dale Smith will be starting to take photos March 19 right after church until about noon and will continue on Sundays throughout March ending on April 23 (excluding Easter!) If you would like a photo taken, you can sign up in Fellowship Hall for a slot on a specific Sunday or find Dale after service one of the photo Sundays and tell him you're "ready for your closeup!"



Presbyterian Women are pleased to offer 15 white Easter Lilies for sale to decorate the church sanctuary for Easter and to commemorate and honor the memory of loved ones. The price is \$15.00 per plant. **Checks should be made payable to Presbyterian Women with the word "lily" on**

**the memo line.** Money may be placed in the church offering plate or mailed to the Church office. **The deadline to request and turn in money is March 31<sup>st</sup>, or until the lilies are sold out.** Families who purchase flowers may pick them up after the Easter Service on April 9. Please fill out your easter Lily order with the following information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number \_\_\_\_\_  
 In Memory or Honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. of plants ordered \_\_\_\_\_