

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 10, 2024

4th Sunday in Lent

10:00 a.m.

*Please stand if you are comfortable standing.

LITURGIST: **Anna Beeker**

PRELUDE *Twas In the Moon of Wintertime* arr. Cathy Moglebust

WELCOME

PASSING the PEACE & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT *God Of The Sparrow*

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: Jesus calls to you,

All: "Come and follow me."

One: So we follow and learn the faith by watching.

**All: "To love God with all our heart, and all our soul,
and all our mind, and all our strength,
and to love our neighbor as ourselves."**

One: God does not call us to ease,

**All: but to practice, to faithfulness,
and grace in our struggle.**

One: Let us worship the God who believes in us enough to call us,
trusts us enough to commission us, and abides with us.

All: Let us worship the God whose presence is growing in us.

***HYMN #87** *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* Genevan 42

CALL TO CONFESSION (liturgist) *Isaiah 55:6-7*

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Trusting ourselves to the grace of God, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of Grace, we are learning to practice our faith, and we stand in desperate need of your help. We confess that we speak when we should listen. We lack self-control. We trade generosity for anxiety about lack. We hoard our "I'm sorry's" like they are in short supply, even while we offer every excuse for why we can't serve this time. Day by day, as we lean into your grace, use all things, even our failings, to grow us in faith and love.

CHORAL KYRIE RESPONSE *"Fear, a kyrie"* J.A. Schooley/S. Deeter

Forsaken and afraid
Embarrassed, eyes cast down
Anger burning within
Relief we cannot find

SILENT CONFESSION

DECLARATION OF PARDON (responsively) *Ephesians 2:8*

One: By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE HYMN #447** *We Are Forgiven* We Are Forgiven

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

MOMENT FOR EDUCATION

SCRIPTURE READING **2 Corinthians 7:1-4, 8-11**

ANTHEM *Drop, Drop, Slow Tears* Roland E. Martin

*Drop, drop, slow tears, and bathe those beautiful feet,
which brought from heaven the news and Prince of Peace.*

*Cease not, wet eyes, his mercies to entreat;
to cry for vengeance sin doth never cease.*

*In your deep floods drown all my faults and fears;
nor let his eye see sin, but through my tears.*

SCRIPTURE READING **James 5:13-16**

SERMON *"Taking Up Sorrow"*

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (see insert)

**JOYS AND CONCERNS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

Offertory *I've Got Peace Like a River*
American Spiritual arr. Sharon Elery Rogers

***Doxology (Unison) Hymn #609**
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

*Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known: Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

***Prayer of Dedication**

***HYMN #418** *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling* Softly and Tenderly



Venmo

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *The Grace of Our Lord Jesus*

K. Lee Scott

***POSTLUDE** *A Joyful Ring*

Barbara B. Kinyon

We thank the Presby Bell Ringers for providing the Prelude, Offertory, and Postlude for today.

PRAYERS: All those adversely affected by war and all acts of violence, all victims of hate crimes, Rev. David Montgomery, Kat Nic, Scarlet Gensler-Nic, Linda Myers, Ken Oman, Dean (Clarke (son of Mary Clarke), Mary Clarke, the LGBTQIA+ Community, all victims of abuse, racial inequalities, those picking up and trying to recover from surgery and loss.

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://www.bgpresb.org/>

More Light Presbyterians www.mlp.org www.mlp.org



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Palm Sunday Pot-Luck! Join us after the Cantata on Sunday March 24th for a Church Family Pot-Luck! Meat and rolls as well as table service will be provided, you only need to bring a dish to share! Come and let us break bread in joy together! ALL are welcome!

First Presbyterian Church

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



“Taking Up Sorrow”

March 10, 2024

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Week of March 10 thru March 17

SUNDAY	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:15 a.m.	Refreshments and Fellowship in FH
	11:30 a.m.	Mission meeting in the Library
	4:00 p.m.	Girl Scouts in the Green Lounge
	7:00 p.m.	Meditation Group in the Green Lounge
MONDAY		OFFICE IS CLOSED
	7:00 p.m.	Green Team meeting in the Green Lounge
TUESDAY	1:00 p.m.	Book Group in the Green Lounge
	5:30 p.m.	La Conexion ESL classes
	6:00 p.m.	Overeaters Anonymous in the Green Lounge
	7:00 p.m.	Session meeting in the Gathering Place
	8:00 p.m.	A.A. in the Fellowship Hall
WEDNESDAY	9:00 a.m.	Sorting Clothes in the Deacons' Shop
	12:00 p.m.	BULLETIN DEADLINE EVERY WEDS.
	4:30 p.m.	Trustees meeting in the Fellowship Hall
	5:30 p.m.	"WeMeet" meal and fellowship (assemble care pkgs)
THURSDAY	9:30 a.m.	Deacons' Shop is open to the public
	9:30 a.m.	Staff meeting in Pastor Jeff's office
	5:00 p.m.	Worship meeting in Pastor Jeff's office
	5:30 p.m.	La Conexion ESL classes
	6:00 p.m.	Bell rehearsal in the Bell room
		Girl Scouts in the Green Lounge
		7:00 p.m.
	8:00 p.m.	Meditation Group in the Green Lounge
SATURDAY	10:00 a.m.	Bell Room Cleaning & Pizza Party
SUNDAY	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service
	11:30 p.m.	Deacons Meeting & Deacons' Shop Open House



Border Immersion Vision Trip - In conjunction with Trinity PC in Flower Mound, TX and Practice Mercy Foundation in McAllen, TX, we have been invited to visit the Texas-Mexico border for the purpose of witnessing for ourselves the challenges facing that region (and beyond) and to hear directly from those immigrants who have traveled hundreds, even thousands, of miles from their native country. Interested persons must be willing to **(1)** self-fund this trip, **(2)** commit to the entire trip, and **(3)** commit to sharing their experiences and the stories they heard back in Bowling Green after they return. **The trip will take place from April 11-14 and will cost ~\$1,000. If interested, please contact Pastor Jeff ASAP.**

We will be sending March care packages to our members/children who have left us to attend college! If you have something small you would like to donate to send you will need about 10 of them for each box. We will be sending them out on March 15th so items will need to be donated by March 14th. Or you can help assemble boxes at WeMeet on March 13th. If you have a college student, please ensure the church or Amanda has their campus or apartment address!

Deacon's Shop Open House - The Deacon's Shop will be hosting an open house during Fellowship Hour on Sunday, March 17. Our shop has been serving the Wood County community for over 50 years thanks to the hard work of many of our church members. Have you ever wondered what happens to the clothes you donated? Are you interested in hearing about volunteer activities? Join us Sunday morning in the Deacon's Shop for some special treats and learn about the Deacon's Shop. You'll find us in the Christian Ed building down the hall from the pastor's office.

Exciting News! - Thanks to a generous memorial donor, our bell choir is getting a major upgrade! New tables, covers, and foam padding have been purchased, all without dipping into the congregation's pockets. It's time to bid farewell to our ancient gear, with discard, incinerate, or space launch as potential options! 🚀

But wait, there's more! To make room for our shiny new equipment, we need to tackle the bell room's clutter. Join the Clean Team on Saturday, March 16th at 10AM for a fun-filled cleaning extravaganza! Bring your buckets, mops, and cleaning supplies—pizza's on the house for all volunteers! 🍕 Let's transform our cluttered corner into a dedicated bell space together! See you there! 🔔



Easter Lilies

Presbyterian Women are pleased to offer 13 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 \$14.00 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 Wednesday, March 20th, or until the lilies are sold out.** Families who purchase flowers may pick them up after the Easter Service on March 31.

Please fill out your Easter Lily order with the following information:

Name _____ Phone _____

In Memory or Honor of _____

Number of plants ordered _____

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

1. “Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God. “Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load. To my people now proclaim that my pardon waits for them! Tell them that their sins I cover, and their warfare now is over.”
2. For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. O, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God away. Let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down in greeting.
3. Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he’s waiting and watching, watching for you and for me. **Refrain.**

Refrain: “Come home, come home! You who are weary, come home.”
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, “O sinner, come home!”

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? **Refrain.**
3. O for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. **Refrain.**



Summer Sermon Series - Singing the Faith: The History and Meaning of Your Favorite Hymns: Pastor Jeff is calling for all your favorite hymns because this summer we will focus on singing the faith each Sunday. The idea is simple enough: You share your favorite hymn(s) and, if willing, why you like that hymn. Pastor Jeff will then select a different hymn for each Sunday's worship when he's in the pulpit to build the worship service and sermon around. So, please

call/email/text/talk to Pastor Jeff with hymn submissions between now and Sunday, March 24. This sermon series will begin June 9 and end after August 25.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are the handiwork of God, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.¹

These good works do not save us, rather they reveal that the grace of God in Jesus Christ has already given us all we will ever need.²

Therefore, we take up works of faithfulness:

because “faith without works is dead”;³

to please God who approves of such works;⁴

as our grateful response to God’s grace;⁵

as necessarily proceeding from true faith⁶;

as an extension of God’s command to love our neighbor;⁷

and as evidence that the Spirit of God dwells within us.⁸

We confess that a life infused by the Holy Spirit inevitably produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.⁹

We believe that our good works today participate in God’s coming Kingdom, and we confess as much every time we pray, “Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”¹⁰

¹ Ephesians 2:10

² The Second Helvetic Confession; 5.118

³ James 2:17

⁴ The Second Helvetic Confession; 5.120

⁵ The Second Helvetic Confession; 5.117

⁶ The Heidelberg Catechism, Q. 91; 4.091

⁷ The Second Helvetic Confession; 5.117

⁸ The Second Helvetic Confession; 5.120

⁹ Galatians 5:22-23

¹⁰ The Lord’s Prayer