

# First Presbyterian Church

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

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday 10:00 AM

\*Please stand if you are comfortable standing.

LITURGIST: Amanda Ark

PRELUDE *Christ is Risen from the Dead!!* Lloyd Larson

### WELCOMING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PASSING THE PEACE

INTROIT *You Are Welcome Here* Mark Burrows

### CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

One: This is the good news—the grave is empty; Christ is risen.

All: Hallelujah!

One: This is the good news—the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

All: Hallelujah!

One: This is the good news—once we were no people; now we are God's people.

All: Hallelujah!

One: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

All: Hallelujah!

\*HYMN #232 *"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"* Easter Hymn

### CALL TO CONFESSION (One)

The proof of God's amazing love is this: While we were sinners Christ dies for us. Because we have faith in him, we dare to approach God with confidence. In faith and penitence, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.**

### CHORAL KYRIE

### SILENT CONFESSION

## Week of March 31 thru April 7

SUNDAY	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/Communion
	11:15 a.m.	Refreshments and Fellowship in FH
MONDAY		OFFICE IS CLOSED PASTOR JEFF IS ON STUDY LEAVE ALL WEEK
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.	Water to Wine Circle
	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.
	5:30 p.m.	"WeMeet" meal and fellowship
THURSDAY	9:30 a.m.	Deacons' Shop is open to the public
	9:30 a.m.	Staff meeting in Pastor Jeff's office
	5:30 p.m.	La Conexion ESL classes
	6:00 p.m.	Bell rehearsal in the Bell room
	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
	8:00 p.m.	Meditation Group in the Green Lounge
FRIDAY	6:00 p.m.	First Friday—Family pizza & movie night (see announcement)
SUNDAY	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service w/Amanda Ark

**Paint and Sip night for Water into Wine!** Water into Wine the casual women's group will meet on **April 2nd for a "paint and sip" craft night.** We will meet at the church to paint a spring themed canvas and have a selection of teas and chocolates! Join us!

**WeMeet Bible Trivia Night!** WeMeet this week will be a fun Bible Trivia night. Join us for some food and laughter while testing your Bible knowledge and learning something new! **Dinner starts at 5:30 and Trivia begins at 6:15pm.**

**First Friday will be A Family Pizza and Movie Night - First Friday for April 5th** this week we will be having a Family and Pizza Movie Night at the Church. The movie will be *"My Neighbor Totoro"* which Amanda will be using in her Sermon next Sunday. If you plan on attending, please **RSVP to Amanda by Thursday April 4<sup>th</sup> so she can order enough food.**

**Helping Hands** supports the BG community with food and hygiene items every second Friday of the month. Our church supports the program with donations of hygiene, cleaning items, and pet food. We need **tissues, reusable cloths or sponges, laundry detergent, baby diapers (all sizes), wet wipes, and cat and dog food.** Your donations will be picked up from the bin located in the church lobby on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup> for the next distribution date of Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.

**\*HYMN #248**                      **“Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!”**                      Hymn to Joy  
**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**  
**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**                      *Let Us make a Joyful Noise*                      Douglas E Wagner  
**POSTLUDE**                      *Fanfare and Postlude on "Easter Hymn"* Douglas E Wagner

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***Jesus Christ is Risen Today***

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2. Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia! Unto Christ, our heavenly King, Alleluia! who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia! Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!
3. But the pains which he endured, Alleluia! Our salvation have procured. Alleluia! Now above the sky he's King, Alleluia! Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!
4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia! Praise eternal as God's love. Alleluia! Praise our God, ye heavenly host, Alleluia! Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia

***Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!***

1. Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days! Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed. In the desert all surrounding, see, a spreading tree has grown.
2. Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair. Walk with gladness in the morning. See what love can do and dare. Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend. Jesus is our strong companion. Joy and peace shall never end.
3. Christ is risen! Earth and heaven nevermore shall be the same. Break the bread of new creation where the world is still in pain. Tell its grim, demonic chorus: "Christ is risen! Get you gone!" God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosanna everyone!

**Thank you to trumpet players** Ella Stone and Luke Brewster for playing today.

**PRAYERS:** All those adversely affected by war and all acts of violence, all victims of hate crimes, Dorsey Sergent, Miranda Douglas, Carol Neiling (Anne Moser's sister), Nettie Rose, Kat Nic, Linda Myers, Ken Oman, the LGBTQIA+ Community, all victims of abuse, racial inequalities, those picking up and trying to recover from surgery and loss.

**DECLARATION OF PARDON (responsively) 1 Corinthians 15:54-57**

One: "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

**All: "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"**

One: The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

**All: But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

One: Friends, believe the Good News of the Gospel.

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

**\*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

**Hymnal Page 582**

***Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. (3X) As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.***

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**MOMENT FOR EDUCATION - Gathering of the Fish Banks**

**OLD TESTAMENT READING**

**Isaiah 25:6-9**

**ANTHEM**

***Easter Morning Alleluias***

Tom Fettke

**NEW TESTAMENT READING**

**Acts 10:34-43**

**SERMON**

***"The Wait Is Over"***

**BAPTISM LITURGY (with "Special Music" arr. Stephen Deeter)**

**Presentation**

Hear the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Obeying the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of His promises, we baptize those whom God has called. In baptism God claims us, and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection. By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ, and joined to Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice. Let us remember with joy our own baptism, as we celebrate this sacrament.

[Anne Moser, Clerk of Session] On behalf of the Session, I present Seamus Coon to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Do you, as members of the church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Seamus, by word and deed, with love and prayer? **We do.**

Will you encourage him to know and follow Christ and to be a faithful member of His church? **We will.**

### Profession of Faith

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we enter the covenant God established in Jesus Christ. Within this covenant God give us new life, strengthens us to resist evil, and nurtures us in love. Through this covenant, we chose whom we will serve, by turning from evil and turning to Jesus Christ.

[To Seamus]

Seamus, trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? **I do.**

Who is your Lord and Savior? **Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.**

Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love? **I will, with God's help.**

Will you devote yourself to the church's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers? **I will, with God's help.**

[To the congregation]

With the whole church, let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### Thanksgiving over the Water

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We give you thanks, Eternal God, for you nourish and sustain all living things by the gift of water. In the beginning of time, your Spirit moved over the watery chaos, calling forth order and life. In the time of Noah, you destroyed evil by the waters of the flood, giving righteousness a new beginning. You led Israel out of slavery, through the waters of the sea, into the freedom of the promised land. In the water of the Jordan Jesus was baptized by John and anointed with your Spirit. By the baptism of his own death and resurrection, Christ set us free from sin and death, and opened the way to eternal life. We thank you, O God, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. From it we are raised to share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the power of the Holy Spirit.

[Pour water into font]

Send your Spirit, O God, to move over this water that it may be a fountain of deliverance and rebirth. Wash away the sin of all who are cleansed by it. Raise them to new life, and

graft them to the body of Christ. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon Seamus, that he may have power to do your will, and continue forever in the risen life of Christ. To you be all praise, honor, and glory; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever. Amen.

[Musical invitation to the font as provided by the Choral Scholars]

### The Baptism

#### Welcoming

Seamus, you have been received into the one holy catholic and apostolic church through Baptism. By the power of the Holy Spirit, you have become a member of the household of God, to share with us in the ministry of Christ and the priesthood of all believers. With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome you into the body of Christ. **Alleluia! Amen!**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### HOLY COMMUNION

#### Invitation to the Table

#### Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### Prayers & The Lord's Prayer (*we use the word "debts"*)

Sanctus                      Hymn #552                      Holy, Holy, Holy                      Land of Rest  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

#### Distribution of the Elements

#### Communion

#### Communion Music

### OFFERING of OUR TITHES and GIFTS

Offertory      *Prelude on My Lord, What a Morning*

\*Doxology (Unison) Hymn #606

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*Prayer of Dedication

### 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

Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley, Pastor [fpcbgjeff@gmail.com]	330/931-9165
Heather McEwen Goldman, Music Director [goldman.heather@gmail.com]	646/326-4058
Stephen Deeter, Assistant Music Director [sdeeter@bgsu.edu]	
Amanda Ark, Family & Youth Ministries Specialist (FYMS) [akark@bgsu.edu]	937/844-6787
Tammy L. Schnitker Office Administrator [firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com]	419/352-5176
Gale Swanka, Treasurer [gswanka@bgsu.edu]	419/575-1478
Fernando Hernandez and Monica Garcia, Sextons	
Araya Musselman, Nursery Worker	

**Phone: 419-352-5176**

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

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

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**Join us on Saturday, April 13 from 9:30 am – noon.** We'll be pulling weeds, pruning, working on community garden beds, and other clean up. No experience required. If you can join us, bring any garden tools you may have handy, like gloves or pruners. We'll have extras if you need to borrow. Let one of the Green Team know if you can make it (Bob Callecod, Susan Dunn, Corky Dunsmore, Maggie Layne, Gale Swanka). Thank you!

**SAVE THE DATE! Legacy Giving Luncheon – April 21** - Giving through charitable bequests, permanent endowment funds, and other estate plans enables us all to share God's material gifts with the church and to help fund the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian Church Bowling Green now and into the future. On **Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**, you are invited to attend a special luncheon to hear more about all the ins and outs of legacy giving!

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## *Easter Sunday*



***"The Wait Is Over"***

**March 31, 2024**

**Phone: 419-352-5176**

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

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