

“God’s Faithfulness in Every Epoch”

By: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Schooley



Nearly two decades ago, Phyllis Tickle – author, editor, and lecturer on the Emerging Church Movement – published *The Great Emergence*

(2008), a book whose aim was to demonstrate how every 500 years or so society goes through some sort of massive shift. In 500 CE, we find the political canonization of Christianity – moving it from the catacombs to the cathedrals. In 1,000 CE, we have “the great schism” between Eastern and Western Catholicism, which results in the creation of the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Church. In 1,500 CE the Protestant Reformation begins. And now, she contends, we are living through just such another “emergence” in history.

Of course, no one living in those previous times *knew* they we’re living in the significance of some 500-year cyclical arc to history. And, indeed, Tickle has critics of her central thesis. But even if we might not be ready to get her name tattooed on our chests as sign of our commitment to her wisdom, she does signal something important about our need to make time make sense. It is one of the strangest aspects of being human – our ability to remember the past and project a future – and likely not something we share with other animals. And so, this gift to see forward and backward, when combined with innate pattern recognition instincts, substantiates much of her work emotionally, even if not historically.

Well, I share all this, because the Bible isn’t without its own epochs of time – especially throughout the Old Testament because it covers thousands of years, while the New Testament spans only a handful of decades. This Lent, we’re going to engage these different epochs, as well as how God’s salvation was manifested in each, as we prepare for God’s final epoch in Christ Jesus. Indeed, we may come to discover that it is new manifestations of God’s salvation that mark one epoch from another.

Since these epochs are going to be important for our worship in the coming weeks, I thought it best to introduce you to them now. To be sure, others might nuance or change what I present here – all of this is basically just pattern recognition and different people are liable to see different patterns – but I think this holds generally true.

Here are those epochs:

1. **The Origin** – Basically the book of Genesis, some might split this epoch into two – primordial (Genesis 1-11) and patriarchal (Genesis 12-5). Their reason is sound enough: Genesis 1-11 contains pure mythology, while the rest of the book is more historically sound. But I think they belong together because the theme they share is that God is starting a thing – be that creation or the creation of Israel.
2. **Exodus** – Basically the next four books/remainder of the Torah, this epoch's central character is Moses and the central drama is liberation from Pharaoh and the founding of the Law. Liberation and Law are the twin impacts of God's salvific work in the world
3. **Federated Tribes** – Best detailed in Judges and a few other Old Testament books (see: Ruth), this epoch is marked by a disunified Israel in which the 12 tribes of Israel share some commonalities, but are not unified. There are often inter-tribal conflicts, only to find military unification against would be foreign invaders. If your imagination is drawn to the earliest founding of our country – when states were the central governing unit and a federal government had not yet been formed – you wouldn't be wrong. There's a lot of differences, of course, between these two events, but enough similarities that a good lesson of U.S. history can be a helpful heuristic for understanding this epoch of God's work in the world.
4. **The Dynasty** – This is when it all comes together under Saul/David/Solomon, but also where it all falls apart. There was an epoch in which Israel was (or is at least presented as being) the center of the known world. This is when the Temple in Jerusalem is built and most likely when the Torah was edited into its final form (largely the form we still have today).
5. **Exile and Return** – Ezra and Nehemiah are the central figures – priestly and governmental – in this epoch, and it is the final epoch recorded in what we call the Old Testament. God's salvation, here, is seen in restoration.

So those are the epochs that we'll focus on during the five weeks of Lent. Again, we will watch how God's love manifests in different salvations for God's people as we prepare hearts, minds, and souls to celebrate God's final, decisive salvific event in the death and resurrection of Jesus the Christ.

In the end, this might all just be pattern recognition (or even pattern construction) in service to giving us a sense of time and order to that time. But even if this is just a psychological coping mechanism for living in a disordered world, we are not wrong to seek it – and, in fact, we are quite wise to seek it as it presents in and through the salvific work of God. Indeed, it might just be the case that God gave us the ability to look backward and forward that we might witness the full grandeur and splendor of our God at work. Amen.

FYMS PAGE

Family and Youth Ministry Monthly Updates

YOUTH GROUP *Grades 7-12*

Youth Group will meet Saturday Feb. 22 at 10am at Christ Presbyterian Church for an I-75 youth group meeting and event. We will be meeting to not only have a short study but to build beds for youth in Toledo and surrounding areas that do not have a bed. Let Amanda Know by Feb. 17th if you plan on attending so she can register you.

FUNDRAISING!

This year we hve to camp/events for summer attendance. Camp at Kirkmont as well as The Presbyterian Youth Triennium at the end of July. The youth will be holding two fundraisers this spring to support youth that want to go to one or both events. We will have a chili Cook-off March 16th and and a Silent dessert auction April 13th (Psalm Sunday)

PAIRS AND SPARES

Our Young Adults group (ages 21-40ish) will be meet in February by supporting the Choral Scholar's dinner on Feb 22 (Our normal 4th Saturday meeting time). We will make a plan to sit together at a table and support the scholars in a time of good food and musical entertainment. Let Amanda know if you plan on attending so she can get numbers for an RSVP for the event.

Lenten Study

Lent begins Wednesday March 2nd And that will begin our lenten study and observance which will include 40 days of devotionals posted on the Facebook Page as well as an accompanying Lenten calendar. If you do not have facebook but would like the daily devotional please let Amanda know and she will set up for you to be e-mailed the devotional each day.

DEVOTIONAL RESOURCE OF THE MONTH:

Presbyterian Mission Agency

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/>



The Presbyterian Mission Agency posts a daily set of devotional readings to get you started on your devotional journey.

Wine to Return!

Wine Women and Wisdom is set to return in February! We will meet Tuesday Feb. 11th at 7:30pm in

the Courtyard Lounge.



**WE MEET WILL RETURN
MARCH 12TH AFTER
ASH WEDNESDAY!**



Giving to First Presbyterian Church

We are fortunate to be part of such a wonderful giving community. So many of you give of your time and your money on a regular basis. Since it is now the beginning of a new year, here's a reminder of ways you can give financially to First Presbyterian Church.

Traditional methods are always appreciated. You can make out checks to First Presbyterian Church and mail them, place them in the offering plate on Sundays, or drop them in the mail slot inside the hallway to the back door of the church. We don't recommend mailing cash, but those donations can also be placed in the offering plate or dropped in the mail slot in the back hallway. If the donation is intended for a specific purpose, please add a note to the donation, such as on a check memo line.

Some givers have also arranged either for regular checks to be sent from their bank account, or for a withdrawal from an investment account such as an IRA to be sent to the church.

We also have set up three different ways to give electronically.

Zelle: Zelle is basically a direct bank transfer, from your account to ours. If your bank offers Zelle, you can set up an account. Then you can use your account to transfer to First Presbyterian Church BG. The accounts are identified by either a phone number or an email address. The First Presbyterian account is identified by the email address: give2fpcb@gmail.com

There is a 50c fee to the church for the transaction. Check with your bank to see if there is a fee to you. Not all financial institutions offer Zelle yet, so if yours does not, it may be coming before long.

Venmo: Venmo also requires an account, and is linked to your bank account. It's easiest to use the QR code that links to the church's Venmo account. It can be found in the bulletin every week, or is at the bottom of this article.

There is no charge to you for this transaction, but the Church is charged a service fee of 1.9% plus a small (10c) service fee per transaction.

Paypal: Like the others, Paypal also requires that you set up an account. Unlike the others, Paypal can be used with a credit card. The Church is not set up to take credit cards directly, but you can use credit cards through Paypal. There is a QR code at the bottom of this page to help you link to First Presbyterian BG.

For every Paypal transaction, the church is charged a service fee of 2.9% plus a small (30c) transaction fee.

Questions? Ask our Treasurer, Gale Swanka at gswanka@bgsu.edu.



Staff at First Presbyterian

Pastor
Rev. Dr. Jeff Schooley
fpcbjeff@gmail.com
330/931-9165

Family & Youth Ministries
Specialist (FYMS)
Amanda Ark
akark@bgsu.edu
937/ 844-6787

Director of Music Ministry
Heather McEwen Goldman
goldman.heather@gmail.com
646/326-4058

Assistant Music Director
Kourtney Hill
kourtneysynu@gmail.com

Office Administrator
Tammy Schnitker
firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com
419/352-5176

Treasurer, Gale Swanka
gswanka@bgsu.edu
419/575-1478

Joyce Kepke, Financial Secretary
kepkejm@dacor.net
419-270-2958

Sextons Fernando Hernandez &
Monica Garcia

Nursery Worker
Araya Musselman

Phone: 419/352-5176

E-mail:
firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com

Website: firstpresbyterianbg.org

The office is closed daily for
lunch 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Helping Hands



Our church is continuing to support Helping Hands with hygiene and cleaning products. We have been asked to supply the following items: **laundry detergent, dryer sheets, dish soap, sponges, body wash, shampoo, cream rinse, toothpaste, toothbrushes, baby**

diapers (sizes 2-6), and wet wipes. Your donations can be placed in the box located in the church lobby. The next Helping Hands distribution is on February 14th. The cleaning and hygiene products will be collected on February 9th and taken to First Christian Church for distribution. If you want to contribute but don't have time to shop, a monetary donation can be made. We will do the shopping. If you would like to help with distribution of food, cleaning and hygiene products, join us on February 14th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at First Christian Church, on the corner of Poe and Haskins Roads.

We are making a difference in people's lives. Thank you for supporting this community project.

DACONS Terri McNamara, Ellyn Stout, Scotty Huntington,
Following to Lead | Leading to Serve Libby Dachik, Kathy Sweeney, Lee Liebetreu,
Dave Horger



Volunteer Opportunity:

Wood County Hospital is in need of substitute drivers for their wheeled meals program. As a substitute you would be called occasionally to help with any one of the routes. It would be your choice to accept or not for the day you would be needed. Delivery takes about 1 1/2 hours or less starting at 11am. It is very rewarding to bring meals to those needing them. If you are interested or have questions please call Steve Riewaldt 419 353 6031.

Back to the '50s
Sock Hop



Get ready to twist, shout, and shake a leg at our **Choral Scholars Sock-Hop Fundraising Dinner!** Join us on **Saturday, February 22nd, at 6 PM** for an evening of 1950s rock and roll and musical-theater-inspired tunes, performed with flair by our talented choral scholars. Indulge in high-end diner fare crafted by the incomparable Chef Mike Evans—think classic comfort food, elevated. All proceeds go to support our choral scholars, the heart of our music program, who enrich our choir with their leadership and incredible musical gifts. Don your best retro outfit (or just your love of great music) and join us for a night of fun and community!

RSVP for this event by Wednesday, February 19th to Amanda Ark by phone or email.

akark@bgsu.edu / 937.844.6787



Looking for 1950's/rock and roll memorabilia!

We are planning the Fellowship Hall decorations for our upcoming Choral Scholars dinner, and could use some additional items to enhance our theme of a "rock and roll" 1950's diner. Poster's, signage (for example a Coca Cola sign) or other 1950's memorabilia would really help set the mood. **If you think you have some items to loan us that would fit our theme, text or email Susan Dunn (sudunn@gmail.com or 419-4083491).** We look forward to another fun evening!



Congratulations! We have made it about halfway through the coldest time of the year. But, knowing that there are still cold days to come, I looked for tips on how to stay warm inside while also respecting the environment. I found these tips on a United Kingdom blog called The Rug Seller.

- Have blankets or throws around the house to use when you're home. Especially when you might just be relaxing in front of the TV or reading.
- Think about your bedding. Use high thread count sheets, and thicker and more insulating fabrics. I love flannel sheets at this time of the year.
- About 18% of heat loss is because of windows. Use thick curtains to help reduce the heat loss. Then keep your curtains closed at night help keep more cold out. This also helps keep the heat out during the summer.

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ESL=La Conexion English as a 2nd	YG=Youth Group	Med. Grp.=Meditation	HYT=Horizon Youth Theatre	OEA=Overeaters Anonymous	TL= Trumpet Lessons	SC=Sort Clothes DS= Deacons
						1
2 10 Worship & Communion 4 Girl Scouts 7 MRG-GL	3 Closed	4 1 Book Group in Library 8 AA in FH	5 9 Sorting Clothes 3-4:30 BGSONG in FH	6 9:30 Deacons' Shop is open 9:30 Staff mtg. 5:30 ESL 6 Bell rehearsal 7 Choir rehearsal 7 MR in FH	7 1st Friday at BG Country Club	8 10-1 WC Mobile Health Clinic in the church parking lot 12-2:20 La Conexion mtg in Green Lounge
9 10 Worship 4 Girl Scouts 7 MRG-GL	10 Closed Pastor Jeff on study leave all week	11 1 Book Group in Library 7:30 W2W Circle in CYL 8 AA in FH	12 9 Sorting Clothes 4:30 Trustees Mtg	13 9:30 Deacons' Shop is open 9:30 Staff mtg. 5:30 ESL 6 Bell rehearsal 7 Choir rehearsal 7 MR in FH	14 Closed observation of Presidents Day 4:30 Helping Hands at 1st Christian Church	15
16 10 Worship 11:30 Deacons' Mtg. 4 Girl Scouts 7 MRG-GL	17 Closed 4:30 Kindred Spirits Circle in Library	18 1 Book Group in Library 10-1 MVP Presby mtg on Zoom 5:30 ESL	19 9 Sorting Clothes	20 9:30 Deacons' Shop is open 9:30 Staff mtg. 5:00 Worship mtg 5:30 ESL 6 Bell rehearsal 7 Choir rehearsal 7 MR in FH	21	22 10—1-75 Youth Group mtg. 6 Choral Scholars Dinner/ Entertainment in FH
23 10 Worship 4 Girl Scouts 7 MRG-GL	24 Closed	25 March Newsletter DdIn 1 Book Group in Library 5:30 ESL 7 Membership Mtg. 8 AA in FH	26 9 Sorting Clothes	27 9:30 Deacons' Shop is open 9:30 Staff mtg. 5:30 ESL 6 Bell rehearsal 7 Choir rehearsal 7 MR in FH	28	



February 2025

Feb. 06	Bob Vincent
Feb. 13	Dave Horger
Feb. 15	James Bachman
Feb. 22	Bonnie Stearns
Feb. 24	Phebe Shawver
Feb. 25	Elizabeth Barnett
Feb. 26	Tim Hammersmith, Patrick Halleck
Feb. 27	Pam Orr

(if your birthday doesn't appear here, please contact the office
with your date of birth mm/dd/year)

2025 Officers of the Church

SESSION

Class of 2025: Jen Coddington, O'Leo Loki,
Donna Nelson-Beene
Class of 2026: Dar Bevelhymmer, Karla Geyman,
Chris Williams
Class of 2027: Anne Moser, Christine Guenther, Lisa Lawson
Moderator: Rev. Dr. Jeffrey A. Schooley: Clerk: Anne Moser

DEACONS

Class of 2025: Terri McNamara, Dave Horger
Class of 2026: Kathy Sweeney, Lee Liebetreu
Class of 2027: Libby Dachik, Scotty Huntington, Ellyn Stout
Chair: Terri McNamara Secretary: Libby Dachik

TRUSTEES

Class of 2025: Sue Clark, Chet Marcin
Class of 2026: Lowell Nees, Dana Nemeth
Class of 2027: Rosemary Apple
Co-Chairs: Sue Clark & Dana Nemeth
Secretary:

First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
126 South Church Street
Bowling Green OH 43402
phone: 419/352-5176
email: firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com
web: www.firstpresbyterianbg.org

We are on Facebook.

