

The Evangel



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MARCH 2021



“Nothing is Wasted”

This year for Lent, I am preaching through a sermon series I’m calling “COVID Lessons” – i.e. things I have learned, noticed, or observed over the past year of this COVID-19 pandemic. Now, I realize – some of you are already tired of talking about COVID. You just want to escape it all and get back to normal. Believe me, I get it!

And yet, I also know that, to quote one of my favorite songs,

*And nothing is wasted
Nothing is wasted
In the hands of our Redeemer
Nothing is wasted¹*

The Apostle Paul also teaches this in his letter to the Romans: “*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose*” (Romans 8:28, ESV). In other words, in the hands of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, even the most horrible bits of our lives, even our times of grief and pain and loneliness, even our times of sickness and struggle – all these things are used somehow, by the mysterious grace of God, for good for all those who belong to Him. Nothing is wasted. Nothing that happens to us and nothing we experience is superfluous. By the grace of God, even these things will be made beautiful!²

So now that we are a year in to this time of epidemic, ask yourself: How has God been using this in my life? What has God been teaching me? How has this changed me? Is it for the better? Has this brought me closer to God? Or has it taken me further away?

So far in February, I’ve already focused on the prevalence of anxiety and fear in this past year, and how Jesus still tells us not to be anxious about our lives (see February 21’s sermon: “Do Not Be Anxious About Your Life”). We’ve also looked at the importance not only of worship, but of *gathering together* for worship and fellowship (see February 28’s sermon “Congregations Congregate”). In March, I’ll present three more sermons on things that God has been pointing out to me, things I’ve been ruminating upon, or frankly, lessons I just think we need to hear again. (See elsewhere in this newsletter for a preview of those sermons).

¹Jason Gray, “Nothing is Wasted,” from the album *A Way to See in the Dark*, released by Centricity Music, 2011. Song written by Jason Gray, Jason Ingram, and Doug McKelvey.

²Jason Gray, “Even This Will Be Made Beautiful,” from the album *Love Will Have the Final Word*, released by Centricity Music, 2014. Song written by Jason Gray and Nichole Nordeman.

These are just a few ideas, a few musings that God has been bringing to mind, and which I have felt convicted to share with us all.

My hope in all of this is not only that we all will grow closer to the Lord, but also that these sermons will get us all to think about what the Lord is trying to tell each of us. God may be pointing out different things to you than He is to me; He may have other lessons for you to learn or to share. Either way, Isaiah 55 admonishes us to “seek the Lord while He may be found” (Isaiah 55:6a, ESV). So as we consider these things together in this season of prayer and preparation, let us continue to draw near to the Lord to hear what He has to say to us in these unusual times. For indeed – nothing is wasted! Even these days will be made beautiful and glorious in the hands of our Redeemer, Jesus Christ, who lived and died for us!

Hallelujah! To Him along be the glory!

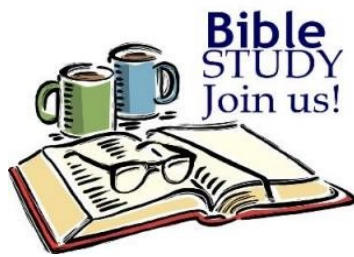
In Christ’s Love,

Joshua

March Memory Verse

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not the result of works, so that no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9, ESV).





The Pastor's Bible Study Continues! We continue to study the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah– be sure to join us either in person or online as we learn about these little-studied books on Monday nights beginning at 7pm in the Conference Room. Whether you're a Bible Scholar or a Bible newbie, you are welcome! Come dig in to God's Word with us!



Coffee & Tea With the Pastor

Coffee and Tea with the Pastor! Do you have questions about the Bible or theology? Have you ever wondered why we do things the way we do them? Do you just want to get out of the house for good fellowship and delicious caffeinated beverages? Bring your questions and join us on Wednesday, **March 10** anytime from 2-4pm at the Coffee Peddler (112 Harrison Avenue in downtown Harrison). All are welcome!

Library Corner

March selections from our church library will be from our very own Dr. Janet Walton.

Please visit the Library Corner in Faith Hall to check out one of these books, or visit the church library to browse the full collection.

Also, the Pop-Up Children's Library will be available for children ages 0-12, in the Sunday school hallway during the Sunday school hour.



Lent continues this month

Let us be sure to join together in worship as we continue the long journey to the cross and the empty tomb. All are welcome! Also, be sure to pick up and use our 2021 **Lenten devotionals** (provided for free through the generosity of a parishioner!) in the church office if you haven't already gotten them. Yet again, we have a free devotional booklet with readings for each day, and a Scripture bookmark with Bible passages to read and ponder each day!



Notice: Our **March Love Thy Neighbor** mission is for the **Women of Alabaster, Inc.** (Cincinnati). This is faith based organization that desires to meet the needs of those caught in human trafficking and addictions, by offering alternatives to life on the streets. We build one

-on-one trusting relationships, share the love of Jesus Christ, provide basic needs, and any assistance necessary away from a destructive lifestyle. The Agape Farm allows us to provide the counseling and life skill training outside the city limits for these victim to begin life anew. They are requesting: **cleaning supplies such as dishwashing liquid, floor cleaners, swiffers, mops and endust, air fresheners (pop-up or sprays) and Personal care items: body wash, hair spray. Also, coffee K-cups for their Keurig.** As always, Christine Luca is happy to shop for you. The Mission Committee thanks our wonderful congregation for their continued support of the Love Thy Neighbor program. If you have any questions, please see Christine Luca.



Online Giving

Is Now Available!

Stewardship is happy to announce that Online Giving in association with Presbyterian Foundation's online services is now available for First Presbyterian Church. You may give using your credit card, debit card or bank ACH.

Three ways to access our donation site:

- Visit our webpage at harrisonpresbyterian.com and click on the GIVE NOW button.
- Scan the QR code below to go directly to our giving site.
- Download the "GivePlus Church" app for free from the App Store or Google Play.



Note: There is a 2% processing fee for each transaction. You have the option to cover this fee if you so choose.

QR code for giving:



Thank you,

For all the many cards, calls, flowers, and especially prayers that were sent our way during the final illness and passing of our sister, Jane Poland. Your many kindnesses have gladdened our hearts and will bless our memories for years to come.

The Poland sisters,
Fran, Mary Lou and Reta



Our free community meal, **Bountiful Hearts**, continues on the first Saturday of every month. Our next meal will be on Saturday **March 6**, from 11am – 1pm here at our church. **This month our meal is carry-out or delivery only.** *We anticipate we will be delivering 40 to 45 meals to those who cannot, or have health concerns about, coming in for their lunch. In addition, we typically serve 35-45 carryout lunches.*



*It takes a team of 3-4 cooks, **6 delivery drivers**, 3-4 servers to package up all the carry out meals. Yes, we all do double duty, but we still need about 10 volunteers each month. If you are interested or have questions, please let Tamela Hinson know.*

TWO CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION IS March 14

Please look for the gold pots at both entrances to the sanctuary to place your monthly donations. If you are not able to make it to a service, please feel free to mail your donation to the church. It goes to a good cause of helping feed the hungry. As always, thanks for your generous donations.
~ The Mission Committee



Did you miss one of Dr. Long's sermons? You can catch up by watching it on YouTube! Just enter "First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, OH" in the YouTube search bar to find our very own channel. More than a year's worth of sermons are posted there for your edification. Enjoy! P.S.– **You can also live-stream our worship service during the 10:45 hour each Sunday by checking out the link on our church website: harrisonpresbyterian.com. DVD copies are also available– call the office to get a copy.**

Healing Prayer will be available upon request. All who wish to receive anointing, the laying on of hands, and prayers for healing are welcome to call the church office.



Copies of the **2020 Annual Report**, the **2021 Budget report**, and the **2021 Telephone Directory** are available in the church office for your reading pleasure.

"God never does anything to you that isn't for you"
- Elisabeth Elliott

Looking Ahead to...



- * **Maundy Thursday** is April 1 this year. Join us for a traditional Tenebrae service in the sanctuary at 7pm. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated.
- * **Good Friday** is April 2 this year. Join us at Providence Presbyterian Church at 7pm as we mark this most solemn day of the year. Our choir will be singing. All are welcome!
- * **Resurrection Sunday**, the most joyful Sunday of the year, is April 4. Watch the bulletin and Evangel for more information regarding our worship offerings that day. All are welcome.
- * **The pastor will be on vacation** from Friday, April 9- Friday, April 16. If you have a pastoral care emergency during this time, please contact the church office and our Administrative Assistant, Judy Gibbs, will put you in touch with a local pastor. Be sure to join us in worship on Sunday, April 11 as the Rev. Chuck Testas fills the pulpit for us. All are welcome! **Note: There will be no Pastor's Bible Study on April 12.**



Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 14 this year. Remember to "spring forward" or you will be an hour late for Sunday School and worship!

Women's Association News

The Women's Association Board had a meeting on Wednesday, January 13th, 2021. (We wanted to plan some activities for this coming year.) Because of the current outbreak of the Covid-19 virus, we hesitate to plan for anything soon. With the input of our church session, and the opinions of our board, we have decided to not have our usual "Sauerkraut Luncheon" this past February.

We will continue to pay for the grass cutting around the church property this year. We are not planning on having the Spring Stuff Sale. We will have another board meeting on Wednesday, April 7th, and hope to plan an activity at that time. If any of the ladies in our group have ideas or questions, please phone one of the officers.



Palm Sunday is March 28 this year. Be sure to join us in worship either online or in person as we sing "Hosanna!" to the Lord!

Worship Bags for Children!

Worship Bags containing resources to engage children in worship and help to keep little hands busy are available at the back of the sanctuary. There are two sets of bags; one for children about ages 2-5 (the patterned bags) and another for children about ages 6-9 (the plain colored bags). Please feel free to pick up a bag for each of your children at the start of the service! After the service, please return all items to the bags and leave them in the “Used Worship Bags” container provided at the back of the sanctuary.



We both would like to thank everyone for your prayers, phone calls, and cards during this past year for Greg's lung problems and more recent when we both had Covid. My Church family is the best.

Greg and Lana Bybee



Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Monday - Thursday

Bulletin Deadlines: Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.

April Evangel Deadline:

March 22 by 12 Noon

Send all bulletin and Evangel items to Judy at office@presbyterian.com, call the office (367-4301) or drop by the office.



**WE'RE CLOSED
Due to Weather**

Look for Worship and Sunday School cancellations and delays at the following TV channels & websites. You can also check the Church's Facebook page for updates.

- * WCPO—Channel 9
www.wcpo.com/closingsadmin
- * WKRC—Channel 12
www.schoolwatch.com
- * WXIX—Channel 19
www.fox19.com



Facilities invites anyone with the time to lend a hand removing snow around the entryways this winter. Thanks in advance!

MARCH FELLOWSHIP TABLE

On hiatus until further notice

Q. 27: What do you understand by the providence of God?

A. 27: The almighty and ever-present power of God whereby He still upholds, as it were by His own hand, heaven and earth together with all creatures, and rules in such a way that leaves and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and unfruitful years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, and everything else come to us not by chance but by His fatherly hand.

-from *The Heidelberg Catechism*

“COVID Lessons” Continue!

Be sure to join us in worship either online or in person as we continue our Lenten Sermon series:

- * **7 March:** “Bear With One Another in Love” (Matthew 7:7-12, Ephesians 5:1-7)
- * **14 March:** “They Saw the Boldness” (Acts 3:1-10, 4:1-31)
- * **21 March:** “Four Men Unbound” (Daniel 3:1-7; 8-30)
- * **28 March: Palm Sunday Service-** “Paradox” (Zechariah 9:9-13; Matthew 21:1-11).

EASTER LILY ORDER FORM

Please fill out the form below if you would like to purchase a lily for Easter to be placed in the sanctuary for a loved one to be remembered or honored.

We must have your order (with money) into the church office no later than Wednesday, March 31st. Each flower is \$10.00 and you may take your flowers with you after the Easter service. If paying by check, please make payable to “First Presbyterian Church” with “lilies” in the memo line.

No. of flowers @ \$10.00 ea. _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

NAME _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____



PRESCHOOL– 8TH GRADE CLASSES

Three classes are available for children in preschool through the 8th grade. Classes meet in the Sunday School hallway on the first floor. Families should note the new Session policy for children's programs.

Session Policy for Children's Programs

The Session requests that all participants (children, youth and adults) participating in children's Activities sponsored by the church comply with the Southwest Local School District's most current policies regarding the use of face masks in educational settings. In addition, any participant who has shown any symptom of illness within the 24 hours prior to the activity or who has been exposed to another individual who has symptoms of illness is asked not to attend activities.

The current policy of Southwest Local Schools can be found on the school district website at <https://www.southwestschools.org/district-news/entry/slzd-re-opening-plan-for-fall-2020-358/>

YOUNG ADULT CLASS

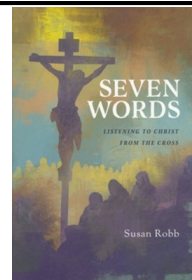
High school age youth and young adults meet in the Y.C. Room on the second floor to discuss topics related to faith and Christian living.

Adult Sunday School

**Join us for a study of Susan Robb's *Seven Words:*
*Listening to Christ from the Cross***

Beginning February 14, 2021 and continuing through Lent

"In Seven Words, Susan Robb looks at the seven last words of Christ on the cross through a lens that finds life and hope in his final sayings, while exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. The book brings a hopeful and contemplative take on the cross during the weeks of Lent."



Heart to Heart meets on Thursdays at 9:30am in the YC Room. This group is on hiatus due to Covid 19. Please watch the bulletin for further updates.

This is a women's group to study the Bible, encourage one another, and a time for great fellowship. Any questions should be directed to Deanna Jones, Debbie Menninger, or Linda Hellmann.



"There are no accidents in the life of a Christian." -Rowland Bingham



March
BIRTHDAYS

- 6 Dick Morris
- 8 Judy Gibbs
- 11 Barry Fury
- 14 Jarid Willman
- 16 Jenny Byrd
- 18 Bev Hughes
- 20 Karen Greschel
- 24 Tim Corcoran
- 27 Kayla Wolfram
- 28 Ivan Hughes



Bible Memory Verses

Our Sunday school students in preschool through grade 8 are working with their Sunday school classes and their families to memorize the monthly congregational memory verse! Children who successfully recite their verse in Sunday school on the last Sunday of the month will receive a certificate recognizing their accomplishment. Please encourage our children as they make God's words their own; reciting the verse with them when you see them will help both children *and* adults to commit the verse to memory!

ONLINE PRAYER GROUP

Please join us for fellowship, devotions, and prayer on **Thursday evenings from 7-8 p.m.** The group meets online using Zoom videoconferencing, so you can participate from the comfort of your own home! All are welcome to join; see Mindy and Jeff Sindiong to share prayer requests, for more information about the group, or for instructions on using Zoom.





Senior Saints

Evelyn Stutzman	Elmer Repschlager	Esther Kipp
Theresa Johnson	Juanita Lacy	Gerald & Virginia Steelman
Ginny Thiele	Marvin Cook	

Specific Prayer Needs

Deb Menninger: for her son's health;	Bill Bates
Stephanie Trabel: for her aunt's health	Louanna Smith
Ryan & Maggie Warmuth: for their work in Asia;	Bill Snape, Sr.
Women of Alabaster: Our March "LTN" Mission;	June Merten
Lou Rozmarynowski: for her son's health;	Carol Barnes
Mindy Sindiong: for her brother-in-law's health;	Carter Jones
June Merten: for her sister's health;	Jo Kleinfeld
Harshbarger family: for niece Beth Schraw's health;	Shirley Fury
Belinda Moul: for her mother's and brother's health;	Joe Kelley
Christine Luca: for her grandsons in the National Guard;	Ellen Puckett
Marilyn Bourquein: for grandson, Kent Meyers;	Terry Johnson
Vivian Talley: for son, Paul's health;	Margaret Harshbarger
Lisa Steuver: for her aunt's health;	Tom Crone
Judy Gibbs: for her cousin, Samantha's health issues;	Ken Harshbarger
Mike Green: for mother, Iris, who broke her arm;	Ivan Hughes
Joy Riegel: for granddaughter, Ginger's health issues;	Jeff Summey
Joshua Long: for his aunt and cousin's health;	Carol Vassil
Liz Willman: for her grandparents struggling with Covid;	Ann Bradberry
Janet Walton: for her father in hospice;	
Mary Kirschner: for friend, Craig Patrick, with Parkinson's;	
Reta Crone: for friend, Misty, with a brain tumor;	
Walt Rueger: for nephew, Jim Rueger, with health concerns;	
Janna Corcoran, Bill Schlager family, Bob Tabor family: grieving losses	

For Health Needs



PRAYER CHAIN CALLS: The Prayer Chain is a group of people who are committed to praying daily for those requesting prayer. This ministry is administered through our Board of Deacons. If you have a prayer request, please contact **Linda Hellmann 600-8295 during the day or Phyllis Wolfram 367-4578 during the evening.** For two weeks, the people on the chain will pray daily for the person or situation requested.

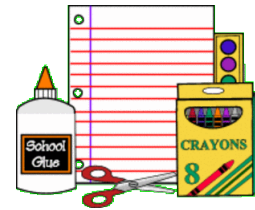


Soup-er Bowl Sunday

The Mission Committee would like to commend our Church family for a job well done. This year, in spite of Covid, we brought in **347** cans of soup to donate to Christ's Loving Hands to be distributed to local food pantries! Thank you so much for your generosity!

January Love Thy Neighbor Totals

The January totals for West Cincinnati Presbyterian are: 76 spiral notebooks, 10 pkgs of filler paper, 200 pencils, 9 bottles of glue, 32 glue sticks, 10 boxes of crayons, 8 boxes of colored pencils, 3 pk of highlighters, 1 pk of Sharpies, 56 pens, 6 scissors, 16 pk of erasers. Thank you for your generosity. –The Mission Committee



Service for Bob Tabor

There will be visitation from 11am to 1pm in Faith Hall on March 27th followed by a funeral service at 1pm in the Sanctuary. Please join us as we give thanks to God for the Good News of Jesus Christ even in the face of death.



We have received a check from Kroger in the amount of \$221.58 for the period of Nov. 1, 2020 thru Jan. 31, 2021. We have 49 households shopping for us. **IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES.** You already swipe your Kroger Plus card when you shop so why not help our church earn money at the same time?! Please contact Reta Crone at 367-4917 for more info.

A Special Young Youth Group Gathering

We will be having a special Easter themed Young Youth Group on Sunday evening, March 21st from 6 to 7:30pm. We are very anxious to share the good news of our Risen Loving Savior! All youth are welcome! Anyone interested in assisting or any questions, please see Mary Craft.



First Presbyterian Church
115 S. Vine St.
Harrison, OH 45030
Pastor: Dr. Joshua Long
Church Phone number: 367-4301
Church email: office@harrisonpresbyterian.com
Pastor email: jlong@harrisonpresbyterian.com
Website: www.harrisonpresbyterian.com

OUR CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, Ohio is growing in faith by building stronger relationships with God and community through prayer and worship. The reading and understanding of God's Word strengthens our commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through love and service to our neighbor so that all may experience God's grace.

