



First Presbyterian Church
436 E 2nd St
Salem OH 44460-2816
Rev. David Houdeschell, Interim Pastor

Volume 88, Issue 7
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THE PRESBYTERIAN MESSENGER

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April 1 —

Maundy Thursday Service

7:30 p.m., Communion, Tenebrae

Scriptures:

Exodus 12:1-14
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35



"A Meal for the Imperfect"

April 2 —

Good Friday Service

12 Noon

Scriptures:

Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1-19:42

"God Is Never Finished"

April 4 —

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter

8 and 10:30 a.m. / Communion

Scriptures:

Acts 10:34-43
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Mark 16:1-8



Sermon: *"Stones That Easter Rolls Away"*

April 11 — 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scriptures: Acts 4:32-35; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Outward Signs

After this the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, became ill. His illness was so severe that there was no breath left in him. She then said to Elijah, "What have you against me, O man of God? You have come to me to bring my sin to remembrance, and to cause the death of my son!" - 1 Kings 17:17-18 (NRSV)

Yesterday I was reading the "Still Speaking Daily Devotional," a publication of the United Church of Christ, while I was waiting in the car for Anne to get her first Corona Virus vaccination. I don't read it every day, but this one caught my attention. In it, the author of the lead article, John Edgerton, a UCC pastor in Illinois, describes why he doesn't wear a clerical collar very often. He mostly wears them, he writes, at the state house, or at Black Lives Matter marches, or at protests. Basically, "when I want to be a public embodiment of the moral witness of the church."

"But," he continues, "as soon as a legislative hearing is over or a march has disbanded, I take off the collar. I don't ride the bus wearing it. I don't go to lunch wearing it. I take it off."

"I'm afraid that, like Elijah, I'll be confronted by someone who was hurt by the church. I'm afraid I'll be confronted by someone demanding I give them some answers about what they ever did to deserve such rotten treatment from the people of God. And there are no such answers." Yet I have worn the collar since the day of my ordination. It was not a common practice among Methodist clergy in Tennessee. In fact, only one other pastor in my conference wore one. But I remembered Gordon Goodgame on the first day of college registration when I began my undergraduate studies, and the way he stood out in the midst of the 3000+ entering freshmen and the other representatives of off campus organizations trying to catch our attention. And I remembered the son-in-law of my home church pastor who wore the collar, saying that it showed people who he worked for — who he represented.

So I wear the collar. I find that it opens doors. I was wearing my collar on a train trip from Berchtesgaden to Aschaffenburg in Germany following a clergy retreat. This is about as far as one can travel, from the southeast of the large state of Bavaria to the northwest. The man sharing my compartment asked me in German if I were a pastor. I replied that I was. This opened the door to an hours-long conversation. Fortunately, his English was much better than my awkward conversational German. He told me that his father was dying, and that the family was trying to decide if they should tell him. We talked about the extent to which the father might already know about, or sense, his approaching death, and about whether he might be someone who would like the chance to say good-bye.

Wearing my collar while walking the halls of a hospital has also opened the way for me to be asked by the nursing or social work staff if I could see patient X, after I had visited the patient I had come to see.

Ordination is not a sacrament among Protestants as it is in the Roman Catholic Church. But I sense that my collar can often be seen as an "outward and visible sign" of the grace of God. And I strive to be worthy.

Pastor David+

Prayer Concerns

Pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee to search judiciously for our new pastor by discerning the will of God.

Barbara Denny (*Susan Merry's sister*), Carol Dougherty, Pat Eichler, Judy Everson (*Ellen Matiscik's friend*), Jim Gibbs, Ray Hanan (*Judy Sicilia's friend*), Mark Hannay, Denny Herron (*Marilyn's husband*), Lauren Humphries (*Kathie Baker's niece*), Hayden Johnson (*Sam and Julie Johnson's son*), Paul Leach (*Marilyn Herron's friend*), Bill McCormick, Dollie Millikin, Allison Pakosta (*Charles and Joyce Pakosta's daughter*), Nancy Ray (*Ruth Newman's sister*), Clarence Reed (*Sue Skiba's father*), Sue Thomas (*Karen Dennison's friend*), Joetta Tonti, Lucy Works, Kristina Yonker (*Barb Yonker's daughter in law*)

Special Care Facilities

Brookdale: Ruth Zerbs, 404; Harvey and Sally Mason, 305

Copeland Oaks: Genevieve Benson

Grace Woods: Shirley Devan

Inn at Ironwood: Jeanne Smith, 6699 Ironwood Blvd, #125, Canfield OH 44406
Lake Vista at Cortland: Margaret Sheets, Apt 105; 303 North Mecca St, Cortland OH 44410

Shenango On the Green: Marty Hollinger, 238 S Market St #227, New Wilmington PA 16142-1212

Village at Westerville: Bruno and Kay Stanga; 215 Huber Village Blvd, C100, Westerville OH 43081

Whispering Pines: Kay Rousseau, 315; Joetta Tonti; 937 E Park Ave, Columbiana OH 44408

Military

Andre Tonkinson (*Ed and Melissa Tonkinson's son*)

Cody Tonkinson (*Ed and Melissa Tonkinson's son*)

Adam Pawlosky (*Jim and Ruth Newman's son in law*)

Zach Smith (*Jeanne Smith's grandson and Mickey Buck's nephew*)

CHURCH INFORMATION:

Phone: 330.337.9555 / **Fax:** 888.386.2321

Website: www.fpcsalem.org

Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio

You Tube: www.youtube.com / FPCSALEM

(Service streamed at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday.)

Cable TV Channel 1021: Service shown on Sunday (1 & 9 am), Monday (1 am), Tuesday (3 am, 12 & 4 pm), Wednesday (1 am, 4 & 9 pm), Friday (1 am), Saturday (3 am, 12 & 4 pm)



In Memoriam

Eileen (Crawford) Shanker

United with First Church
March 25, 1948

Died — March 24, 2021

"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord hence forth...that they may rest from their labors for their deeds follow them."

~ Revelation 14:13



The Sympathy and Surrounding Love of Our Congregation are extended to Dick Shanker and the family on the death of his wife, Eileen.

Rev. David Houdeschell's hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. His day off is Monday and he works from home on Friday. His cell phone is 330-206-2951, and e-mail, dhdschll@gmail.com.

April Birthdays

Cheryl McDevitt (1), Gail Tetlow (1), Ruth Chaffee (3), Karen Banning (4), George Bell (5), Melvin Wilms (5), Fred Denton (6), Carol Ricciardi (6), Brenda Johnson (7), Denise Reiter (8), Gloria Shafer (9), Genevieve Benson (11), Rich Eichler (11), Nancy Crum (13)

Thank You!

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian, Many thanks for your \$50 gift to the Banquet in Salem. Presently we are feeding over 200 persons each week with carry-out.

God's Blessing,
Bill Wilkins

Thanks to Ken and Susan Kyser for delivering flowers to Eileen at Blossom in memory of our daughter's birthday, to the Congregational Care Committee for the 90th birthday card, and to Paul and Barb Fennema for delivering flowers for my birthday and the nice visit we had. It was sure appreciated.

Dick and Eileen Shanker

Open Dates for Bulletins — April 4, 11, 18, May 16, 23, 30, June 6, 20, 27. Cost is \$15 a Sunday.

Open Dates for Flowers — May 9 (1), June 27 (1). Cost is \$10 a vase.

Collection of Lids and Plastic Bottle Caps

The Environmental Team is collecting lids and bottle caps to make a bench. We need 100 pounds plus \$207.00 to make a small bench. Ring the doorbell at the north entrance and empty your bottle caps into the container. (Clean caps, please.)

Your Session at Work

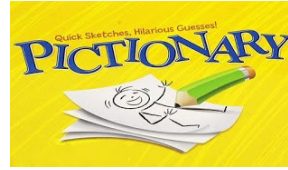
*The Session of First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio
meeting on March 18, 2021 via Zoom:*

- Heard Eastminster Presbytery is offering an Elder Preaching Course.
- Approved the youth's use of the kitchen to prepare meals for shut-ins.
- Approved a Zoom Game Night in April.
- Approved a Rummage Sale in May.
- Heard Congregational Care is sending gift boxes to those in the military.
- Approved Earth Sunday on April 25.
- Approved collecting bottle caps to make a bench for the Peace Garden or playground.
- Approved all February financial reports.
- Approved a building request with strict COVID protocols.
- Approved Worship Services for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.
- Received a progress report from the PNC.
- Heard a report from the Preschool Sub-committee.
- Heard the Boys' and Girls' Scout troops and the Cub Scouts remain active.
- Heard report from Elder Commissioner Lu Ann Cole from the March 2 meeting of Eastminster Presbytery held via Zoom.
- Heard the vacating of the alley could be finalized by mid April.
- Finalized plans for the Holy Cow Survey Results presentation to the congregation.
- Offered prayers of Joys and Concerns for our church family and friends.

On-line Returns and Landfills — I recently watched a documentary on Amazon returns and what happens to them. Amazon and many of the online businesses advertise that you can return any item easily if you are not satisfied with your purchase. I had always pictured these items being repackaged and restocked responsibly. I was shocked to learn that many if not most of these returns, mostly perfectly good items, end up not being restocked but in landfills. If you google "Amazon returns end up in landfills," you will find a long list of articles on this subject. So, my friends, I would like to encourage you to be careful with your online purchases. Try not to buy something, just to see IF you will like it, expecting to return it if you don't. These online companies make it sound so easy, and it is! Unfortunately, it is very detrimental to our earth. Our landfills are filling up with so many single use items because of the pandemic, that we really need to be conscious and mindful of what we are using and disposing so we can avoid adding to the ever-increasing use of landfills. ~ Carol Ricciardi, Environmental Team

Game Night

Sunday, April 11
5:30 p.m.



*Call Church Office to
reserve Zoom Invitation.*

OUTSIDE RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday, May 1
9 a.m. — 4 p.m.

*Place items in designated
area in Fellowship Hall.*

Congregational News from the Mission Team

This year at First Presbyterian Church we are going to be working on Mission Projects with the hope of involving the entire congregation in an awareness of Presbyterian Mission. The biggest financial project will be raising funds for a **"Well in Zimbabwe."**

Many of you may recall hearing **Rev. Lydia Neshangwe from Zimbabwe** talk to us about mission in her country. Zimbabwe has been in a 7-year drought and the majority of their population is involved in farming. Lydia and her husband Paul live on a Presbyterian farm with two deep wells. There is a Presbyterian community next to them that is just starting and Paul has been appointed as the first minister of the new church. The church property is where the well will be drilled. It will be accessible to the entire community.

"Water is Life" is what Lydia states! Paul is the person in charge of Regional Development for the Presbytery. So, he is the logical contact person for us. **Lydia and Paul are our "Missionaries"** – the faces behind our Mission Giving. Imagine having the power to help the lives of an entire community by just giving them water! We take it for granted but it is life to their community. Life to the Children, life to the sick, life to families, life to all. With just a little help from us we can **change the world – one community at a time!**

Please consider helping in this wonderful way. A little from us directly impacts so many lives!!! As soon as we can **raise \$11,300.00** there will be a new well for their community!

Thank you for your generosity! First Presbyterian Salem used to be the largest giver to mission in our Presbytery. Let's show how much Christ means to us by our gifts to Zimbabwe.

This is our Church, Christ's Mission, our eternal soul.

The Mission Team



First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Ohio has a PayPal account for sending online contributions. Log on to the church's website, www.fpcsalem.org, and click on 'Donate'. You can send an e-mail to phyllis@fpcsalem.org for a specific contribution (flowers, Per Capita, Memorial, etc.).

March

31 / Weds 7:00 Prayer Meeting *via Zoom*

April

Happy Birthday!

*Gail Tetlow (1), George Bell (5), Melvin Wilms (5),
Jeanne Smith (16), Ruthann Lipp (18)*

**1 / Maundy
Thursday**



6:00 Worship, Music, and Arts (107)
7:30 Maundy Thursday Service (In-Person)
*The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper and
Service of Tenebrae*

**2 / Good
Friday**

12:00 Good Friday Service (In-Person)

4 / Easter



8:00 and 10:30 Worship (In-Person)
The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

5 / Mon

7:00 Board of Deacons *via Zoom*

6 / Tues

8:30 am Investment *via Zoom*
7:00 Mission I and S *via Zoom*

7 / Weds

7:00 Property and Maintenance (107)
7:00 Preschool Sub-Committee *via Zoom*
7:00 Prayer Meeting *via Zoom*

8 / Thurs

7:00 Finance/Administration *via Zoom*

9 / Fri

9:00 Quilt Group (107)

11 / Sun

9:15 Sunday School
9:15 Adult Sunday School Class (107)
10:30 In-Person Worship
5:30 Game Night *via Zoom*
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (B)



12 / Mon

6:00 Scout Troop 3 (B/FH)
7:00 Congregational Care *via Zoom*

13 / Tues

7:00 Christian Education *via Zoom*

14 / Weds

7:00 Prayer Meeting *via Zoom*

15 / Thurs

7:00 Regular Session Meeting *via Zoom*

18 / Sun

9:15 Sunday School
9:15 Adult Sunday School Class (107)
10:30 In-Person Worship
5:00 LOGOS / Pres-Bees (FH)
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (B)

19 / Mon

6:00 Scout Troop 3 (B/FH)

21 / Weds

7:00 Prayer Meeting *via Zoom*

22 / Thurs

7:00 Preschool Sub-Committee *via Zoom*

23 / Fri

9:00 Quilt Group (107)

**25 / Earth
Sunday**

9:15 Sunday School
9:15 Adult Sunday School Class (107)
10:30 In-Person Worship
5:00 LOGOS / Pres-Bees (FH)
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (B)

26 / Mon

6:00 Scout Troop 3 (B/FH)

28 / Weds

7:00 Prayer Meeting *via Zoom*

May

Happy Birthday!

*Archie Crum (8), Carol Dougherty (17),
Margaret Sheets (24)*

1 / Sat

9:00-4:00 Outside Rummage Sale by LOGOS

2 / Sun

9:15 Sunday School
9:15 Adult Sunday School Class (107)
10:30 In-Person Worship
5:00 LOGOS / Pres-Bees (FH)
6:00 Cub Scout Pack 3 (B)

3 / Mon

6:00 Scout Troop 3 (B/FH)
7:00 Board of Deacons *via Zoom*

4 / Tues

6:30 United Quilt Guild (FH)
7:00 Mission I and S *via Zoom*

5 / Weds

7:00 Property and Maintenance (107)
7:00 Prayer Meeting *via Zoom*



Thursdays, 4:00-6:00 p.m. / People in 44460 zip code only.
Volunteers are Needed!

