

# ADVOCATE

First Presbyterian Church  
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March 2018



## HOLY WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday, Mar. 25	10:15 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship Rev. Heather Hicks preaching
Thursday, Mar. 29	7:30 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship
Friday, Mar. 30	Noon	Community Good Friday Worship at Church of the Messiah
Sunday, Apr. 1	6:45 a.m. 10:15 a.m.	Easter Sunrise Service Easter Worship with Communion

## **Sunday, April 29, Set for the Building Dedication**

As we near the completion of our building project, the Session has set April 29 as the date for our formal dedication service. Plans are now being made for this great occasion, so be sure to save the date!

## **BUILDING CONSTRUCTION FEBRUARY UPDATE**

There's finally light at the end of the tunnel: we're in the final phases of our building project. Hopefully, many of you had an opportunity to see our progress during the "open house" after the Annual Meeting. You may remember that we originally hoped to be done with the project by Christmas, but sadly, we missed that date by a wide margin. At this point, we are planning to be done for Palm Sunday and Easter.

Yes – that means – barring any more unforeseen conditions – we should be using the new elevator for Palm Sunday and Easter services.

Work has been proceeding well for the past month:

- Fire sprinkler installation is 90% done with just the sanctuary remaining.
  - Sanctuary work is scheduled to start March 2.
- Restrooms are done.
- Most of the new door frames have been set, and door installation is pending.
- Most of the new walls have been framed, and drywall installation is in progress.
- Elevator installation is nearly complete.

The other good news is that the organ will be back for Palm Sunday and Easter services. We will uncover the organ and have it tuned the week before Palm Sunday.

The next big task will be moving into the new space. The Administrative Services Committee and the Building Project Team will be organizing a couple of work days to start moving furniture and materials back into the main building from the 29 West building.

The parking lot cannot be paved until the asphalt plants reopen in the spring – usually sometime in April. In the meantime, we are exploring the possibility of putting in a layer of gravel so that we can drive up to the new covered drop-off area. Our plan is to have the parking area paved BEFORE the April 29 dedication (weather permitting).

We're almost there!

## Building Transformation: The elevator is installed



In February the new elevator was installed. Taken when the installation was half complete, this photo shows part of the new entrance of the church, including the elevator doorways for both the lower level and main level. Also shown are the hydraulic pistons that will lift the elevator to the various floors. By the end of February, the elevator installation will be complete. However, we will not be able to use the elevator until the final building inspection, sometime in March.



What Do You Like To Do?



## MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, April 21 - 9:30 am

This will be a morning of 'just us' – sharing who we are and what we like to do for fun! Do you have a favorite activity or sport? Do you have a special talent that you like to talk about? What do you do for fun? Everyone has *something* they like to do when they have free time.

If possible, bring an object or item that reflects your talent, skill, or hobby and how you spend your time. (Woodworking? A novel? A golf club? A fishing rod? Painting? Music? Running? Boating? A picture of yourself on a bike – or bring the entire bike!) It will be a fun time to let others know more about you and vice versa.

Please sign up for the breakfast in April by Wednesday, April 18.



## Ladies Night Out

Tuesday, Mar. 20, 6:30pm

Rusty Bucket, 400 Polaris Pkwy, Westerville



Join us the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm  
for food and fellowship. Bring a friend.

Please RSVP to Kim Hunt

# ***SPECIAL CONCERT - February 18***

*by*  
***Steve & Lisa Ball***



Steve and Lisa Ball entertained and enlightened us by presenting music of the Civil War Era, featuring songs by Westerville's Benjamin Hanby & other noted composers of Ohio, as well as stories related to our local and national history. The program even included an audience sing-a-long! The fifty people in attendance enthusiastically responded to the performance, and good food was had by all at the potluck!



## **Fabrics of Faith Preview of Special Event**



If you wonder how quilts are made or if you'd like to make one, here's your chance! Beginning in late June, Fabrics of Faith will offer a skills-building quilting class, led by two of our extraordinary quilters, Ann McElhaney and Karen Hoggarth. Excited about offering this class, they are already at work on their sample quilts for you. We'll offer more information later; for now, take your questions to Ann or Karen in church or through email.

***Thanks!***

A big "Thank You" goes out to the volunteers who helped in the office while our secretary, Linda Lemity, was out recovering from knee surgery: Carol O'Kane, Lori Lampel, Dorothy Driskell, Janet Withers, and Linda Lewis. Thanks also to Barb Klingman, who helped get the bulletins ready each week. Linda is expected back in the office in early March.



# Manna Café

Chicken pot pie with biscuits on top—doesn't that sound delicious? It sounds even better if it's your first hot, home-cooked meal in a while. That's true for many of the 180 to 200 people who come to Manna Café on Wednesdays. This café is housed at Broad Street United Methodist Church in Columbus, but it's staffed every Wednesday by churches and other groups from all around Central Ohio, including First Presbyterian, of course. Many guests at Manna Café are "street people," but others are college students or people who are just hungry. Everyone is welcome!

Diane Clever, a long-time member of our church, first suggested that we get involved in this outreach program in 2006. John and Sharon Davis organized our participation for the first 10 years. During those first years, John and Sharon often spent every Wednesday at Broad Street Church, filling in by themselves when other churches were not able to provide the promised meal. They also set the menus that our church still follows (see below).

Then John and Sharon shared the organizing duties with John and Glenna Cameron for a year or so. The Davises "retired" in 2016. Now the Camerons oversee our members as they shop, prepare, and serve four meals a year. For the chicken pot pies, preparation begins the day before at our church as about 50 pounds of chicken breasts are cooked and cut up. Then starting about 2:30 pm on Wednesday at Broad Street Church, six or seven of our members set the tables and assemble the meal, which is served promptly at 5:00 pm by ten to twelve members. After the guests eat, the volunteers enjoy the meal they made possible. Often, groups of teens help serve and clean up. Any leftover food goes to the Open Shelter.



The chicken pot pies are served once year. Here are the menus for our church's other three days:

- Hot dogs, baked beans, and potato salad
- Sloppy Josés (which involve taco seasoning), au gratin potatoes, and greens
- Beef stew pot pies with biscuits

The meals also include salad, milk or juice, bread, and desert (usually donated by a local grocery store). The serving group buys the food for its meal, with our meals funded by the church budget. Large quantities of food are necessary, such as 40 pounds of frozen mixed vegetables and 20 pounds of frozen diced potatoes for the chicken pot pies, along with 4 gallons of gravy, 35 cans of cream of chicken soup, and 11 boxes of biscuit mix.

As the guests move down the serving line, nearly everyone thanks the servers and adds, "God bless." The guests are very appreciative of the meal. Some have cried because the pot pies "taste like Grandma used to make." You are very welcome to help with Manna Café once or every time we serve. Your "pay" is a delicious meal, fellowship with church members, and the sincere gratitude of the guests. Questions? Ask John and Glenna Cameron—or John and Sharon Davis.

# Youth and Family Activities

## Spaghetti Dinner

Mark your calendar! It is time for our annual Spaghetti Luncheon! Our youth will host this luncheon right after church on April 15. Please see one of our youth or CE adults for tickets, which cost \$8 per meal. You are welcome to join us downstairs to eat as a group, or grab a meal for take-out.

The youth thank you for your continued support. All the money raised from this meal will help them attend super camp programs this summer.

## Mission Trip

We're getting ready to go on a mission trip. Heather Hicks will soon be sending registration forms out to all our middle and high school youth's homes. If you have a youth who is not technically a member of our church, but would like to go, please contact Rev. Hicks. She will ensure your youth gets a copy of the registration!

Our first mission trip will start on Friday, May 18. We will meet at the church for supper at 5pm and then head to Camp Christian, where we will spend most of Saturday helping to clean and prepare the camp for the summer season. Camp Christian is in Magnetic Springs, just west of Delaware. We hope this will give our youth a glimpse of the camp and what goes on there.

Our second mission trip date has not yet been set (please stay tuned), but we will get you the information as soon as it is available.

## Children's Musical RESCHEDULED for after Easter



All aboard! Join Mary Cruze (an overly-enthusiastic tour director) and her faithful daughter on a boat trip up the Nile as they retell classic Bible stories. But there's a problem: The stories are all wrong! It takes the kids who are onboard to set the record straight and help Ms. Cruze understand the real truth about God's enduring love and faithfulness to His people.

Due to weather and illnesses affecting rehearsals, we've had to reschedule for after Easter. Stay tuned for the new date!

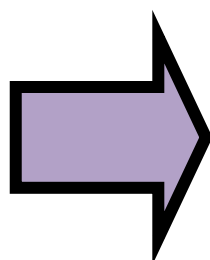


# Adult Growth and Development

## ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

**With the construction, several Adult Education Classes meet in new locations. Please note the changes for your class. If you have questions, contact Rev. Mark Gauen.**

Activity	When	Where	What
Tuesday Morning Bible Study	Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00 am	<b>Raisin Rack</b> 2545 W. Schrock (at the corner of Schrock and Cleveland).	“Spiritual Practices for Lent”—a six week exploration of Fasting, Prayer and other practices associated with Lent. Come once, come all six times. Led by Rev. Gauen.
4 <sup>th</sup> Monday Discussion	4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays, 7:30 p.m.	<b>Fellowship Room</b>	We will be meeting on March 26 to consider the life of faith in the modern world. Led by Rev. Gauen.
The Library Class	Sunday Mornings 9:00-10:00 a.m.	<b>Fellowship Room</b>	<b>Adult Library Class</b> –We are beginning a new study based on the book, <i>Strength to Love</i> , a collection of MLK Jr's sermons. This class meets in the Back Room of Fellowship Hall.
Circle 4 Women: This is our Presbyterian Women's Group.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursdays, 11:00 am	<b>Raisin Rack</b> 2545 W. Schrock (at the corner of Schrock and Cleveland).	Our Presbyterian Women's group meets monthly for fellowship and Bible study. Join us on March 15 for an insightful look at the gospels wonderful fellowship. Elaine Foley is our study leader.
Lenten Study	Wednesdays beginning Feb. 21 7:00-8:30 p.m.	<b>Pastor Mark's Office</b>	“Spiritual Practices for Lent”—a six week exploration of Fasting, Prayer and other practices associated with Lent. Come once, come all six times. Led by Rev. Gauen.



**Special for Lent: “Spiritual Practices for Lent”** Many people give up chocolate or soda for Lent,...but why do they do that? Where did the spiritual practices associated with Lent come from and how might we apply them today? We will be holding two sections of this class, one on Tuesday mornings, 9:30-11:00 am, and the other on Wednesday evenings, 7:00-8:30 pm. Led by Rev. Gauen.



## Pastor's Page

Dear Friends:

*"...and Jesus began to weep..." –John 11:35*

On the night Ash Wednesday, after our worship service, Kathy and I went over to the City Hall Plaza and just stood there. In front of us was the memorial to the two Westerville Police Officers who were killed in the line of duty. A police cruiser was literally covered with flowers, balloons and signs in tribute to these two brave men. A light mist was falling, which I could see glinting in the beams of the lights there on the plaza. It looked like the tears of heaven were falling on us.

Many tears have fallen in Westerville in the past few weeks. And yet in the midst of tears we saw a community rally together to comfort each other and to honor the sacrifices made on our behalf. We saw solemn processions move about town and heard heartfelt words spoken at vigils and memorial services. We saw tangible signs of love and appreciation in the form of blue ribbons, blue lights, and gifts of food, flowers, posters and cards.

This is all part of the grieving process. We continue to grieve even as the ceremonies end and the ribbons come down. The church knows about grief. It is our area of expertise. We know grief because Jesus knew grief. We know the pain of loss, the sadness of separation. We know that everyone grieves in different ways and at different paces. We also know that communities grieve. And we know that this grief will continue for a long time to come.

At the Westerville Ministerial Association luncheon, we brainstormed some ideas that we, as churches, could do to help our community and our neighbors work through their grief and beyond it. Some of the ideas we came up with included:

- *Have churches adopt a segment of our city employees (a fire station, a division within the police, etc.) and minister to them.*
- *Organize a service project in honor of the fallen to help people channel their grief usefully.*
- *Help Westerville develop a rapid response team that can use the lessons learned from this tragedy in the future, for Westerville and for other communities who might need our empathy and experience.*
- *Provide forums, seminars, programs, etc. to allow people to express grief, ask questions.*
- *Host forums addressing the issues of violence in our society.*
- *Check in on people we know who might be still struggling with the tragedy.*

This wasn't the entire list. And I am sure that each of us could come up with a few more ideas. The point is that we in the church are uniquely positioned to help this community move beyond the suffering and into a positive action that will make us all better off. I hope that this church can find ways to be part of that larger effort. And as we tend to the grief of others, we will tend to our own grief as well.

Yours in Christ,