

THE FORECASTER

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Greetings!

Our Lectionary New Testament text for the Third Sunday of Lent, which we will celebrate this Sunday, March 3, is John 2:13-22, or John's version of Jesus Cleansing the Temple. In my preparation for my sermon I began to feel a strong call from the text. I think it is easy for us to identify, or believe, that we are on Jesus's side when we read these texts. When we look at them and see Jesus really taking it to the different groups of rule-bound, pharisaical, holier-than-thou, sanctimonious, and hypocritically pious religious people and the structures they build up that fall outside of God's will and God's plans. We all want to believe that we stand on the side of right, justice, and God.

In my preparation, the text began to speak to me and remind me that while I want to believe I would be on the side of Jesus and that by his side is where I should stand, often I stand on the side of the status quo: the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the scribes, the Sanhedrin, and even the money changers and animal traders setting up shop in God's Temple. It is far too easy to sit back and let things happen, even if I know they are wrong, than it is to step up and act.

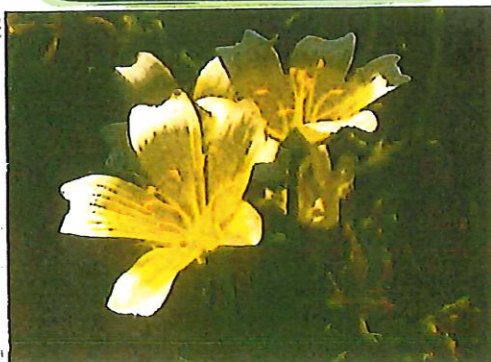
I cannot tell you where in your life God is calling you to overturn tables and cleanse the Temple. As we live into this season, as we look to grow in our relationship with God, as we enter into prayer and contemplation and devotional study, as we put ourselves under the microscope and look at the ways that we build idols and separate ourselves from God, it is important to seek out the area where we may be actively working against what God has called us to be.

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MARCH 2024

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My encouragement to you is to ask God where these places in your life are, and listen to how God responds. We may find this in prayer, in Bible study, in Sunday School, or even in getting together with friends. We are not called to right all of the world's wrongs, but we are called into a closer relationship with God. When we find it, we may find the temple that God is calling us to cleanse.

God's blessings,

Rev. M. Payne Warner

Rev. M. Payne Warner



LENTEN SERVICES

Sunday, March 3	Third Sunday of Lent, Communion
Sunday, March 10	Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 17	Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 24	Palm Sunday
Thursday, March 28	Maundy Thursday, Communion
Sunday, March 31	Easter Sunday

Lost Friends

We have had some long time members die recently. Let us keep the families and friends of these cherished sisters and brother in our hearts and prayers:

Louisa Miller, died November 7, 2023 in Florida
William Toman, died January 31, 2024. His memorial service was held on February 4, 2024.
Nancy Woodman, died February 16, 2024. Her memorial service will be held in the Spring.
Watch the Sunday bulletin announcement sheet for details.

You may be gone, but we are forever blessed by your presence in our lives. We love you, dear friends.

SUPER SIX

The Mission Committee is once again sponsoring a food drive during Lent. We are asking for your help collecting the following items each Sunday:

Sunday, February 18th - Boxed Cereal

Sunday, February 25th - Peanut Butter

Sunday, March 3rd - Canned Tuna

Sunday, March 10th - Canned Beef Stew

Sunday, March 17th - Canned Vegetables

Sunday, March 25th - Canned Soup

The food will be donated to Protestant Family Service to assist with their food pantry.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

MISSION COINS REMINDER

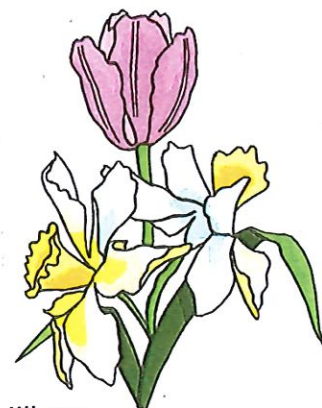
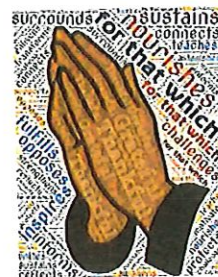
We are still collecting coins for the *Red Door Café and the Food Pantry* at St. John's Episcopal Church. Your loose change helps provide a meal and groceries to our community neighbors in need. You can help by depositing your coins in the collection plates on Sunday mornings.

THANK YOU,

The Mission Committee



CONTINUING TO PRAY FOR



The Family of Nancy Woodman, the family of Bill Toman, Lynne Pebworth, Hillary Hamilton, Terry and Becky Murray, Betty Bestic, Janis DePasqua, the family of Lois Bumback (Michael Shepherd), Pat and Bob Fitch, Mary, Nina Vass and family, the family of Louisa Miller, Rev. Jim Ray, Jayne and Chuck Mansfield and their family, Michael Moon, Shannon Flauto, Rick Benson, Jackie Rogenski, Marion Kohler, NuShawn Moore (Jackie Rogenski's daughter), Patrice Hight (Carol Reed's sister), Julius Balogh, Tim Keenan, Lila King (Lynn Toman's mother), Debbie Osman (Chet Cooper's sister), Cheryl (Lynn Toman's sister), Ron Strasik (Renae Scharf), the Sarver family (Lynn Toman), Caleb (Barb Altman's grandson), Mary MacGregor Neff (Wilma Miller), the Pickett family, Arlene Wright, Victor Wan-Tatah, Terry Gregory, Nancy Woodman, Marien Sue Martin, Cindy Milicich, Bridget Benson, the people of East Palestine, Ohio, the people of the Ukraine, the people of Israel and Gaza, our Mission Partners including Mahoning Valley association of Churches, Wick Transition Housing, Community Education & Schools (with Taft School), Ethiopian Children (EECMY), Protestant Family Services, CityScape, Needle's Eye, RAHAB Ministries, and Meals on Wheels, the City of Youngstown, our community, and for one another.



EASTER FLOWERS

The church is ordering Easter flowers to place on the chancel for Easter morning. If you would like to order flowers in memory of or in honor of someone, please have your order to the church by **Sunday, March 17**. Call the church office and speak to Patty. She is in the office on Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Easter flowers will cost \$15 per pot. You will need to tell Patty the names you want to honor, and whether they are "In Memory Of" or "In Honor Of."



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1	Chuck Mansfield Terry Murray	13	Sheriff Ron
2	Patti Gruver Tracy Rudrick	16	Sabrina Doyle
4	Tammy Helmuth	19	Larry Harris
5	Mary Parsons	26	John Einfalt
9	Jayne Cating		
13	Amy Helmuth		

Happy
BIRTHDAY!
to you.

COMMUNION HAPPENS TWICE THIS MONTH

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, March 3, 2024, the Third Sunday of the Lent. We will also celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Thursday, March 28 which is Maundy Thursday, This will be an evening service. Watch the Sunday bulletin announcement sheet for details.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Help us go fishing! Our church's Mission Committee has set a goal of \$1800. For every \$25 that is collected, a fish will be caught in our fishing net. For over 70 years, *One Great Hour of Sharing* has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors around the world. The three programs supported by *One Great Hour of Sharing* – *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance*, the *Presbyterian Hunger Program*, and *Self-Development of People* – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

There are three easy ways to give:

- Through our church (marked for OGHS)
- Mail your gift to *One Great Hour of Sharing*
Presbyterian Mission Agency
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15204-3700
- presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs



Won't you help us reach our goal?

The *One Great Hour of Sharing*

offering will be dedicated

on Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024.



FPW REQUESTS

We are going to be collecting essential items for RAHAB Ministries from January through May. On Sunday, October 22nd, we heard from Hannah Howell, the Communications and Engagement Coordinator at RAHAB, about the work they are doing to assist Human Trafficking victims in northeast Ohio. Among their other services, they sponsor safe places where the victims can receive a hot meal, shower, and spiritual and emotional support. We can help by bringing the following items to church and placing them in the box by the sanctuary or the one in the office.

They are particularly in need of full-size conditioner, hairbrushes and combs.

Also needed are:

- Full-size shampoo, lotion, body wash, and deodorant
- New women's bras, underwear, and socks
- Ethnic hair care products (shampoo, conditioner, el and Curling Cream), Brands like Cantu, Edge, and Shea Moisture (can be found at A & A Beauty Supply and Walmart)
- \$50 Gift cards: Aldi, Save-a-Lot, Dollar General, McDonalds, and Walmart
- \$5 and \$10 Gift cards: Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, and Target

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



Adult Class

Adult Sunday School is returning. We will meet for the Sundays of Lent (February 18 and 25, and March 3, 10, 17, and 24) in the Parlor to discuss our Lenten theme and engage in Visio Divina. Our theme this year is *Again & Again*, and we will be looking at how God brings us back and accepts us again and again. The classes will meet from 9:45 am – 10:45 am. Light refreshments, coffee, and tea will be provided. If you would like to participate and need childcare, please contact the church office so we can ensure we have volunteers on hand.

FPC BOOK CLUB
TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2024 AT 10 A.M.

Our March selection is a fantasy called historical fiction called *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue* – By V.E. Schwab. France 1714: in a moment of desperation, a young woman makes a Faustian bargain to live forever. This book has received many awards. We hope you will join us on March 12th. Please join us even if you haven't finished the book. Call Becky Murray 330-360-7526, if you have any questions.

Below is the rest of the books we are reading this year.

APRIL – Memoir – *Rust: A Memoir of Steel and Grit* - By Elise Colette Goldbach. One woman's story of working in the steel industry to rebuild her life.

MAY – Historical Fiction – *The Flight Girls: a Novel*. By Noelle Salazar. Shining light on real woman pilots during WWII.

JUNE – Classic – *Great Expectations* by Dickens

JULY - Murder/Mystery – *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* – By James McBride. "A murder mystery locked inside a great American novel." Small town secrets and the people who keep them.

AUGUST – Memoir - *Inheritance: A Memoir of Genealogy, Paternity, and Love* – By Dani Shapiro. A DNA test tells Dani that her beloved father is not her biological father.

SEPTEMBER – Historical Fiction – *Foundling: a Novel* – By Ann Leary. In 1927 18-year-old Mary Engle is hired as a secretary to work at an institution for mentally-disabled women of child-bearing age. Based on a shocking and little-known piece of American history.

OCTOBER - Nonfiction – *Eat a Peach* – By David Chang and Gabe Ulla. Chang shares the amazing story of his coming of age from starting a little noodle place to a restaurant empire.

NOVEMBER - SciFi /Fantasy - *Fourth Wing* – By Rebeca Yarros. (Empyrean Book 1). An epic of a world-building story, this is a tale of a kingdom under duress, a deadly competition to become an elite dragon rider, and the woman who bucks the odds.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO LEAD ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are looking for volunteers to take on leading our adult Sunday school class after Lent. If you are interested in teaching a class or a series of classes, or if you feel a call to help by coordinating our efforts, please reach out to Patty Schuley at secretary@fpcyo.org or Rev. Warner at pastor@fpcyo.org.

The Vision Statement of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

First Presbyterian Church, an increasingly diverse faith community,

- *opens its heart and doors to all,*
- *serves everyone with compassion,*
- *fosters spiritual growth through scripture-based worship and study,*
- *works for racial and social justice for all; and,*
- *models the principles of Jesus' life and teachings in the world.*

COMMUNION DATES FOR 2024

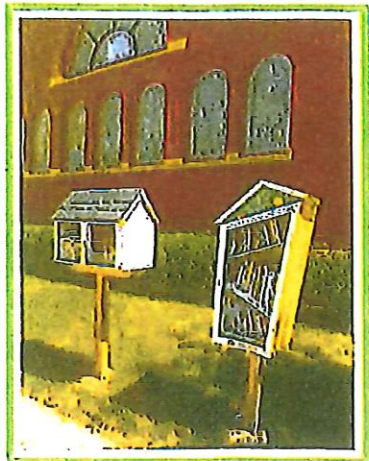
In order to prepare for the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the following dates have been approved by the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown at its meeting held on December 19, 2023:

Sunday, February 4 – Scout Sunday
 Sunday, February 18 – First Sunday in Lent
 Sunday, March 3
 *Thursday, March 28 -- Maundy Thursday
 Sunday, April 7
 Sunday, May 5
 Sunday, May 19 -- Pentecost
 *Sunday, June 2
 *Sunday, July 7
 *Sunday, August 4
 Sunday, September 1 – 225th Anniversary of FPCYO
 Sunday, October 6 – World Communion Sunday
 Sunday, November 3 – All Saints Day
 Sunday, December -- First Sunday of Advent

*Indicates that Communion will be served by intinction.



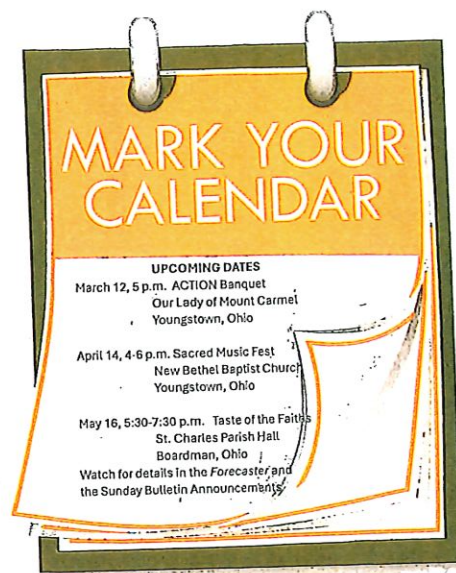
Little Free Libraries



Our Little Free Libraries are still being used by adults and children. As always, we can use more books. Please keep in mind books that help youth and children understand social justice, ways to be kind, anti-bullying, care of our earth and each other, etc. Also please be mindful that youth and children's books represent various cultures, skin colors and gender diversity. There are two large blue totes just inside the church doors off the parking lot. Thank you!

SCHAFF LECTURE

The Schaff Lecture has been part of the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown since 1981. Due to changes in staff at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, there was no lecture last year. In April, Rev. Warner will be meeting with a team from PTS to discuss the future of the lecture series. If you have any ideas, memories, or information you would like to share so Rev. Warner is as informed as possible, please contact him at pastor@fpcyo.org or call the church office.



Our Church's Anniversary



This year on September 1st, we celebrate our 225th Anniversary. We are beginning the process of planning for this event. There are several ways you can help. First, mark your calendars. September 1st falls on the Sunday of Labor Day weekend. We really want to see you here so plan accordingly. Second, if you would like to be part of the planning group, please email Rev. Warner at pastor@fpcyo.org. Third, if you have memories of the church that you would like to share, please send them to Rev. Warner. We are also looking for 225 facts about First Presbyterian Church for our anniversary year. Please send any facts you can think of to Rev. Warner to add to the collection. We will be highlighting these at the 225th celebration and through the end of the year.



MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1:30-2:30 pm – OL-YSU Fitness HC	2
3 9:45-10:45 am – Adult Sunday School – Parlor Worship Service 11 am Communion Sunday	4	5 5:30-7 pm – NAMI – Yoga – HC 6 pm Scouts	6 11-1 pm Citizens Circle – Parlor 11:30-1 pm Lunch Time Learning - HC	7 1-2 pm – OL – Line Dancing – HC 12 pm-Staff Mtg Parlor DR MFHC PT 9 am – 2 pm PT 3 pm – 8 pm 6-7 pm Tai Chi – HC	8	9
10 9:45-10:45 am – Adult Sunday School – Parlor Worship Service 11 am	11	12 10-11 FPC Book Club – Parlor 6 pm Scouts 5 pm BEG Mtg – Pastor's Office 6-7 pm Mission Mtg. – Library	13	14 1-2 pm – OL – Line Dancing – HC MFHC PT 9 am – 2 pm PT 3 pm – 8 pm Clinic 5 pm – 8 pm 6-7 pm Tai Chi – HC	15 9:30-1 pm – OL Living Well – HC 1:30-2:30 pm – OL-YSU Fitness HC	16
17 9:45-10:45 am – Adult Sunday School Parlor Worship Service – 11 am 	18 8-2 pm – OL – Lecture & Lunch – HC	19 BD OF ELECTIONS 5:30-7:30 PM – ODRC Family Forum – HC 6 pm Scouts 7 pm – Session Mtg – Library	20 10 am – Saving Our Seniors - HC	21 1-2 pm – OL – Line Dancing – HC MFHC PT 9 am – 2 pm PT 3 pm – 8 pm 6-7 pm Tai Chi – HC	22 1:30-2:30 pm – OL-YSU Fitness HC	23
24 Worship Service – 11 am 	25	26 6 pm Scouts	27	28 1-2 pm – OL – Line Dancing – HC MFHC PT 9 am – 2 pm PT 3 pm – 8 pm Clinic 5 pm – 8 pm 6-7:00 pm Tai Chi-HC MAUNDY THURSDAY	29 OFFICE CLOSED	30
31 Worship Service – 11 am 			10			