

# **First Presbyterian Church**

**Welcomes you for Worship  
February 18, 2018**

**Rev. David Smith  
Minister**



## **Our Vision**

**By the grace of Jesus Christ,  
We will strive to share the  
Good News with the world,  
To nurture our faith, and to  
Go into the world sharing  
Christ's love and mercy.**

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**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

February 18, 2018

10:15 am

**Assemble in God's Name**

**BIBLICAL AND INFORMAL GREETING**

*Following brief announcements, the congregation is invited to prepare in silence for worship.  
Please use this time to pray, to meditate, or to read the Scriptures for today.*

**PRELUDE**

“Lenten Contemplation”  
Westminster Bells

by William Moats

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Emilia Jacobs

People of the covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions.

***God remembers us according to God’s own steadfast love!***

The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth.

***All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness; we put our trust in God.***

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

***Loving God, you have made a covenant with us and with every living creature. We give thanks for the sign of the rainbow, a reminder of your promise that the flood of destruction will not be the last word. We thank you for the waters of baptism, the sign that we are raised as children of the covenant. And we thank you for the sign of the dove, the promise of your Holy Spirit. Hovering over the dawn of creation, descending upon your beloved Son, your Spirit also hovers over and descends upon us. With the whole creation, we give you all glory and honor. In your name we pray. Amen.***

**\*HYMN NO. 77 (Blue Hymnal)**

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

***God of mercy, we begin this Lenten season in confession. We do not live according to your ways, but according to our own. We condone violence, participate in systems of injustice, and use power to our own advantage at the expense of others. Forgive us, we pray, when we are tempted to follow paths other than those you set before us. Teach us your commandments; help us to turn from evil, and turn us toward your kingdom. Remember us, we pray, and be our ark of safety and new life.***

**PERIOD OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God  
forgives us and reconciles us and all things in heaven and on earth.

***Thanks be to God for this good news!***

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

May the peace of Christ be with you!

***And also with you!***

**\*RESPONSE**

“What Does the Lord Require?”

No. 97 (Blue Hymnal)

***What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?  
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.  
What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?  
To seek justice and love kindness and walk humbly with your God.***

## Proclaim God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON

Dottie Erb

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 25:1-10  
The Word of the Lord.  
*Thanks be to God!*

OT Pg. 503

ANTHEM

"I Give Myself Unto Prayer"  
Chancel Choir

G. Young

I give myself unto prayer, O Lord, for thy name's sake,  
Because thy mercy is good, Because thy mercy is good,  
And will endure forever.  
I give myself unto prayer.

O hear my prayer, O hear my prayer, O Lord, in mercy, in mercy.

I give myself unto prayer, O Lord, for thy name's sake,  
Because thy mercy is good, because thy mercy is good, And will endure forever. Amen

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Mark 1:1-12  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
*Praise to you, Lord Christ!*

NT Pg. 34

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

"Wilderness"

Rev. David Smith

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

\*HYMN NO. 85 (Blue Hymnal)

"What Wondrous Love Is This"

WONDROUS LOVE

## Give Thanks To God

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

The Lord be with you.  
*And also with you.*

Let us pray.

*The congregation will be led in prayer, concluding with our Lord's Prayer (traditional, page 16 of the hymnal).*

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*We use "debts" and "debtors."*)

OFFERING OF TITHES AND GIFTS

*Please sign the Fellowship Register and pass it on.*

OFFERTORY

“Within the Darkest Night”

by Derek Hakes

\*DOXOLOGY

No. 592 (Blue Hymnal)

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them up to God.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*It is right to give you thanks and praise. God of steadfast love and faithfulness, we are humbled as we try to do what is right and to walk in your ways. Receive these offerings and use them for your own good purposes in the church and in all creation. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

**Go In God's Name**

\*HYMN NO. 441 (Blue Hymnal)

“I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

ST. THOMAS

\*DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Three Pieces in A<sup>b</sup> Major (from L’Organiste)”

C. Franck

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*\*Indicates those who are able, please stand.*

**WE EXTEND A WARM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOME** to all visitors who are worshiping with us this morning. If you are visiting, we would welcome the opportunity to tell you more about our church family. Please sign the Fellowship Register in your pew and include information that will enable us to be in touch.

**WE HAVE ALTERED OUR TRADITION OF THE PASSING OF THE PEACE FOR A FEW WEEKS.** Due to the severity of the flu season this year, we will proceed directly to the sung response after the liturgy.

**THIS IS THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT.** The Lenten season invites us to times of examination and introspection. We should do this individually and as a community. Each service in Lent will lift up a particular practice to help us in our journey.

**WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE THE DEVOTIONAL INSERT IN THE BULLETIN HOME WITH YOU.** Each day there is a suggested scripture, a focus for meditation, and a prayer. The theme this week is “Wilderness Temptations.”

**ONE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OUR CHURCH WILL OFFER THIS LENT IS A SCRIPTURAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS WALKING DEVOTION.** By next Sunday all the stations will be up with associated scriptures and a reflection. There are longer reflections appropriate for adults and a shorter reflection intended for children, although adults will likely be blessed by the simple questions offered for the children. The first station will be by the chapel. Each station will contain instructions on where to move for the next station. You can do all the stations at one time or break them up over the course of Lent. The posters are ones we distributed to various groups last year to color. A couple still need to be colored.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO THE WESTMINSTER BELLS AND CHANCEL CHOIR FOR SHARING THEIR MUSICAL TALENTS THIS MORNING!**

**THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Denise Holmes in memory of Alvin W. Holmes, Donald A. Holmes, and Cary S. Holmes, her grandfather, father, and brother.

**THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:**

WORSHIP LEADER: Emilia Jacobs

JUNIOR CHURCH: Becky Schmehl

SOUND SYSTEM: John Lee

ACOLYTE:

USHERS: Bill Cusack, Cathy Piekarski, Rick & Judy Peoples

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Dottie Erb

SIP N CHAT: N. Murdock

FLOWER DELIVERY: The Congregation

**WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL AFTER WORSHIP FOR SIP N CHAT.** We also invite you to take part in the life of this congregation by participating in any activity that can help you on your spiritual journey. Regular Sunday activities are:

9:00 – Sunday School

10:15—Worship Service

11:30—Sip N Chat in Fellowship Hall

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHIES AND DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO DENISE HOLMES AND HER FAMILY ON THE DEATH OF HER BROTHER CARY HOLMES.**

**TROPICAL TRIVIA FUN NIGHT IS THIS FRIDAY FROM 6 TO 9 PM.** Leave winter behind for the evening. Enjoy tropical drinks and eats, while testing your knowledge of all things found around the equator in a Jeopardy style game! Bring your friends!

**THE COMMUNITY MEAL IS TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27** and the sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at the foot of the stairs if you would like to help. The menu is beef stew, biscuits or bread, tossed salad and blueberry sauce over cake for dessert.

**THE SIP N CHAT CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2018 HAS BEEN POSTED. PLEASE SIGN UP!** We have plenty of open dates. Simple snacks are fine. The next available date is March 25.

**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED:** On Friday, April 13th, FPC will once again host a Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction to help raise funds for the Neighborhood Jam outreach project. Tickets will go on sale soon, but action can be taken now! E & D is currently collecting items, theme baskets, and certificates for the silent auction. They may be dropped off in the church office. Thank you in advance for your donation.

**PAPER BAGS** - The multiple long weekends away from school have greatly depleted GoPacks' paper bag supply! Donations of gently used paper grocery bags are greatly appreciated and can be placed in the red bin in the Donation Station. Thank you.

**THE 2018 FLOWER CALENDAR HAS BEEN POSTED.** You can sign up to purchase flowers for a Sunday. The cost is \$15. Please email or call the office with the message you would like to appear in the bulletin for that Sunday. Dates that are still available in the next few months are May 27, July 1 and July 8.

**THE LIST OF BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES ON THE PRAYER LIST** are drawn from the church database. If you want yours listed, please provide that information to Karen. For privacy reasons the church will not accept birthdays and anniversaries from third parties.

**ALL MUSIC ENSEMBLES ARE BACK TO REGULAR REHEARSAL SCHEDULES! THEY ARE:**

**PresbyPraise:** Sundays 9-9:15

**Westminster Bells:** Wednesdays 5-6

**Joyful Hearts:** Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:15

**Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays 7:15 - 8:15

**Glorify! (Vocal)** Sundays after Church

**Glorify! (Combo)** practices on Tuesdays from 5-6

We'd love to have you be a part of these wonderful ensembles! Any questions, please see Peter at Sip N Chat.

**GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2018 ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.**

**THE 2018 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT** is \$29.34 per communicant member. This covers our share of administrative costs and mission for Muskingum Valley Presbytery, Synod of the Covenant and the General Assembly. Members are invited to make a contribution for this to help insure the success of the budget. The church's assessment is more than \$7000 annually. An envelope for the Per Capita is available in your offering envelope box, or simply make a check payable to the church with "Per Capita" on the memo line.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN WINS STATE WIDE ACCOLADES!** Al Laing of Greenleaf submitted the Memorial Garden project to the annual contest run by the Ohio Nursery and Landscape Association. The project won Grand Prize in its category and Project of the Year! Thank you to all who contributed to make this garden possible. And thank you to the members of the church's planning group that worked closely with Al and his team.

**PIONEER PRESCHOOL WILL BE HAVING A FUNDRAISER WITH SMITTY'S PIZZA** (both locations) on February 21 and 28. For details see Judy Peoples. Thank you for your support!

**ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF  
February 18 – February 25**

**Sunday**

9:00 – Adult SunSch  
9:00 – PresbyPraise  
9:15 – Youth/Child. SS  
10:15 – Worship  
11:30 – Sip N Chat  
11:45 – Glorify!  
2:00 – Youth Group  
Roadshow Concert

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

5:00 – Book Club  
5:00 – Glorify! Combo  
6:00 - EVE

**Wednesday**

3:20 – Scholars  
5:00 – Westminster Bells  
6:30 – Joyful Hearts  
7:15 – Chancel Choir

**Thursday**

5:30 - Girl Scouts  
7:00 - AA

**Friday**

6:00 – Fun Night

**Saturday**

8:00 – Men's Fellowship  
9:00 – AA  
10:00 – SDA Church School  
& Worship

**Next Sunday –**

Scripture – Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38  
Sermon – “Cross Bearing”