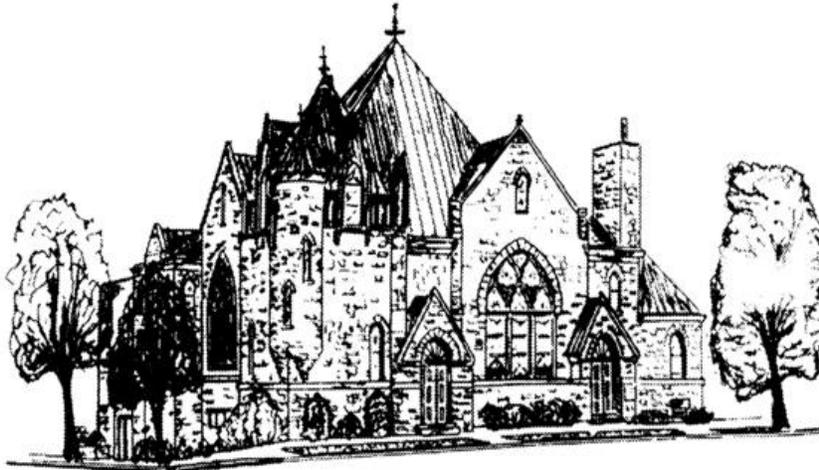


# **First Presbyterian Church**

**Welcomes you for Worship  
March 11, 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.**

**501 Fourth Street  
Marietta, OH 45750  
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[www.fpcmariettaoh.org](http://www.fpcmariettaoh.org)**

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

March 11, 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

"Shall I Not My God Be Praising?"

E. Pepping

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor David

O give thanks to the Lord, who is good;

***God's steadfast love endures forever.***

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

***We have been redeemed from troubled.***

God has gathered us from all the lands.

***We gather from the north, the south, the east, and the west.***

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

***Almighty God, through Jesus Christ you bring salvation to the world. Give us strength to believe in him that we may share in his victory over the power of death and fulfill the purpose for which you have made us, for he dwells with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.***

\*HYMN NO. 223 (Blue Hymnal)

"O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer"

STUTTGART

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

***Merciful God, we confess the folly of our sin and the hypocrisy of our complaints. We grumble about the evils in our world, even as we commit injustices and profit through deceit. We fret about the scarcity of resources while hoarding earth's goods and cheating the poor. We protest the problems of our world, but we do not actively work to address them. Merciful God, expose our sins before the light of your grace. Heal our sin and free us from our foolish ways that we may know the joy of eternal life in Jesus Christ.***

PERIOD OF SILENCE FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world might be saved through him.

***In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.***

\*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

Pastor David

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

OT Pg. 559

ANTHEM

"O Lord, My God, You Are My Refuge"  
Chancel Choir

Bach/arr. H. Hobson

O Lord, my God, you are my refuge; O let me never be dismayed,  
Lord, in mercy hear my prayer to you. You are my hope.  
You are my refuge. My trust is ever in your care;  
Lord, in mercy hear my prayer to you.  
Through dark of night, your light shines upon my way.  
For you are near to be my comfort.  
I will praise your name forevermore.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

John 3:14-21  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Christ!**

NT Pg. 94

THE WORD PROCLAIMED

"Love Story"

The Rev. George Spransy

\*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. 394 (Blue Hymnal)

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

BALM IN GILEAD

## 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

“For What Earthly Reason”  
Joyful Hearts

D. Rambo/arr. T. Fettke

For what earthly reason would the Heavenly Father send down  
His Son to suffer rejection and pay for crimes He had not done?  
For what earthly reason would the Father let Him hang on a tree?

I wept with the answer that “what earthly reason” was me.

I was the reason, that “what earthly reason.” I was the guilty; He was the sacrifice.  
I was the taker; He was the giver, Dying while I go free. That “what earthly reason” was me.

The fairest of angels were not summoned from the throne up in the sky;

To purchase my pardon, not even the angels could die.

The only provision for my freedom was destined to be The sweet Lamb of Glory,  
and His only reason was me.

\*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. Merciful God, we thank you for your wonderful works.*

*Accept this offering with the dedication of our lives and help us be for the world an emblem of your  
steadfast love, in Jesus Christ. Amen.*

### Go In God's Name

\*HYMN NO. 438 (Blue Hymnal)

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

DENNIS

\*DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“We Who Once Were Dead”

P. Manz

\* \* \* \* \*

*\*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.

**THE SANCTUARY FLOWERS TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Tom and Vivian O’Connor.

**THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS:**

WORSHIP LEADER: Pastor David

CHILDREN’S SERMON: Pastor David

JUNIOR CHURCH: Wade Miller

SIP N CHAT: Charles and Carolyn Barnes

SOUND SYSTEM: John Lee

FLOWER DELIVERY: The Congregation

ACOLYTE:

USHERS: Linda and Gary O’Brien, Kathy Buckley, Jane Hutchinson

**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 CONDOLENCES AND DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO KAREN SNOW AND HER FAMILY ON THE DEATH OF HER BROTHER DORYL WEINSTOCK.**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO JOYFUL HEARTS AND TO CHANCEL CHOIR FOR SHARING THE MUSICAL TALENTS THIS MORNING!**

**THIS IS THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT.** The Lenten season invites us to spend time focusing on our relationship with God. We should do this individually and as a community.

**WE WELCOME THE REV. GEORGE SPRANSY TO THE PULPIT TODAY.** George served as the interim pastor before David was called. George and Margaret are moving to North Carolina at the end of March. Their new address will be 214 Sailfish Court, Durham, NC 27703.

**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 “Come to the Light.”

**ONE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OUR CHURCH IS OFFERING THIS LENT IS A SCRIPTURAL ‘STATIONS OF THE CROSS’ WALKING DEVOTION.** Each station has 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 is by the chapel. Each station contains 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.

**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. Open dates are March 25, April 15, 22, and 29.

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF A GROUP TO DISCUSS SPIRITUAL PRACTICES? DO YOU HAVE PRACTICES THAT YOU HAVE FOUND TO BE A BLESSING YOU COULD SHARE WITH OTHERS?** Pastor David will be convening a group after Easter to discuss how spiritual practices help us grow. If you are interested, please add your name to the signup sheet on the big bulletin board by the Wooster Street entrance. Pastor David will survey those interested to determine the best meeting time.

**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.

**DID YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU SELL 10 OR MORE TICKETS** to the April 13th Spaghetti Dinner and Silent Auction fund raiser for the Neighborhood Jam, you will receive a prize? Let Heather Warner or the office know if you are willing to help sell tickets. So, get busy and help bring in the community by selling them a ticket. Tickets are \$4.00 in advance and \$5.00 at the door. Tickets will also be available after church on March 25th and April 8th.

**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 available in the next few months are July 8, August 5 and August 26.

**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.

**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.

**GIVING ENVELOPES FOR 2018 ARE AVAILABLE IN FELLOWSHIP HALL.**

**ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK OF  
March 11 – March 18**

**Sunday**

9:00 – Adult SunSch  
9:00 – PresbyPraise  
9:15 – Youth/Child SS  
10:15 – Worship  
11:30 – Congregational Lunch  
11:45 – Glorify!  
5:00 – Youth Group

**Monday**

5:30 – MOV Interfaith

**Tuesday**

8:00 – MHFA Training  
5:00 – Glorify! Combo

**Wednesday**

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

**Thursday**

5:30 - Girl Scouts  
6:00 – Finance  
7:00 – AA

**Friday**

**Saturday**

8:00 – Men's Fellowship  
9:00 – AA  
10:00 – SDA Church School  
& Worship  
12:00 – SDA Fellowship

**Next Sunday –**

Scripture – Psalm 119:9-16  
Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Sermon – “Study of  
the Word”