

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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WILLARD SCHOOL VALENTINE PARTY



DEACONS' VALENTINE RECEPTION



CE collected Valentines for Willard students and helped with the Valentine party.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity to our Adopt a School, Willard Elementary.



THE SPARE

ISSUE 2024 VOLUME 3 MARCH 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

WELCOME REV. KELLY LINDSAY

We are excited to announce that Session voted to enter an interim covenant with the Rev. Kelly Lindsay. Rev. Kelly earned her Masters of Divinity from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Most recently, she served as the Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Monticello, Indiana. Pastor Kelly is married to Audwin, who is retired from the active-duty Army and works in North Carolina. Kelly has three grown children and five wonderful grandchildren along with Audwin's four grown children and five grandchildren. Please give our new Interim Pastor a warm FPC welcome.



2024 CHILI COOK-OFF



Our annual Chili Cook-Off was held on Sunday, February 11, after worship. Congratulations to this year's winners: 1st place Mike Welke, 2nd place Betty Kay Womer, and 3rd place tie with Becky Lough and Jenny Annandonono.





Grace and Peace, Siblings in Christ:

I am so happy to be here with you. I've been getting settled in the office and in my apartment. Hopefully, it will all come together soon.

Thank you for the warm welcome Audwin and I received on our first Sunday. My first week has been wonderful, as I've been able to see some of the Church missions and activities at work. I attended community lunch and also the Deacons meeting. The Ash Wednesday service was beautiful and very meaningful. I look forward to joining the Lent journey through *The Shack*. When I first saw the movie, I could hardly sit still in the theater. I was overjoyed about how that depiction of God was the first time I saw in a movie a resemblance of the God I serve. What an incredible way to begin our time together!

As we move forward with the work to be done while I'm here, you will notice that some small changes are taking place in the worship service. All the same elements are there; I have just moved a few things, so that the flow makes sense to me and my understanding of our directory for worship. The Prayer of Invocation and the Prayer for Illumination will be read by the Lay Reader as one voice leading us into worship and asking God to enlighten us to hear the Word respectively. Those are the only two prayers in which the congregation does not have an active part. The congregation participates in the Prayer of Confession in unison; and the congregation participates responsively in the prayers of the people and through the Lord's Prayer that will come at the end of the Offertory Prayer. If this doesn't make sense to you, please feel free to talk to me. I'm happy to share my rationale for times of a single voice and why I think it is important for participation at other times.

I have learned that the congregation had cards available to the congregation for prayer requests in the past. I would like to reinstate this process to protect the privacy of individuals and ensure that we don't accidentally broadcast something over the radio or our Facebook feed that we shouldn't. More information will follow when I have had the chance to speak to appropriate people and mobilize the prayer chain/circle into action. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if there is something you need me to know or if there is something I can do.

Friday will be my regular day off during the week. Other than that, I will be homebased around the office most days. If you would like to make an appointment to see me, please do so. I have an "open-door" kind of policy. If the door is open, then please say hello. I consider a greeting a gift, and I'm a social being who spends a lot of time alone. You are not bothering me. If I am in a private meeting or do not want to be disturbed, the door will be closed.

Beloved, I have come to serve God and the church. Please know that I am here if you ever want to talk. I have already shared with the Board of Deacons that I lack the ability to read minds. Though something may seem obvious to some of us, the opposite may be true for others. Please do not assume that I know your desires regarding home visits, hospital visits, phone call check-ins, or other pastoral care needs. For every person who expects me to be there, there is surely another who desires uninterrupted rest in order to heal. I will depend on all of you to be open and honest with me and with the leaders of the church about your needs. If you call me, I will come; but if you don't call me, I may not even know you are in crisis. Ministry is a big job with lots of moving parts, and I always have plenty to do; but, please know that you are important to me and I will do the best I can to be there for you.

Rev. Kelly Lindsay



CLERK'S CORNER

At the regular standing meeting of Session held at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall on January 21, 2024, the following actions were taken:

Approved a motion to enter into an Interim Pastor Covenant with Rev. Kelly S. Lindsay. Total cost to the church for one year is not to exceed \$112,612.62.

Approved the FPC-Warren's statistical report for submission to Eastminster Presbytery by February 9, 2024.

Approved a motion from BGA for bid of \$1,248.00 to Denna Heating to repair a condensate pipe leak.

Received the December 2023 financial report for audit.

Approved a motion from the Finance Committee to establish a "Deacons Ministries FPC" account as an asset of FPC-Warren and add a new line item to the investment section of the balance sheet.

Voted to disband the 2023 Nominating Committee.

Voted to hire Katie Elder as the new nursery attendant.

Elected Alexis Musgrove to represent FPC-Warren at the

Eastminster Presbytery meeting on February 13, 2024.

The next meeting of Session will be held on February 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall with Rev. Kelly S. Lindsay moderating.

Yours in Christ,

Mary Chuirazzi, Clerk of Session

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



CE is collecting individually wrapped Easter candy to fill plastic eggs for an Easter egg hunt on Palm Sunday. Please put your donations in the basket marked *Egg Hunt* in Fellowship Hall by **Sunday, March 17**. Contact Marissa Welke if you have any questions. Thank you.



DON'T FORGET...turn your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday, March 9, before going to bed. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10.

Greetings from the Building, Grounds and Asset's Committee! We have been busy working all winter with projects such as overseeing the reinstallation of the Stained-Glass Windows in the Sanctuary and the removal of the next set as we move onto Phase 2, the updating of the lights in the Sanctuary to LED's and those throughout the building as well, and maintenance of our beloved building. As we move forward into Spring, we have another project in mind for which we are looking for a volunteer, and that is re-starting the Memorial Garden Brick project. It's been a while since we've had any new bricks engraved and installed, and we would like to offer that opportunity to our Congregation once again. However, we are looking for someone to help us organize this process outside of our very busy BGA Committee members. If you feel a calling to help us, please let Dave Skipper or Amy Burd know and we will fill you in on all the details. Thanks, everyone, and enjoy the coming of Spring!



Please take the opportunity to welcome Pastor Kelly Lindsay to lead the ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Warren. We also want to express our gratitude for those who have done a remarkable job of keeping the Church's programs alive and vital over the last nine months. We are appreciative of the guest pastors who proclaimed God's message each week. In the absence of a pastor, it could have been easy to let the 'sailboat church' drift without direction, but we have strong leadership that successfully navigated us through this transition. Thank you to all who have been visible and behind the scenes. Now, let us all assure Pastor Kelly that we will keep up the good work. *Anonymous*



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Our next celebration of Communion will be **Sunday, March 3, 2024**, during our regular 10:00 a.m. worship service.

TWO-CENTS-A-MEAL OFFERING The Deacons will be collecting for the 2¢-A-Meal offering on Sunday, **March 3, 2024**, during our regular worship service. This program provides a channel for Presbyterians to respond to the crisis of hunger at home and abroad.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE If you or someone you know would like a visit or assistance from the Pastor or a Deacon, please call the Church Office at 330-393-1524.

FPC WEB PAGE ADDRESS is <http://www.fpcwarren.org> - come visit us on the 'Net! Our e-mail address is info@fpcwarren.org.

LISTEN TO US EVERY SUNDAY MORNING at 10:00 a.m. on 1570 AM and 97.7 FM or watch on Facebook at First Presbyterian Church of Warren.

MIRIAM-ESTHER CIRCLE will meet Thursday, **March 7, 2024**, at 11:00 a.m. in the Parlor to continue with lesson 6 of the book "Celebrating Sabbath." Please join us! Bring a bag lunch.

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: The new Daily Bread and Upper Room devotionals are available in the rack outside the Church Office.

THE SPIRE DEADLINE for March is **Friday, March 22, 2024**. Please send your articles and pictures to Kathie at kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org

THE FIRST SUNDAY SPEAKER SERIES will be on **Sunday, March 3**, following worship in Fellowship Hall. This month's speaker is Kelly Younkins, the owner/founder of Kelly Younkins Consulting, LLC. She is a licensed clinician, clinical supervisor, educator, and consultant who has served in a variety of mental health roles since 2005. She also serves as a wellness consultant/coach. The topic will be "Cultivating Wellbeing" and will cover perspective and practices which help create and maintain wellness; physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

EASTER FLOWERS – Easter is Sunday, March 31, 2024. We are now taking orders for flowers to grace our Sanctuary. We will again offer a variety of flowers. Please complete the form below and include payment with your order. Checks should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church. Please turn in the completed form (with payment) to the Church Office or put it in the offering box. Orders must be received by **Monday, March 25**, in order to secure your selections. (If orders are received after the deadline, choices cannot be guaranteed.)

-----Tear here-----

In memory/honor of (circle one) _____

Given by _____

Easter Lilies/\$9.00 each _____	Hyacinth/\$7.75 each _____
Daffodils/\$7.75 each _____	Tulips/\$7.75 each _____
\$_____ for Stained-Glass Window Fund	\$_____ for FPC Endowment Fund
Your Name _____	



DEACONS' NEWS

The Deacons met on February 19 and welcomed Rev. Kelly Lindsay to our board meeting. Each committee was given the opportunity to discuss their plans and outreach as we observe Lent and Easter this month. The Fellowship Committee continues to assist with the Friday evening Lenten activities.

The Congregational Care Committee discussed plans for Easter Treats for our Special Care Members. We would like to thank the FPC Craft Group for their creativity and projects for the holiday gifts. The Easter Gifts are planned to be delivered between Palm Sunday and Easter. During the past month, Myra Fitzgerald delivered four Grief Bags to members suffering the loss of a loved one. During February Kathi Ensweiler and Betty Kay Womer took Home Communion to five of our Special Care Members.

The Mission Committee continues to support local organizations focused on improving living conditions for those in need. They delivered boxes of gently used household items to Someplace Safe and the YWCA The Wings. Outreach like this truly helps to create a *home* for many families. They also provide backpacks for students at Willard School. On April 4, this group plans to visit MCK (Making Kids Count) in Boardman to help pack Spring Cleaning Baskets. During the month of *April*, the Mission Committee will ask the Congregation to donate cleaning supplies (i.e. paper towels, cleaning products, and high efficiency laundry detergent) for The Wings Apartment Complex. You have plenty of time to check for sales on these needed items. The collection starts on April 7 and ends on April 28. The generosity of our congregation is always amazing!

The Mission Committee is also in contact with the Easter Bunny and creating an "*eggstravagant*" surprise for the children at Someplace Safe. We would love to share more details, but we promised the Easter Bunny we could keep it confidential!!

On February 20, the Community Lunch/Grocery Distribution took place. Forty-nine people enjoyed a delicious lunch of chicken and rice casserole followed by cherry pie. After lunch 39, large grocery orders were distributed. This month, we had bags of potatoes, onions, tangerines, tomatoes, and nectarines to accompany the bags of canned goods, frozen items, and personal care items. Thank you to all the volunteers who make the monthly event run so smoothly.

Wishing you Peace and Reflection during Lent and a Blessed Easter,
S. Hirt Buzulencia, Moderator- Deacons



THE NEW FPC PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

will be available soon. Stay tuned for a video presentation on a Sunday soon that will explain how to use the directory. The video will also be available on the First Presbyterian Church Facebook. If you did not have a photo taken recently or get one for the last directory, you can email a photo, and we will add it to the directory.

Meet-n-Eat

THE FIRST "MEET-N-EAT" of the year is at **5:30 on March 12** in Fellowship Hall. Rather than spend time cooking at home, come join us for a meal of tossed salad, chicken cordon bleu, and strawberry cheesecake for dessert. The activity theme is "Forgive." Please sign up in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, March 10, so we know how much food to prepare.

FPC March Birthdays

03/03 Ben Wireman
03/06 Alexis Musgrove
03/08 Pat Rogers
03/09 Mary Chuirazzi
Katie Polenick
03/10 Sophie Lipscomb
03/13 Pat Hebberts
03/14 Angus Macaulay
03/15 Cara Annandono
03/18 Alex Polenick
Brooklyn Oliver
03/19 Marilyn Johnson
03/25 David Heckman
03/26 Wayne Johnson
03/27 Susie Wireman
03/29 Ray Rubrake
Linda Slusher
03/31 Brian Annandono

If we have overlooked anyone’s birthday, we apologize. Please contact the Church Office so that we may update our records.



FPC MARCH 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	2 11:00 am AA, MC
3 3rd Sunday of Lent Communion/2 Cents a Meal 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am First Sunday Speaker 11:15 am Bell Practice	4 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 am Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm BGA Meeting 7:00 pm AA, MC	5 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	6 10:00 am Crafters, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	7 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, P 7:00 pm Church Growth Meeting, Z	8 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	9 11:00 am AA, MC Turn Clocks ahead
10 4th Sunday of Lent Daylight Saving Time 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Girl Scout sponsored Fellowship, FH	11 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	12 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:30 pm Meet—n—Eat, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	13 6:00 Relay for Life, FH 6:30 pm AA, MC	14 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 7:00 pm CE Meeting, Z	15 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	16 10:00 am Baker wedding meeting, P 11:00 am AA, MC 12:00 pm Wright Party FH
17 5th Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Bell Practice	18 10:00 am OA, P 4:00 pm Deacons Mtg. FH 7:00 pm AA, MC	19 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 11:00 am Free Lunch and Grocery Distribution 5:00 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	20 1:00 Crossroads Bereavement Grp. P 6:30 pm AA, MC	21 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 12:00 am Dessert & Dialogue Women’s Study 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	22 SPIRE Deadline Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Study/ Movie, FH	23 11:00 am AA, MC
24 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Easter Egg Hunt	25 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 6:30 pm Deacons/Session Meeting, FH 7:15 pm Session Meeting 7:00 pm AA, MC	26 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 7:00 pm NA, MC	27 6:30 pm AA, MC	28 Maundy Thursday 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	29 Good Friday Church Office Closed 12:00 pm Good Friday Vigil, S	30 11:00 am AA, MC
31 Easter 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship						