

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

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WE'RE ON THE WEB

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DEACONS' NEWS

The Deacons met on February 20. Kathi Ensweiler opened the meeting with a prayer for Healing Hearts since February is American Heart Month. Our meeting started with the approval of a \$500.00 donation to the United Presbyterian Church of East Palestine. As we all watch the news, the needs in East Palestine are many with this devastated community that is just 40 miles away.

The Mission Committee continues to support organizations in our community focused on improving living conditions for those in need. The Committee took two "field trips" during the past month. They visited the YWCA WINGS Apartments on Park Ave and went to Boardman to tour Project MKC (Making Kids Count). The Deacons have given both of these nonprofits supplies and monetary donations during the

past year. Sharyn Common reported that both of these locations are truly doing an excellent job of meeting the needs due to poverty in the area. This Committee plans to start a collection of baby supplies to help Children Services of Trumbull County. During the month of March, you can donate: baby wash/lotion, wipes, infant nail clippers, nasal aspirators, thermometers, brush/comb sets, preemie undershirts, onesies and sleepers. The Deacons thank you for your generous support of our projects.

The Congregational Care Committee continues to send monthly birthday greetings. They plan to have a special Easter treat for our Special Care Members. The Fellowship Committee is helping with the various Lent activities during March. The Girl Scouts

have a recognition day on March 12 with a reception after church. (I am certain they will be serving cookies for all to enjoy.)

The Grocery Distribution took place on February 21. Our volunteers gave out 33 grocery orders, and each family received hot lunches to take home too. Thank you to the volunteers who made this distribution possible.

The next time you are scrolling on Instagram/Facebook, you might just see Warren's FPC. The Presbyterian Mission Agency plans to feature the mission work of our Church on their social media. (Wow- we may be "influencers" for our mission work!)

Wishing you Peace, Love and Reflection during Lent.
Sarah Hirt Buzulencia, Moderator



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THE SPARE

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WARREN

FPC CRAFTERS MAKING VALENTINE GIFTS



FEBRUARY 5 DRUG AWARENESS SERIES



DEACONS' VALENTINE RECEPTION



Thank you to our talented volunteers for their work remodeling the small room off Westminster Hall.





BETTY'S JOYFUL NOISE

Our Lenten journey has begun as we travel through the wilderness to the cross and then beyond to the empty tomb at Easter. I look forward to the time that I can say "Alleluia!" after the Assurance of Pardon during worship. The tradition is to refrain from using this expression of joy during this 40-day Lenten period.

On Ash Wednesday, the Church again offered drive-through ashes underneath the portico during the lunch hour and late afternoon. The time was very special. The majority who drove through were not church members but community residents. Some spoke about how this was the second or third year of attending and that it was such a gift in their lives: the weather was rainy, their spouse was recovering from surgery, or their church didn't offer imposition of ashes. I blessed grandmoms and their toddler granddaughters, Catholics (afterwards, we talked about worshipping the same God) and one woman who was hesitant to enter the big church building and used this as an opportunity to check out the pastor. I am praying that she was put at ease with our interaction, so that she will return and come inside next time.

Perhaps the most touching story from this time that I can share is about a twenty something young man who was using the portico to stay dry and use his cell phone. If you recall, the day was cold, dreary, and damp—bone chilling, actually. After a while of letting the man communicate on his phone, I asked him if he would like to receive ashes. He looked at me quizzically. We talked about the ashes and the practice of imposition. I asked again about him receiving the sign of the cross on his forehead. With a sheepish smile, he looked at me and agreed. As I anointed him with the oil and the ash, I silently prayed for God to guide his life and make the Lord's presence known to this man, while I said the traditional words of imposition and prayer. After we finished, he apologized for the smell of alcohol and then asked, "Do you think the ashes will help?" I responded confidently, "I believe God loves us - you and me. I believe God wants the best for each of us. Yes, I believe God will help."

At the February officers' retreat, we spoke about being a presence in the community through various and different ministries. We also talked about loving people because Jesus loves us. God calls us to be the light on the square. Whether we are shuttling groceries in carts out to cars or placing ashes on foreheads, or handing out cookies at Willard School's Parents' Night, when we engage with community residents through word and deed, we are sharing the love of Christ. We are being the presence of Christ in the community.

In the next 40 days, can you be that presence in this community? Can you be the light in the darkness or a way to help get through the wilderness? How is God calling you this Lenten season to turn to the Lord and draw closer to God?

Joyfully, Betty



WELCOME MARISSA WELKE



Marissa Welke received her Bachelor's degree in Organizational Communications, with an emphasis in Public Relations, from Capital University in 2015. Returning home to Warren in 2015, she has continued working with children as she did both before and during college. Marissa has sung in FPC's Motet Choir since 2016 and has assisted with the children's music. She has over 10 years of experience working with children both in and out of educational settings, including Montessori, Special Education, Public Education, Nannying, and event planning. She has planned public events for children and has held various committee positions with several public service organizations.

Marissa has just started her own family with her fiancé Josh, his daughter Emma who is 13, and their two beautiful boys Maverick and Axel, who are only a year apart at just 1 and 2. She also has two fur babies, Maggie Mae, a lab-pit mix, and Kiki, a black and white kitten, both of whom were rescues. Marissa has been the head majorette instructor for Warren G. Harding High School for the past five years. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her family and watching movies.

She has many plans for the families and youth, including turning the former computer room, now CE office, into a youth lounge. She wants to make it a space that the youth feel free to come to congregate together, and learn the word of the Lord, giving them the strong fundamentals to begin building their own young Presbyterian journey. Her hopes are that they will be confident in the Lord as they go out into the world, knowing the Word, and they will be able to use it to help guide them through life. She has been working with the CE Committee on learning and continuing the implemented curriculum for the Children in Worship, as well as creating her own twist to the program. She intends to use her music background to involve music in the program. She has put together a wish list on Amazon of things to help make these spaces special for the youth. You can find them on the link below. Items on the list do not need to be purchased from Amazon if they can be found elsewhere.

<https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/3AYQD7FBSVJT/guest-view>

Marissa would like to thank you all for your continued support and looks forward to getting to know each and every one of you. She would also like for anyone who needs anything to please reach out to her via her email, marissawelke@fpc.org.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



CE will be collecting 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 26**. Contact Marissa Welke if you have any questions. Thank you.



Deacons' Mission Project

The Deacons will be collecting baby items for Trumbull County Children's Services. Items requested are baby wash, lotion, baby wipes, nail clippers, nasal aspirators, thermometers, brush and comb sets, preemie t-shirts, onesies, and sleepers. **NO DIAPERS**. You can place your donations in the box in the Sanctuary. We will accept donations through the month of March.



DON'T FORGET...turn your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday, March 11, before going to bed. Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 12.



SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION Our next celebration of Communion will be **Sunday, March 5, 2023**, 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 5, 2023**, during our regular worship service. This program provides a channel for Presbyterians to respond to the crisis of hunger at home and abroad.

JOIN US THURSDAY MORNINGS for our weekly prayer talk. We meet in Fellowship Hall for guided devotionals with scripture, prayer, and fellowship at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome!

CONGREGATIONAL CARE If you or someone you know would like a visit or assistance from the Deacons, 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.

VIRTUAL FELLOWSHIP AND FOLLOW-UP: Join us virtually on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at 3:00 p.m. for fellowship and follow-up from Sunday's worship service. The invitation to join the Zoom meeting will be included in Thursday's E-SPIRE. Our next meetings will be **March 13 and March 27**.

MIRIAM-ESTHER CIRCLE will meet Thursday, **March 2, 2023**, 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 24, 2023**. Please send your articles and pictures to Kathie at kathietrowbridge@fpcwarren.org

CONGRATULATIONS to Michael and Sarah McKee and brother Michael on the birth of their daughter and sister, Riley June McKee. Proud grandparents are Cathy and Tom Vanasdale.

EASTER FLOWERS – Easter is Sunday, April 9, 2023. 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 20** 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 _____



CLERK'S CORNER

During the regular standing meeting of Session held on February 22, 2023 in Fellowship Hall, the following actions were taken:

- Approved the membership roll at 224 with the removal of Janice and Thomas Semple to the First Christian Church of Niles.
- Confirmed the electronic vote of February 14, 2023, to hire a part-time facilities assistant, Jennifer Procter, at \$15/hr and no paid benefits.
- Approved a motion from Voices of Micah 6:8 regarding a permanent placement for their book cart, which houses books related to social justice issues and acts as a lending library for church members to educate themselves. The motion carried and the book cart will be located under the Small Groups Sign-Up bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.
- Approved a motion from the Building, Grounds and Assets Committee to repair additional leaking steam pipes. The cost of the repairs to the two pipes, one for \$805 and the other for \$7335, will be taken from the Endowment Fund as approved by the Finance Committee.
- The Christian Education Committee announced that four young woman will be part of the next Confirmation Class, which will begin on February 28, 2023. The class will be held on Tuesdays from 5-6:30 pm. The class will be confirmed on Mother's Day, May 14, 2023.
- Approved receipt of the financials from January 2023.
- Reviewed an audio-visual services request form, which church members will need to complete before any event requiring those services.

The next meeting of Session will take place on Monday, March 20, and will begin with a combined meeting of the Deacons and Session at 6:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. The Session meeting will immediately follow the combined meeting.

Yours in Christ,

Mary L. Chuirazzi
Clerk of Session



Meet-n-Eat

Meet-n-Eat returns in March! Save the date, **Tuesday, March 14, 5:30-7:00**. Take an evening off from cooking dinner and come to the Church for a time of fun and fellowship. Chef Dave Angelini will again serve a wonderful meal followed by a CE activity. Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the office by Sunday, March 12, so we know how much food we will need.



ADDICTION AWARENESS SERIES: Join us after worship on **Sunday, March 5**, to hear Angelica Brewer, the Executive Director of Niles Treatment Services. Niles Treatment Services brings hope through recovery programs and support to communities, families, and individuals whose lives have been impacted as a result of substance use disorders. Come and learn of the services available to those in need.

AUDIO-VISUAL SERVICES

If your event at the Church requires audio-visual equipment, the Worship Committee is requesting you fill out a services request form at least two weeks prior to the event.

Please contact the Church Office to get the form.

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
- 03/12 Hunter Stringham
- 03/13 Pat Hebberts
- 03/14 Angus Macaulay
- 03/15 Cara Annandono
- 03/18 Alex Polenick
Brooklyn Oliver
- 03/19 Ella Vilicka
Marilyn Johnson
- 03/25 David Heckman
- 03/26 Wayne Johnson
- 03/27 Susie Wireman
- 03/29 Ray Rubrake
Linda Slusher
- 03/31 Brian Annandono
Sara Chuirazzi



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



FPC MARCH 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	 Lenten Bible Study		1 10:00 am Crafters, B 6:30 pm AA, MC	2 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 11:00 am Miriam Esther Circle, P 7:00 pm Church Growth Meeting, Z	3 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	4 11:00 am AA, MC
5 2nd Sunday of Lent Communion/2 Cents a Meal 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 11:15 am Addiction Awareness Series 7:00 pm Racial Healing Study	6 10:00 am OA, P 6:30 pm BGA Meeting 7:00 pm AA, MC	7 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:00 pm Confirmation CL 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	8 6:30 pm AA, MC	9 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 7:00 pm CE Meeting, Z	10 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	11 11:00 am AA, MC 12:00 pm Wright Party, FH Turn Clocks ahead
12 3rd 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	13 10:00 am OA, P 3:00 pm Fellowship & Follow-up, Z 4:00 pm Finance, P 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm VoM, Z	14 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:30 pm Meet-n-Eat, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	15 1:00 pm Crossroads Bereavement Group, P 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Communications Meeting	16 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH 12:00 am Dessert & Dialogue Women's Study 7:00 pm Worship Meeting	17 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	18 11:00 am AA, MC 12:00 pm Wright Shower, FH
19 4th Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 11:15 am Lenten Fellowship Lunch, FH	20 10:00 am OA, P 5:30 pm Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm Deacons/Session Meeting, FH 7:15 pm Session Meeting 7:00 pm AA, MC	21 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 10:30 am Free Grocery Distribution 5:00 pm Confirmation CL 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, FH 7:00 pm NA, MC	22 6:30 pm AA, MC 7:00 pm Healing and Wholeness Service	23 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH	24 SPIRE Deadline Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	25 11:00 am AA, MC
26 5th Sunday of Lent 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School	27 10:00 am OA, P 3:00 pm Fellowship & Follow-up, Z 5:30 pm Girl Scouts, B 7:00 pm AA, MC	28 9:30 am Al-Anon, MC 5:00 pm Confirmation CL 7:00 pm NA, MC	29 6:30 pm AA, MC	30 9:00 am Prayer Talk, FH	31 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm Lent Bible Study	

