

# The MESSENGER

March 2023

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## ***Meet the Staff***

**the Rev. Jeffrey Lang**

**Lauren**

Vocalist

**Amy**

Director of Music and Organist

**Kate**

Choir Director and Vocalist

**Paisley**

Videographer

**Deborah**

Administrative Assistant

**the Rev. Dr. Dawn**

Parish Associate

**Logan**

Vocalist



Lent is historically the fast of forty days prior to Easter. In the church's first three centuries, fasting in preparation for Easter did not usually exceed two or three days. By 325 AD and the Council of Nicea, the custom of fasting by candidates for baptism had expanded to forty days, inspired by the forty-day fasts of Moses, Elijah, and especially Jesus. By the 7th Century, a forty-day season from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday preceding Easter, excluding Sundays, seems firmly established.

Lent has come to serve as a season of extra devotion to religious exercises, self-reflection, and introspection, with those observing Lent often abstaining from a favorite food or activity as a type of fast.

*Adapted from: The Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church*

Items for the **April** edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through **9:00AM, Monday, March 20.**

*Early submissions  
are always joyfully  
accepted!*

Submitted information will be edited for clarity, accuracy, and length.



A church sign posted during the season of Lent read: “God’s love is not lent, it is given.”

Lent is a period of forty days, not counting Sundays, beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending on the Saturday before Easter.

At its best, Lent reminds us of the imperfect condition of human beings set against the backdrop of both the holiness of God that stands in judgment on our failings and also the love of God that accepts us in our imperfections.

Julie Ackerman Link wrote in *Our Daily Bread*: “One of the most difficult inner conflicts we have is our desire to be known versus our fear of being known. As beings created in the image of God we are made to be known — known by God and also by others. Yet due to our fallen nature, all of us have sins and weaknesses that we don’t want others to know about. We use the phrase “dark side” to refer to aspects of our lives that we keep hidden. And we use slogans like “put your best foot forward” to encourage others to show their best side.

One reason we are unwilling to risk being known is that we fear rejection and ridicule. But when we discover that God knows us, loves us, and is willing to forgive even the worst thing we have done, our fear of being known by God begins to fade away. And when we find a community of believers who understands the dynamic relationship between forgiveness and confession, we feel safe confessing our sins to one another (James 5:16).

### *From the Minister’s Desk*

The life of faith is not about showing only our good side. It’s about exposing our dark side to the light of Christ through confession to God and also to others. In this way we can receive healing and live in the freedom of forgiveness.”

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday’s stark reminder of our finitude. We are cosmic dust and ash come to life for a few brief moments blinking out at the universe. We live and love, we succeed and fail, and we work and hope with the knowledge that in the end dust and ash seem to be the last words pronounced over our lives. Christians can find in Lent an opportunity to confess to one another these realities.

Lent, sobering as its message is, takes us from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday. Then Easter morning arrives. The Song of Solomon 8:6 declares that there is a love, “as strong as death, passionate love as unrelenting as the grave.” If Lent is meant to have us take an extended look at ourselves, to come to terms with who we are as creatures limited by time and temptation, Easter comes as the assurance that there is a love that will not abandon us to either sin or death. The story of Jesus’ life and death revealed God’s love for us. Christians see that love signaled most clearly on the cross and in the empty tomb.

For now, between here and Easter Sunday’s risen Christ, we have Lent as a season to reflect on who we are as fallible people infallibly loved by the One who breathes into dust and ash eternal life.

# DEACONS

Leading through Serving.

The Deacons offer prayer, companionship, rides, or meals, but don't always know where care is needed. If you know of a need (your own or another's), call the church office or any of our Deacons: Susan A, Marianna B, Jane J, and Susy S (moderator).



Diane and Mike B  
William B  
Levi C  
Bob  
Jacquie and Dick O  
Noreen H  
the people of Syria and Turkey  
the people of East Palestine, OH



*Thank you* Diane and Joe!

Your offer to usher one Sunday each month for the remainder of 2023 is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for serving your church in this way.

We appreciate you!



Twenty-four members and friends of the church enjoyed a fun Fellowship Dinner at The Century Inn, Wednesday evening, February 15.

Our next Fellowship Dinner is planned for The Meritage some time during the month of April.

The Meritage had some serious damage to the building, interior and exterior, during the severe cold snap we had in December. Once repairs are complete and they are open for business, we will set the date and invite you to gather for good food, fun, and fellowship.

# Mission in *Motion*

Our February Food Offering yielded 67 pounds of food, cleaning products, and personal care items for Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center to be distributed among their clients.



The next Food Offering is Sunday, March 19.



If February, your Mission committee sent checks totaling \$2,230.00 to the following agencies and Presbyterian offerings.

Matthew 25 Ministries—earthquake relief in Turkey and Syria  
One Great Hour of Sharing  
Christmas Joy Offering  
Church World Services Blanket Fund  
The Joseph House—Archibald Fund donations  
Presbyterian Council for Chaplains and Military Personnel—Archibald Fund donations



## *Breakfast Brings Us Together!*

Don't forget our Pancake Breakfast  
Saturday, March 18, 8:00AM-11:00AM

Glendale fire and police personnel will be our guests. If you would like to donate \$8.00 to cover the cost of a meal for these men and women, Dave would be happy to accept your cash or check.



Dave also has Special Invitations available for \$8.00 each. If you would like to invite a guest, and pay for their breakfast in advance, please see Dave.



*14th Annual  
Fill the Glendale Village Square  
with Food  
Saturday, June 10*

On behalf of myself and the Board of Directors of Melanoma Know More, thank you for working with us toward our vision of a world free from the threat of melanoma.

Your generous gift of \$650.00, dated 11/12/2022, and received in memory of Andy Caress, is most appreciated.

Support from the community is critical to the success of our mission. Our purpose is to reduce the impact of melanoma through awareness, education, support of medical research, and assistance to person affected by melanoma. Generosity from donors like you help assure we achieve this purpose.

Thank you again for your gift and for helping our community!

Sincerely,  
René McPhedran  
Executive Director

A great day for the Village and a great day for First Presbyterian Church!



# Lenten Quotes and More

"When people give up chocolate or meat or alcohol or coffee, it is not because we Christians think that if we enjoy something, it must be bad. Coffee, meat, alcohol and especially chocolate are very good things that show God's goodness, creativity, and provision. Of course, Christians ought to be interested and working toward breaking habits of sin — gossip, lust, judgment, anger, pride, and so on — but this is called repentance, which is certainly not limited to Lent. I'm not giving up Facebook in the same way that I'm repenting of (and trying to give up) anxiety or impatience with my toddler."

— Tish Harrison Warren

## *Not coming back*

Several years ago, a story on the newswires told of a boomerang that returned to its owner after 25 years. Here's how: An American tourist stole a boomerang from Australia's Mount Isa museum and managed to get it out of the country. But a quarter of a century later, he sent it back, along with a full confession. Apparently, guilt had been eating away at the man; he hadn't known how his mischief would ... boomerang.

Sin has a way of returning in ways we didn't expect, bringing loads of shame along with it. During Lent, with its focus on confession and absolution, we remember that God tosses those "boomerangs" of wrongdoing as far "as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12). In other words, they'll never come back.

—Timothy Merrill

"Lent is a time for discipline, for confession, for honesty, not because God is mean or fault-finding or finger-pointing but because he wants us to know the joy of being cleaned out, ready for all the good things he now has in store.

— N.T. Wright

"Christ did not come into the world that we might understand him, but that we might cling to him, that we might simply let ourselves be swept away by him into the immense event of the resurrection."

—Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, no matter how much you sleep on a hard floor and eat ashes and sigh continually, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great."

— John Chrysostom

"Our sacrifices in this season are so minuscule as to be laughable, except that our Father seems only too willing to use our tiny offerings as portals for his grace. Every hunger pang or caffeine craving becomes a holy prompt—*pray, trust, surrender*. The whole season becomes a bit delicious with anticipation: *Easter is coming!*"

— Carolyn Arends



Katie K.....	1
Pam C.....	3
Dick O.....	4
Madeline C.....	4
Snowden A.....	6
Craig S.....	8
Dottie E.....	10
Jane S.....	13
Maggie S.....	19
<i>Alison and Joseph C.....</i>	<i>22</i>
Stuart C.....	23
Alene R.....	23
Dolores G.....	25
Rev. Jim B.....	27
Rich S.....	29

**Men's Lunch**

Wednesday, March 8

All men are invited to gather to enjoy their favorite menu items at Gold Star Chili on Springfield Pike in Springdale. Fellowship begins when you arrive; lunch begins at 12:30PM.



**Breakfast Brings Us Together!**

On Saturday, March 18, from 8:00AM-11:00AM, you are invited to gather in the Church House for all you can eat pancakes, sausage, sausage gravy and biscuits, hot apple sauce, fresh fruit cup, orange juice, milk, coffee, and tea—all for just \$8.00/adult and \$5.00/children ages 6-12 years. Children 5 years and younger eat free.



**Music Live at Christ Church** is a series of free public concerts held each month. Donations are gratefully accepted toward local shelters and food banks.

**Echoing Air Baroque Ensemble**

Thursday, March 2, at 12:05PM  
in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit

Echoing Air, Inc. is a chamber ensemble dedicated to exploring and presenting music featuring singers with Baroque instruments, with an emphasis on music of the English Baroque.



Wednesday, February 8; 10:00AM

Gather in the church library for discussion on *Oh William!* by Elizabeth Strout.

This book explores the mysteries of marriage and the secrets we keep, as a former couple reckons with where they've come from—and what they've left behind.

Please see the Mission in *Motion* page for details about offsetting the cost of breakfast for Glendale fire and police personnel, who will be invited as *our* guests, and for prepaying a meal for *your* invited guests.

We'll see *YOU* for breakfast on March 18!



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00PM- Session meeting	2 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 <small>SECOND SUNDAY IN</small> <b>LENT</b>  10:00AM- Worship	6 2:00PM- Squirrely Stitchers 3:00PM- Mission committee meeting	7	8 10:00AM- Women's Book Club 12:30PM- Men's Lunch at Skyline	9 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	10	11
12 <small>THIRD SUNDAY IN</small> <b>LENT</b> 10:00AM- Worship 	13	14	15	16 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	17	18 8:00-11:00am Pancake Breakfast
19 <small>FOURTH SUNDAY IN</small> <b>LENT</b> 10:00AM- Worship <i>Food Offering</i>	20 2:00PM- Squirrely Stitchers	21	22	23 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 <small>FIFTH SUNDAY IN</small> <b>LENT</b> 10:00AM- Worship	27	28	29	30 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	31	

This calendar is a living document subject to frequent changes.  
 Check the website ([firstpresbyterianglendale.org](http://firstpresbyterianglendale.org)) for the most accurate calendar.  
 Please call the church office with calendar updates.



## First Presbyterian Church, Glendale

155 East Fountain Avenue  
Glendale, OH 45246

513-771-6195  
glenpres@fuse.net  
firstpresbyterianglendale.org

the Reverend Jeffrey Lang

Worship begins at 10:30AM  
Sunday, September 11, 2022 through  
Sunday, June 4, 2023.







### *Church Office Hours*

Monday, 9AM-3PM, Tuesday, 9AM-1PM  
Wednesday, 9AM-1PM, Thursday, 9AM-3PM  
The office is closed every Friday.

Shared with you in Christian love



### *Lighthearted blessings*

-  May the hinges of your friendship never grow rusty.
-  May the luck of the Irish lead to happiest heights and the highway you travel be lined with green lights.
-  As you slide down the banister of life, may the splinters never point the wrong way.
-  May you be in heaven a full half-hour before the devil knows you're dead!
-  May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and may trouble be always a stranger to you.
-  May the good saints protect you and bless you today, and may troubles ignore you each step of the way.

