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July/Aug  
2023



The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, July 2 and August 6.

*All* are welcome to the table.

As usual, summer is starting to rush by us! In the blink of an eye, we will be arriving at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration which is regarded by some as the midpoint of the summer season.



Summer also affords us the opportunity to enjoy music in forms other than what the Choir provides during the year. On June 25, Emily J gifted us with lovely flute selections. Maggie M is also slated to return, offering us moving cello pieces on July 2.

Music in its many forms has traditionally been an important component of worship at First Presbyterian Church of Glendale. One such variety is our always-popular Men’s Chorus who *may* be making a return appearance later this summer.

As we watch our August forecast the date for a second outdoor service will be announced as soon as we can make our best favorable weather bet. That decision will be delivered via several methods so that all of us are in the loop.

Finally, I would like to mention the Church Picnic on August 16, at the pavilion of the Glendale Lyceum. The date is firm, and the details will be forthcoming. This will be a fun opportunity to enjoy a casual dinner together in the beautiful summer weather. We hope to see many of you with us for worship this summer. Please be safe during your travels! We will welcome you home when you return.

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# *From the Minister's Desk*

The center of gravity for the Reformed tradition during the Protestant Reformation was John Calvin's Geneva in today's Switzerland. Many exiled ministers and other Protestants fleeing persecution by Catholic authorities made their way to Geneva. One such minister was the Scotsman John Knox. Knox would return to his native land to advance the cause of reformation in the Church of Scotland. The Presbyterian stream of the broader Reformed tradition finds its origins in Knox's Scottish reformation in the 16th Century.

Later different political and religious issues resulted in the defeat of the Scots by the English at the Battle of Culloden in 1746 after which parliament passed an Act of Proscription that disarmed the Scots, and banned Gaelic, along with wearing 'highland clothing' like tartans and kilts. The Scots were not so easily cowed, and in various ways practiced their cultural traditions and preserved their ethnic identity. One tradition suggests the stubborn Scots would secretly bring hidden pieces of clan tartans to church to be blessed.

To honor Scottish heritage and history, plans are being made to hold a Kirking of the Tartans service this October 8 at First Presbyterian of Glendale.

The etymology of the word kirk means church in Gaelic. In the context of a worship service, kirking means blessing. A tartan is "a plaid of irregularly spaced colored lines and rectangles traditionally used to represent Scottish clans".

The centerpiece of a Kirking of the Tartans is a prayer of blessing for the clans represented by their respective tartans in a worship service.

The origins of the modern kirking service are to be found in 20th Century America.

Peter Marshall, originally from Scotland, after graduating from Columbia Theological Seminary, and serving two small pastorates in Georgia, was minister at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., and then chaplain to the US Senate in 1947. The Rev. Marshall died in 1949. The 1955 movie, *A Man Called Peter*, was based on his life story.

Against the backdrop of World War II, the Rev. Marshall created a Kirking of the Tartans service. He delivered a sermon at New York Avenue church in 1941 titled, 'the Kirkin' o' the Tartans.' That sermon began the practice that is known to this day.

Although initially held in Presbyterian churches with their Scottish roots, kirking services can be found today in congregations from other traditions including Roman Catholic, Methodist and Episcopalian. The Rev. Marshall's service moved from New York Avenue congregation to the National Cathedral (Episcopalian) in Washington, D.C. in 1954, which has held an annual kirking service ever since. Regardless of how tartans might be displayed during a kirking service, a prayer of blessing is said for the clans represented by the tartans and for all the families of the church.

If you have Scottish ancestry and would like to determine which tartan represents your clan, you can go to [Scotclans.com](http://Scotclans.com) which will describe your clan's name, history, tartan, and coat of arms.

Watch for additional details in the coming weeks about how you might participate in this October's Kirking of the Tartans.





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 Br, Jane J, and Susy S (moderator).



Diane and Mike B  
William B  
Levi C  
Susan G  
the family of Michael C  
the family of Duane L



*With Deepest Sympathy*

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of Michael C who died on May 28, 2023, and Duane L who died June 14.

Michael is the brother of Stu and Addison C,  
Duane is the brother of Karen R.

Please keep Michael's and Duane's families in your prayers as they navigate life without them.



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*Meet the Staff*  
**the Rev. Jeffrey Lang**

**Lauren**  
Vocalist  
**Amy**  
Director of Music and Organist  
**Kate**  
Choir Director and Vocalist  
**Logan**  
Vocalist

**Paisley**  
Videographer  
**Deborah**  
Administrative Assistant  
**the Rev. Dr. Dawn**  
Parish Associate

Items for the **September** edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through **9:00AM, Monday, August 21.**

Early submissions are joyfully accepted!

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



# Women's Book Club

Bring your favorite morning beverage and gather in the church library at 10:00AM for lively discussion.

*Wednesday, July 12*



*The Alchemist*,  
by Paulo Coelho

A classic novel in which a boy named Santiago embarks on a journey seeking treasure in the Egyptian pyramids after having a recurring dream about it. On the way, he meets mentors, falls in love, and most importantly, learns the true importance of who he is and how to improve himself. This book offers insight and different perspectives about how life can be.

*Wednesday, August 9*

*The Gown*,  
by Jennifer Robson



A historical novel about one of the most famous wedding dresses of the 20th century—Queen Elizabeth II's wedding gown—and the fascinating women who made it during a time when society was left reeling by the calamitous costs of a post WWII victory. The lives of three heroines who form an unlikely friendship are woven together by the pain of survival, the bonds of friendship and the redemptive power of love. A parallel story is set in Toronto, 2016, focusing on the mystery of a set of embroidered flowers that closely resemble the motifs on QEII's stunning gown.

*Wednesday, September 13*

*The Secret Life of Dorothy Soames*, by Justine Cowan



This is the true story of one woman's quest to understand the secrets that had poisoned her mother's mind, and her startling discovery that her family's fate had been sealed centuries

before. Justine uncovers a mystery about her Mother that stretches back to the early years of WWII England and beyond, into the dark corridors of a hospital for exposed and deserted young children from which this resilient child's only hope would be a daring escape as German bombers rained death from the skies.

*Wednesday, October 11*

*A Long Way Home*, by Saroo Brierley



At only five years old, Saroo Brierley got lost on a train in India. Unable to read or write or recall the name of his hometown or even his own last name, he survived alone for weeks on the rough streets of Calcutta before ultimately being transferred to an agency and adopted by a couple in Australia. However, even though he was grateful for his adopted family, Brierley always wondered about his origins and pursued a search to find his original family against incredible odds. This story reveals how he conducted his tedious and seemingly impossible search.

*Wednesday, November 8*

*The Giver of Stars*, by Jojo Moyes



Based on a true story, this is a breathtaking story of five extraordinary women and their remarkable journey through the mountains of Kentucky and beyond in Depression-era

America. These heroic women refused to be cowed by men or by convention and became known as the Packhorse Librarians of Kentucky. They are committed to their job of bringing books to people who have never had any, arming them with facts that will change their lives.

# Mission in Motion...



Saturday, June 17 was a good day for the First Presbyterian Church of Glendale and a good day for Glendale.

A huge collection—1,279 pounds—of food, personal care items, and cleaning products were shared with Valley Interfaith

Community Resource Center and the Princeton Closet. We also received \$1,150.00 in cash and checks that will be shared with these local agencies.

VICRC received 779 pounds of goods, bringing your YTD contribution to 1,167 pounds.

Our sincere thanks to all of you who helped make this day successful!

Once again, Dave C put his special skills to work organizing Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food. He certainly knows how to get it done successfully. Thank you Dave!

The Mission committee recently sent checks and made purchases totally \$660.00.

The recipients were

*Church World Services*  
(The Blanket Fund)

*The Joseph House*  
(The Archibald Fund)

*Presbyterian Council for  
Chaplains and Military Personnel*  
(The Archibald Fund)

*Kroger gift cards* for individuals and families seeking help from our church

*Operation Christmas Child boxes will be available soon!*



You may pick up a shoebox or boxes (label and gift suggestions are inside each box) from the from the Narthex on Sundays, July 9 and 16. Please look for the number on the bottom of each box,

and write your name beside the corresponding number on the sheet provided.

Inside each box you will find instructions, a label, and a list of gift suggestions. Fill your boxes and return them to the Narthex on or before Sunday, July 23.

You Mission committee thanks you for providing Christmas for a child or children who might otherwise feel forgotten.

To learn more about Samaritan's Purse and Operation Christmas Child, please visit their website [www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/about-us](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/our-ministry/about-us)



**26th Annual Golf Outing**

in memory of  
Sylvia and Tom Allen

**Saturday, September 16**

More details will be coming soon!





*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Norman O .....	1
Westi B.....	2
Barbara and Craig W.....	3
Kate G.....	29
Sarah H.....	29

*Men's Lunch*



*All men* are invited to gather for lunch at Gold Star on Springfield Pike in Springdale, Wednesday, July 12 *and* again on Wednesday, August 9.

Fellowship begins when you arrive; lunch begins at 12:30PM.



*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Jeffrey L .....	4
Carol F .....	12
Diane L.....	12
Bob S .....	12
Linda and Tom S.....	12
Mary and Craig S.....	17
Carol M.....	19
Karen R.....	19
Bob J.....	19
Mike F .....	19
Carol and Bill F.....	20
Jackie and Dick O.....	26



*Save-the-date for a good Old Fashioned Picnic*

Wednesday, August 16; 6:00PM-8:00PM

We will cater a delicious summer meal. More details to come!

Thank you to an anonymous donor who has paid for pavilion rental fee at the Lyceum.

# The Strange Logic of Grace

Bryan Chapell in his book *Holiness by Grace* shares this story:

"An old tale speaks of a man who died and faced the angel Gabriel at heaven's gates. The angel said, 'Here's how this works. You need a hundred points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you have done, and I will give a certain number of points for each of them. The more good there is in the work that you cite, the more points you will get for it. When you get to a hundred points, you get in' .

'Okay,' the man said, 'I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart.'

Gabriel replied, 'That's wonderful. That's worth three points.'

'Three points?' said the man incredulously. 'Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my money and service.'

'Terrific!' said Gabriel, 'that's certainly worth a point.'

'One point?' said the man with his eyes beginning to show a bit of panic. 'Well, how about this: I opened a shelter for the homeless in my city, and fed needy people by the hundreds during the holidays.'

'Fantastic,' that's good for two more points,' said the angel.

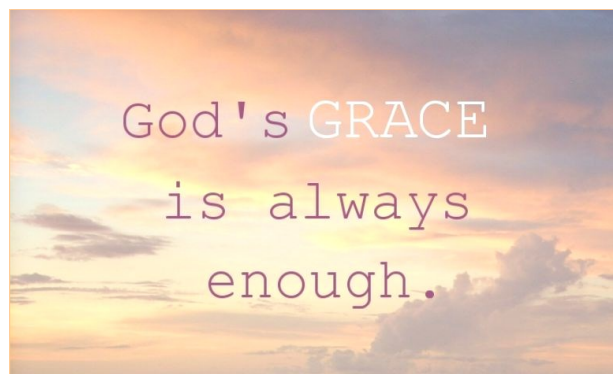
'TWO POINTS!' cried the man in desperation. 'At this rate the only way I will get to heaven is by the grace of God.'

'Come on in,' said Gabriel."

The Presbyterian theologian Doug Ottati has described this as the *strange logic of grace*. Grace was what Jesus taught and exemplified in his life and ministry. It is the good news that

transformed Paul and the other New Testament writers who discovered, "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

The prodigal son is welcomed home by the father before he can say a word either in apology or justification. Lazarus is called out of the grave from death to life by the word of Jesus. What human beings could not do on their own, is accomplished by the power of God. The strange logic of grace is that God does for us what we cannot do for ourselves. We cannot earn or merit God's love and acceptance by some sort of quid pro quo. We are simply called by the gospel to recognize that we are already loved and accepted by God in spite of our imperfections and failings. God does not ask us to justify ourselves, rather God calls us to recognize and receive His saving love.





## 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 10:00AM  
Sunday, June 11, 2023 through  
Sunday, September 3, 2023.

Worship begins at 10:30AM  
Sunday, September 10, 2023 through  
Sunday, June 2, 2024.

### *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



*There is something to celebrate everyday in July and August...*

...here are some you might enjoy

July 1—creative ice cream flavors day

July 3—compliment your mirror day

July 7—chocolate day

July 11—cheer up the lonely day

July 15—cow appreciation day (give a cow a hug)

July 19—national raspberry cake day

July 20—national lollipop day

July 27—walk on stilts day

July 29—national chicken wing day, national  
lasagna day, *and* national lipstick day

July 30—national cheesecake day

August 1—national mahjong day

August 4—national water balloon day

August 6—national fresh breath day

August 9—book lover's day

August 13—left hander's day

August 15—relaxation day

August 20—world mosquito day (why?)

August 21—national spumoni day

August 24—national waffle day

August 27—just because day

August 31—national eat outside day *and*  
national trail mix day









Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This calendar is a living document subject to frequent changes.            Check the website (<a href="http://firstpresbyterianglendale.org">firstpresbyterianglendale.org</a>) for the most accurate calendar.            Please contact the church office with calendar updates.</p>						1
2  10:00AM- Worship	3 2:00PM- Squirrely Stitches	4  Office Closed	5	6	7	8
9 10:00AM- Worship 	10	11	12 10:00AM- Women's Book Club 12:30PM- Men's Lunch @ Gold Star	13	14	15
16 10:00AM- Worship Food Offering 	17 2:00PM- Squirrely Stitches	18	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           Rev. Lang's vacation—July 19-23         </div>			22
23 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">             Rev. Lang's              vacation           </div> 10:00AM- Worship Return Christmas Shoe Boxes	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:00AM- Worship	31					

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for the most accurate calendar.

Please contact the church office  
with calendar updates.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6  10:00AM- Worship	7 9:00AM- Session Reports due 2:00PM- Squirrely Stitchers	8	9 10:00AM- Women's Book Club 6:00PM- Session mtg.	10	11	12
13 10:00AM- Worship	14	15	16 6:00PM- 8:00PM 	17 	18	19
20 10:00AM- Worship <i>Food Offering</i> 	21 9:00AM- Newsletter items <i>AND</i> Annual Reports due 10:30am- Deacon mtg. 2:00PM- Squirrely Stitchers	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:00AM- Worship	28	29	30	31		