



MARCH 2024

From The Pastors Desk...

When you read this Easter will be close in time!

Lent has sustained us and hopefully helped focus us on the moments when we celebrate the triumph of the Divine over human efforts to control the Divine.

God chose to reveal His qualities and characteristics in the form of a person whose name was Jesus. God had unlimited options at hand as He made that decision. His choice was to reveal Himself through a person —Jesus, the Christ. That meant among other things that God wanted us to know that. He embraces and understands humans and human existence.

This was not done as some sort of impressive magic trick to show us humans the power of God. It was done to show us the fact that often, when God acts, it is in unexpected ways. The people living at the time Jesus entered the world were in despair. The time when God revealed Himself to humans 2000 years ago was a time of conflict and oppression of huge portions of humanity. The time was a moment in history when people had created their own ideas and images of what God ought to do to reveal Himself and begin work in human affairs. The way God chose was not in any of the ways people thought He ought to reveal Himself and become a present force in human affairs.

Our God ALWAYS surprises us in the choices He seems to make. God always seems to challenge us rather than wrap a cozy security blanket around us.

God always calls us as followers and believers who have made commitments to Him to follow as disciples...disciples who know we are NOT adequate to the tasks we will probably be asked to undertake. God calls us to difficult and often conflicting situations in which we are called to reveal the nature of God by how we behave...by what we do...not by the words we speak.

The life of Christ reveals these sorts of Human patterns. He suffered physically and emotionally and spiritually. He was nailed to a cross in a most humiliating setting between two criminals. There he died the slow death of asphyxiation.

cont...

The people with influence and status within the church of Jesus day thought he was gone and they put his lifeless body in a rented tomb.

Then, once again, God surprised the people of Jesus day...and still surprises us.

God showed that physical death is not the end. God showed that our "wisdom" about life and living was wrong. Jesus was raised from the dead and has returned even now to inspire and lead us and challenge us so that we can be the disciples God calls us to be.

Once again, we celebrate Jesus' triumph over death. We celebrate the renewed call to our discipleship...with all of the challenges and opportunities God is choosing to place before us. And we must know that God will present these (as He always has)...in ways that surprise us and transcend our expectations in order to accomplish what God seeks to accomplish...not what we think God ought to seek to accomplish.

May your Easter moments be filled with thanksgiving and celebration and surprise as God unveils our work of discipleship as His followers!

-Pastor Bill





Bible Study at Fairgreen IS for Everyone

We are continuing with the hybrid model of in-person and zoom access for our 3:00 pm Wednesday Bible Study. In-person study is in the church's lounge.

Zoom participation can be accessed in three ways:

by clicking on/entering this link which will be resent by email prior To each study (if you are not receiving this link in an email on Tuesday and Wednesday, contact Mike):

<https://zoom.us/j/4194754436?pwd=Z3RBSVVCUkxTMjdpODlibUZTTjFJQT09>

or go to <https://us04web.zoom.us> and enter

Meeting ID: 419 475 4436

Passcode: 4754436

or on your smart phone Dial (312) 626-6799 and enter

Meeting ID: 419 475 4436

Passcode: 4754436

All are welcome!

SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY

March 9 & 16, 2024

In-Person 9:30 FOR BREAKFAST

in the Fairgreen Lounge

& Zoom 10:00

watch for link in your email

or call Mike at 419-260-7429 for information



Everyone welcome!

From The Congregational Life Committee:



- **March 6th @ 4:30pm in the Commons: Oak Street Health will be talking about their new concept to health care. They are bringing refreshments too!**
- **Next Meeting: Thursday, March 14, 2024 @ 10am**
- **March 20th @ 4:30pm: Kinship Navigator Program. Let's learn about this kinship program, grandparents and other relatives raising grandchildren with a support group.**
- **Church Picnic coming in July 2024**

**Breaking Bread with Fairgreen Friends
@ Sidelines Italian Grille
7965 Summerfield Rd., Lambertville, MI 48144**



**Tuesday, March 12th at 1pm.
Come on out and join us for a lovely lunch and lively fellowship!**

News from Coffee Hour:

On Sunday, February 11th, there was a "Souper Bowl" Coffee Hour. It turned out nice with five different kinds of soup/chilis to try! There was a special "free will" offering. The amount of \$79.00 was collected and will go to our food pantry. Many thanks!

March Coffee Hour - *Marilyn McAfee*

Fairgreen's Coffee Hour has been a little different the past two months. By being different, I mean being very generous and large with sausage gravy, soups on several occasions and then on February 25th a spaghetti dinner/lunch was provided. Please be assured this is not the norm as Congregational Life continues to stress this time to be simple with light refreshments served with coffee or tea. It's a period of fellowship, being together with laughter, fun and light conversation.

There are five Sundays in March, each being very busy. March 10, we set our clocks ahead for daylight savings time. So, friends, be prepared to lose an hour of sleep Saturday night. March 17 is St. Patrick's Day, March 24 is Palm Sunday and March 31 is Easter Sunday. Time passes quickly!

The following is the March Coffee Hour schedule:

March 3, Chris Roebuck and Agnes McKinstry are hosting

March 10, Erika Dunn and Linda Hoover are hosting

March 17, NO COFFEE HOUR - Matthew 25 Recognition Program at 1:00 PM

March 24, Wonderful Palm Sunday Breakfast hosted by Jim Eaton and
John MacPherson

March 31, Easter Sunday - NO COFFEE HOUR

April is coming and it's an opportunity to participate by signing your name on the sign-up sheet to host a coffee hour. Please think about it. Congregational Life supplies everything except the treat. Remember, keep it simple! Being a volunteer is a wonderful blessing to others and especially to yourself. Look for the sign-up sheet(s) by the kitchen window.

As always, we give thanks to all who volunteered this January and February to warm our hearts and tummies. We love and appreciate you. THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!



From The Worship Committee:

The Lord RESTORES My Soul

On February 24th, Fairgreen Women and friends gathered for a spiritual retreat at the Lial Renewal Center in Whitehouse, Ohio.

The theme of the retreat centered on a statement in the third verse of Psalm 23, "He restores my soul", with emphasis on the *restore*.

We learned that this word in Hebrew is "sub" which translate to: rescue, repair, fetch home again, relieve, and to turn back.

We also learned that from a shepherd's perspective, one of the most dangerous situations for a sheep is to have lain down and rolled over on its back. This position is called "cast" or "cast down" (from the old English). The sheep cannot right itself and thus becomes very vulnerable to watchful predators. The sheep has to rely on the shepherd to be rescued.

We talked about how, as humans, we also can find ourselves in cast down situations where we do not have the energy or knowledge or strength or ability to pull ourselves up. There are times when we need the help of the Good Shepherd, Jesus, to turn us around, lift us up, or repair us. (Psalm 42:5 in the NIV translation is a good example of how the cast down term is used in scripture.)

As an activity, at the retreat, the women were divided into three groups. At the end of this time together, each group was to choose one of three words given to them and create an acrostic poem using their understanding of what Holy Spirit had given them, from the study of Psalm 23. This is what resulted:

Using the word PSALM:	Using the word RESTORE:	Using the word SHEPHERD
P ray and peace	R est	S alvation
S avior, self, soul	E rase	H oly
A llow, accept, ask	S pirit	E den
L iving	T estimony	P rayer
M oves me	O ffering	H eaven
	R epent	E ncourage
	E xalt, exalt	R estore
		D eliver

As you read through Psalm 23, there is a definite parallel between the relationship of a shepherd to his flock and to each of us as sheep with Jesus as our Shepherd.

During this season of Lent, let us each ponder as to how the Lord is our shepherd and as to how He is restoring our soul.

Pat Gibson

Maumee Valley Presbytery Invites you to our
Spiritual Formation Retreat
April 14, 15, & 16, 2024
"A Sacred Spring"

Pause...

Breathe Deeply...

Listen Carefully...

Do you hear the invitation, *"Come Away With Me"*?

Rev. Rebecca Bosarge, Director of Congregational Care at Knox Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati calls us to pause as she directs us:

"Are you longing for God's gifts of abundant life and fruitful living?"

As the earth warms and new life wakes up, we will listen together for God's invitation to growth and renewal. Through spiritual practices with a springtime theme, we will help each other respond to that invitation. "Come away with me!"



BASIC RETREAT

\$25 per person for
all sessions and meals

OVERNIGHT LODGING

\$35 per person/per night
with a shared bathroom on the hall
\$40 per person/per night
with a private bath

Don't let the cost stop you!
Scholarships available!
Email matt@maumeevp.org

REGISTRATION:

www.maumeevp.org

*"Winter is over,
the rains are gone,
the flowers are blooming.
It's time for singing!
Let us walk out through the valleys and
listen to the song of the dove.
The fig trees are setting fruit;
and the air is full of the smell of grape blossoms.
Arise and come, my fair one!
Come away with me!"*
Based Song of Songs 2:10-13

LOCATION:

Lial Renewal Center
5908 Davis Road Whitehouse, Ohio
www.lialrenewalcenter.org

ARRIVE: Sunday anytime after 3:00 p.m.
Lite supper at 5:30 p.m.
Devotional at 7:00 p.m.
DEPART: Tuesday at noon

In Other News:

Information About Per Capita

Per Capita is one of the expenses related to being organized for mission in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It is a responsible way of sharing costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian community. Per Capita is not a tax or an assessment that imposes financial obligation. Rather, it is a **religious and moral commitment made by individuals and particular churches**. It establishes a minimum level of financial participation in the vital work of our connectional church as the Body of Christ.

As we work to finalize our budget for 2024, it is no secret that we will have a deficit budget. The Commissioners voted the following per capita contributions for our wider church:

General Assembly	\$9.80
Synod of the Covenant	\$3.25
Presbytery of Maumee Valley	<u>\$26.05</u>
TOTAL	\$39.10 Per Member

Fairgreen includes the total per capita donation for each member in our operating budget.

So, every member's per capita is paid in full regardless of the member's giving.

You are, therefore, encouraged to contribute your per capita giving beyond your regular giving. We pay our entire per capita contribution in January which enables the presbytery to meet their combined obligations to all of the governing bodies in a connectional manner. Prayerfully, please support your denomination at all levels with your per capita giving of \$39.10.

From the Secretary's Desk:

Please Note:

The deadline for the next newsletter (for April) will be **Friday March 22, 2024.**

I so appreciate everyone who contributes each month!

- *Tricia Manner*
Administrative Assistant

From the Food Pantry:





**Next Food Pantry
Friday, March 8, 2024
From 4-6 pm**

**FUN FACT: FAIRGREEN FOOD PANTRY
FACEBOOK PAGE has an outstanding
1K+ members now!!!!**



We are still in need of the really nice Kroger bags that you receive when you do the click list grocery pick up. They are white, very heavy duty and have handles. We also need regular size paper



Spring is here and it's time to order flowers for Easter! If you would like to purchase one or more of these potted flowers for Easter and have a loved one honored, please complete the form below. Then turn it in with your payment (cash or check payable to Fairgreen Presbyterian Church) to the office or place in Tricia Manner's mailbox. Please indicate if you would like someone honored on the form below as well.

All orders along with payment are required in advance and will be due to the church office by Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

All flowers will be displayed on or around the large communion table and will be available to take home with you after the Easter Service.



Name _____

Date _____

Would you like to honor a loved one(s)? _____

EASTER 2024			
Pot Size	Church Prices: includes Potcovers Item	Price Each	POTS Ordered
	<i>Same prices as last year!</i>		
6"	Easter Lily 4-6 Blooms	\$10.00	
7 1/2"	Easter Lily Double Stem 9-12 Blooms	\$20.00	
6 1/2"	Hyacinths 3 bulbs	\$10.00	
6 1/2"	Tulips 5 bulbs	\$10.00	
6 1/2"	Daffodils 5 Bulbs	\$10.00	
6 1/2"	Mums	\$10.00	
6 1/2"	Cineraria	\$10.00	
6 1/2"	Hydrangea	\$20.00	
	Totals:		

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10am Worship Service	4 Office Closed Wellness 5-7pm	5 <i>Session Mtg @ 6:30pm</i>	6 Bible Study @ 3pm Oak St. Health @4:30pm	7 <i>Packing @ 9:30am</i> Wellness 6-8pm	8 <i>Food Pantry 4-6pm</i>	9 Bible Study @10am (breakfast @ 9:30am)
10 10am Worship Service **Daylight saving time begins	11 Office Closed Wellness 5-7pm	12 <i>BBFF Luncheon @ Sidelines Italian at 1pm</i> <i>Soccer-Matt 5:30-7pm</i>	13 Bible Study @ 3pm <i>Soccer-Matt 5:30-7pm</i>	14 Cong. Life Mtg @ 10am Wellness 6-8pm	15 <i>Soccer-Matt 5:30-7pm</i>	16 Bible Study @10am (breakfast @ 9:30am)
17  10am Worship Service Matthew 25 Luncheon 1-3pm	18 Office Closed Wellness 5-7pm	19	20 Bible Study @ 3pm Kinship Program @ 4:30pm	21 Wellness 6-8pm	22	23
24 10am Worship Service *Palm Sunday Breakfast after service	25 Office Closed Wellness 5-7pm	26 <i>Preschool Spring Program</i>	27 <i>Preschool Spring Program</i> Bible Study @ 3pm	28 Men's Dinner @ 5pm location TBA Wellness 6-8pm Maundy Thursday Service 7-8pm (w/communion)	29	30
31 Easter Service @ 10am 					*Calendar is Subject to Change	



MARCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Lexi Peterman	March 2	Tom Winslow	March 12	Gary Peterman Jr.	March 27
Dan Winslow	March 5	Gabrielle Buehrer	March 16	Sally Kille	March 30
Aaron Winslow	March 8	Melanie Rogers	March 18	Rev. Bill Dunifon	March 31
Kay Monroe	March 10	Alyssa Williams	March 26		

APRIL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Dr. Mike Roadruck	April 1	Zach Bosley-Smith	April 7	Tricia & Jason Manner	April 17
Agnes McKinstry	April 2	Molly Bosley-Smith	April 11		
Kathryn Allen	April 2	Jasmine Scarborough-Jewell	April 12		
Sandra Freels	April 3	Cheyenne Methena	April 22		
Cindy Bandfield	April 5	Gracie Manner	April 25		
		Derek Nordhoff	April 30		

**Fairgreen Presbyterian
Church
3220 Laskey Rd.
Toledo, Ohio 43613
419.475.4436**

**Pastor Bill Dunifon
Cell: 419.205.5037
Email:
wdunifon@gmail.com**

**Dr. Mike Roadruck
Commissioned Lay Pastor
Home: 419.260.7429
mroadruck@accesstoledo.com**

**Office Hours
Tuesday-Friday
9:00—1:30pm**

**Email:
fairgreen.church@gmail.com
Fax: 419.475.6404**

**Worship Service
10:00am Sunday**

**Website:
fairgreenoutreach.com**



**Fairgreen Preschool
3220 W. Laskey Rd.
Children ages 3, 4 &
Young 5's**

**For information call:
419.475.5367**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

