**First Presbyterian Church**

300 Market Street, Warren, PA 16365-2360

Following Christ So All May Thrive

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00AM-2:00PM

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**March 22, 2020**

**FOURTH SUNDAY**

**IN**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

**March 22, 2020 10:00 AM**

*Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.*

**We GATHER in God’s GRACE**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) (verses from Psalm 23)

L: The Lord is my shepherd.

**P: I lack nothing.**

L: My shepherd guides me along right paths for his name’s sake.

**P: Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil**

\*HYMN *God of Our Life* #686

CALL TO CONFESSION: (based on Romans 6)

Do we continue to live in ways that are against God’s ways just so God can continue to be gracious and forgiving toward us? No! Once we become aware of how we are hurting God we continually ask God to renew us in Christ’s resurrection life! In this power, we are free from sin and bound to God! Knowing that we need this renewal, let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

**We confess, O God, that we are often blinded to your presence among us and to the opportunities you open up before us to serve others in Jesus’ name. Forgive us! We admit that we sometimes allow the voices of the culture to influence how we live and for whom we care, even though we are aware these opinions do not express your desires. Forgive us! Shine the light of your love into our hearts and minds this day and enable us to see more fully who you call us to be! Hear us as we ask for your mercy in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

TIME FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE**

WORDS ASSURING US OF GOD’S GRACE (Responsive) (based on Romans 6)

L: Hear the Good News: just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of God, we too can walk in newness of life!

**P: The person we used to be is no more! Sin and death hold no power over us!**

L: By grace, we are dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus!

**P: We rejoice in the new life that is ours in Christ! Thanks be to God!**

\*RESPONSE *We Are Forgiven* #447

**WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison):

**In your mercy and love, O God, open our hearts and minds as your Word is heard that we may receive its truth today! By your Spirit, enable us to understand and appreciate who you are for us and how you work in our lives! Strengthen us in faith we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Ephesians 5:8-14a (Common English Bible)

You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord, so live your life as children of light. Light produces fruit that consists of every sort of goodness, justice, and truth. Therefore, test everything to see what’s pleasing to the Lord, and don’t participate in the unfruitful actions of darkness. Instead, you should reveal the truth about them. It’s embarrassing to even talk about what certain persons do in secret. But everything exposed to the light is revealed by the light. Everything that is revealed by the light is light.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 9:35-41 (Common English Bible)

Jesus heard they had expelled the man born blind. Finding him, Jesus said, “Do you believe in the Human One?” He answered, “Who is he, sir? I want to believe in him.” Jesus said, “You have seen him. In fact, he is the one speaking with you.” The man said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshipped Jesus. Jesus said, “I have come into the world to exercise judgment so that those who don’t see can see and those who see will become blind.” Some Pharisees who were with him heard what he said and asked, “Surely we aren’t blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you wouldn’t have any sin, but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

THE WORD EXPLORED: “Oh, Say, Can We See? Rev. Rebecca Taylor

Prompts for being engaged by God’s Word:

1. Can you think of a time in your life when you came to a significant realization and it felt like the “lights” just came on? How did that realization change you/impact your life?
2. The Scriptures are filled with sharp contrast: blindness & sight, darkness & light, fruitfulness & unfruitfulness. Not a one of us see perfectly, lives wholly in the light, and produces the fruit of goodness, justice, and truth 100% of the time. In what ways are you aware of the need to see more clearly and live more fruitfully?
3. In John’s gospel, often one person represents an entire group of people (such as Nicodemus for the Pharisees in chapter 3 and the woman at the well for all Samaritans in chapter 4). If you read all of chapter 9 to get the background on the man who was kicked out of the temple because he had been born blind but healed by Jesus on a Sabbath, who might this person represent among us today? How did “seeing the light” change his life?
4. Is there something in you that inhibits you from being the light God calls you to be in the world? Reflect for yourself on whether you are being “deceived with stupid ideas” (Ephesians 5:6).

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYERS (traditional)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*WORDS AFFIRMING OUR FAITH (Unison) (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

**We believe Christ gives us and demands of us lives in pilgrimage toward God's kingdom. Like Christ we may enjoy on our journey all that sustains life and makes it pleasant and beautiful. No more than Christ are we spared the darkness, ambiguity, and threat of life in the world. We are in the world, but not of the world. Our confidence and hope for ourselves and other people do not rest in the powers and achievements of this world, but in the coming and hidden presence of God's kingdom. Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom: to serve as he has served us; to take up our cross, risking the consequences of faithful discipleship; to walk by faith, not by sight, to hope for what we have not seen.**

\*HYMN *Come! Live in the Light* #749

 



\* THE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NEXT WEEK\*\*\*

**Ezekiel 37:1–14** **Romans 8:6–11**

Psalm 130 John 11:1–45

Questions for Reflection

Why did Jesus weep in John 11:35? Was it out of compassion for Mary and Martha? Out of love for his friend Lazarus? Out of frustration with the people’s lack of understanding or faith? Think about someone in your life who is grieving. Find a way to extend to that person the grace and peace of Christ.

Household Prayer: Morning

O God, I know that you are the Lord, for you gave me my life, and caused me to rise this day. Put your Spirit within me, and let my words and actions help others to know that you are my Lord and my God. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening *Ps. 130:6*

My soul waits for you, O Lord, more than those who watch for morning, more than those who watch for morning. Help me to sleep this night in peace, trusting that you will awaken me; through Jesus Christ my Savior. Amen.

\*\*Taken from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission



**OUR STAFF**

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Kyle Brecht, Property Manager Ben Check, Assist. Property Manager

Courtney Robillard, Childcare Curtis Tyler, Childcare

Lori VanOrd, Childcare Terri Shaw, Childcare

**\*\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS \*\*\***

**HAPPINESS HOUR HOSTS** – Volunteers are needed to host upcoming Happiness Hour events. Directions are posted in the kitchen. Hosts can be an individual, a couple of friends or family members, or a team effort. Please sign up in the Third Avenue hallway.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – The Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:00 AM in the Craft Room. All are welcome! The group is currently studying Exodus through Deuteronomy focusing on the six primary parts which culminated in the development and organization of the Jewish doctrine, which is the foundation of our Christian faith.

**2020 Presbytery of Lake Erie Mission Trip-**Sunday July 5 – Friday July 10 the Presbytery of Lake Erie will head to West Virginia Presbytery. All ages 14 & up are encouraged to join us. No previous experience or expertise required! Just bring a heart and hands willing to serve! Space is limited to 25 participants, first come first served with a $50 non-refundable deposit. Cost will be $350 per person which includes meals, housing, transportation and work materials. If you would like additional information, contact Cindy Knapp.

**EASTER HOLIDAY HOT MEALS**—First Presbyterian Church will again this year be participating in the Easter Holiday Hot Meal program, a combined effort with Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church, First United Methodist Church, and First Lutheran Church. These meals are prepared at First Lutheran Church and delivered on Saturday, April 11, to people who are homebound. Please sign up on the sheet located in the Third Avenue hallway. Ways to participate include cupcake donations, which need delivered to First Lutheran by Thursday, April 9. Kitchen tasks include organizing on Friday, April 10 from 1 – 4 P.M., Saturday morning cook and serve, first shift 6:30 – 9 A.M., and Saturday morning serve and clean up, second shift 9 – 11:30 A.M. Drivers to deliver the meals are needed, both for long distances beginning at 9 A.M., followed by the short distances. Your participation would brighten someone else’s Easter.

**RELAY FOR LIFE –** Donations received from “Beating the Winter Blahs” weekend with Barbara McAfee were $1,362.00. Additional donations will be made through the Flamingo Fundraiser.

**ADDITION TO THE CHURCH DIRECTORY**-

Lila and Jim Hookins Lila (cell) 727-271-1255

Warren Apartments, #102 Jim (cell) 727-271-1155

209 Market Street

Warren, PA 16365

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING-**Join in God’s call to share our bread with the hungry, to aid and shelter people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression. Gifts will be received through Sunday, April 12, 2020 and fish boxes are available at the entrances to the sanctuary. **A picture containing weapon, nature

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**BEING RESCHEDULED:** Let’s join together for A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD! An abbreviated worship service will begin at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary and then we’ll all move to Fellowship Hall for a movie, a meal, and some motivational conversation. We’ll start by watching the final feature of this year’s “Meat at the Movies” series (with popcorn!), “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” (2019, 109 minutes, starring Tom Hanks as Fred Rogers), and then we’ll enjoy a delicious catered lunch topped off with pies from the Plaza! Childcare will be available. A sign-up sheet is posted (to help Kyle with the meal!) and questions or concerns may be directed to Gale Dyke, Vickie Eggleston, or Jen Rossey. Many thanks to the Session for approving the purchase of **new, comfier chairs** in time for this event!

**\*\*\* JOYS AND CONCERNS \*\*\***

Ushers will distribute postcards at the beginning of the service; if you would like to write a word of encouragement to any of the people mentioned, or others on your mind, please raise your hand and indicate how many cards you would like. Fill them out and drop them in the offering plate and the office staff will ensure they are mailed during the week.

**Joys:**

The Caring Connection that gathers monthly at Warren Apartments

**Concerns:**

Prayers for Connor and Christian

Prayers for Gale Dyke’s family having recently lost two additional family members

Prayers for Eric Lyons, 14 year old grandson of Kane church member in his final days of life

Prayers for Joyce Hill who suffered a fall

Prayers for Dorothy Collins, who is now home

Prayers for Bill

Prayers for Kathleen Mahaffy, who has a severe case of bursitis in her arm

Prayers for Mary Schorman

Prayers of healing for Wanda Monts

Courage, Strength and Faith to Larfay Austin Jr during his incarceration

Prayers for Sherry Walter who is now residing with her daughter, Kim

Prayers for Carinne Palm, Vickie Eggleston’s sister, who will be undergoing radiation treatments

Prayers for Trevor, 16 years old, recovering from successful shoulder surgery

Prayers for Susan Wenzel, who has health concerns

Prayers for Norm Perschke, who is at the Warren Manor

Prayers for Sherran Jones

Prayers for Lynda Slocum’s grandson, Brayden

Prayers for Lois Buerkle, Lynn Sears’ sister, as she undergoes treatments for cancer

Prayers for Andy Yurick

Prayers for Carol Swanson

Prayers for Tristan Dolan

Prayers for Louise Crozier and family

Prayers for Kass Judson

Prayers for Katie Roth Spiegel, age 39, who is undergoing treatment for cancer

Prayers for Wally Post

Prayers for Ron & June Carlson Prayers for Calvin Leonard, residing at the Rouse Home

Prayers for Lisa Huey Hochberg and others struggling with dementia and alzheimer’s

Prayers for Pat Fankhouser

Prayers for Seth

Prayers for Andy Slocum

Prayers for Margaret Taylor, Rebecca’s mother, under Hospice care.

Prayers for those whose lives and property have been affected by the tornadoes in Tennessee

Prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus.

Prayers for the world situation in the Middle East.

Those whose lives and property have been affected in the earthquake in Puerto Rico.

Courage, strength, and faith to all those affected by violent crimes.

Those serving in our military, people struggling with addiction, and those in jail

Those facing famine and hunger in remote and desolate places.

Let the Light of the Lord shine on all peoples in all nations

**\*\*\* PRESBYTERY JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS \*\*\***

We pray for the churches and ministerial staff that constitute the Lake Erie Presbytery. This week we pray for Waterford, Rev. Chuck Cammarata, Temporary Supply Pastor, and Rev. Sheldon Logan, Honorably Retired.

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| Sunday, March 22 | No worship service |  |  |
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| Sunday, March 29 | No worship service |  |  |
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**Easter Flowers**

Anyone wishing to contribute to the Flower Memorial Fund for the Easter celebration is requested to do so by **Sunday, April 5, 2020**. There is no set price. Please contribute as you wish. Easter plants may be placed in honor or in memory of loved ones. These flowers will be placed in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020.

Your donation and completed order form should be received in the church office no later than Sunday, April 5, 2020, earlier if possible. Please make checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church** designating **Easter Flowers** in the memo portion of the check.

Plants will be distributed to members, shut-ins, nursing homes or hospitals following worship on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020, and throughout that week.

Donor\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In ***memory*** of:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

In ***honor*** of:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Coronavirus — What You Need to Know

The 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a virus first detected in Wuhan, China, that has caused an outbreak of respiratory illness. The current outbreak has spread internationally, impacting an increasing number of countries. In the United States, imported cases of coronavirus infection in travelers have been detected and person-to-person spread of the virus also has been seen among close contacts of returned travelers from China. On February 25, 2020, the CDC confirmed COVID-19 in an individual who reportedly did not have relevant travel history or exposure to another known patient.

According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)](http://www.cdc.gov/ncov), most people in the United States have little immediate risk of exposure to this virus. The virus is not currently spreading widely in the United States. However, it is likely that person-to-person spread will continue to occur and that, at some point, widespread transmission of COVID-19 in the United States will occur.

**Action Steps**

1. Stay informed – the situation with the coronavirus is fluid and the [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov/ncov) is updating its website daily with the latest information and advice for the public.
2. Remember to take everyday preventive actions that are always recommended to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses:
   * Avoid close contact with sick people.
   * While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible. Stay home if you are sick.
   * Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
   * Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.
   * Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60% alcohol.
3. The CDC and State Department have issued advisories asking people to avoid all nonessential travel to China and South Korea at this time. Travel alerts have also been issued for Japan, Italy and Iran.

Given the rapidly-evolving situation with COVID-19, it is prudent to revisit your organization’s emergency preparedness plans, including any pandemic planning. The CDC has made [pre-pandemic planning guides](https://www.cdc.gov/nonpharmaceutical-interventions/tools-resources/planning-guidance-checklists.html) available for community and faith-based organizations, educational institutions, workplaces and individual households.