



# The MESSENGER

March 2022

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### *Staff*

**the Rev. Jeffrey Lang**

**Amy**

Director of Music and Organist

**Kate**

Choir Director/Vocalist

**Paisley**

Videographer

**Maya**

Vocalist

**Deborah**

Administrative Assistant

**Logan**

Vocalist

Items for the April edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through **9:00AM, Monday, March 21, 2022.**

*Early submissions are always joyfully accepted!*



Submissions will be edited for accuracy, clarity, and length.



## Worship News

The long awaited first day of spring begins on Sunday, March 20, at precisely 11:33AM. For some of us this has been a particularly long (cold and icy) winter. Who among us will not be uplifted to see the first hint of green on tree branches or the first of the spring bulbs poking through the cold soil? Of course, that's a rhetorical question only because all of us will welcome warmer temperatures and more sunshine. Until that date there are several events and significant dates to mark on your calendars.

A moving Ash Wednesday service is planned for March 2, marking the first day of the season of Lent which will last for forty days. Within those forty days please make a note of our return to Donut and Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, March 6, immediately after worship service. Your session will host this first one, and you are warmly invited. Other groups hosting subsequent Donut and Coffee Fellowships will be announced in the coming weeks. It's important to note that Communion will also be celebrated on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Don't forget to turn your clocks and other devices ahead on March 13 as Daylight Savings Time officially begins, another sure sign of spring. Looking ahead please note that Palm Sunday and Easter are respectively April 10 and April 17. A special service of music is being organized, highlighting both choral and instrumental performances. Please plan to attend, and bring a friend!



### *From the Minister's Desk*

I will begin a sermon series on the Book of Revelation beginning Sunday, March 6. It will run through the final Sunday of May except for Palm and Easter Sundays. I won't deal exhaustively with the text verse by verse but will try to hit some of the high points and key passages.

Revelation is the final book in the Christian canon. The Bible's Story begins in Genesis in the Garden of Eden as human beings fall into sin and concludes in Revelation with a vision of a restored Eden, renewed creation, and the heavenly city of God come down to earth.

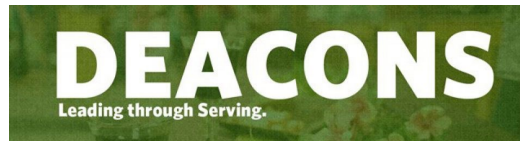
Some interpreters suggest that Revelation finds its fulfillment in the first century. In that preterist (past fulfillment) view, Revelation is concerned with the events involved in the siege and destruction of Jerusalem and the passing of the Old Testament age. Another very widely held view among Christians today is the futurist perspective. This approach to Revelation sees its fulfillment entirely in our future, as a series of events culminating in the second coming of Christ. Another approach to Revelation finds in its strange symbols and vivid imagery a way of understanding the conflict between good and evil in every age leading up to the final consummation of history.

Several texts will inform the sermons. *Apocalypse and Allegiance: Worship, Politics, and Devotion in the Book of Revelation* by J. Nelson Kraybill who writes out of the

Mennonite tradition; *Revelation and the End of All Things* by Craig A. Koester working with Revelation as a Lutheran theologian and exegete; and finally, *Kingdom Come: The Amillennial Alternative* by Sam Storms, a reformed theologian and pastor.

My aim in the sermon series will be to explore the first century context of Revelation, and the book's interpretation and application in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. My own interpretive approach to the final book of the New Testament is eclectic. I am persuaded that while Revelation is rooted in its first century setting, it provides a way of analyzing the challenges and conflicts Christians experience throughout history, and offers a prophetic witness to the events which will lead to the triumph of God's saving love in time and eternity.

Revelation has often been misused by the overzealous on one hand and neglected on the other by those who find its symbolic imagery off-putting or inexplicable. Despite alternating abuse or neglect, Revelation is the capstone of God's Word and offers its reader a message of hope and assurance: evil will be decisively defeated and Christ will reign.



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 Armstrong, Marianna Briner, Jane Johnson, and Susy Spence (moderator).



Diane and Mike B  
William B  
Levi C  
Dottie E  
Fern E  
Jacquie O  
Lila O  
Carolyn S

*If you are able to provide rides for Diane to visit Mike at Drake, please contact Susy S (513.543.4092).*



### *Hands-on reflection*

While preparing props for a church photo shoot, I had to make a crown of thorns. In the woods, I found a long, wild, prickly plant that seemed promising. Just cutting a bit to bring home proved difficult, making me quickly question my decision to do this project.

Once home, I worked the vines so they'd be flexible and not break when curved into a circle. That required finding multiple spots to grasp. Again, numerous finger pricks ensued. It wasn't until I formed the vines into a crown, however, that thorns started sinking into my skin and taking hold. Each shock of pain was an accident, but my focus remained intentional: I purposely tackled this endeavor bare-handed to glimpse what Jesus suffered on my behalf. The torn skin on my fingers was nothing compared to the gashes on my Savior's head. Working with thorns for a few minutes reminded me to be humbly grateful for what Jesus sacrificed to win my eternal salvation.

—Julie Lee

### *Mary's yes calls us to love*

On March 25, we remember the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel visits Mary to tell her she is to bear the Son of God, and she says yes.

In *Wholehearted Faith*, Rachel Held Evans writes: "I am a Christian not because of anything I've done but because a teenage girl living in occupied Palestine at one of the most dangerous moments in history said yes—yes to God, yes to a wholehearted call she could not possibly understand ... yes to a vision for herself and her little boy of a mission that would bring down rulers and lift up the humble, that would turn away the rich and fill the hungry with good things, that would scatter the proud and gather the lowly, yes to a life that came with no guarantee of her safety or her son's. ...And through Mary's example, God invites us to take the risk of love."

# Mission in *Motion*



Dear Pastor Lang and Members,

Thank you for the gift card and food basket for Thanksgiving. We appreciate the support and kindness very much.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,  
The Cooper Family

Hello Dave and Fellow Golfers,

This is a belated THANK YOU for the very generous donation from the Golf Outing to Andy's foundation, Mela-Know-More (MKM).

I put the check in my folder and forgot to turn in into the office until now! You will be getting a formal letter of thanks from MIK.

We so appreciate the support from Glendale Presbyterian over the years. MKM offers free skin screenings every month and, of course, the Sunscreen Squad at the tennis tourney.

Best to you and Donna!  
Candi and Bob C

*Mark these dates on your calendar*

*Saturday, June 18*



That's the date for our next *Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food* event. Can you believe it? This will be the 12th year for this Mission event.

Dave C estimates we have collected and donated nearly \$100,000.00 to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center and The Princeton Closet in those 12 years. Thank you to all who have helped and donated through the years.

*Saturday, September 10*

Watch your weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter for more details as they become available.



in memory of  
Sylvia and Tom Allen

**40**—In Scripture, this number often indicates a time of trial or testing, or simply marks significance. It rained 40 days and nights during the Flood. Israel



wondered in the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus fasted for 40 days and was with the disciples for 40 days between his resurrection and ascension. The Christian church has long observed 40 days of Lent (not counting Sundays).

### *A Prayer for Lent*

This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.



Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation, and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday—and throughout the 40 days of Lent—ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how frail is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."



# March

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Katie K.....	1
Pam C.....	3
Richard O.....	4
Madeline C.....	4
Snowden A.....	6
Craig S.....	8
Dorothy E.....	10
Jane S.....	13
Maggie S.....	19
Alison and Joseph C.....	22
Stuart C.....	23
Alene R.....	23
Doloris G.....	25
Rev. Jim B.....	27
Richard S.....	29

## Music Live at Christ Church

The Ohio State University Men's Glee Club,  
The Ohio State University Chorale, and  
The Christ church Glendale Parish Choir

present Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*

Sunday, March 6, 5:00PM  
in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit



On this first Sunday in Lent, the CCG Parish Choir joins forces with the OSU Choirs producing a chorus of over 120 voices to sing this magnificent composition in the excellent acoustics of the Chapel. The OSU choirs will also sing several pieces of their own.

Dr. Robert J. Ward and Dr. Robert Bode, conductors. Dr. Tyler W. Robertson, organ.



Wednesday, March 2  
10:00AM-11:30AM

Gather in the church library with your favorite beverage for discussion on a new book—*The Book of Longings*, by Sue Monk Kidd.

This book is available at the Cincinnati Public Library.

Fellowship continues with lunch at the Bluebird Café.



Thursdays, March 3, 10, and 17  
10:00AM

Gather in the church library.  
No experience necessary.



## Men's Lunch

All men are invited to gather for lunch at Skyline (85 East Kemper Road) Wednesday, March 9. Fellowship begins when you arrive; lunch begins at 12:30PM.



Wine Women & the Word

Tuesday, April 5—details coming soon.

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.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2  Ash WEDNESDAY 10:00AM- Women's Book Club 7:00PM- Worship	3 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6  First Sunday in Lent 10:30AM - Worship	7 9:00AM- Session reports due 3:00PM- Mission committee meeting	8	9 12:30PM- Men's Lunch at Skyline 6:00PM- Session meeting	10 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13  Second Sunday in Lent 10:30AM - Worship	14	15	16	17 10:00AM- Gentle Yoga 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20  Third Sunday in Lent 10:30AM - Worship Food Offering	21	22	23 4:30PM - Elemental Churches meeting	24 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27  Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:30AM - Worship	28 9:00AM- April newsletter items due	29	30	31 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal		



## **First Presbyterian Church, Glendale**

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Glendale, OH 45246

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

the Reverend Jeffrey Lang

Worship begins at 10:30AM  
Sunday, September 12, 2021 through  
Sunday, June 5, 2022.

### ***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



## **The Pretzel: Brought to You by Lent**

Pretzels come in many flavors, shapes, and sizes—not unlike us. But have you stopped to consider they actually have a historical place in Lent?

If you take a moment to look at the typical pretzel, you can see that it is a model of the common prayer position from the early 600s of folding your arms over each other on your chest and putting your hands on your shoulders.

Pretzels were developed as an option to satisfy abstinence and fasting laws of the time. Eggs, fat, and milk were forbidden during Lent. So, the remaining ingredients that one could use included water, flour, and salt. A young monk baked the first pretzel—making a Lenten bread of water, flour, and salt, forming the dough into the prayer position of the day and baking it as soft bread. These first pretzels would have been much like the soft pretzels we have today.



The legend of the hard pretzels that we snack on today tells of an apprentice baker who fell asleep while preparing pretzels and let the fire begin to die out. When he noticed, he restarted the fire, but the result was overcooked pretzels. The surprise was a tasty treat that was less perishable than the soft pretzels and easy to have available to give to those in need.

excerpts from *Busted Halo*  
Elizabeth A. Elliott, February 28, 2018