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As we're likely sitting inside hoping that these low temperatures will be brief, please consider the following dates---all pointing toward the celebration of an early Easter this year!

Easter, "our moveable feast" of a sacred Christian observance, is determined in the following way: Easter will fall on the first Sunday after the full moon date (mathematically calculated) that occurs on or after March 21. This is



just not intuitive, and I research the specifics every year. But this year the Lunar calendar is with us because Easter 2024 is, in fact, on March 31.

Looking backward from the last day of March we are reminded of the season of Lent, those 40 days of prayer, penance and reflection which begin on Ash Wednesday. This particular year Ash Wednesday will be on February 14, with the service at 7:00pm. There

will be time for you and your sweetheart to celebrate Valentine's Day before or afterwards if this is your family tradition.

There are other important dates that we'll observe along those 40 days of Lent. Palm Sunday is on March 24, and on March 28, we will observe Maundy Thursday, recalling The Last Supper of Christ and his Apostles. This, too, is a moving service containing profound Scripture and beautiful music.

Please check the weekly on-line announcements and future Messenger editions to receive updates on the activities and the worship opportunities during the Lenten season which is now less than a month away.

***Inside this issue ...***

February  
 2024

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# A Message from our Minister

February will find many of us observing Valentine's Day, at least in passing. The holiday has become a cultural occasion to celebrate romantic love, special friendships, and enduring relationships.

Love, in all of its permutations, figures prominently in Christian theology not least of all because the New Testament describes God as love.

A story goes that, "A farmer placed a weather vane inscribed with the words 'God is love' on top of his barn. One day, a traveler stopped by the farm and observed the weather vane moving with the breeze. Then, with a smirk, he asked, 'Do you mean to say that your God is as changeable as the wind?'

The farmer shook his head and replied, 'No. What I mean to say is that no matter which way the wind blows, God is love.'

1 John 4:8 explains that, "God is love." Augustine of Hippo, the seminal church father of the early fifth century, said that God is love and that love is God.

Some folks have the notion that God will love us if and when we clean up our act, change our ways, and make ourselves presentable to God. The Bible tells us that is not the case at all.

The prodigal son left his father's home, squandered his inher-

itance, and later, exhausted and alone, decided to return to his father's house uncertain of his reception. The Gospel of Luke 15 finds the father running to receive and welcome the prodigal. The father's love was not contingent or conditioned by what his son did or failed to do, his shortcomings, or sins. Love waited for and welcomed the son.

In his book, *Essential Teachings on Love*, Richard Rohr offers this observation, "Most of us were taught that God would love us if and when we change. In fact, God loves you so that you can change. What empowers change, what makes you desirous of change, is the inner experience of love. This alone becomes the engine of positive change."

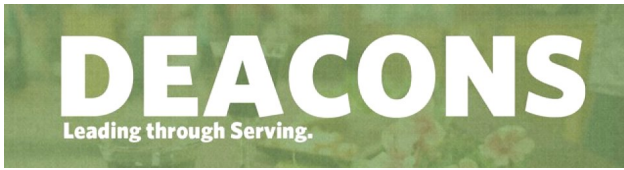
God is love and love is God. In the Bible's Story, it is this love that saves souls, transforms lives, and heals what is broken in the human condition. We are all, in our own ways, prodigals who are never abandoned to our imperfections but are loved into wholeness by the saving love to which Jesus points us that we call God.

Not just human beings, but all creation, participates in a loving, saving relationship with God. In symbol and metaphor, Revelation 22 paints a picture of a final consummation, when love overcomes sin and death and sets all things right.

"No longer will there be a curse upon anything. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. And there will be no night there - no need for lamps or sun - for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever. (NLT)

God is love and love is God. You are loved now and always. That Biblical declaration is an appropriate message not just for Valentine's Day, but every day. The God who is love is the basis of our trust and hope that we are never alone, or abandoned.

The Apostle Paul gets at this idea when he rhapsodizes on love in 1 Corinthians 13. *The Message* translates 1 Corinthians 13:13 this way: 'But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.'



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 Diane Limbocker.



Mike and Diane B  
William B  
Levi C  
Susan G  
Gene M  
Linda S  
Katie W  
Charlie A  
Mary and mission team



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

**Amy**  
Director of Music and Organist  
**Kate**  
Choir Director and Vocalist  
**Paisley**  
Videographer

**Clara**  
Vocalist  
**Deborah**  
Administrative Assistant  
**Logan**  
Vocalist

Items for the **March 2024** edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through **9:00AM, Thursday, February 20.**



Early submissions are joyfully accepted!

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

# Mission in Motion...



Dave C and Brad M delivered food, personal care items, and cleaning products to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC) in November (51 lbs) and December (79 lbs), bringing the 2023 total to 1,975 lbs.

This little Church in Glendale does great work. Thank you for your support!



The Mission committee recently provided support totaling \$2,376.50.

This included Kroger gift cards for the Thanksgiving Boxes, reimbursement for grape jelly for VICRC Holiday baskets not covered by donations, and gift cards for the children and families served by GLAD House and VICRC.

## *Remember ...*

...the monthly food offerings are now accepted any day of the month, not just on the third Sunday.

Dave will delivery your generous donations to VICRC early in the next month, and then new items will appear in the basket in the Narthex and on the table in the Church House.

Every day is a day to 'reach out'. Thank you to everyone who continues to help our neighbors in need!



## *Save these dates — more details soon ...*

Saturday, March 16—Pancake Breakfast

Wednesday, May 15—Fellowship Dinner at The Meritage

Saturday, June 15—Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food

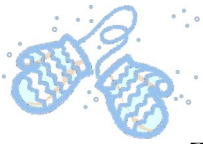
Wednesday, July 17—Fellowship Dinner at Montgomery Inn

Wednesday, August 21—Fellowship Picnic at the Lyceum



# Women's Book Club

All women are invited to gather in the church library with your favorite morning beverage at 10:00AM.  
The books for the next few months are ...



Wednesday, February 14

*Once Upon a Town* by Bob Green.

This poignant and heartwarming eyewitness history, based on interviews with North Platte residents and the soldiers who once passed through, tells a classic, lost-in-the-mists-of-time American story of a grateful country honoring its brave and dedicated sons.



Wednesday, March 13

*Letters to My Palestinian Neighbor*  
by Yossi Klein Halevi

Halevi's letters speak not only to his Palestinian neighbor, but to all concerned global citizens, helping us understand the painful choices confronting Israelis and Palestinians that will ultimately help determine the fate of the region.



Wednesday, April 10

*The Guernsey Library and Potato Peel Pie Society*  
by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society's members, learning about their island, their state in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.

Wednesday, May 8



*The Sentence*  
by Louis Erdrich

Juliet begins a remarkable correspondence with the society's members, learning about their island, their state in books, and the impact the recent German occupation has had on their lives. Captivated by their stories, she sets sail for Guernsey, and what she finds will change her forever.

Wednesday, June 12



*Have a Little Faith*  
by Mitch Albom

A book about life's purposes; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.

# FEBRUARY

*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

Susan and Snowden .....	15
Kimberley and Jeffrey .....	18
Carolyn and Robert.....	19
Lee A .....	24
Beverley B .....	26



## Men's Lunch

*All men* are invited to gather for lunch at Gold Star on Springfield Pike in Springdale, Wednesday, February 14.

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



10:00AM

*All women* are invited to gather in the church library on Thursdays, February 1, 8, 22, and 29.



## Calling all Coffee Fellowship hostesses and hosts ...

The February–March Coffee Fellowship sign-up sheet is on the Church House bulletin board. Please consider when you might host and write your name on the date of your choice.

Dave C will make coffee for you, but only if you let him know in advance. His number is 513.544.4943.

There is someone who will bake if you need help. Please contact the church office so Debbie can get you connected with her.

Coffee, tea bags, sugar, creamer\*, serving plates/platters, and coffee cups are provided.

*\* individual portions of Half and Half, which do not require refrigeration, are stored on the kitchen counter near the dishwasher. There is no longer a need to wonder what is available in the refrigerator or if it is outdated.*







The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated Sunday, February 4.

*All are welcome to the table.*



# FEBRUARY

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<p>This calendar is a living document subject to frequent changes.</p> <p>Check the website (<a href="http://firstpresbyterianglendale.org">firstpresbyterianglendale.org</a>) for the most accurate calendar.</p> <p>Please contact the church office with calendar updates.</p>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
 <p>10:30AM- Worship <i>Blanket Sunday Offering</i></p>	<p>2:00PM- Squirrely Stitches</p>			<p>10:00AM- Gentle Yoga</p> <p>6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal</p>		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<p>10:30AM- Worship <i>Blanket Sunday Offering</i></p>			 <p>WEDNESDAY</p> <p>10:00AM- Women's Book Club</p> <p>12:30PM- Men's Lunch (Gold Star)</p> <p>7:00PM- Worship</p> <p><i>Valentine's Day</i></p>	<p>9:00AM- March newsletter items due</p> <p>6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal</p>		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p><i>1st Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>10:30AM- Worship</p>	 <p><i>Office Closed</i></p>		<p>6:30PM- Session meeting</p>	<p>10:00AM- Gentle Yoga</p> <p>6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal</p>		
25	26	27	28	29		
<p><i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i></p> <p>10:30AM- Worship</p>				 <p><i>Leap Day</i></p> <p>10:00AM- Gentle Yoga</p> <p>6:30PM- Choir Rehearsal</p>		



**First Presbyterian Church  
of 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 10, 2023 through  
Sunday, June 2, 2024.

Worship begins at 10:00AM  
Sunday, June 9, 2024 through  
Sunday, September 8, 2024.

***Church Office Hours***

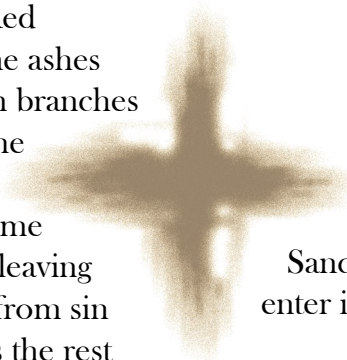
Monday, 9AM-3PM, Tuesday, 9AM-1PM  
Wednesday, 9AM-1PM, Thursday, 9AM-3PM  
The office is *closed* every Friday.

Shared with you in Christian love



## Cross Of Ashes

On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."



## Ash Wednesday Worship

*You are invited* to gather in the Sanctuary for this meaningful service as we enter into the Season of Lent.