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The forty-day season of Lent, with its reflective and penitential turn, runs from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. Lent does not count Sundays as a part of the 40 days of the season because every Sunday is its own Easter, the day of resurrection.

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Specifically Christian worship finds its origin and goal in celebrating the risen Christ. Without the empty tomb of Easter morning, there is no Christian worship.

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The apostles and early church moved from religious observances on the Saturday Sabbath to the first day of the week because it was on that day that Jesus rose from death to life.

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The *Westminster Confession of Faith* explains the Biblical basis of Christian worship each Sunday this way:

“As it is of the law of nature that, in general, a due proportion of time be set apart for the worship of God; so, in his Word, by a positive, moral, and perpetual commandment, binding all men in all ages, he hath particularly appointed one day in seven for a Sabbath, to be kept holy unto him [Exodus 20:8,10-11; Isa. 56:2,4,6-7]: which, from the beginning of the world to the resurrection of Christ was the last day of the week; and from the resurrection of Christ, was changed to the first day

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of the week [Gen. 2:2-3; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Acts 20:7], which in Scripture is called the Lord’s Day [Rev. 1:10], and is to be continued to the end of the world as the Christian Sabbath [Exodus 20:8,10; cf. Matt. 5:17-18].” WCF XX.7.

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As we conclude Lent, celebrate Easter Sunday and joyfully enter the Easter season that will last until the Day of Pentecost, we remember that it is the resurrection of Jesus that gathers believers for worship and gives Christian worship its form and content.

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And so, as those gathered by the risen Christ, as an Easter people, we sing out: “Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom. Let his church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for her Lord now liveth: death hath lost its sting. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son; endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.”

R

—Jeffrey Lang

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April  
2023

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## *From the Minister's Desk*



Walter Brueggemann writing in *The Threat of Life* proposed this interpretation of Psalm 23:6 in the context of Lent. “Goodness and mercy pursue me.’ God’s friendliness and kindness will run after me and chase me down, grab me, and hold me. The verb follow is a powerful, active verb. We are being chased by God’s powerful love. We run from it. We try to escape. We fear that goodness, because then we are no longer in control. We do not trust such a generosity, and we think our own best efforts are better than God’s mercy. Lent is a time to quit running, to let ourselves be caught and embraced in love, like that of a sheep with safe pasture, like a traveler with rich and unexpected

food. Our life is not willed by God to be an endless anxiety. It is, rather, meant to be an embrace, but that entails being caught by God.”

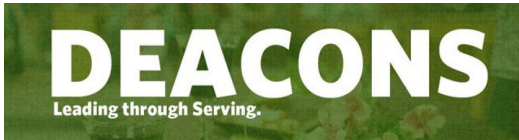
The scriptures repeat this theme in various ways. We are followed, chased after, by the goodness and mercy of God. Jesus said that God’s love is like that of the shepherd who leaves his 99 sheep safe in the sheepfold to pursue and save the one sheep lost in the wilderness. Again, we might think of God like the father who runs to welcome his prodigal child home.

Lent finds its conclusion and climax on Easter morning. At the empty tomb we are reminded that God’s love follows and pursues us, most especially in Jesus Christ. “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” (John 3:17)

Now in the season of Easter, we can rejoice that the expectations of God’s love and care in Psalm 23 are fulfilled in Jesus who is God’s goodness and mercy in flesh for our sake.

—Jeffrey Lang





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 (moderator), Marianna Briner, Jane Johnson, and Diane Limbocker.



the Armstrong family  
Diane and Mike Blackburn  
William Breidenstein  
Levi Chisholm  
Susan Galbraith  
Gene Mooney  
the Simonson family  
Katie Wehby  
Charlie Armstrong  
Bill Hayes  
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**  
Section Leader

Items for the **May** edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through **9:00AM, Monday, April 22.**

*Early submissions are always joyfully accepted!*

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





# Mission in Motion...



Dave and Brad delivered 88 lbs. of food, personal care items, and cleaning products to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC) in February.

The 2024 YTD total is 150 lbs!

VICRC distributes these items to the clients who are in need of a helping hand.

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



The Mission committee recently provided support totaling \$703.00 to Christmas Joy Offering, Blanket Fund, One Great Hour of Sharing, and the Archibald Fund.

*“We are most appreciative of the generous support of our members and friends to these agencies! Thank you!”*



Approximately 125 people enjoyed the delicious food at the Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 16.

*Thank you* to the fantastic hard-working volunteers who helped make the event a success.

A very special *thank you* to Dave for his wonderful organization of this great event.

## *Save these dates*

Wednesday, June 5—Fellowship Dinner at 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

Saturday, September 21—Twenty-seventh Annual Golf Outing



# 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, 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, July 10

*The Summer of '69*  
by Elin Hilderbrand

As the summer heats up, Ted Kennedy sinks a car in Chappaquiddick, man flies to the moon, and Jessie and her family experience their own dramatic upheavals along with the rest of the country. This historical novel is rich with the details of an era that shaped both a nation and an island thirty miles out to sea.



Wednesday, May 8

*The Sentence* by Louis Erdrich

Beginning on All Souls' Day 2019 and ending on All Soul's Day 2020, its mystery and proliferating ghost stories during this one year propel a rich, emotional, and profound narrative.

Wednesday, August 14

*Warrior of the Light*,  
by Paulo Coelho



In his own unique way, Paulo Coelho

helps bring out the Warrior of the Light within each of us. He also shows readers how to embark upon the way of the Warrior: the one who appreciates the miracle of being alive, the one who accepts failure, and the one whose quest leads him to become the person he wants to be.



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.

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*



Addison C.....	3
Anthony O and Lee A .....	3
Betty R .....	8
Pelham L .....	10
Matt and Marianna B.....	16
Zachary H.....	21
David B.....	24
Marianna B.....	30



### *Men's Lunch*

*All men* are invited to gather for lunch at Gold Star on Springfield Pike in Springdale, Wednesday, April 10.

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



Logan and Clara participated in the Corbett Competition held at CCM in March. Logan won first place and Clara placed. Both received cash prizes.



### *Men's Campfire Circle Tuesdays, April 23, May 21, and June 18 at 6:00PM*

All men are invited to gather for fellowship in the churchyard. Bring your own beverage and lawn chair. Snacks provided.



### *Mark your calendars for Wednesday, May 15 to join in the celebration of Debbie's retirement!*

We will be honoring Debbie with a dinner at Bravos in West Chester, 9436 Water Front Drive (near Barnes and Nobel and west Chester AMC.)

Further details will soon follow, as will a sign-up sheet posted in the Church House to get a head count for reservations.

Debbie's last day in the office will be Thursday, May 16. She has been a great asset to our church and will be dearly missed.



# April

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	<b>1</b> 2:00PM- Squirrely Stitches	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  10:30AM- Worship	<b>8</b> 9:00AM- Session reports due	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10:00AM- Women's Book Club  12:30PM- Men's Lunch at Gold Star  6:00PM- Session meeting	<b>11</b> 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10:30AM- Worship	<b>15</b> 10:30AM- Deacons' meeting  2:00PM- Squirrely Stitches	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:30AM- Worship	<b>22</b> 9:00AM- newsletter items due  2:00PM- Monday Class	<b>23</b> 6:00PM- Men's Campfire Circle	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:30PM - Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:30AM- Worship	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	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 call the church office with calendar updates.			



## 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 10, 2023 through  
Sunday, June 2, 2024.

Worship begins at 10:0AM  
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



## *When it rains*

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.



When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: "Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring." The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.

—Janna Firestone