



# WINDOW

APRIL 2024

The Monthly Newsletter of

First Presbyterian Church, Athens, OH



## From the Pastor....

### Triduum

The word "triduum" comes from the Latin word triduum, which comes from tris ("three") + dies ("day").

### WAFT

They say that smell is the last sense to go. And if the last thing I could smell before I died was freshly baked bread, I might say that I would die a happy man.

The smell changes, from the spongy-saucy tang of yeast to something whole and warm and comforting butter and jam only make it all the more sublime, swooped on while almost too hot to touch. Bread of life

### ACHE

I don't really want to think about Good Friday this year. too much death of late in places like Ukraine and Gaza, a high school classmate, Enough, I say. Enough of you, death. Get you gone, go away, don't come back, leave the people I love alone.

That is the point, of course. Death comes and takes us all away. We scour the empty places but they remain unfilled.

### WAIT

Manet's two angels captured it, adorned in their cobalt blue wings; one dressed in the color of dried blood, weeping. The other, in burnt orange, hair lifted by an unseen breeze, waiting watching the horizon for

### Life.

Waiting for the eggs to cook so we can dye them.

Waiting for the children to go to sleep so we can prepare the easter baskets.

Waiting for that last burst of inspiration for the sermon.

Waiting for Easter to come.

Waiting for God to do the work of God.

Waiting with impatience and

hope and a sense of the familiar.

Pastor Rob

### April 2024

#### Sunday, April 7th

#### 2nd Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m. - Communion, during Worship

#### Sunday, April 14th

#### 3rd Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m. - Minute for Mission during Worship

#### Sunday, April 21st

#### 4th Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m. - Minute for Mission during Worship  
1:00 p.m. - Lindley Inn Hymn Sing, The Plains

#### Sunday, April 28th

#### 5th Sunday of Easter

10:30 a.m. - Worship



The Dead Christ with Angels (Édouard Manet, 1864, oil on canvas)

*We are a Christian community of faith that shares the love of God with all people everywhere."*

### Habitat For Humanity

Habitat For Humanity will have a scrap metal drive on Saturday, April 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Athens County Fairgrounds. It's a great time to unload stuff that has been building up in the garage, especially aluminum, brass, and copper. The county will also be collecting all sorts of scrap-tires, paper, wood, TV's, etc. You will have to pay a bit for disposal of some of them but that beats putting them in the landfill.

On Saturday, May 18th Habitat will conduct a rummage sale from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Christ the King Church on the corner of Stewart and Mill Streets. Come browse for clothing, household items, kitchen items, books, yard tools, and decorative items. If you would like to donate items, please leave them at the church Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Proceeds from the two sales go to Habitat's next house.



### April 2024 Worship First Reading (Liturgist) - *Italics - Sermon Text*

April 7

First Reading  
Second Reading  
*\*Gospel John 20:19-31*

So that you may come to believe.  
Acts 4:32-35 and Psalm 133:1-3  
*1 John 1:1-2:2*

April 14

First Reading  
Second Reading  
*\* Gospel Luke 24:36b-48*

Finding the Holy in the everyday  
Acts 3:12-19 and Psalm 4:1-8  
*1 John 3:1-7*



April 21

First Reading  
Second Reading  
*\* Gospel John 10:11-18*

An antidote to apathy  
Acts 4:5-12 and *Psalm 23:1-6*  
1 John 3:16-24

April 28

First Reading  
Second Reading  
*\* Gospel John 15:1-8*

Tangled up Together  
*Acts 8:26-40* and Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21

*First Scripture Reading*  
*\*Sermon Text*

## Christian Education and Other Upcoming Events at FPC

### Weekly

**Sundays during Worship - Children's Sunday School** - Grade school and pre-school children are invited to attend Sunday School during Worship. If you have questions or would like to help with a class, please contact Barb Martin at [barbaramartin729@msn.com](mailto:barbaramartin729@msn.com) or phone the church office at 740-593-3351. Lesson plans and materials will be provided for all volunteer teachers. Class sizes are usually small in number.

**Fridays at noon - Women's Book Study - via Zoom** - Join the Women's Book Study on Fridays at noon via Zoom as those attending discuss *Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor. For more information or to join, please contact Joan Nease at [christianed@athensfpc.org](mailto:christianed@athensfpc.org) or the church office at 740-593-3351.

### Upcoming Events:

#### **Presbytery Wide Spring Youth Camping Weekend in Hocking Hills - April 20th, 21st**

The Presbytery is organizing a Ziplining Event for youth in Hocking Hills. This will include junior and senior high school age youth. The Presbytery will provide a picnic lunch. If interested in participating, please contact the church office at 740-593-3351 or Richard Nease at [christianed@athensfpc.org](mailto:christianed@athensfpc.org)

#### **Game Night Friday April 26th, 2024**

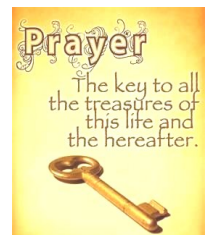
Come and play board games with friends in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m. Some games will be provided; players may bring games to share. In case we need to cancel due to weather or pandemic conditions, please contact Richard or Joan at [christianed@athensfpc.org](mailto:christianed@athensfpc.org) if interested in participating.

#### **Graduation Sunday April 28th, 2024**

Friends or members of the church, Bell Choir, or Choir who will be graduating from Ohio University this May, please contact the church office (740-593-3351 or [office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)) to let us know by Thursday, April 25, 2024 to include in the Sunday bulletin.

## Prayer Concern Requests and Visitation

Prayer request slips are available in the narthex. If you would like others in the church to pray for a person or for a concern near to your heart, place the slips in the Prayer Request box in the narthex. If you or someone you know would enjoy a visit from Pastor Rob and a Deacon (Deacon of the Month is Bobbi Conliffe), or appreciate receiving communion at home, contact the office 740-593-3351 or [office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)



**PRAYER SABBATH**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>**

**4:00 - 5:30 P.M.**

Prayer stations will be situated throughout the church that will focus on Reflection and Transformation. Included in your prayer journey will be a contemplative prayer station, labyrinth, lectio divina and visio divina, praying in color, and a metamorphosis prayer craft. Light refreshments will be available.

You don't need a labyrinth to turn your walks into a spiritual practice. Here are four easy steps to help you slow down and reflect on your walk.

**1 | BEGIN**

Start by noticing what you carry today: joy, pain, peace, or stress.

**2 | WALK**

Slowly walk forward. With each step and breath, release whatever keeps you from being present to the here & now.

**3 | OBSERVE**

As you walk, bring your attention to what you see, what you hear, and the sensation of moving.

**4 | GRATITUDE**

As you end, take a moment to name something you are grateful for. Then, continue on life's journey.

**April Birthdays**

- 1 - Steve Bacak  
Elizabeth Goldsberry  
Carolyn McK. Jacobson
- 2 - Daniel Gillespie
- 4 - April Pollard  
Brandon Stephens  
Andy Trachsel
- 5 - Elizabethe Kramer  
Tom Medley
- 6 - Jacqui Weber  
Jeremy Yehl

- 8 - Madison Cooley
- 9 - Ken Kerr III
- 12 - Kelly Cornn  
Whitlaw Hauser
- 14 - Scott Murphy  
Ray Strickmaker
- 15 - Joan Mickelson  
Dan Weber
- 16 - Chris Mickelson
- 23 - Steve Kramer
- 25 - Ben Jordan  
Caroline Nagy
- 26 - Dan Hauser

- 27 - Liz Maule Gleason

**April Anniversaries**

- 8 - Dan and Jacquelin Weber
- 26 - Debra Rentz and  
John Gutekanst

**Mission Outreach Committee Diaper Project Continues**

The Mission Outreach Committee continues the Diaper Project for some of the Mission Partners here in Athens: Athens County Food Pantry and Cat's Cupboard. There is a box in the Narthex for your donation of diapers. Many donate food, but the Committee realizes that diapers can be expensive when a person is food insecure.



## **Windows ON: Property Committee** **Nursery Repairs Complete at ATHENS FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**



We are happy to report that Keith Morrow has finished repairs on the church nursery and it is back in service. Thanks, Keith, job well done!

### **FPC Church Elders:**

**2024:** Harvey Ballard, Anne Kemmerle, Katie Tadlock, and Keith Wiens

**2025:** Adrienne Nagy, Andrew Stuart, and David Tees

**2026:** Sharon Huges, Linda Parsons, Jane Woodrow, and Hugh Woods

### **FPC Board of Deacons:**

**2024:** Joyce Beauvais, Margaret Bourke, Bobbi Conliffe, Nancy Hartley, and Carol Perry

**2025:** Alan Boyd, Mary Costello, Kim Jordan, Becky Pankratz and Ellen Sostarich

**2026:** Helen King, Joyce Mullins, Harold Robison, Riley Smoot, and Ayse Suer

**The church's Holy Week laundry outreach makes 'everything fresh and new' by Emily Enders Odom, Mission Communications | Special to Presbyterian News Service.**

LOUISVILLE — While most pastors devote Holy Week to poring over commentaries, planning worship and washing feet, the Rev. Caroline Vickery also washes clothes.

At the local laundromat. That's where she and a handful of members from the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania regularly bring a ministry of laundry, presence and hope to people living on the community's margins.

"People don't realize the little indignities that come with dealing with poverty," said Vickery. "It seems unfair as we enter the season when we're talking about how Jesus welcomed the outcasts and was a friend of sinners that we wouldn't be out in the community helping to restore people to being seen as valuable and whole."

Vickery, who was called to serve the 52-member congregation in September 2021, said that the church's Outreach Committee had been looking for a community program that could be handled by a small congregation when committee member and deacon, Sarah Stains, discovered a laundry ministry on Instagram.

"What I like about this ministry is that it's not labor intensive," said Vickery, who worked as a community organizer before graduating from McCormick Theological Seminary. "It's something that's doable for a church of our size. And, because I happened to be living in an apartment with no laundry facilities at the time, I started to use the nearby laundromat to get clean clothes and bedding and had to relearn how expensive clean laundry could be."

And how important. "We can go to a laundromat and give out quarters and bring coloring sheets and markers and give people a little bit of joy," she said. "When you do the laundry by yourself, it's a chore. Instead, there's a happy energy that makes the laundry sparkle when people start talking to each other."

After launching its new "Fresh Start: Loads of Love" initiative, the congregation later received a \$500 grant from the Presbytery of Carlisle's portion of the Peace & Global Witness Offering, which empowers congregations and individuals to become peacemakers in their communities and in the world.

Vickery said that not only did the presbytery's grant enable them to continue the church's laundry outreach, but it also helped the congregation to see the ministry in a new light — as something valuable.

"Every two months we provide quarters, snacks and connection," Vickery said. "We always go on the last Monday of the month since people on public assistance are running low on money at the end of the month. We have had the opportunity to help a homeless family squatting in a house with no electricity or running water and help a woman with cancer have clean bedding. Through our ministry at the laundromat, we also made contact with a woman living in violence, whom I was eventually able to drive to safety."

Providing snacks is an important part of the ministry provided by members and friends of the Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Vickery said that as a Matthew 25 congregation, the church is growing in its understanding of what that means.

"We do know that Jesus makes it clear that how we treat the vulnerable is how we treat Jesus," she said. "Because most of our members are college educated, literate and middle class, our laundry outreach has put them in touch with a world whose hardships they're unaware of. It comes as a shock for people to realize how costly doing your laundry can be, and to know that people can't use their SNAP benefits to buy detergent, cleaning supplies or personal hygiene items. Not being able to keep yourself clean robs people of their dignity. There's something very restorative about knowing that people will be able to be their best selves." And isn't that the heart of the Easter message?

"Holy Week gives us a chance to show that Jesus makes all things new," said Vickery. "That's why we call it 'Fresh Start.' It's a chance to start over."

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## **Saturday April 20, 2024 Youth Zip Lining Trip**

The youth event task team is planning a zip lining trip to Hocking Hills. This event is for middle and high school youth. We have scholarships available to cover the cost of the zip line event. Registrations are due by Sunday, April 14th.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
9 North College Street  
Athens, OH 45701

**April 2024**



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<https://www.Youtube.com/athensfpc>

**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Robert E. Martin

**Church:** Corner of Court and Washington Streets  
**Office:** 9 North College Street

**Clerk of Session:** Andrew Stuart

**Choir Director:** David M. Tadlock  
**Organist:** Janice Robison  
**Bell Choir Director:** Anna Crum  
**CE Co-Directors:** Richard and Joan Nease  
**Administrative Assistant:** Debbie Perry  
**Church Custodian:** Tom Medley

**Phone:** (740) 593-3351      **FAX:** (740) 593-3352  
**E-Mail:** [office@athensfpc.org](mailto:office@athensfpc.org)      **Web:** [www.athensfpc.org](http://www.athensfpc.org)

**Worship Service:** In person service and can be seen live on YouTube. It is also recorded and under Worship Archives.

**Bible Study:** Tuesdays at 12:00 Noon in the church library and via Zoom

**May 2024 Newsletter Deadline**  
**Monday, March 22nd**

**First Presbyterian Church, Athens, Ohio** - FPC has occupied its site in the center of Athens, Ohio since 1809. Among the founding fathers was Ohio University's first president, a Presbyterian minister, the Rev. Jacob Lindley. Dr. Lindley served this congregation as Moderator and Pastor until 1824. Over the years, thirteen pastors of the church have been either university presidents or members of the faculty. Dr. William Holmes McGuffey, author of the McGuffey's Readers, was called to serve as President of Ohio University and served as pastor of the church in 1839.

**Presbytery of Scioto Valley** - The Presbytery of Scioto Valley encompasses twenty-six counties in south central Ohio. From Ironton in the south to Ibera in the north: Hanover in the east and London in the west, FPC's presbytery consists of 95 congregations many of them historic where Presbyterians today are carrying on a long tradition of witness and service in their communities. All over FPC's presbytery, Presbyterians reach out to welcome the stranger, sharing the Gospel and God's love as Christ bids us to do.

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)** - The PC (U.S.A.), with denominational offices in Louisville, Kentucky, has approximately 2.3 million members, more than 10,000 congregations and 14,000 ordained and active ministers. Presbyterians trace their history to the 16th century and the Protestant Reformation. Its heritage, and much of its doctrine began with John Calvin (1509-1564), whose writings crystallized much of the Reformed thinking that preceded him.