

# THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rev. Steven Brand, Pastor  
Gary Collins, Custodian  
Sheri Bogardus, Secretary/Treas.  
Thom Ogilvie, Choir Director



# Note From The Pastor



*"Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah." –*

*Mark 8:27-29*

Not too long ago, Katelynn was asking my mom a bunch of different questions. One question she asked was: 'did you have any pets as a kid?' I knew the answer to this one, no. My mom had a few animals running around, but they were farm animals, not pets. Yet, sure enough, mom told Katelynn that they had parakeets. They had several; it sounded to me like her family always had a parakeet or two around the house. She even sent me this picture of her as a little girl holding up a bird in a cage. She told me she had a picture somewhere of my Uncle Art riding a horse with a parakeet on his shoulder. I would still like to see that picture.

I know that I had talked to my mom about pets before. I had to have. We had lots of pets and my mom liked animals but never really wanted them to be by her. She did not regularly pet the dog and she never held one of our rabbits. So we would talk about pets and animals and why she was not affectionate with them. We never heard about these parakeets. My brothers did not know anything about them either. I guess there was just something about the situation that made her think about these birds when Katelynn asked that was different than when I had asked in the past.

We learned a lot about mom and dad over the last few months, that we had never known before. If you asked me who my mom was six months ago, you would have gotten a distinctly different answer than I would give today. There is something about new situations, new people, new circumstances, and new stages in life or even a new audience that uncovers new information.

In the Scripture above, Jesus asks the disciples who they think he is and Peter answers, 'You are the Messiah.' I bet that Peter would have answered the same way if asked the same question after Jesus' death and resurrection. He would have answered the same way after the coming of the Holy Spirit, or after years of building the Church, or just before his own death. He certainly would have said that Jesus is the Messiah. Yet, I know what Peter meant by that word (Messiah) would have been drastically different each time he said it. Because, every healing, every teaching, every act of Jesus, every new believer, every life changed, every sinner made whole, every moment of ministry would reveal something new about just what kind of Messiah Jesus is.

It does not matter how long you have been a Christian, there is something new for you to learn about Jesus, something to add to your understanding of what it means that Jesus is your Messiah. This is why we are meant to be in a relationship with Jesus. When we are in a relationship with Jesus we develop a fuller understanding of who he is with every new situation we face together, every life change we face together, every new person we meet together, etc.... The Bible says it is 'living and active' and I think that this is what that means. Jesus is not a lesson learned, or a way of thinking to understand, or a set of rules to memorize, Jesus is a Messiah to live your life with.

In Christ,

Rev. Steven Brand

## WORSHIP



We will be observing Communion this Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, so make sure that you have the necessary elements needed to be able to participate. We

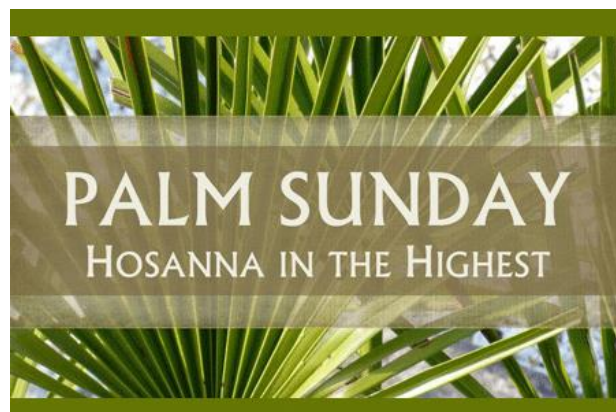
will also observe Communion on Easter Sunday morning and that will be at the Drive-in service, so the elements will be provided for you Easter Sunday morning. It will be wonderful to be back together observing the Lord's Supper!



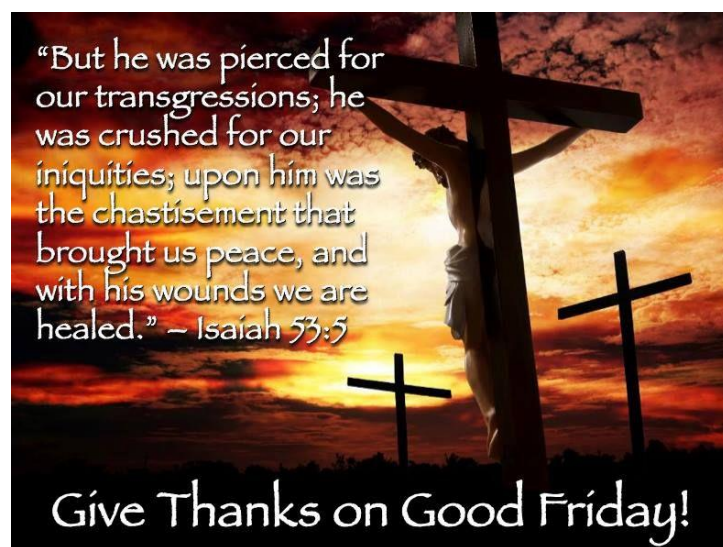
Session voted to go back to **Drive-In Church starting on March 28, 2021, which is Palm Sunday.** This will take place at 11:00am, Sunday mornings in the paved parking lot between the Church and the Elks. There will also be a video provided for those who are not comfortable yet coming back to church.

**For Palm Sunday and Easter only there will be pre-recorded videos made in addition to the Drive in Services.** Even if you attend these two drive-in services you will want to watch the videos as they will be different than the live worship service. **Starting the Sunday after Easter,** the actual Drive-in service will be taped and made available on Monday by noon. It will

not be a live stream that you can watch on Sunday morning, but it will be the actual taped Sunday service that will be on the website on Monday.



There will be a **Good Friday Video** available by noon on April 2, 2021 for you to enjoy as we prepare our hearts for Easter.



### Sermons

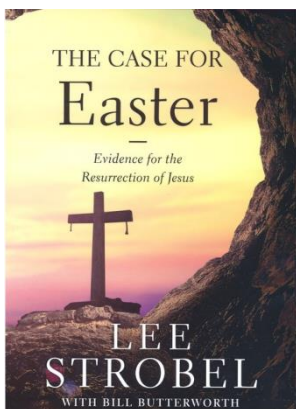
March 7 – Built in Three Days -Communion  
March 14 – Lifted Up for All to See  
March 21 – Remaining a Seed  
March 28 -Palm Sunday –Drive In Church  
April 4<sup>th</sup> – Easter – Drive In Church -Communion





Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021 marks the beginning of the season in the church year known as Lent. **Lent is a time to prepare for the celebration of Easter** and to renew our life in the mystery of the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance, and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ. We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes, a biblical symbol of mourning and penitence. This ancient sign speaks of the fragility of human life, and marks the penitence of the community of faith. I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

## ADULT ZOOM SUNDAY SCHOOL



The Adult Sunday School class begins our Lenten study March 14<sup>th</sup> using Lee Strobel's "Case for Easter", a 4-week DVD-based study.

In this study Strobel investigates Christ's resurrection to determine whether the resurrection actually occurred. He

explores the 'discrepancies' critics have pointed to in the Gospels, looks at the evidence that Jesus' tomb was truly empty, and shows how the eyewitness accounts of those who saw Jesus alive after the crucifixion are credible.

The case for Easter invites us to look beyond the familiar traditions of the season, challenges us to examine the evidence for ourselves, and consider why Easter is so important to our faith.

Study guides are optional; please contact Peggy if you are interested in having one.

This is the zoom link for March and April.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83738137292?pwd=cDU4eStRdktRY0lnbUZ5eWFzaENzUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 3813 7292

Passcode: 029468

or by phone - landline or cell: 312 626 6799

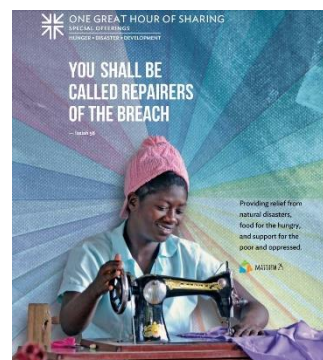
## CONGREGATIONAL CARE



**Prayer Chain Updates** – Please send all prayer requests to Kim Dershem at [kdershem@windstream.net](mailto:kdershem@windstream.net). Please state whether requests are for Prayer Chain Only or should also be distributed to the church body.

## EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING



The Session has again approved the receiving of this offering from Ash Wednesday, February 17 to Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021. Please mark your giving check appropriately. This

year, as we have for the past few years, we will be collecting our One Great Hour of Sharing offering to be divided equally among *World Vision, Presbyterian Disaster*

*Services and the local Salvation Army. Please mark your check as One Great Hour of Sharing when you either mail it in or drop it off.*

Our new mailbox, by the alley entrance with the blue canopy, is locked so you can drop things in there safely and only the Church staff can get to them with the key.



The Evangelism and Outreach Committee would like to thank you for all the help in baking homemade cookies to go in the gift bags. We were hoping for a

couple bags of cookies for each resident, but we got enough for 4 bags for each one! Erika, the Service Coordinator at Candlewick, was so thankful and excited



to see the cute bags that were put together. Each resident and employee at Candlewick Commons received a bag with a Lenten devotional and

four bags of your delicious homemade cookies. Thank you so much for your generosity and caring for our neighbors at Candlewick Commons.

## FYI



**Kroger Rewards:** Did you know you can link your Kroger Rewards card to 1st Presbyterian Church? Kroger Community Rewards donates money to your favorite charity every time

you use your Kroger card. All you must do is go online to Kroger.com. Go to the community section of the drop-down menu, and click on Kroger Community Rewards. Then you sign in with your Kroger Card ID and click on enroll. Search for First Presbyterian Church 84451 and enroll. Doing this does not affect your regular Kroger Rewards or Gas Points. The more folks we have registered the more money Kroger donates to our church.



*The scrip program is continuing even though we are not meeting together personally. If you would like to order gift cards, please submit your order and payment to Peggy no later than Sunday, March 7th.*



### Operation Feed

Operation Feed of Licking County is a community-wide food drive which coordinates and promotes the collection of food from employees and Licking County residents to feed those in need during times of emergency. The food will be stocked at the Food Pantry Network of Licking County and distributed to member pantries and social service organizations that supply emergency meals for people who are hungry.

In 2020, the Food Pantry Network of Licking County distributed over 5 million pounds of food, our largest quantity in the history of our organization. Approximately 35% of the recipients of food distribution are children and infants who have no control over their situation. With the continued changes in our world today, 2021 will be a year like no other, as we continue to remain social distant. Many residents are working from home or unemployed, and Food Pantry Network is prepared to host a virtual Operation Feed event to ensure we can continue to support our neighbors as they find themselves in difficult situations or in need of food.

The Food Pantry Network of Licking County invites our supporters to join us in our online fundraising efforts.

<https://p2p.charityengine.net/OperationFeed2021/Home/Index/>

Second Presbyterian Church Presents

# OPERATION FEED CONCERT

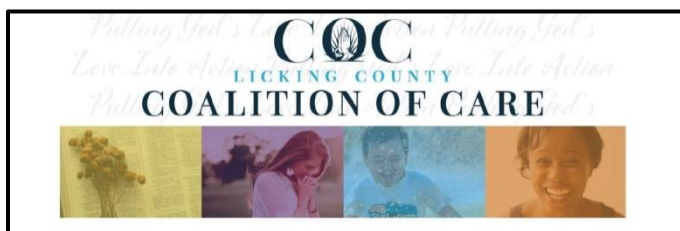
**SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2021**  
**2 PM - 3 PM**  
<https://spcn Newark.org/operationfeedconcert/>



A Piano/Organ Duet Performed by  
 Rick Black and Ann Robinson

Concert with a blend of Gospel, Classical,  
 Traditional, and Contemporary music.

Second Presbyterian Church  
 FPN Food Pantry Network  
 LICKING COUNTY

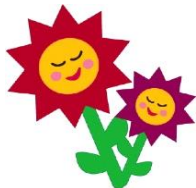


Are you skilled with budgeting?  
 Organizing? Cleaning? Are you a people person?  
 Good with your hands?

Then the COC is looking for YOU! We have the  
 following volunteer opportunities available:

*Intake workers, Assessment workers,  
 Housekeeping, Maintenance, Painting,  
 Grounds keeping, plumbing and more.*

If you are seeking ways to give back in 2021 call  
 Ann at (740)670-9700 then dial 2. We look  
 forward to speaking to you.



**Orders for Wilson's Garden Center Gift  
 Cards** will be taken between February 17  
 and March 31, 2021. The cards will be  
 sold by prepaid order, \$25.00 each card.  
 Please make your check payable to First  
 Presbyterian Church with Wilson Gift  
 Card in the memo line.

Your order can be mailed in or dropped off at the church.  
 Please mark your order if you want your gift cards mailed  
 to you or if you will pick them up at the church.



**March Anniversaries**  
**no known anniversaries**

**Don't forget to set your  
 clocks ahead one hour on  
 Saturday evening March 13<sup>th</sup>  
 because Daylight Savings  
 Time begins March 14<sup>th</sup>. We  
 Spring ahead!**

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME



BEGINS