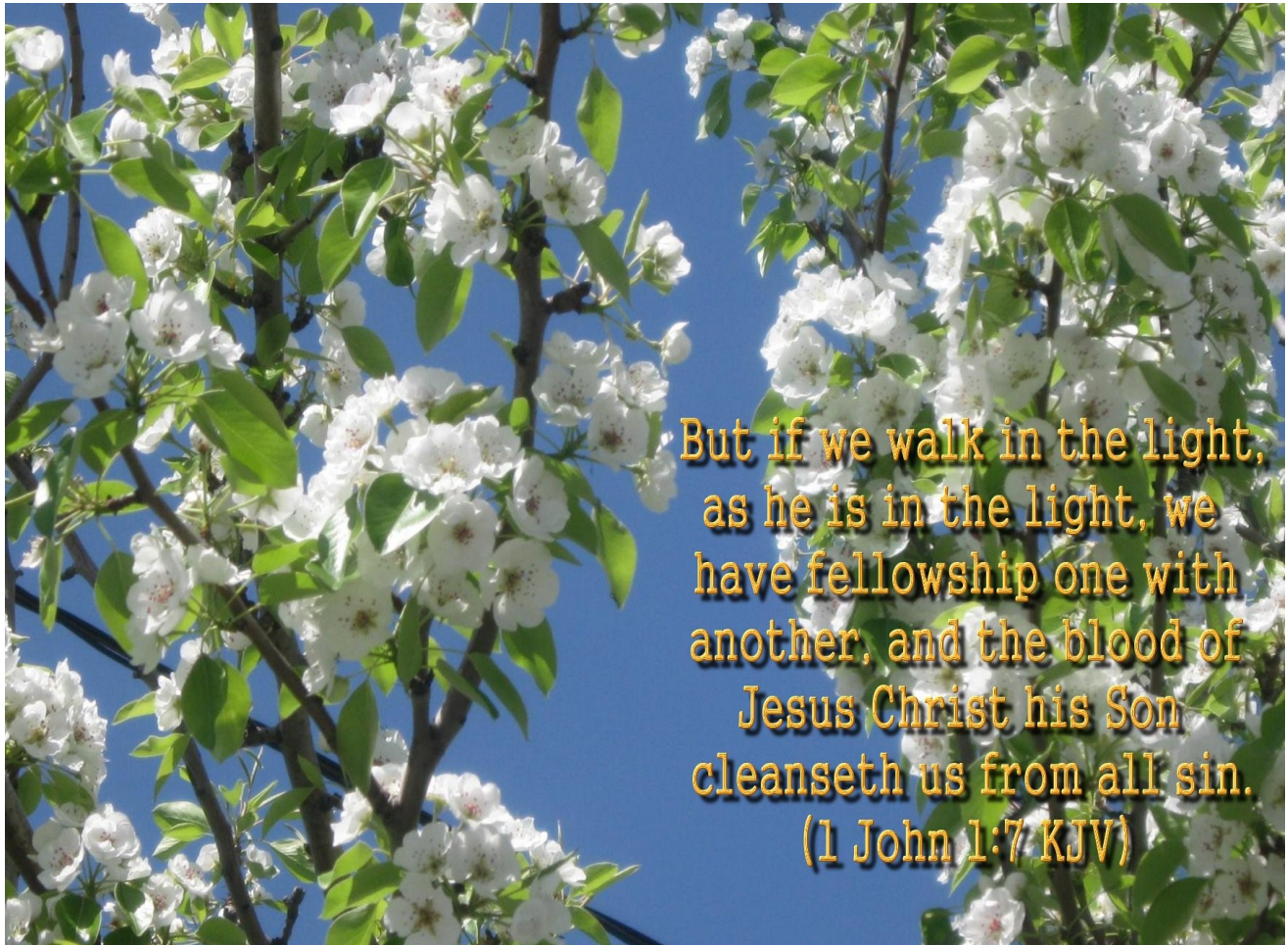


# *The Evangel*



THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MARCH 2025



### **“Times Haven’t Changed”**

As I was doing research for a Bible Study recently, the author of one of the commentaries I use cited a study he had recently read. In that study, which involved five thousand Americans from a wide spectrum of backgrounds and demographics, the following findings stood out:

- 93% of those polled stated that their judgment about right and wrong was based *solely* on their personal beliefs. They felt no impact from the law, from threat of police action, from religion, or from family values.
- 74% said they would steal from those who would not miss it.
- Almost 50% of college students cheat.
- Upwards of 24% of all resumes contain false information. Similarly, the study showed a greater number of those willing to lie on financial aid forms.
- 64% said they would lie when it suits them if it caused no “real” damage.<sup>1</sup>

The sad thing is that the commentary I was using was published in 2002 – so this poll is something like 25 years old! I am sure if the same poll were taken today, the results would be the same if not a little worse!

The Good News is that none of this is a surprise to God. In fact, the Bible is surprisingly frank when it comes to the sinfulness of human beings – it records some truly awful things that have been done throughout history. Right there in the very beginning, we see Cain murdering his brother Abel. We see King David breaking 5 of the 10 commandments in 1 chapter as he sins against Bathsheba and Uriah. We see the vile Haman attempt genocide against God’s people in the Book of Esther. We see Salome and her mother, Herodias, conspire together to have John the Baptist beheaded. We see the poor Simon Magus try to buy the power of the Holy Spirit. And of course, then there’s Judas Iscariot – he betrayed his friend and his God for 30 pieces of silver. The Bible is no record of stained-glass saints; it is the record of God’s dealings with rebellious, sinful, broken people, and His faithfulness to them and to His promises to them.

And as the poll shows us: human nature has not changed in the ensuing centuries! We sometimes like to fool ourselves into thinking that people are getting better, smarter, wiser, or that our society is evolving into something greater or better. But as the author of aforementioned commentary writes: “Despite what Bob Dylan may have written years ago, the times haven’t changed all that much. We continue to be a depraved, sinful people in need of God’s moral law and God’s civil law

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<sup>1</sup>Max Anders, Gen. Ed. *The Holman Old Testament Commentary*, vol 2, *Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers* by Glen S. Martin. (Nashville: Holman Reference, 2002), 105.

if we hope to live according to His will for our lives.”<sup>2</sup>

And that’s a big reason why the Church makes such a big deal about the season of Lent, which starts this month. Lent is a time of preparation, a time of discipline, a time of humbling – it’s a time when we recognize our sinfulness, our *need* for Jesus. And it’s a time when we prepare yet again to celebrate and to receive the incredible work Jesus did for us on the cross and at the empty tomb. For if we ever doubt how truly depraved and sinful we are, we simply need to look at the cross. It stands as a stark testimony to how truly *awful* sin is – that it took *this* to bring about our forgiveness. And at the same time, if we ever doubt the love and goodness and faithfulness of God, again, all we need to do is to look at the cross – for God *so loved us* that He *did this*!

So in this season of Lent, look hard at your life. Look at your sins. Admit what is right there in front of your face, even if it’s horrible and embarrassing. Perhaps you’re one of those people who would lie on a financial aid form, or who would take something that isn’t yours provided no one would miss it. Perhaps you have something even worse to admit about yourself. This is the season to be honest about all these things. And then, *look at the cross*. Look at your salvation – freely given in Christ! Look and rejoice! Look and give thanks! Look and then tell what you see to everyone you can. For God knows our sins; He knows our need; He knows the worst things about us. And He went to the cross for us anyway – so that we might have eternal life with Him! Hallelujah! To Him alone be the glory!

In Christ’s Amazing Love,

Joshua

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<sup>2</sup>Ibid.



The **Soup-er Bowl** was an incredible success! Not only did we beat our record - we blew it out of the water!! A grand total of 1142 cans of soup were collected and distributed through Christ’s Loving Hands to area food pantries. The Missions Committee would like to give a great, big thank you to everyone for your incredible generosity!







## Coffee & Tea With the Pastor

**Coffee and Tea with the Pastor:** Join us on Wednesday, **March 12** from 2-4pm at the Coffee Peddler downtown (112 Harrison Avenue) for good conversation, delicious treats, and a chance to ask your pastor (almost) *anything*! We hope to see you there!

### The Pastor's Bible Study continues!

Our study of the Book of Exodus continues each Monday at 7pm in the Conference Room - come join us as we dig into God's Word!

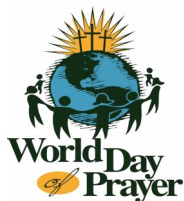


## The Season of Lent



**Lent Begins!** The Season of Lent begins with **Ash Wednesday** on March 5th. Please join us in worship at 7pm that evening as we enter this season of repentance, preparation, and discipline. We will be joined by our friends at Providence Presbyterian Church. The traditional imposition of ashes will be offered, and a special offering will be taken up to support the Reach Out Pregnancy Center.

**Also, be sure to pick up your free Lenten devotions.** This year, we will be offering both a devotional booklet and a bookmark with assigned readings for each of the 40 days of Lent. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Friday, March 7 is **the World Day of Prayer**. Be sure to set aside some time to pray for our world, our nation, our community, our church, etc.!

**Spring Ahead!** Daylight Saving Time begins at 2am on Sunday, March 9. Remember to "spring forward" one hour or you will be late to Sunday School and worship that Sunday!



**"Your heart is to be an altar of God. It is here that the fire of intense love must burn always. You are to feed it every day with the wood of the cross of Christ and the commemoration of His passion." - St. Bonaventure**

### **The Monthly Prayer Focus Continues!**

This month, our prayer focus is **our missionaries**. Let's join together in lifting up our three missionary couples: Ryan and Maggie Warmuth, Sean and Carmen Garrigan, and Zach and Sarah Jones, as well as their children! Let's pray that they are effective in their work, that they have all the resources they need, that they stay strong in their faith and in the practice of their faith, and that they bring much glory to God through their work! If you would like to send cards or encouraging notes to any of these folks, please contact the church office for their addresses!

### **Calling All Prayer Warriors!**

Join us each Wednesday at noon in the church library as we lift up our world, our church, and all our other joys and concerns in prayer. All are welcome! See you here!



### **Young Youth Group**

YYG will be meeting at 6:00pm in SonRise Hall March 9th and April 13th. Come and join the fun! Any questions, please contact Mary Craft.



**Notice:** Our January/February Love Thy Neighbor mission is for **Christ's Loving Hands**. Items needed are: instant potato packs, jelly, pancake mix and syrup, Hamburger/Tuna Helper, baking supplies, such as, sugar, flour, oil, salt. Nonfood items needed are: toothpaste, toothbrushes, and razors. Thank you for your continued generosity in helping to feed the hungry in our community.

**The Essentials Series Continues!** Be sure to join us for the following messages in our ongoing series on the Essentials of the faith as spelled out by our new denomination, the EPC!



- **2 March** - "In the Beginning" (Genesis 1:1-2:3; 2:4-24) - Creation
- **5 March** - **Ash Wednesday** - special Ash Wednesday sermon
- **9 March** - "The Living Word Became Flesh" (Isaiah 9:2-7; Luke 1:26-38) - The Incarnation
- **16 March** - "As a Sacrifice for Our Sins" (Isaiah 52:13-53; John 19:16b-37) - The Atonement
- **23 March** - "He Was Raised" (Matthew 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11) - The Resurrection
- **30 March** - "The Continuing Work of Christ" (Acts 1:1-11; Romans 8:31-39) - The Ascension

This series will continue into April and beyond!

**TWO CENTS A MEAL COLLECTION IS  
March 9**

Please look for the gold pots at both entrances to the sanctuary to place your monthly donations. If you are not able to make it to a service, please feel free to mail your donation to the church. It goes to a good cause of helping feed the hungry. As always, thanks for your generous donations.

~ The Mission Committee



**Four ways to watch our service:**

**During** the service live-stream our 10:45 service each Sunday on our church website ([harrisonpresbyterian.com](http://harrisonpresbyterian.com)) using the link.

**After the service is over:**

- Send an email to [video@harrisonpresbyterian.com](mailto:video@harrisonpresbyterian.com) to receive a link to the full service.
- Watch the sermon on our YouTube channel- "First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, OH."
- Call the Office to have a DVD prepared for you.

**Healing Prayer** is available upon request. All who wish to receive anointing, the laying on of hands, and prayers for healing are welcome to call the church office.



**Meal Ministry**

Our free community meal, **Bountiful Hearts**, continues on the first Saturday of every month. Our next meal will be on Saturday, **March 1** from 11 am – 1 pm here at our church.

We will need **donations of dessert items**, either homemade or from the bakery/grocery store. Please let Tamela Hinson or Christine Luca know if you would like to volunteer; **we also need drivers**. We greatly appreciate your donations, both of time and financial contributions; they are what make this meal possible.

"The cross is not a mere event in history; it's a way of life! 'Take up your cross DAILY,' Jesus said!" - John Piper

## Looking Ahead to...



- ♦ **The Essentials Sermon Series Continues!** Join us throughout April as we continue in this series on the things that unite all believers in Jesus Christ - the essentials of our faith!
  - \***6 April** - "The Helper" (John 14:15-31; John 16:1-15) - The Holy Spirit
  - \***13 April** - special Palm Sunday message
  - \***20 April** - special Resurrection Sunday message
  - \***27 April** - "You are the Body of Christ" (1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 12-31) - Spiritual Gifts

This series will continue into May and June!

- ♦ **Palm Sunday** is April 13 - be sure to join us in worship as we wave our palms and sing "Hosanna!" to our Lord!
- ♦ Our traditional **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service** will be held on Thursday, April 17 at 7pm in the sanctuary. Be sure to invite a friend to join you in worship. A special offering will be taken to support the work of Christ's Loving Hands.
- ♦ Be sure to join us for a **Good Friday worship service** on April 18 at 7pm at the Providence Presbyterian Church in Bright, IN! Come worship and give thanks for all that our Lord Jesus Christ did for us on the cross.
- ♦ **Resurrection Sunday** is April 20 this year. Be sure to join us as we worship our risen, living Lord!
- ♦ Our Administrative Assistant will be on **vacation** from Monday, April 28 - Friday, May, 2. Please be aware that bulletins and the Evangel will be run early around this time, so don't dawdle in getting your announcement info to Judy!
- \* The Women's Association **Rummage Sale** is coming up! Time to gather your "stuff"! The prep work begins on Sunday, March 30 with the sale on April 4 & 5.



Online Giving

- Online Giving is available for First Presbyterian Church. Visit our webpage at [harrisonpresbyterian.com](http://harrisonpresbyterian.com) and click on the GIVE NOW button or scan this QR code. Call the office with any questions.





## WE'RE CLOSED Due to Weather

Look for Worship and Sunday School cancellations and delays at the following TV channels & websites. You can also check the Church's Facebook page for updates.

- \* WCPO—Channel 9  
[www.wcpo.com/closingsadmin](http://www.wcpo.com/closingsadmin)
- \* WKRC—Channel 12  
[www.schoolwatch.com](http://www.schoolwatch.com)
- \* WXIX—Channel 19  
[www.fox19.com](http://www.fox19.com)

We have received a check from Kroger in the amount of \$163.38 for the period of Nov. 1, 2024 thru Jan. 31, 2025. We have 45 households shopping for us.

**IT ONLY TAKES A FEW MINUTES.** You already swipe your Kroger Plus card when you shop so why not help our church earn money at the same time?! Please contact Reta Crone at 367-4917 for more info.



Please fill out the form below if you would like to purchase a lily for Easter to be placed in the sanctuary for a loved one to be remembered or honored.

**We must have your order (with money) into the church office no later than Monday, April 14.** Each flower is \$15.00 and you may take your flowers with you after the Easter service. If paying by check, please make payable to "First Presbyterian Church" with "lilies" in the memo line.



**No. of flowers @ \$15.00 ea.** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

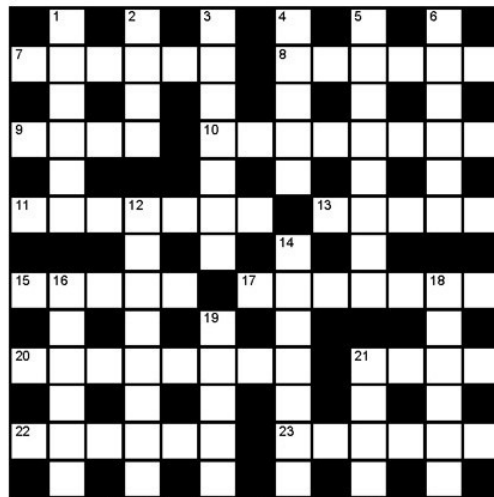
IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Luke



## Across

- 7 "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye \_\_\_\_\_, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke 13:5 (6)
- 8 The book of this prophet was handed to Jesus to read in the synagogue. Luke 4:17 (6)
- 9 "And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the \_\_\_\_\_s." Luke 21:25 (4)
- 10 The liturgical season celebrated after Christmas. (8)
- 11 An act of devotion to show sorrow for one's sin. (7)
- 13 "That he would \_\_\_\_\_ unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear." Luke 1:74 (5)
- 15 The tetrarch of Galilee. Luke 3:1 (5)
- 17 It's easier for a camel to go through this eye than for a rich man to enter the kingdom. Luke 18:25 (7)
- 20 Feeling regret or sorrow for one's sins. (8)

- 21 "Why do the disciples of John \_\_\_\_\_ often ..." Luke 5:33 (4)
- 22 Jesus compared men of this country with the Jews of the time. Luke 11:32 (6)
- 23 "And it is \_\_\_\_\_ for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail." Luke 16:17 (6)

## Down

- 1 "\_\_\_\_\_ it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer." Luke 21:14 (6)
- 2 "And when the day began to \_\_\_\_\_ away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away ..." Luke 9:12 (4)
- 3 "When I was daily with you in the temple, ye \_\_\_\_\_ed forth no hands against me: but this is your hour, and the power of darkness." Luke 22:53 (7)
- 4 Tempted Jesus for forty days. Luke 4:2 (5)

- 5 Jesus mourns for the hard hearts of the people of Jerusalem saying, "how often would I have \_\_\_\_\_ thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings." Luke 13:34 (8)
- 6 One of the men in the line of Christ from Luke 3:36. (6)
- 12 These people asked for increased faith in Luke 17:5. (8)
- 14 The father of James and John. Luke 5:10 (7)
- 16 The Hebrew name for the Lord. (6)
- 18 The holiday that celebrates the events of Luke 24. (6)
- 19 The prodigal son returned to his father with plans to be this type of servant. Luke 15:19 (5)
- 21 If a son asks a father for this, will he give him a serpent? Luke 11:11 (4)



# ✠ Church is Fun ✠

## Word Search

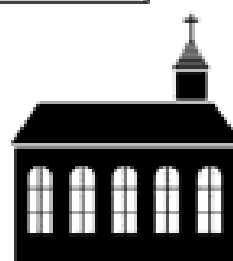
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X O P F Q L U H O L Y N F A I T H I O N  
W R C O M P A S S I O N Z D H A A K D E  
I Q F A X T W J P I H S D N E I R F M O  
S K U A E G N I T G O D S L B E L I E F  
D J O Y I T M A B N Y L Q F G U Z K F E  
O V M S R T V A I E Z Z G N I V I G N W  
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A W R J K U D C T Y N J W V U P Q U Q T  
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G U I D A N C E E T H P S T S I R H C X  
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L Y Y C R E M S K J C H O P E Q F U F I  
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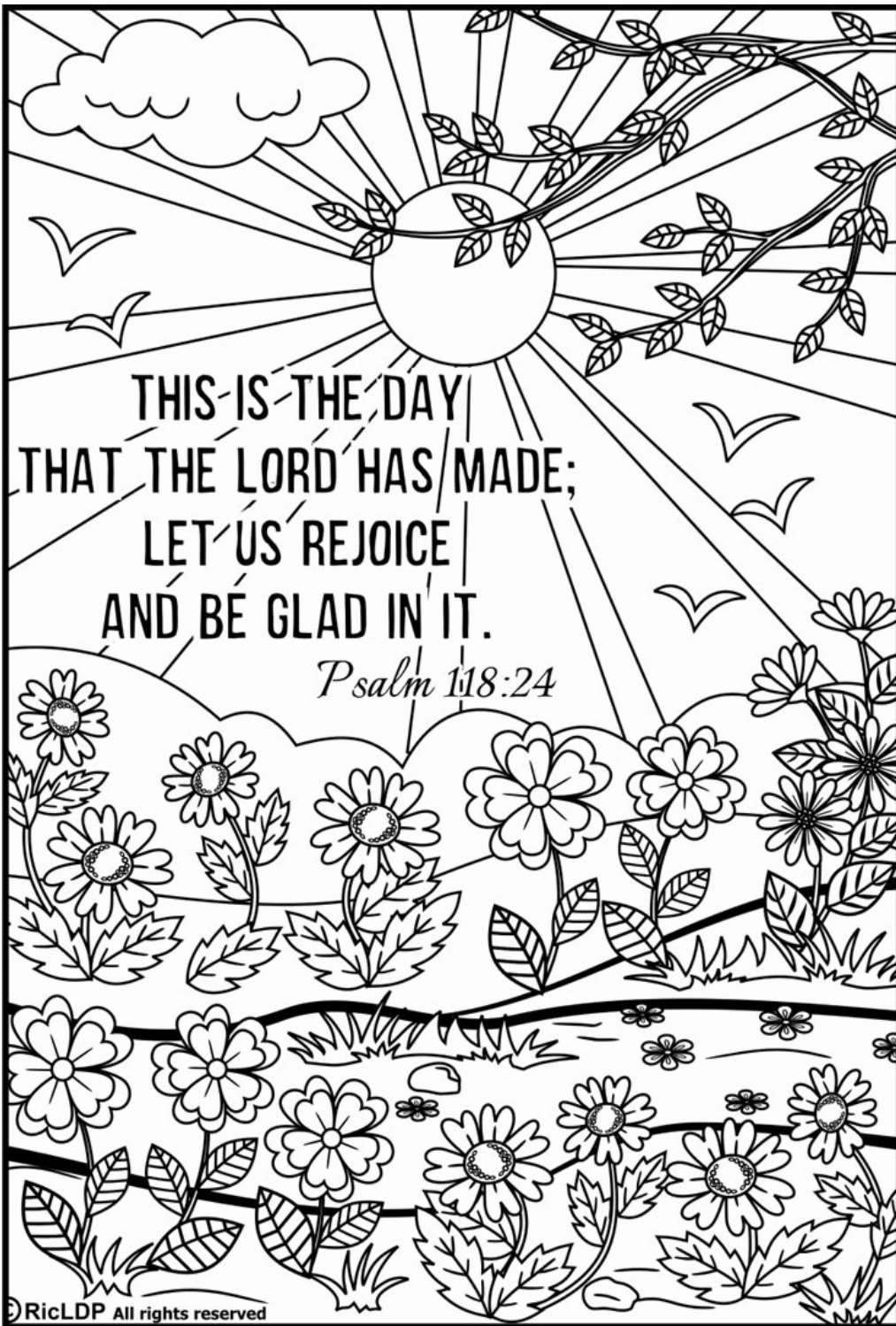
### Word list:

BELIEF  
BLESSINGS  
CHRIST  
CHURCH  
COMPASSION  
COURAGE  
ETERNAL  
FAITH  
FAITHFULNESS  
FORGIVENESS

FRIENDSHIP  
GIVING  
GOD  
GRACE  
GUIDANCE  
HEALING  
HEAVEN  
HOLY  
HOPE  
JESUS

JOY  
LOVE  
MERCY  
OBEDIENCE  
PATIENCE  
PEACE  
SALVATION  
SPIRIT  
TRUTH  
WISDOM





THIS IS THE DAY  
THAT THE LORD HAS MADE;  
LET US REJOICE  
AND BE GLAD IN IT.

*Psalms 118:24*



6 Dick Morris  
8 Judy Gibbs, Stephanie Loos  
11 Barry Fury  
16 Jenny Jones  
18 Bev Hughes, Nancy Platt  
20 Karen Greschel  
24 Tim Corcoran  
28 Ivan Hughes

**Office Hours:** 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Monday - Thursday

**Bulletin Deadlines:** Wednesdays,  
10:00 a.m.

**April Evangel Deadline:**

**March 17 by 12 Noon**

Send all bulletin and Evangel items to Judy at  
office@harrisonpresbyterian.com, call the office  
(367-4301) or drop by the office.

Please remember that Fridays are the pastor's  
Sabbath day. He is available for emergencies  
only on that day. Thank you.



### **MARCH FELLOWSHIP TABLE**

2 Debbie McCane  
9 Barb Wolf  
16 Nancy Platt  
23 Mindy Sindiong  
30 Tracy Anders

### **Addresses for Our Missionaries**

If you would like to send a donation to any of our missionaries, these are their addresses:

- 1) Ryan & Maggie Warmuth: R&M W 1259, Team Expansion, 4112 Old Routt Road,  
Louisville, KY, 40214
- 2) Sean & Carmen Garrigan: Missionary Air Group, P.O. Box 5160, Burlington, NC 27216,  
Designate in memo: Garrigans.
- 3) Zack & Sarah Jones: MissionStream, P.O. Box 1, Meadow Vista, CA 95722, Designate in  
memo: Zachary & Sarah Jones.

**“No man understands Scriptures unless He be acquainted with  
the cross.” - Martin Luther**





### Senior Saints

Dick Morris    **Vivian Talley**    Shirley Quinn    Sherry Schlager

### Prayers For Our Church

**Our Missionaries:** Warmuths, Garrigans & Joneses;

**Marian Brandenburg:** moved to Shawnee Spring;

**Ed Flick:** health issues;

**Tom Steuver:** recovering from surgery;

**JoJean Kleinfeld:** possible procedure to place shunt in brain;

**Joy Riegel:** recovering from a partial hip replacement;

**Karen Wolff:** for healing of her ribs;

**Jenna Walton:** For guidance as she leads a Women's Ministry at school

**Monthly Prayer Focus:** The Board of Deacons;

**Arlene Anderson:** diagnosed with cancer;

**Pam Biddle:** has liver cancer;

### Prayers For Others

**Deb Menninger:** for Joey & Hank's health;

**Marilyn Bourquein:** for grandson, Kent's health;

**Mary Ann Pickens:** for her health and brother, Paul's health;

**Marcia Merse:** for husband, George, under special care at home;

**For our loved ones with cancer:** Pam Luken, Stacy Eckstein, John

Hopkins, Kelly Sebastian, Jenny Swope, Valerie Blessner, Carmen Garrigan

**Mike Westridge:** that his body doesn't reject his new liver;

**Marilyn Bourquein:** for cousin, Mark Roudebush, has serious heart issues;

**Kelsey Loos:** for brother, Ryan, deployed overseas;

**Carol Vassil:** for DIL, Vickie, fell and broke shoulder; for Colt, has strep throat; and for Valerie and Cynthia, one has cancer and one has fibrosis;

**Rebecca Scherzinger:** For infant nephew Joseph Pinney—O2 issues;

**Mary Tabor:** Friend Buddy Willis, recovering from heart surgery;

**Bill & Cheryl Snape:** for friend, Paula Conner, grieving loss of son;

**Joshua Long:** for friend, Rev. Steve Ebling, heart and aortic aneurysm issues;

**Phyllis Wolfram:** for SIL, Janet Kroger, recovering from eye surgery;

**Larry Jester:** not doing well;

### Ongoing Health

#### Needs

Louanna Smith

JoJean Kleinfeld

**Arlene Anderson**

Fran Myers

First Presbyterian Church  
115 S. Vine St.  
Harrison, OH 45030  
Pastor: Dr. Joshua Long  
Church Phone number: 367-4301  
Church email: [office@harrisonpresbyterian.com](mailto:office@harrisonpresbyterian.com)  
Pastor email: [jlong@harrisonpresbyterian.com](mailto:jlong@harrisonpresbyterian.com)  
Website: [www.harrisonpresbyterian.com](http://www.harrisonpresbyterian.com)

## OUR CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

First Presbyterian Church of Harrison, Ohio is growing in faith by building stronger relationships with God and community through prayer and worship. The reading and understanding of God's Word strengthens our commitment to share the Good News of Jesus Christ through love and service to our neighbor so that all may experience God's grace.

