Presbyterian Press



April 2023



Dear Members and Friends of 1st UPC,

This month begins with holy Week, the most important week on the Christian Calendar. We have been preparing our hearts and minds for this week the entire season of Lent in many different ways. One of the ways in which I have is by rereading *Making Sense of the Cross* by David Lose. The heart of the cross is an element of mystery that can't be resolved either easily or entirely. This book examines three of the most important categories of *Theories of Atonement* (theories about what Jesus accomplished on the cross and how that makes us one with God, how the cross cures what ails us). I have been thinking about the strengths and the weaknesses of each of these theories.

In the last chapter of the book David Lose explains that though these Theories of Atonement are important and do give us a partial picture of what Jesus accomplished on the cross, they are ultimately just theories. He goes on to suggest an *approach* (rather than a *theory*) to thinking and interacting with the Cross. He suggests that we concentrate on the Cross in which Christ died as an event in history in which God lets us know in no uncertain terms that God knows us, everything about us. Through the life and death of Jesus we can know that God knows our strengths and our weaknesses, he knows our potential; he knows the dark corners of ourselves that we may not be able to know. That thought alone might be a little unsettling, but it doesn't stop there. We also know that even though God knows us, God also loves us. As we comprehend this idea in both our hearts and minds, we somehow share in Jesus' experience of the resurrection as God brings new life into our lives. In one way of thinking this is a fairly decent summary of the Gospel!

As we celebrate Holy week together, let us not forget that God knows us, and yet God also loves us. God knows the things we are all struggling with in this world, and yet he loves us so much that he gave his one and only son, so that whoever believes in Him will live. Happy Easter!

All of the activities of Easter at 1st UPC are being prepared: Palm Sunday: Traditional Service at 10:45 AM, Maundy Thursday Seder Service at 6 PM at 1st UMC, A Good Friday Service at 8:00 PM at 1st CC, a Sunrise Service at 7:00 AM at Kirkmont Easter morning, Easter Breakfast at 9:00 AM at the church, and of course Easter Sunday worship at 10:45 AM.

As always, as we move forward discerning the Spirit's leading into the future God has for 1st UPC, I ask you to join me in praying for the church.

In Christ,

Pastor Steve



Easter is right around the corner. Time for a big lunch, a visit from the Easter Bunny, and loads of chocolate! But where did these traditions come from? Have you ever wondered why we celebrate Easter with a bunny and eggs, but no chicken? The answers might surprise you!

Eggs: symbols of rebirth

Which came first: the chicken or the egg? Since no one knows, let's just start with the eggs! It's easy to see why eggs symbolize life, renewal, and rebirth. For that reason, early Christians began using eggs as a symbol of the resurrection. Some historians believe that for these ancient people, the eggshell represented the tomb and the little chick hatching out represented Jesus.

A little Easter egg history...

But Easter Eggs are different from regular eggs, aren't they? They're much more colorful for a start! During Lent and especially during the week just before Easter, known as Holy Week, many Christians abstained from eating animal products. Meat? No. Dairy? Nope! Eggs? No, sir! But just because people weren't eating eggs, didn't mean chickens stopped laying them! To preserve all of the unused eggs, people would hard-boil them, decorate the shells and save them to eat on Easter Day.

The colorful Easter egg tradition further evolved with the British Victorians, who began celebrating Easter with beautiful, satin-covered cardboard egg that they'd fill with small gifts. Interestingly, historians believe that the Pennsylvania Dutch in the US started the tradition of the modern Easter egg hunt in the 1700s. Who knew?!

Chocolate time!

And the part you're all waiting for: the chocolate eggs! Everyone's favorite Easter treat originated in Europe, in particular France and Germany, in the early 1800s. It's believed that the first chocolate eggs were bitter and hard – nothing like the delicious ones we buy from our PWA!

Fortunately, people saw the potential here and worked hard to improve their chocolate-making techniques. Eventually, they landed on with the hollow or filled, sweet eggs we enjoy today! What about the Easter Bunny?

Last but not least, let's talk about bunnies.

Of course, tiny baby bunnies are a symbol of new life! But some people believe the Easter Bunny comes from a story about an Anglo-Saxon goddess named Eostre. Legend has it that she found an injured bird and transformed it into a rabbit, so it'd have a better chance of surviving the long, cold winter.

However, the rabbit wasn't fully transformed — it soon discovered that it could lay eggs! It decorated the eggs each spring and left them as offerings to the goddess, a thank you for saving its life.

The modern Easter Bunny was born sometime in the 1800s. This is the bunny we all know and love, who lays eggs, decorates them, and hides them away for us to find!

But not everybody believes in this bunny! Did you know that in Switzerland, a cuckoo bird is thought to deliver the Easter eggs? And in Germany, a sly fox helps with the sweet deliveries! Guess it doesn't matter how it gets there, as long as we all get our chocolate!







During the most recent regular meeting of the Bellefontaine City Council, **Police Chief Brandon Standley** made his intentions known for retirement. During the meeting, Chief Standley was congratulated by Mayor Ben Stahler saying "You've helped our police department make great strides toward developing a topnotch police force. As mayor, and an old friend, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors."

Brandon leaves the BPD after twenty-eight years of service, twelve of those years as Chief of Police.

CONGRATULATIONS Brandon and THANK YOU for your years of service to our community.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF BRANDON STANDLEY

28 YEARS OF SERVICE



THURSDAY APRIL 6, 2023

1:00PM - 3:00PM

BELLEFONTAINE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS 135 N. DETROIT ST. BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO





BCS teachers **Lauren Burkhardt** and Bri Hughes offer a presentation of the Bellefontaine Elementary Preschool to the Board of Education.

Since its inception last fall, this program has been a great success drawing together 64 students, ages 3-5, with more than 70 students being screened as part of the enrollment next year!!

With finalization of adding an outdoor learning environment in the courtyard of BES, children will continue hands on learning visiting a toy Post Office, farm, donut shop and more! The new feature should be completed by fall 2024.



A Round of Applause to **Sophie Adelsberger**, who has been named Senior of the Month for March 2023!

Parents: Eric and Krista Adelsberger

School activities and awards: National Honor Society Treasurer, Cross Country Co-Captain, French Club Vice President, French National Honor Society Officer, Marching Band, Symphonic Band, District Band, Pep Band, and Symphonic Choir. I've earned the Academic Excellence Award, Outstanding Academic Award for Level III in World Language, Honda Breakfast Award for Algebra II, 2020-2021 Central Buckeye Conference Academic Honors, and 2021-

2022 Central Buckeye Conference Academic Honors.

If I were principal for a day: I would let everyone bring their pet to school.

Favorite school memory: The fashion shows my French class did or playing ultimate frisbee with my cross-country team.

People who have been an inspiration to me: My sister Abbi and Mrs. Mount.

Lately, I've been reading: The Awakening by Kate Chopin.

My advice to parents: Let your kids try new things even if they're not the best at them. It's OK for them to do an activity for fun and not always be perfect.

My biggest regret: Not joining the swim team.

Next year: I will be attending Ohio University to major in pre-physical therapy.



Officer **Evan Standley**, , recently shared an overview of the Bellefontaine Police Department Youth Academy at the Benjamin Logan High School. BLHS students expressed interest and asked questions about the day-long course geared toward giving our youth insight into the ever-changing world of law enforcement.

The course provides a snapshot of BPD duties and an opportunity to learn, participate, and become a better informed citizen.

For more information contact Officer Evan Standley at 937-599-1010 or estandley@ci.bellefontaine.oh.us



Reed Kennedy, looks through an otoscope to make sure the ear of his pup is clean and clear! Reed is one of the many BES Preschoolers who enjoyed a visit to the Mary Rutan Hospital Teddy Bear Clinic!! Each preschooler brought a stuffed animal from home to the clinic for a checkup.

Nurse practitioners from MRH Pediatrics then taught the students about tools they use to help decrease fears and nerves when coming to visit the doctor's office. Students learned about their hearts and lungs and talked about ways to stay healthy.

Preschool student **Tilly Jervis** liked the field trip. "I got to take care of my teddy bear. We got real doctor stuff. I was sitting at a table and checked out my teddy with a stethoscope."



At the most recent Board of Education meeting for the Benjamin Logan Local School **Kendra Kennedy,** and Whitney Willoby accepted a \$3,000 check presented by BL Alum Joel Penhorwood on behalf of the Logan County Farm Bureau. The funds are dedicated toward the Wetland Rehabilitation Project.



Emily Taylor (3rd from left) is a bit richer after placing third in the Bellefontaine Rotary Club's Four-Way Test Speech Contest!

Held during the Rotary Club's meeting, the speeches had to emphasize the concepts of leadership, service to others and life experience. Points were given based on four questions. "Is it the truth? Is it fair? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it

be beneficial to all concerned?" Bellefontaine Rotary members served as judges for the event.



CONGRATULATIONS to the Bellefontaine High School Symphonic Choir who recently earned a SUPERIOR (or "1") rating at the Ohio Music Education Association District 11 adjudicated event! They will move on to the State contest in Tipp City later in April!!



CONGRATULATIONS to the Bellefontaine High School Strings Orchestra who earned a SUPERIOR (or "1") rating at OMEA State Orchestra Adjudicated Event held at the School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati. The group moved to the state level after scoring a SUPERIOR at the District level.



Congratulations to **Zoe Jervis**, , who was recently honored with the OUTSTANDING MUSICIAN award, 6th grade Band, at Bellefontaine Middle School!! \$\IJJJJJJJJJ



Kenna Davis, who was our Nursery Attendant during her teaching studies has been named the Thursday Tribe Member of the Week for the Bellefontaine City Schools!!

Currently teaching Fourth Grade English, Language Arts and Social Studies, Kenna has three years of experience in the BCS.

Her classroom motto to live by is "The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today!"

Outside of school, Kenna enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading books, playing board games and drinking coffee! **CONGRATULATIONS!!**

The Bellefontaine Rotary Club recognized over 200 High School Seniors from the Logan County Schools during it's latest Rotary Honors Night event.

In order to be recognized, a student must hold a cumulative GPA of 3.5 and above. This group is the largest the Rotary Club has had the honor of endorsing. Recipients include

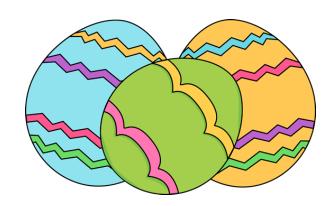
Sophie Adelsberger, Jordan Butler, Mekenzie Flora, and Kendra Kennedy. Jordan Butler is one of eight soon to be graduates who was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship, from a group of 86 applicants. Best wishes in the future endeavors of our outstanding students!!



Benjamin Logan Elementary is set to conduct kindergarten screening: Wednesday, April 26th Thursday, April 27th Friday, April 28th Children must be 5 years old by August 1st, 2023 in order to attend kindergarten at Benjamin Logan. If you have a child that is eligible to attend kindergarten next year, please call the Elementary School at 937-592-4838 to schedule a screening appointment.









Dear Deacons,

We are so thankful for all the ways you bless our church. Your love, caring, devotion and total giving of yourselves means so much to those on the receiving end. We appreciate all you do!

Many thanks, Nate and Becky Weber

On behalf of our Board of Directors, staff and clients, thank you for your church's generous donation of \$500 to support programming at Soteria House, TCN's domestic violence shelter. The Ohio Domestic Violence Network has published statistics showing that while Ohio has seen a spike in domestic violence in recent years, agencies are reeling from cuts in funding. Your donation will help individuals who are impacted by domestic violence and their children to access the shelter and other services they need. Thank you again for supporting TCN's mission of improving lives by providing clinically excellent and accessible behavioral health services. Sincerely, Lori Strobl, CEO

Dear Church Family,

Many thanks to everyone who participated in "Can You Guess Who?" as we were able to raise \$116.00 through guesses and donations, to replace some of the play balls and equipment used for Kids Nite Out!! ~The Deacons



The guesses are in and there are some winners!! These were some interesting photos to look at and try to figure out who they are!! Many thanks to everyone who submitted a picture and allowed us to look into their young faces!!

Really the actual winners are the kids who attend Kids Nite Out and will have more fun with some new equipment!!



This Beautiful Bronco Baby

is **Suzi Neer**!!







This
Sassy
Smiling
SchoolGirl
is
Betty
Lloyd!!

Lois McKenzie is a winner with the correct guess of Brenda Oda!!



This Gorgeous Giggly Girl is **Brenda Oda**!!

This Curly Topped Cutie is **Mary Jane Lane**!!



This Lovely Little Lady is **Sue Dearwester**!!





This Happy Hatted Honey
is **Vicky Shields**!!

This Pretty Petite Poser is **Celynn Taylor**!!



This Magnificent Mini Moppet is Wanda Stahler!!



Vicky Shields is a winner with the correct guess of Gary McKenzie!



This Diminutive Dolly Dumpling is Karen Brady!!



This Finely **Fashioned Fellow** is Gary McKenzie!!



Karen Brady

is a winner with the correct guess of Anne Brienza!

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Love

Ash Holy Week Palm Branch Wednesday Holy Thursday Forty Days Sacrifice Good Friday Jesus Almsgiving Holy Saturday Passover Prayer Foot Washing Easter Fasting Palm Sunday Resurrection

Purple

Lent



The Jelly Bean Poem

Red

is for the blood He gave

is for the grass He made

is for the sun so bright Orange

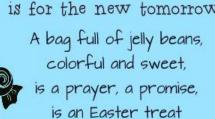
is for the edge of night Black

is for the many sins made

is for the grace He gave Purple

is for the hour of sorrow Pink

is for the new tomorrow





Those Meeding Our Special Prayers...

Evie Merrin Nancy Scouten Kim Reames Joyce Core Riley Suman Wanda Stahler Joan Smith The Albanos Michelle Suman The Amidons Makayla Brandyberry



With Us In Spirit...

Sue Albano 1409 Whispering Pines Lane Belleft. 43311
Lois Ashworth 209 E. Glen Belleft. 43311
Janet Brunke 4888 Co. Rd. #55 Belleft. 43311
Barbara Bradford 221 School St. Belleft. 43311
Bob Carter 6559 US Rt 68 S Memory Unit W. Liberty 43357
Joyce Core 2450 Co. Rd. 118 Rushsylvania 43347
Bud & Mona Eichholtz 1328 Omaha Belleft. 43311
Anne Heinlen 741 E. Sandusky Ave. Belleft. 43311
Talma Heydinger 709 Iroquois Rd. Belleft. 43311
Vera Miller 7942 Tumblebrook Dr. Dunnellon Florida 34433
Jo Mustaine 2739 Co. Rd. #91 *326 Belleft. 43311
Marcella Neeld 541 Center St. Belleft. 43311
Nate Weber 608 Newford Dr. Belleft. 43311



They would **LOVE** to hear from everyone!!



Celebrating A Birthday In April...

April 1: Jamie McClelland, Scarlett Lentz

April 2: Calvin Kennedy April 3: Patty Fitzpatrick

April 6: Karl Kennedy April 7: Sue Dearwester

April 9: Bob Lentz

April 10: Vicky Shields

April 11: Phyllis Lyons April 14: Arden Neer

April 15: Lois McKenzie

April 24: Natasha Kennedy, Isaac Merrin

April 26: Pat Ortli

April 28: Cindy Jenkins

April 29: Brenda Oda



Celebrating A Wedding Anniversary In April...

April 4: Patty and Greg Fitzpatrick April 23: Jenny and Jesse Jervis





Committee Calendar... **HOLY WEEK**









HIP SCHEDU

April 2 Palm Sunday Service 10:45am.

April 6 **Maundy Thursday** Service 6:00pm First United Methodist Church

April 7 **Good Friday** Service 8:00pm First Christian Church

April 9 **SonRise Service** 7:00am Kirkmont Center Pavilion Easter Breakfast 9:00am Easter Service 10:45am



BLOCKS

All **Building Block information** is to be submitted no later than Sunday, April 23. Building Block Sunday is May 7.



The Worship Committee needs YOU!! We are looking for technicians for our sound setup and our video setup! Training will be given, as these are simple tasks!!

We are looking for people of all ages who will only need to commit one Sunday a month for these tasks of bringing our praises to God and to those watching at home!

If you are available to learn, please contact any member of the Worship Committee or email us at the church office 1stupc@bellefontainepres.com.



The **Worship Committee** invites anyone to provide altar flowers in honor of or in memory of loved ones. If you would like to contribute to the beauty of the sanctuary with the gift of flowers, please call the church office at (937)592-6611 email 1stupc@bellefontainepres.com for available dates.



What is better than seeing the faces on our children each Sunday morning as they hear the Children's Message? You can be a part of that, bringing a short message or story and teaching them about the love of God. If you are available to offer a message to the kids, please contact any member of the Worship Committee!!



The **CE Committee** is looking for new members!! If you are available to join this group, which helps to form our foundation of faith, please contact Kyle Lentz.



The **Mission and Outreach Committee** will be having a fundraiser to coincide with the Church Growth Committee's Progressive Picnic!! Details to be forthcoming!! (Hint.... Pie!!)



The **CE Committee** meets Wednesday April 5, 7:00pm in the Chapel.

The **Church Growth and Member Care Committee** meets Monday April 10, 5:30pm in the Library.

The **Deacons** meet Tuesday April 11, 5:00pm in the Library.

The **Mission Committee** meets Tuesday April 11, 6:00pm in the Church Office.

The **Worship Committee** meets Tuesday April 11, 7:00pm in the Library.

The **PWA Leadership** will meet Sunday April 16, 12:00pm in the Library.

The **Stewardship and Finance Committee** meets Monday April 17, 12:00pm in the Library.

The **Session** meets Thursday April 20, 7:00pm in the Library.

The **Property Committee** meets Wednesday April 26, 7:00pm in the Chapel.

The **Book Club** will not meet in April.



Deacons On-Call: Betty Lloyd, Michelle Suman

Welcome Team: Bridget Hawkins, Cindy Jenkins, Holly VanBuskirk

Worship Leaders:

April 2: Ruth Bowden April 9: Vicky Shields April 16: Warren Taylor

April 23: Andy Wunderle April 30: Anne Brienza





Our Daily Bread Bakers deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the 3rd Monday of each month between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Our Daily Bread Bakers for Monday, April 17:

Amy McIntyre....Lois McKenzie Joliece Reed......Wanda Stahler

For even as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve,

and to give his life as a ransom for many.

~Mark 10:45



March 5, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 5

Sunday School Attendance: 29

Worship Attendance:56

Received To Date: \$35,752.27

Day One Attendance: 13

Sunday School Offering: \$60.00

Weekly Giving: \$3,064.86

Needed To Date: \$41,740.00

-\$5,987.73

March 12, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 14

Sunday School Attendance: 34

Worship Attendance: 53

Received To Date: \$38,517.38

Sunday School Offering: \$46.89

Weekly Giving: \$2,765.11

-\$7,396.62

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4174.00

Needed Weekly: \$4174.00

Needed To Date: \$45,914.00

March 19, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 10

Sunday School Attendance: 40

Worship Attendance: 62

Received To Date: \$40,654.38

Sunday School Offering: \$26.00

Weekly Giving: \$2137.00

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Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4174.00

Needed To Date: \$50,088.00

-\$9,433.62

March 26, 2023

On-Line Attendance: 13

Sunday School Attendance: 30

Worship Attendance:071

Received To Date: \$43,115.38

Sunday School Offering: \$37.00

Weekly Giving: \$2461.00

-\$11,146.62

Needed Weekly: \$41.50

Needed Weekly: \$4174.00

Needed To Date: \$54,262.00







From The Presbytery...



Students in grades 7-12 are invited to the Presbytery Spring Youth Retreat, April 14-6 at Kirkmont Center, hosted by the Presbyterian Youth Connection, a network of Presbytery of he Miami Valley.

We'll explore familiar Bible stories in a new way through the theme "Be Curious." We look forward to keynote leadership from **Marcus Hong**, who serves at Louisville Theological Seminary as the Director of Field Education and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology. Marcus is also the Project Director for a new grant to facilitate innovation in youth ministry that emerges out of a collaborative, co-creative, and embodied way of being together inspired by the ideals and practice of community-engaged art.



STUDY PILGRIMAGE TO ISRAEL/PALESTINE NOVEMBER 5 – 17, 2023

The Presbytery of Scioto Valley and the Presbytery of the Miami Valley are co-sponsoring a study pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine with an optional extension to Jordan in November 2023.

The trip, which will be led by the Rev. Mary-Gene Boteler and the Rev. Dr. Rick Nutt, will involve traveling to sacred sights and engaging with chrurch and community leaders. Participants should expect to engage in a series of study sessions in preparation for the trip. Registration will be limited to 20. For additional information, contact the Rev. Boteler at mgboteler@gmail.com.



2023 Women's Spiritual Nurture Retreat Creation: Help! Thanks! Wow!



Apply now for a Presbyterian Undergraduate Scholarship Awards up to \$4000 – Apply by May 15, 2023

Apply today for a Presbyterian Undergraduate Scholarship!

Students may be eligible for \$4,000 or more from the Presbyterian Mission Agency through the Office of Financial Aid for Service.





BUILDING BLOCK SUNDAY is May 7!!



The **PWA** will sponsor the annual **Ladies Tea on Sunday May 7**. Come for an afternoon of fun and fellowship! Bring a guest!!!



GRADUATION SUNDAY IS MAY 21! Please join us to honor our graduates!!

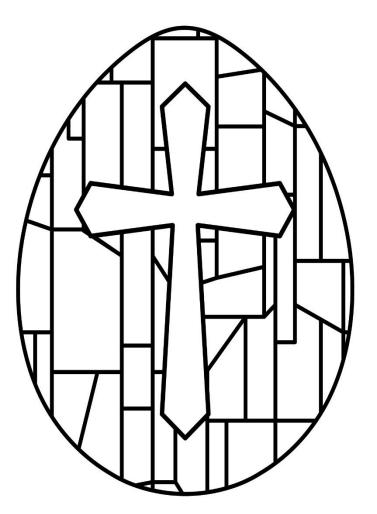




Our Daily Bread Bakers deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the 3rd Monday of each month between the hours of 8:30 am and 6:00 pm.

Our Daily Bread Bakers for Monday, May 15:

Sara Stahler.....Nancy Stokes......Celynn Taylor......Judy Wical







Each month, the **Board of Deacons** encourages you to help meet the needs of our 1st UPC family through your donation to our **2-Cents-of-Compassion Offering**. Your donation will support the Deacons in their effort to support those members of our church who are in need. Donate 2 cents (or more) for every compassionate thought you have had in the last month and place it in the "2 Cents of Compassion" envelope included in Sunday's bulletin.

Our Lord Jesus said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice."

DINNER AT THE PRES! Although Dinner at the Pres has been disbanded, Our Daily Bread will need our help with serving on the last Tuesday of each month. Four or five volunteers are needed. If you are available to help, please contact Evelyn at 937-592-6325!



God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.



Through the **Community Cash Program**, shop at Community Market (2 locations, North Main St. and East Sandusky Ave.), bring in your receipts and place them in the Donation Centers outside the sanctuary (Narthex) or in the Fellowship Hall. A portion of your sale will support 1st UPC's Sharing Fund, providing assistance to our church families as needed.

Use your Kroger Reward Card and support Youth Mission Trips!

To make an automatic donation with your Kroger Plus Card, go to krogercommunityrewards.com. Log in or set up a new account. Our "NPO" (non-profit orgainzation) ID number is **HD313** and is listed as First (not 1st) United Presbyterian Church. Each year,1st UPC folks who have named 1st UPC as their charity contribute \$800-\$1000 a year to support our youth mission trips.



It only takes a little on your part – but it sure helps our community a lot!

