Presbyterian Press

A cartoon person holding an arrow in front of a clock

Description automatically generated

March 2025

A cartoon of a person in pajamas and a robe holding a clock

Description automatically generated From the Pastor’s Desk

It is with great joy that I reflect back on the idea that we have not been together for just over a year. We began out time together on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024 and our time together has been and continues to be filled with many blessings. As I write this, I am also preparing for what will be our last mission study meeting to finalize some of the wording for the report. This report will then be presented to session, and then turned in to the Presbytery of Miami Valley for approval. Once that is finished we will begin selecting of a PNC, Pastor Nominating Committee and begin moving forward toward hiring an installed pastor. Many thanks to the member of this committee for the hard and diligent work that they have done. As part of this next phase, the session’s nominating committee will be working to find 5-7 members for the PNC. If you are asked to participate in this, please prayerfully consider doing so.

I am so excited to share my second season of Lent with all of you. We have some wonderful plans that include joint services with the other downtown churches. For Ash Wednesday, March 5, 2025 there will be two services offered. The first service will be held at noon at the Lutheran Church. This will be conducted by all four of the pastors, but I will actually be delivering the message for that service. The second service will be held in our sanctuary at 7:00 pm, and will include the participation of all four pastors, and will also include a very meaningful spiritual exercise that I think everyone will find beneficial. Please plan on attending one or both of these services. Maundy Thursday, April 17, 2025 will be hosted by the Methodist Church. We will have details on this later. Good Friday, April 18, 2025 will have two services, a noon service will be held in our chapel area down stairs. This will be a contemplative reading of the Gospel of John’s account of the persecution and crucifixion of our Lord. That evening there will be a service at the First Christian Church at 7:00 pm. All four downtown churches will be participating and attending all of these services. You may remember that last year, I posted a daily devotion on Facebook during the season of Lent. I will be doing that once again, and I encourage you to not only read and engage with these each day, but to also consider sharing them on your own Facebook page so that others might do the same. This is an easy and effective way of sharing our ministry with others.

I also wanted to mention that we are grateful for everyone’s patience as we work out some issues with the sound system and the live stream broadcast. We have installed a new sound system that has greatly improved our quality both in the sanctuary and on the live stream, but as is always the case, there are growing pains. Thank you for continuing to engage with us in this way.

A few weeks ago, I spoke about how the word that we normally interpret as blessed also means filled with joy. Even in this season of Lent, when we purposely choose to engage in lament and to contemplate the sorrow of the world were it not for Christ, I invite you to acknowledge and live into your blessings, to see that God has given all of us so many reason to be filled with joy. One of the greatest is that we get to share life with our loving congregation and to share the love of Christ with those in our community. Be bless, be filled with joy, and share that joy with everyone you meet.

A clock on a flower

Description automatically generated

Did you know . . .

Daylight Saving Time. An event in the spring that can bring groans of unhappiness as it may cost you a precious hour of sleep. So, why do we do this whole time shift, anyway? It turns out its way more complicated than you may think. Here’s what you need to know as we prepare to “Spring Ahead” in March and then “Fall Back” in November.

Set your clocks! The change will take place at 2 a.m. on those spring and fall mornings. Daylight Saving Time always ends on the first Sunday in November and starts on the second Sunday in March the following spring (that’ll be March 9 in 2025).

The thought behind the early-morning swap is pretty simple: According to [LiveScience](https://www.livescience.com/32176-why-does-daylight-saving-time-begin-at-2-am.html), most people are expected to already be at home and in bed, and that time won’t bother many bars or restaurants. It also likely doesn’t affect those who have early shifts at work.

There is some speculation that it was invented by Benjamin Franklin. While he was known to have ideas about many things, this is not one of them. In 1784, Benjamin Franklin, who was then living in the French capital, published a satirical essay in the *Journal de Paris.*The topic? Parisians rising with the sun to save money on candles and lamp oil in the evenings. However, he was not seriously advocating for the practice as policy. According to [The Franklin Institute](https://fi.edu/en/science-and-education/benjamin-franklin/daylight-savings-time), the credit (or blame) for inventing Daylight Saving Time actually goes to New Zealand entomologist, George Hudson, who presented the idea in 1895.

Another theory is that it was begun to help farmers working their lands and livestock. This also is untrue. In fact, according to [Time](https://time.com/4549397/daylight-saving-time-history-politics/) Magazine, the farm lobby campaigned aggressively against Daylight Saving Time. That’s because it gave them one less hour in the morning to milk their cows and send their crops to market. Farmers in the U.S. lobbied successfully to stop Daylight Saving Time after World War I, and it wouldn’t go back into effect until the next world war.

President Woodrow Wilson first made it law in 1918, but it was repealed seven months later. Though President Franklin D. Roosevelt relaunched it in 1942, the time change wasn’t official until 1966, when President Lyndon Johnson signed a law to make the start and end dates of Daylight Saving Time uniform across the country.

The time shift might be detrimental to people who suffer from seasonal affective disorder, a depression that kicks in when the seasons change. That’s because it changes your sleep cycle, and it turns out that change could even be linked to higher risks of heart attacks, car accidents, and even malfunctioning medical equipment.

A 2015 study showed that when Daylight Saving Time begins in the spring, there is a drop in robbery rates that day, especially during the early evening when people head home from work. The thinking is that the extra evening daylight serves as a deterrent.

In March 2022, the Senate unanimously voted to pass the [Sunshine Protection Act of 2021.](https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/623/text) The bill allows for moving time one hour forward from what the federal government considers standard time. If passed by the House, permanent DST would have started in November 2023. However, it’s now 2025 and the bill has yet to be passed by the House (and if it is passed, it will need to be signed into law by the President too).

Consequently, while we will undoubtedly be enjoying the summer sun and the convenience of longer daylight time, it’s just a matter of time until November 2 rolls around and we gain that extra hour of glorious sleep. The tradeoff? It will be darker an hour earlier.

A beautiful celebration for a beautiful lady!

An old person sitting at a table with a stuffed animal

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A clock with flowers around it

Description automatically generated Good News . . .

A group of elderly people sitting at a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of people standing around a table with a cake

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

June Coil –

90 and Fabulous!!

A person standing next to a person

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of people sitting at a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A person and a child sitting at a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A yellow star with red text

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Congratulations to our Honor Roll Stars!

**Kaeleigh Flora, Cole McClelland, Calen McClelland, Zoe Jervis, Griffin Burkhardt, Lyrik Core!**

A group of men sitting in a room

AI-generated content may be incorrect.Many thanks to our sound techs who have been working steadily to upgrade our sound system!

Front Row: **Tom Ark, Andy Pulfer**

Back Row: **Chris Deardurff, Mr. Tom Murphy**

Mr. Murphy has been guiding us as we navigate getting everything to a more productive level!

A group of children standing in a classroom

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of children standing in a classroom

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of children posing for a photo

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Nora, Evelyn** and **Scarlett Lentz** have all been recipients of PIRATE OF THE WEEKaward at Riverside Schools!!!

Way to go girls!!

A pair of men wearing clothing

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of boys playing basketball

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Calen McClelland** handles the ball.

Can you name these two monkeys?

A group of girls petting a dog

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Dottie** the dog was a hit with Benjamin Logan 2nd grade readers!

A group of kids holding certificates

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of people standing next to a table full of bags of food

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

**Roz Jenkins** is a Student of the Week for Bellefontaine City Schools!

2,400 COOKIES FOR KAIROS!

A blue stamp with a graduation cap and book

AI-generated content may be incorrect. The **Higher Education Scholarship** applications will be availavle from March 15 to

April 15 for any full or part time students. Visit [www.bellefontainepres.com](http://www.bellefontainepres.com) for

Instructions and application. We thank the Richard and Evaline Knief, Nancy J. Merrilees

and Wayne and Pearl Lawrence families for creating these endowments prior to their

passing.

A clock with flowers around it

Description automatically generated Those needing our special prayers . .

Eleanor Brewer Carol Hess Craig Sickles Keren Keaton

Carl Wunderle Bud Jackson Roxanne Fisher The Amidons

Anne Heinlen Tina Deardurff Mary Jane Baker Chris Suman

Alissa Ritter David Ritter Kris Sutterfield

A red flower with green leaves and a blue background

Description automatically generated With us in Spirit . . .

Sue Albano \*104, 2739 Co. Rd. #91 Belleft. 43311

Celynn Taylor \*103, 2739 Co. Rd. #91 Belleft. 43311

Vera Miller 10536 Manatee Drive Huntsville 43324

June Coil 6559 US Rt. 68 S. West Liberty 43357

Joyce Core 2450 Co. Rd. #118 Rushsylvania 43347

Bud and Mona Eichholtz 1328 Omaha Rd. Belleft. 43311

Anne Heinlen 741 E. Sandusky Ave. Belleft. 43311

Marcella Neeld 541 Center St. Belleft. 43311

Nate Weber 608 Newford Dr. Belleft. 43311

A cartoon sun pointing at a clock

Description automatically generatedCelebrating a birthday in March . . .

March 3: Charlotte Burkhardt March 17: Sophie Adelsberger

March 6: Lauren Burkhardt March 22: Robert Kerch

March 9: Griffin Burkhardt March 25: Tom Boone

March 11: Bob Day March 28: Brandon Standley

March 12: Jim Wical

A cartoon clock with arms and legs

Description automatically generated Celebrating a Wedding Anniversary in March

March 5: Brenda and Charles Oda

March 20: Brad and Laura Flora, Adam and Holly Van Buskirk

A yellow and black clock with red arrows

Description automatically generated Kids’Corner . . .

A cartoon clock with arms and legs

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A dessert in a glass

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A clock with flowers around it

Description automatically generated

In the Kitchen . . .

Overnight Oats Parfait Ingredients

1.5 cups rolled oats

8 oz whole milk (or your preferred milk alternative)

6 oz jam (apricot or peach recommended)

6 oz granola

4 oz whipped cream

3 cups mixed berries

Parfait Instructions

Make the oats: In a large bowl, combine the oats and milk. Stir well to combine.

Chill overnight: Cover the bowl and refrigerate overnight, or for at least 2 hours.

Assemble parfaits: Divide the oat mixture evenly among 4 glasses. Top with a layer of jam, followed by granola, mixed berries, and a dollop of whipped cream.

Enjoy: Serve immediately.

A spring with flowers and butterflies

Description automatically generated Committee Calendar . . .



The Coffee Hour for March will be sponsored by the Church Growth and Member Care Committee. Sunday March 2 immediately following the Worship Service.

A bowl of soup with vegetables and spices

Description automatically generated

The **PWA** will host a Soup Sampler lunch in the Fellowship Hall, Sunday March 9, immediately following the Worship Service. Everyone is invited to attend!!

**A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated**Our Daily Bread Bakers deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the third Monday of

each month between the hours of 8:30am and 6:00pm.

March 13 - 20, 2025

A logo for a children's party

AI-generated content may be incorrect. Anne Brienza, Debbie Day, Nancy Farrington, Patty Fitzpatrick

Kids Night Out will be March 21, beginning at 5:00pm!! Kids are welcome to come and spend some time playing games, learning about God and having a snack!!

Kids are encouraged to bring a friend as well!! For more information, please contact Sara Stahler!

A cartoon of a person walking on a walker

Description automatically generatedWe have recently been gifted two walkers and two shower seats for anyone who may need to borrow them! The First Christian Church had been collecting items for their own use and ended up with many more than they really need. They have reached out to all the churches and offered to pass them along! A thank you card has been sent, but if you know anyone from that church, please thank them for their generosity!!

A sign with text on it

Description automatically generated

Pastor Greg would LOVE to put together a Youth Sunday and give our kids another chance to lead the service!! If your kids would be interested in participating in a Sunday, please contact the Church Office!! The more the merrier!

A cross with flowers in the background

Description automatically generated

If you are interested in providing flowers for the Communion table on a Sunday, to honor

someone, or just because, please contact Holly in the Church Office (937) 592-6611 or

secretary@bellefontainepres.com for more information.

A logo with hand prints

Description automatically generated Volunteers to help in the nursery are always welcome!! You can spend time with our

little ones, coloring or playing games! Brenda Jenkins, our Nursery Attendant is happy

to have you during the time of the Worship Service. Contact Ruth Bowden.

A person with arms raised

Description automatically generated If you are fascinated by those who serve as Worship Leaders on Sunday morning and

want to take a leap of faith to help out, please contact Ruth Bowden for availability dates!

A colorful logo with musical notes

Description automatically generatedThe more Special Music, the BETTER!! We are looking for anyone and everyone who would like to participate in special music for our Worship Services! You can do just about anything!! Sing alone, sing in a group, play an instrument!! Age doesn’t matter, we want everyone to enjoy being a part of the musical section of the service! If you are available to participate, please contact the Church Office for more information!

A graphic of a candle and a bell

Description automatically generated

How we love to see our acolytes bringing the Light of God and the Holy Bible each Sunday morning! This is not just an activity for the young ones, we would like to see our adults active in this part of the service! We would especially be happy to have family members working together! For more information, contact Sue Crawfis!

A heart with hands forming a heart

Description automatically generated

Do you have any small household projects that you just can’t get to due to mobility?

That pesky lightbulb that needs to be changed? An outlet that needs repair? A leak that

needs a small washer replaced?

The Mission Committee sponsors **HELPING HANDS**! We have members of the church

who would be happy to help you through those small jobs that you just can’t quite get to! Applications are available in the Narthex and at the Elevator entrance from the alley.

There is no charge for this service! We just want everyone to be safe and comfortable in their own home!! Of course, there are some requirements. . .

If we are able to help you in any way, please fill out an application today, drop it in the offering plate or email it to the Church Office at [1stupc@bellefontainepres.com](mailto:1stupc@bellefontainepres.com). If you have any questions, please call the Church Office (937) 592-6611 for more information.

A cartoon of a person with a clock

Description automatically generated Meeting in March . . .

The Book Study will meet Tuesdays, 11:00am.

The Property Team will not meet in March.

The PWA Leadership meets Sunday March 9, 12:00pm.

The Worship Team meets Tuesday March 11, 1:30pm.

The Deacons meet Tuesday March 11, 5:00pm.

The Mission Team meets Tuesday March 11, 6:00pm.

The Stewardship and Finance Team meets Tuesday March 11, 12:00pm.

The CE Team meets Wednesday March 12, 5:30pm.

The Book Club meets Tuesday March 18, 6:30pm.

The Session meets Thursday March 20, 6:00pm.

The Church Growth and Member Care Team meets Sunday March 23, 12:00pm.

A close-up of a logo

Description automatically generatedA close-up of a logo

Description automatically generated Serving in March . . .

Deacons On-Call: Pam Ark, Sue Crawfis

Welcome Team: Vicky Shields, Jim Wical, Ruth Bowden, Bill Wical

Worship Leaders: Church Open and Close: Nursery Assistants:

March 2: Becky Lentz March 2: Karen Brady March 2: Eva Rinehart

March 9: Sue Crawfis March 9: Holly C., Eva March 9:

March 16: Cindy Jenkins March 16: Anne Brienza March 16:

March 23: Ruth Bowden March 23: Anne Brienza March 23: Sue Crawfis

A group of women in red sweaters

AI-generated content may be incorrect.March 30: March 30: Bridget Hawkins March 30: Becky Lentz

A person standing behind a table with a pitcher of lemonade

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of people sitting in a theater

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Valentine’s Day Dinner and a Movie!!

A person holding a plate over her face

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A group of people sitting at a table

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A group of people sitting in a theater

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A blue alarm clock surrounded by flowers

Description automatically generated Financial Focus . . .

February 2, 2025

On-Line Attendance: 5

Sunday School Attendance: 30 Sunday School Offering: $33.00

Worship Attendance: 92 Weekly Giving: $4961.68

Received To Date: $23,341.16

February 9, 2025

On-Line Attendance: 15

Sunday School Attendance: 20 Sunday School Offering: $22.00

Worship Attendance: 60 Weekly Giving: $2480.00

Received To Date: $25,821.16

February 16, 2025

On-Line Attendance: 59

Sunday School Attendance: 00 Sunday School Offering: $00

Worship Attendance: 00 Weekly Giving: $2071.70

Received To Date: $27,892.86

February 23, 2025

On-Line Attendance: 29

Sunday School Attendance: 39 Sunday School Offering: $41.00

Worship Attendance: 66 Weekly Giving: $4127.00

Received To Date: $32,019.86

A cartoon of a person jumping

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A cartoon of a person in pajamas and a robe holding a clock

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A cartoon of a person sitting on springs

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A cartoon of a person jumping

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A cartoon of a person jumping with a clock

Description automatically generated Looking ahead . . .

**A close up of a logo

Description automatically generated**Our Daily Bread Bakers deliver desserts to Our Daily Bread on the third Monday of

each month between the hours of 8:30am and 6:00pm.

April 10 - 17, 2025

Bridget Hawkins, Janet Kelley, Betty Lloyd, Amy McIntyre

A close-up of a flower

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Women of the Presbytery of the Miami Valley are invited to attend the 2025 Presbytery Women’s Spiritual Nurture Retreat April 25-27 at Kirkmont Center, Zanesfield.

The retreat is co-sponsored by Presbytery of the Miami Valley, The Blessing Center Collaborative, Xenia United Presbyterian Church, and Kirkmont Center.

This year’s theme is “Woven Together: Unity Through Biblical Friendships.” Worship and discussion leaders for the weekend are the Rev. **Annie Melick**, the Rev Dr. **Jacqueline Nowak**, **Beth Pool**, the Rev. **Emily Haddox**, and Dr. **Cindy Wakeland**.

Women of all ages are invited to this two-day sabbath retreat. Participation will connect you with other women throughout the presbytery and beyond through Bible study topic discussions and activities to renew your spirit and deepen your faith, while providing a time to recharge in God’s miraculous creation.

There will be laughter and prayer, games and singing, worship and study, all within an atmosphere which honors each participant’s needs and personality. A relaxed schedule allows participants to choose to participate in all arranged activities or do just what interests them. If you cannot commit for the weekend, a Saturday only option is offered.

A logo for a tea shop

Description automatically generated

**The Ladies’ Tea** will be May 18! More information will be forthcoming from the PWA!

A logo for a company

AI-generated content may be incorrect.The 2025 Covenant Gathering will be held July 10-14 at the Geneva Center, Indiana and online. This year's theme is “Sabbath By Design” and will feature collaborators, the Rev. José Manuel Capella-Pratts and Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri, Regional Liaisons for the Caribbean.

The Covenant Gathering is an intergenerational faith-play event meant to equip participants for ministry in their families, churches and communities; For spiritual renewal of those who lead others; To create a greater appreciation for a connectional church; To model the Kingdom of God in our life together.

A clock with butterflies and flowers

Description automatically generated From the Presbytery . . .

A close-up of a flower

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

A logo for a company

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

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For more information, contact Anne Brienza.

"**Presbyterian per capita**" refers to a set amount of money that each active member of a Presbyterian church is asked to contribute annually, which is used to fund the administrative costs of the wider Presbyterian denomination, including the General Assembly, Synods, and Presbyteries, essentially allowing all congregations to share in the broader church's operations and ministries through a per-member contribution.

Connectional Support: $40.00

Synod: $ 3.40

General Assembly: $10.84

$54.24 per active member

A person's hand on the ground

Description automatically generatedTherefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable,

always abounding in the work of the Lord,

knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

~[1 Corinthians 15:58](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15%3A58&version=ESV)

A red circle with white text

Description automatically generatedEach month, the Board of Deacons encourages you to help meet the needs of our 1stUPC family through your donation to our **2 Cents for Compassion Offering**. Your donation will support the Deacons in their efforts to support those members of our church who are in need. Donate 2 Cents (or more) for every compassionate thought or deed you have experienced in the past month and place it in the “2 Cents for Compassion” envelope included in the Sunday bulletin.

Our Lord Jesus said, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice.”

A person holding a tray of food

Description automatically generated

**DINNER AT THE PRES!** We’re back!! Our first dinner of the season will be March 25! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Vicky Shields! Our Daily Bread will continue to need our help with serving on certain days of each month. 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.

A green and black text

Description automatically generatedThrough the **Community Cash Program**, shop at Community Market, bring in your receipts and place them in the Donation Centers outside the Sanctuary or in the Fellowship Hall and you can contribute! A portion of your sale will support the 1stUPC Sharing Fund, providing assistance to our church families as needed.

“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched

and one who waters will himself be watered.”

A black and white logo

Description automatically generatedUsing your Kroger Reward Card will 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) ID number is HD313, and listed as First (not 1st) United Presbyterian Church. Each year, through the graciousness of our 1stUPC shoppers, this fund contributes $800 - $1000 to support our youth mission trips.

A clock with a flower on it

Description automatically generated