

First Presbyterian Church
116 N. Third St.
Toronto, OH 43964-1416
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FIRST NEWS MARCH 2017

116 N. 3rd. Street, Toronto, OH 43964
740-537-3721 - Torontopresby@sbcglobal.net
Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor

MARCH HAPPENINGS

- **Wed. March 1st**
"No " Choir rehearsal
- **Thurs. March 2nd**
Yarn Ministry 10am
- **Wed. March 8th**
Chi Rho 4:00pm
- **Sun. March 12th**
Fellowship after
Worship.
- **Thurs. March 16th**
Yarn ministry 10am
- **Mon. March 20th**
Session meeting
6 pm
- **Thurs. March 30th**
Yarn Ministry 10am

Sundays:

*Sunday School

10:00 am

*Worship

11:00 am

Wednesdays:

*Choir 7 pm

Office Hours:

*Tuesday - Friday

9 am - 1 pm

"Faithful and Just"

Shortly after the start of the year the church received a letter and a donation from a self-described, "very old man." In this letter the man who is in his upper 90's described his early life, which coincided with the Great Depression, and how during his high school years he turned to "severe delinquency" and "pilfered" from his grandmother's purse to support his "young teenage lawlessness." It was also during that time that his grandmother was a member of our church, and even though it was difficult, she still made sure she "contributed not less than that amount in her own stewardship of her Presbyterian Church." Towards the end of the Great Depression, this man experienced a "genuine religious conversion" and felt a call to ministry. He would eventually go on to seminary and then on to serve the church. He wanted to give this donation so that he could give back to his grandmother's memory, replenish her giving and so that in his upper 90's he would have his "books" ready for examination.

has done multiple times throughout his life yet these acts from so many years ago still seemed to weigh heavy on his conscious. Throughout all our lives we go through times that are more difficult than others and do things that we may not be the proudest of, yet if we confess those sins before God, we are assured that through the grace of God we are forgiven of them. 1 John 1:8 tells us that "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." Although verse 9 tells us that "If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

During the season of Lent, it is especially appropriate for some type of preparation and self-examination as we prepare to remember the passion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we move into Lent, I encourage you to reflect upon these verses from 1 John and upon this man's willingness to admit his transgressions before God, and then reflect upon your own life and seek forgiveness in areas that may be weighing heavy on your conscious but continually rest assured that you are forgiven by our God that is "faithful and just."

When I received this letter, many thoughts came to mind but as we enter this season of Lent, and with Ash Wednesday just a few days away, it seems very appropriate to share it with you. This note reminded me that we all need to ask for forgiveness at times, which I am sure this man

Grace & Peace, Pastor Tyler

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Kelli Comer 03/01

Susan Franke 03/26

Jill Shimmel 03/03

Julie Stovarsky 03/26

Cathie Thomas 03/04

Heather Keenan 03/12

Brittany Beswick 03/16

Cathie Young 03/16

Evelyn Gettings 03/19

Lauren Waggoner 03/24

Deena Franke 03/25



Church Staff & Officers:
Rev. Tyler J. Bayless, Pastor
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Deborah Close, Admin. Assistant
Deborah@torontopresby.org

Virginia Popson, Financial Sec.
VPopson@sbcglobal.net

Ben Beswick, Clerk of Session

Thomas L. Wilson, Treasurer

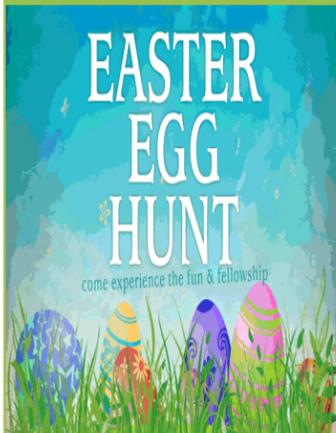
Dolores Boggs, Director of Music

Jay Obertance, Organist

Karen Shell, Rehearsal Organist

Lisa Grable, Custodian

Easter Cantata & Easter Egg Hunt will take place after Worship on April 9th!



Flower Chart

If you would like to remember or honor someone with fresh flowers in the sanctuary, please call the office at 537-3721



Ash Wednesday Services

will be held Wednesday, March 1st at 7:30am, noon, 4:00pm and 7:00pm, Please join us to begin the Lenten season!

First Presbyterian Church will begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday by offering four opportunities for you to come and worship. On Ash Wednesday, which this year falls on March 1st, we will have services at 7:30am, 12:00pm, 4:00pm and 7:00pm to mark the beginning of our 40-day Lenten Journey towards Easter. Each one of these services will consist of prayer, scripture readings, acknowledging our sinfulness before God and the imposition of Ashes.

We hope that with more opportunities to worship throughout the day, it will be more convenient to schedule. So whether you come before work, after work, or even during your lunch break, we hope that one of these services will enable you to begin Lent with a time of prayer and worship.

Wheeling Nailers Game

The congregation is invited to attend a fun evening at a Wheeling Nailers hockey game on April 2nd, at 5pm!

For more information and to reserve your spot please contact Penny Wolter (412)-327-0498
Deadline to sign up is March 19th.



Notes from Session

- ◆ Communion will celebrated next on March 5th.
- ◆ Session committees were assigned and approved.
- ◆ We will start online offering soon, more information to come.
- ◆ We are looking for a congregation member to help with outdoor maintenance.
- ◆ Approved to reroute downspout in alley way to prevent it from being ran over and flooding basement.
- ◆ Approved the purchase of an AED. (Automated External Defibulator) and the creation of Health Ministry Team. More info to follow.
- ◆ Approved the giving away unused audio visual equipment to interested church member.
- ◆ “Souper Bowl of Caring donation will to the “Helping Hands of Toronto”

A very special “Thank You” to the Gleaners for the donation



of \$2,500.00 toward the elevator project! We appreciate you!

Giving Report for the Month of January:

Budgeted Giving: \$13,920.00
Actual Giving: \$12,352.00
Difference: -1,568.00

\$5.00 challenge Report:

Thank you to those who have accepted the challenge of the session and have given \$5.00 extra each week. We have raised \$878.00



Time for Fellowship

On March 12th there will be a Fellowship after Worship sponsored by the youth. It will be by free will offering and will include a baked potato bar, salad bar and sundae bar. Please join us!

Chi Rho’s Spring Session

The spring session of Chi Rho begins on March 8th at 4:00 pm, and continued for 6 weeks! Its a fun evening full of prayer, bible class, crafts, games & activities, a snack and dinner. They will participate in the kids Relay for Life on April 12, 2017.

Hope to see everyone there!