

**SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY**

April 18, 2021

3rd Sunday of Easter

10:00 AM

**PRELUDE**

*Psalm Sketch*

Young

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE & POURING THE BAPTISMAL WATERS**

*Worship is marked by lighting the Christ candle, a reminder that Christ is present among us. The pouring of the water reminds us that in baptism we are cleansed, delivered, raised, forgiven, reborn, anointed, restored, and strengthened for a life of faith.*

**INTROIT**

*Come Inside*

Don Besig

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: Hannah Salo

Leader: Join me as we worship God, our light and our salvation.

**People: We come for we know the Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

Leader: Come worship in honesty and truth.

**People: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and make music to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us worship a gracious and benevolent God.

**People: We stand ready to see God's hand in our lives and we will worship God!**

**\*HYMN #630**

*Fairest Lord Jesus* (vs. 1 & 4)

Crusaders' Hymn

**CALL TO CONFESSION:**

Leader: The prayer of confession invites us to speak words that are remarkably honest about our sin, words that do not come naturally in our relationship with God or with our fellow human beings. Join me in honest confession.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

The scriptures are filled with invitations to repent, yet we merely give lip service to our repentance, or we ignore it all together. Jesus Christ promises to forgive us and offers us new life in Him, yet we discount the gracious gift of forgiveness. We fail at the basic requirements to love God, neighbor and self, yet we often think we're not so bad. Help us, Lord God, to recognize our sin, truly repent and turn to You for a new way of living. Help us start now with an honest confession of our sin. Hear our silent prayer.

**SILENT CONFESSION**

**DECLARATION OF PARDON**

Leader: I've got Good News you'll want to hear!

**People: Tell us, for our hearts are heavy with our honest confession.**

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. In fact, through Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven!

**People: That is Good News! Thanks be to God!**

**ALL: As we are forgiven, let us forgive one another.**

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

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*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end, without end. Amen. (3X) As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**GOSPEL READING**

Luke 24:36-48

**PSALM**

Psalm 4

Psalter Response *"Shine your face on us Lord; fill our hearts with gladness."*

**ANTHEM**

*Kyrie*

John Leavitt

**NEW TESTAMENT EPISTLE READING**

Acts 3:12-19

**SERMON**

What's All This About Repenting?

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (Unison)**

*(From: The Confession of 1967)*

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for humanity when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves them to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER ("debts")**

**OFFERING OF OUR TITHES and GIFTS**

Offertory

*All Glory Be to God on High*

Zachau

\*Doxology

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*Prayer of Dedication

**\*HYMN #250**

*In the Bulb There Is a Flower*

Promise

**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

*Closing Prayer*

Don Besig

**POSTLUDE**

*My Heart Rejoices*

Paxton

**Today's Prayers:** Carol Lashuay, Marsha Foster, Mary Frances Moss, Jason Sybert, along with all those on the front line sacrificing so much for the rest of us, all teachers, all victims of abuse, racial inequalities, all those adversely affected by the Covid-19 and for our nation.

## STAFF MEMBERS

Rev. David M. Montgomery, Interim Pastor [revdmm@gmail.com]  
Aaron Roos, Choir Director [akroos@bgsu.edu]  
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### “A More Light Church”

We Believe in a God of Abundance

**We believe God is bigger than we could ever imagine. We**

**are all created in the image of a God of abundance, of limitless possibilities and expansion.** We strive to live out God’s call of welcome to all of God’s beloved children (and we mean ALL). No matter where you find yourself on your walk of faith, you are welcome here! Single, married, divorced, widowed, of all racial and ethnic identities, of all sexual orientations and gender identities, (LGBTQIA+) conservative, liberal, progressive, or apolitical: you are welcome here!

One parishioner shared, “Life leads us in interesting directions; God led me to FPC in BG. The church family is my refuge, my base, my strength. The Bible-based theology challenges me to help build God’s inclusive world. This church family inspires me with its sense of mission in the community and world.”

Christ welcomes all! All are welcome here!



**Newsletter Deadline – A reminder to all committee**

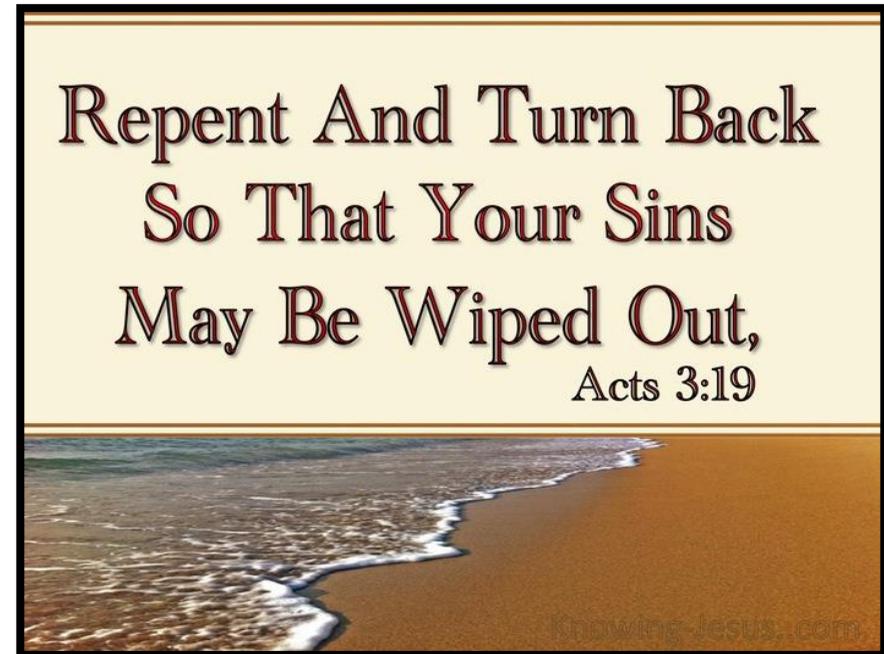
**chairs, Presbyterian Women, and other groups within**

**the church, Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> is the newsletter deadline.**

All articles are to be emailed to the church office by the end of the work day. The email address is

[firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com) . Please note this is a new email address so make the necessary changes in your email program.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
126 S. Church St., Bowling Green, OH 43402



***What’s All This About Repenting?***

***April 18, 2021***

**Phone: 419-352-5176**

**Email: [firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresbyterianbg@gmail.com)**

**Like us on Facebook**

**Webpage: [www.firstpresbyterianbg.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianbg.org)**

## Worship Overview – April-May 2021

Join us each **Wednesday evening at 5:30** for lectionary Bible Study on Zoom and then join us each **Sunday on Facebook Live at 10 am** for worship.

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, April 25**     *Love: Willing to Die For the Other*     **1 John 3:16-24; John 10:11-18**

The author of the Gospel of John believes that the death of Jesus has marked the Church in a significant way. John tells the story quite differently from the other Gospels. In Matthew, Mark and Luke the impression is that somebody takes Jesus' life from him. One view is that the Romans take his life. Another states that the Jews do this. Others would argue that the culprits are finally Jesus' own followers. But John sees it differently. John has Jesus saying, "I lay down my life." What love! What gift!

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 2**     *Why Shouldn't I Be Baptized?*     **Acts 8:26-40**  
**Outdoor Service**     **Holy Communion**

Just when the Church was being persecuted and scattered, an outsider, a foreigner, a stranger, a man who had been cut off from the community of faith (an Ethiopian eunuch) asks Philip, "Why shouldn't I be baptized?" In a sense he is asking, "Why shouldn't I be a part of your church family? Didn't Christ die for me too?" Who do we exclude from our community?

**6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 9**     *My Mother's Table - Mother's Day*     **Acts 11:1-18**

When we pick up our story in the Holy Bible, Peter has some explaining to do. Peter, this good Jew who kept kosher law all his life was now visiting with "those other people," "the unclean," "the forbidden ones," "the Gentiles." He wasn't only visiting with them, he was eating with them! Scandal of all scandals! So, Peter has some explaining to do but instead of arguing with their accusations, he tells them his story. Peter is moved by his dream which opens the door to fellowship and community beyond the Jews. Hear how Peter's dream opens the doors to you and me.

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, May 16**     *Matthias' Mantle*     **Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

Peter boldly addresses the 120 gathered after the resurrection without excuse or a cover-up said, "One of our own, who shared in our ministry betrayed our Lord and is now gone. We need someone to replace him, who should that be?" They came up with the sole criteria that this person be one who had been with them from the beginning. As we, at FPC BG, look for volunteers, helpers, committee members, leaders, what do we look for? What is the criteria to serve Jesus Christ?

## Week of April 18 thru April 25

|                  |                   |  |
|------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Worship Service</b>                                     |
|                  | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Confirmation Class in Fellowship Hall</b>               |
|                  | <b>2:30 p.m.</b>  | <b>Community Garden Work</b>                               |
| <b>TUESDAY</b>   |                   | <b>MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>                             |
|                  | <b>4:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Sanctuary is in use until 9 p.m.</b>                    |
|                  | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Session Meeting via Zoom</b>                            |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b> | <b>4:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Sanctuary is in use until 9 p.m.</b>                    |
|                  | <b>7:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Green Team Meeting via Zoom</b>                         |
| <b>THURSDAY</b>  | <b>6:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Choir rehearsal</b>                                     |
| <b>SATURDAY</b>  | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Safe Zone Training via Zoom (see announcement)</b>      |
| <b>SUNDAY</b>    | <b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Worship Service</b>                                     |
|                  | <b>1:00 p.m.</b>  | <b>Field Day – Intergenerational Event weather pending</b> |

### **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Sunday Afternoon Gatherings**

The newly created Youth Council (The CE Committee, the Youth Advisors, and the Youth) have planned programs, activities, gatherings, and studies for young and old, some in-person (at a safe distance and masked) and some on-online. You are **ALL INVITED EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT 1 PM.**

**April 18 – Confirmation Class: *What Does it Mean to Show Christ's Love?*** In the Fellowship Hall.



**April 25-Field Day with Recreation Specialist Rev. David Montgomery.** Fun and frolicking for all. Pastor David has a bachelor's degree in Recreation Leadership and a career full of experiences. There will be activities for all ages and all physical abilities. Come for FUN!



**April 18 – Service project – building Garden Beds –** Join us as we gather together to build five raised beds for the community garden. We will gather at 2:30 p.m. on our Green Space with Corky Dunsmore & Dar Bevelhymer



Join us for a **Safe Zone Worship on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m.** FPC-Bowling Green is a More Light Presbyterian Church: We are a community of believers who worship and serve God in a changing world.

Our congregation fosters relationships with BGSU faculty, students and staff. We welcome and affirm persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, nationality, ethnicity, family status, economic status, and physical, mental, or emotional ability into full participation in our faith community. Safe Zone Trainers: Gray Strains & Team. Contact Christina Guenther [cguenth@bgsu.edu](mailto:cguenth@bgsu.edu) if you have any questions.

Zoom Invitation:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82229800118?pwd=NkxZNMwzMzN0YmlCSks1c3JERzVpQT09>  
Meeting ID: 822 2980 0118

**It's time for the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering** ...one of two special offerings of Presbyterian Women. This year there are three major projects for large amounts!

- The first Golden Gate Ranch in Des Moines, Iowa...a Christian organization that provides for housing and restorative & transitional services for women who have been sexually exploited and their children. Requested amount is \$150,000.
- Memorial Drive Ministries in Stone Mountain, GA will be the second recipient. Seven churches, including the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta support these ministries which provide a place of welcome to diverse worshiping communities and services. Requested amount is \$77,061.
- A mission hospital in Malawi, Africa is the third recipient. The grant will provide funds for a women's health center ... area specifically for women's services adjacent to the existing hospital. Requested amount is \$128,145.



Please support this offering by making a check out to Presbyterian Women with "birthday offering" in the memo. Checks can be dropped off at the church or sent to the PW treasurer, Alyce Platz. Thanks for your generosity.

## ***Fairest Lord Jesus***

1. Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature, O thou of God to earth come down,  
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor, thou, my soul's glory, joy, and crown.
4. Beautiful Savior, Ruler of the nations, Son of God and Son of Man!  
Glory and honor, praise, adoration, now and forevermore be thine.

## ***In the Bulb There Is a Flower***

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.
3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection: at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.