



**We are a Community,  
seeking to be in stride with Christ.**

***Pastor's Corner:***

John Bell and Graham Maule are music leaders for the Iona Community on the island of Iona off Scotland. This ancient Abbey has been a place of renewal for many over the years. A colleague of mine from Oklahoma is there for a 2-year stint as a retreat advisor. It is fun to see her pictures on Facebook and see something of her experiences.

John Bell is also a minister in the Church of Scotland, our Presbyterian brother! He and Graham Maule have been instrumental in liturgical renewal and in renewing congregational singing worldwide. We are familiar with the hymns "The Summons" and "God Welcomes All".

During Eastertide we will sing "Christ has Risen While Earth Slumbers" set to a Welsh tune.

The text is less prayer and more proclamation. "Christ has risen where hope died"- we think of the women walking to the tomb and the disciples in hiding. "Christ has risen as he promised, as we doubted and denied": this puts us disciples in the story along with Thomas and Peter.

501 Washington Ave.  
Defiance, OH 43512  
[www.1presby.com](http://www.1presby.com)

Office & Prayer Chain  
419-782-2781

Rev. Ann Wasson  
(580) 515-0526 cell

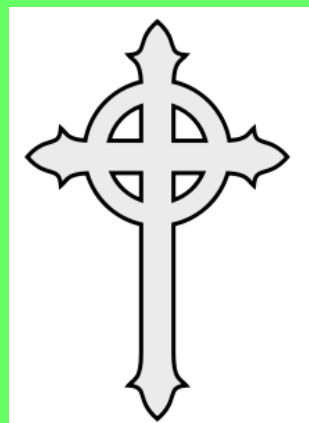
Find us on Facebook at  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Defiance

---

***INSIDE THIS ISSUE***

Pastor's Corner	1-2
Anniversaries/Birthdays	2
News & Notes	3
Session Notes	4
Recipe Corner	4
Dates	5-6
Calendar	7

---



## ***Pastor's Corner (cont):***

The most interesting phrase is in the final stanza: "Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change all whose lives are messed and mangled, all who find religion strange." Is John Bell straining for a rhyme or does that really speak to many we encounter? We can nod "Amen" to the first part of the line. Christ has risen and forever challenges us to renew our faith, and his rising again can bring hope to folks whose lives are messed up and mangled, even us, in our own messy lives.

But Bell might make us pause at the line "all who find religion strange." Christ has risen and forever lives to challenge and to change all who find religion strange. I think he writes it on purpose to make us think. It's a challenge to change- to turn toward God, to put our trust in Jesus Christ and his will and way, to embrace the new life Jesus' resurrection offers us. That is the call to discipleship. Yes, in a world where self-centeredness and getting ahead and getting all you can are the order of the day, then faith in Christ is strange. For it leads to a call on our lives to look beyond ourselves and with compassion on others.

The challenge of Easter- God raised Jesus from death to life and brings us the promise of eternal life in Christ as we grow to trust in him. That is strange. Life out of death? It certainly was strange to the first followers. Told to meet the risen Christ in Galilee, they were excited but some still doubted (Matt. 28). Can you blame them? In the midst of their faith and doubt they were commissioned to explore more deeply what faith means and where trust in God can lead. They were called to invite others into the journey of faith (Go, baptize, teach). They were to live their lives demonstrating what God intends for humanity- "Christ is risen, Christ is present, making us what he has been: evidence of transformation in which God is known and seen."

That is still the call on our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ- in our doubt and our believing we are to live in a way that demonstrates God's love for the whole world, and to the extent that we do that, God is known and seen in our midst.

Blessed Easter to you all,

***Pastor Ann***

---

### ***April Anniversaries***

15 ~ Pam and Marty Retcher

28—Charlie and Jennifer Bates

### ***April Birthdays***

01 ~ Jeremy Smith

06 ~ Wilma Sponsler

14 ~ Kaycie McBride

16 ~ Kathryn McBride

17 ~ Barbara Florke



21 ~ Marsha Karr

21 ~ Nancy Meyer

26~ Karen Solether

30 ~ Charlie Bates

Thank you to ***Ann Small*** for sponsoring the ***April*** newsletter.

This enables us to print the newsletter in color.

## **News & Notes:**

### **BEGINNING SUNDAY APRIL 21, WORSHIP will begin at 9:30 am.**

This is really going back to our summer worship time, only now it will be our worship time all year long. This is so we can enter into the shared ministry with St. John United Church of Christ, who is moving its worship time to 11:00 am on April 21<sup>st</sup>.

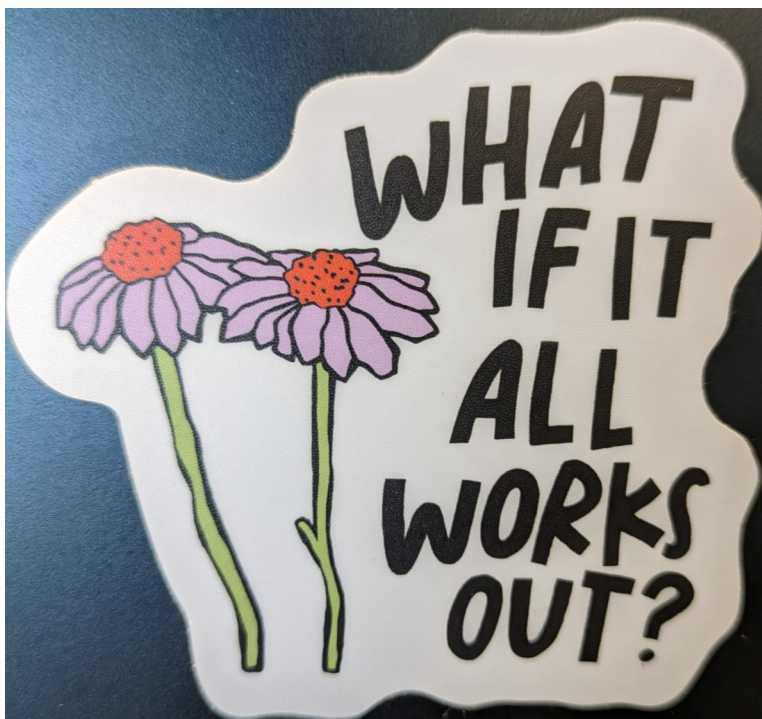
Pastor Ann will be at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church by 8:30 am on Sundays and will be able to visit before worship. She will have to travel quickly across town, but that only takes about 5 minutes, so she will be able to stop and greet right after worship.

We will see what transpires. There may be some folks from St. John who come to our worship time if they have something on their schedule in the afternoon. Some of you may want to try out the later worship time once in a while too.

The point of the shared ministry is to help both churches keep a pastor and keep their unique ministries in Defiance. We will invite one another to activities and may plan some joint adventures in mission and study as we settle into this new arrangement. For instance, we will invite St John to join us for Putt- Putt Sunday when it is scheduled.

We will still send out the weekly bulletin with sermon and prayers. We will have our own newsletter and postcard with activities listed. Pastor Ann will still visit with the Deacons and will continue to be available as needed. Do not hesitate to call!

This is a time of new beginnings... let's see what can happen.



## *Highlights of the Session Meeting March, 2024—Your Session at Work*

Shared ministry with St. John UCC is moving along! The agreement with St. John UCC is being signed and forwarded to the NW Association and to Presbytery for approval. Don't forget about our new worship time, as of April 21<sup>st</sup>, at 9: 30 a.m.

Tools For Schools: Grants have been requested from multiple sources. This group will next meet on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

A BIG THANK YOU: to Presbyterian Women and Friends for their generous gift of \$2000! These funds will be used towards any needed project.

Mission trip this summer - We will be requesting \$10,000 from the Defiance Area Foundation's Mission Fund for travel to Mexico this summer. Participants will be putting their own funds towards their travel expenses.

New group meeting at the church – A committee is being formed by community members to support and maintain the Worthington Cemetery that was the recent topic of a presentation by the public library. They will be meeting at the church on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Deacons- Next event will be the soup contest for our shared meal on Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Several people will be participating.

They are requesting a grant from Presbytery towards purchase of coats.

Property Committee: Several projects are being planned for the workday on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, including mulching the landscaping, opening up the playground, and removing the bushes at the Ensign house.

The New Wineskins will be playing on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Maumee Valley Presbytery- Next meeting will take place on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 3 p.m. in Monroe, MI.

A series of routine motions were made and approved.

### *Recipe Corner - from Holy Chow for the Here and Now! First Presbyterian Cookbook*



#### **Corn State Broccoli Bake**

from Susan King

1 pkg. (8 oz) Chicken in a Bisket crackers, crushed	1 can (15 1/4 oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted	1 can (14 3/4 oz.) cream-style corn
1 pkg. (10 oz) frozen chopped broccoli, thawed	

Combine cracker crumbs and butter; reserve 1/2 cup for topping. In a bowl, combine broccoli, both cans of corn and remaining crumbs. Transfer to a greased 2-quart baking dish. Sprinkle with reserved crumb mixture. Bake, uncovered, at 375° for 25-30 minutes or until lightly browned. Yield: 6-8 servings.



## *April Dates:*

Pastor Ann will be at First Presbyterian church most Monday and Wednesday mornings and other times for meetings depending on her schedule. She will be at St. John UCC on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and other times for meetings. She will keep her main study at First Presbyterian Church. Friday will remain her day off. Schedule subject to change and needs to be flexible to handle ministry needs.

Sunday, April 7: 10 am Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Asher Schilperoot; New Wineskins Band leads music

Tuesday, April 9: 5:30 pm Tools for Schools meeting

Wednesday, April 10: 12:30 pm -Women's meeting at St John UCC- Pastor Ann will lead the PW Bible Study on Lydia (this moves us off meeting during the eclipse)  
5:30 pm: Fellowship Meal- Soup Supper. Come taste several offerings and vote for your favorite. Proceeds benefit the work of the Deacons

Thursday, April 11- 6 pm Deacons meet

Sunday, April 14- last week for worship at 10 am

Wednesday, April 17- Deacon Calling Day

Saturday, April 20: 11 am Memorial Service for Sally Myers at St John United Church of Christ.

Sunday, April 21: **9:30 am worship**

Sunday, April 25: 7 pm Session meeting

Sunday, April 28: **9:30 am Worship**

Pastor Ann has been invited to be part of some end of year activities at Defiance College- The Honor's convocation on April 24 as well as Baccalaureate and Graduation ceremonies on May 11.

### **A reminder about the HIPAA Privacy Rules**

The church is not informed if you are hospitalized or if you move into a care facility. Even though they may ask your religious preference, they do not call the church. So please ask someone to call to let us know. We care about you!



Happening **HERE** in **Defiance, Ohio** —  
A *Suicide-Prevention* **MARATHON**  
Featuring ... the **California Kevins!**

- *Kevin Berthia*, Suicide Attempt Survivor — Prevention Advocate
- *Kevin Briggs*, Retired Highway Patrol Sergeant — Golden Gate Bridge



**Monday - Friday, April 22-26, 2024**



The officer's listening heart  
moved him to return ... for life.  
Let their story **JUMPstart** yours!

**Monday, April 22 - REGIONAL EXTRAVAGANZA ... FREE!**

- 5 PM @ Defiance High School (Food, PRIZES —> *Register*)

**Tuesday, April 23 - MOVIE NIGHT "Suicide: The Ripple Effect"**

- 6:00 PM @ Phoenix Theaters - Defiance ... FREE Admission!

**Wednesday, April 24 - BUSINESS Community LUNCH/LEARN**

- 11:30 AM @ Community Auditorium (*Must Register Online*)

**Thursday, April 25 - Law Enforcement/1st Responder Workshop**

- 12:30 PM @ Community Auditorium (*Must Register Online*)

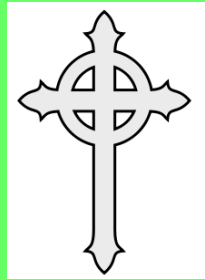
**Friday, April 26 - HEALTHCARE/MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOP**

- 12:30 PM @ Community Auditorium (*Must Register Online*)



For more information, visit  
Facebook — **One Step at a  
Time 5K Run/Walk**

# April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <i>WeKirk and Youth meeting with dinner 6:00 pm</i>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <i>City of Defiance Annual Clean up the Park Day 9:30-11:30am Go to any park</i>
<b>7</b> <i>Worship 10:00 am Holy Communion Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Asher Schilperoot New Wineskins Band leads music</i>	<b>8</b> <i>AA 12 noon</i>	<b>9</b> <i>Tools for Schools meeting 5:30 pm</i>	<b>10</b> <i>PW&amp;F Women's meeting at St John UCC 12:30 pm Fellowship meal Soup Supper 5:30 pm WeKirk and Youth meeting with dinner 6:00 pm</i>	<b>11</b> <i>Deacon meeting 6:00 pm</i>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <i>Worship 10:00 am</i>	<b>15</b> <i>AA 12 noon</i>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>Deacon Calling Day WeKirk and Youth meeting with dinner 6:00 pm</i>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <i>Memorial Service for Sally Myers at St John UCC 11:00 am</i>
<b>21</b> <i>Worship 9:30 am Holy Communion New Wineskins Band</i>	<b>22</b> <i>AA 12 noon</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> <i>WeKirk and Youth meeting with dinner 6:00 pm</i>	<b>25</b> <i>Session Meeting 7:00 pm</i>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <i>Worship 9:30 am</i>	<b>29</b> <i>AA 12 noon</i>	<b>30</b>				

**Food Drive - Canned vegetables**