

# faith

in action

APRIL  
NEWSLETTER  
Edition 259



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

## ~ *Pastor's Corner* ~

From the Easter morning prayer in A Sanctified Art, adapted from the Rev. Sarah Are Speed/ A Sanctified Art.

Rabbouni, Teacher, we have spent the past six weeks asking questions. We have turned over many a rock. We have shined a light in many a dusty corner. We have opened the blinds. We have wrestled with truth. We have sought after you. So, on this Easter morning, bring wisdom to our seeking. Move through our sanctuary until the walls echo with the sound of alleluias. Roll back the stones that might prevent us from drawing closer to you. Calm our hearts. Say our names. Awaken us to your presence in our midst. We are here. We are listening. We are seeking after you. Alleluia. Amen.

This hasn't been a bad winter weatherwise around here- we escaped the ice that our fellow presbyters further north and in Michigan had. But it sure has been gloomy and wet. If you're like me, you are looking for signs of spring- but there are not too many yet. I have seen a big fat robin redbreast hopping in the front yard at home; I think he and his mate nest in our spruce tree- I often find the tell-tale blue egg shells under that tree once I am mowing in earnest. Soon there will be more signs that spring really is here.



501 Washington Ave.

Defiance, OH 43512

[www.1presby.com](http://www.1presby.com)

Office & Prayer Chain

419-782-2781

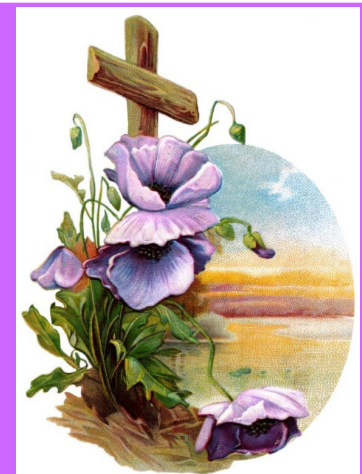
Rev. Ann Wasson

(580) 515-0526 cell

Find us on Facebook at  
First Presbyterian Church  
Of Defiance

## *INSIDE THIS ISSUE*

Pastor's Corner	1-2
Coming Event	2-3
Birthdays/Anniversaries	3
Session Highlights	4
Calendar	5



## ***PASTORS CORNER, cont.***

It has been a hard winter for some souls in our midst and around the world. Grief, illness, harsh treatments and therapies for disease and injury, loved ones in rough circumstances. Wars, rumors of wars, strong storms, and floods with tremendous damage, train accidents leaving behind toxic waste, places where drought rules the season, and the list goes on.

We are more than ready for the good news of Easter. We are more than ready for signs of new life around us and in our souls. If you have followed any of the prayer cards for Lent, some of the daily questions really hit home. Where do you find your peace? When all seems lost, how do you hold onto hope? On Good Friday, as you ponder Jesus bearing his cross to the place of crucifixion, the prayer card question is "What are you afraid of?" Wow. Maybe some of those questions have opened you to prayer in a new way or put a notion or action in mind that grows your faith, and serves the will and way of Jesus Christ.

The truest sign of spring is upon us; our celebration of Easter. The resurrection of Jesus Christ and the promise of new life, renewed life, his resurrection brings to us. If you have died with Christ- if you have taken the journey to the cross, wrestled with the questions, and remembered that you belong to him- then you are raised with Christ. The new life, risen life, begins now, not in heaven. Now, here on earth. You demonstrate your new life in Christ by how you live, how share love, faith and hope, how you bear witness to the call to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

Here is the affirmation of faith for Easter prepared by A Sanctified Art:

We believe in resurrection— mysterious, beyond our understanding, and yet, like tulips after the snow: **real**.

We believe in Easter morning— in the promise of a God who would roll back every stone to return to us.

We believe in Jesus— who calls **us** by name and asks, "Who are you looking for?"

So we look— for justice, for mercy, for God in our midst. And as we look, we sing, "Alleluia!"

***Pastor Ann***

---

## ***COMING EVENTS~***

**Palm Sunday Worship with Coffee Hour following-** thank you to Nancy Meyer and Sandy Youkers for organizing it. Sandy has made the Café look festive for the season so let's enjoy it. The Garden Team will meet briefly over coffee.

**Workday on Saturday, April 8** (weather permitting)- contact Curtis Richards or Foyle Solether for details.

**EASTER on April 9:** if the weather is nice, we plan an all- church photo at the newly installed peace pole.

**Presbyterian Women and Friends** will meet at the Tuttle Museum on Monday April 11 at 1 pm. After a brief tour, there will be a program. Then we will gather for refreshments at Cabin Fever.

**PIZZA AND PROGRAM** will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday- April 19- with pizza being served beginning at 5:30 pm. This month we have a program. Jim Smith, Marilyn's stepson, will present a program on traveling through every county in the USA. It is a goal he and his wife have set, with the end point being in the county with the best view of the solar eclipse in 2024. (Maybe back up here!) Join us for a fun evening.

## COMING EVENTS, cont.

**OUR GARDEN WILL GROW AGAIN.** We begin by stirring up the dirt, so watch for the gardening gloves to come out with troughs and weeders to mix the manure into the dirt to ready the soil for planting!

The Garden Team will meet over coffee hour on April 2 to make a planting plan. Join us.

**Memorial Service** for Tim Hutchinson will be at the church on Saturday, April 29. PW&F will prepare a light lunch for the family and friends. If you want to help, please contact Jeanne Peffley. Tim was an important part of this congregation for his entire life as well as a cheerleader for Defiance!

**A Mission Opportunity:** Work Camp the week of Oct 8-14 in Madisonville KY; repair and rebuilding of homes in the area destroyed by the massive tornado of 2022. Sponsored by the Mission Commission of Maumee Valley Presbytery. They have reserved space for 15 adult workers and can reserve more. If interested contact Pastor Ann or Pam Reid (member of the commission).

**ENCANTO:** Our next Matthew 25 movie is a Disney offering. We will view it together at St John UCC on Sunday April 30, **5 pm**, with discussion to follow at **7 pm**. Bring the kids and have them participate in the discussion. Why don't we talk about Bruno? What gift does Bruno have that no one wants to talk about? What is Mirabel's gift? It is a parable about gifts, spiritual gifts.

Sunday, April 30, 5 pm at St John UCC (if you have Stroede concert tickets, your program will be over by then). There is a rumor of pizza for the film.

04/01 ~ Jeremy Smith  
04/06 ~ Wilma Sponsler  
04/13 ~ Floyd Culver  
04/14 ~ Kaycie McBride  
04/16 ~ Kathryn Mc Bride



04/17 ~ Barbara Florke  
04/21 ~ Marsha Karr  
04/21 ~ Nancy Meyer  
04/26 ~ Karen Sloether  
04/30 ~ Charlie Bates

04/15 ~ Pam & Marty Retcher



04/28 ~ Charlie & Jennifer Bates

Thank you to **Floyd and Ann Culver** for sponsoring the **April** newsletters. This enables us to print the newsletter in color.

**PRAYER REQUEST** ~ Lynn Peters, Alton Myers, Sheron Lee, Wilma Sponsler, Scott Solether, Jack Hess, Sandy Dunlap, Dave Roth (Youkers), Rita Gehring, Karen Solether and her family, Dick (Wilma Sponsler), Bill Kerr (Norm Wasson), Jenny Lockwood (Reid), Norm Wasson, Nancy Black, Roger Emerling, Benjamin Bruderly, Floyd Culver, Jay Reineke, Karen Barber, Bill Houck (Peffley), Mackenzie Peffley, Jennifer Bates' father, Donald & Marsha Florke.

## **YOUR SESSION at work -- Highlights from the meeting on March 28, 2023.**

Pastor Ann and Pam and Rich Reid had a productive meeting with Chris Yoder to talk about funding for the Tools for Schools drive. Pam will prepare grant requests for DAF, Women's Giving Circle, Zion's Lutheran Church and the Moose Lodge this week. Other groups will also be approached.

Ann will take vacation June 6 – 13, off Sunday, June 11, and will attend the Blues Festival in Chicago.

Sandy Youkers and Nancy Meyer are putting together coffee hour for Sunday. We thank Sandy for decorating the café for the season.

### **Updates on inspections**

1. Elevator has been serviced and the form has been sent to the state.
2. State boiler inspection was today.
3. Fitzenrider sent the invoice for the backflow valve inspection.

### **Other details**

1. The toilet in the men's restroom is working.
2. Curtis has been pulling out leaves and gunk from the gutters.
3. Buckeye will seal things up concerning the roof when the weather improves.
4. Other items remain on the list to keep in front of us.

**Curtis and Foyle Solether have tentatively called a workday for Saturday, April 8.**

**The youth group announces that they need detergent bottles and would prefer smaller ones.**

The next film in the Matthew 25 film series is *Encanto*. It will be shown on Sunday, April 30th at 3 pm at St. John UCC, followed by discussion at 5:30. If you see the film on your own, you are encouraged to come at 5:30 for discussion, and bring children and grandchildren. Six people enjoyed the last film, *Lars and the Real Girl*.

We hope to gather at the Peace Pole for a whole congregation photo on Easter, April 9, 2023 if the weather is good. If not, we'll do it later.

CE will meet on April 11 at 7:15 pm.

Worship time will change to 10 am year-round starting June 4, 2023.

Responses and outcomes of the meeting of the finance committee and session are as follows.

1. Our funds are adequately FDIC insured.
2. **On Motion:** to transfer \$ 1000 annually to the Deacons from the undesignated part of the memorial fund to be used for In house mission needs. **So approved.**
3. **On motion:** to move the excess savings (from Stauffer account), memorial funds and bequest and current money market plus fund into one account with individual tracking. **So approved.**
4. We ask the WeKirk Foundation board to meet in the spring/summer to determine those who can ask for disbursement of funds and add clerk of session to the list.
5. We will need to find a couple people to serve as counters in the near future. Sue King is interested; interested people should contact the pastor or treasurer.

Presbytery Meeting will be May 16 at 3 pm Bowling Green. Pam will serve as commissioner.

The MVP Disaster Assistance Team will travel to Kentucky from Oct 8 – 14 for hurricane relief. This is open to all.

# April 2023



						1
2 <i>Holy Communion</i>  <i>Palm Sunday</i> Worship ~ 10:15 followed by coffee hour and Garden Team	3  AA ~ noon	4	5	6  Lion's ~ noon  <i>Maunday Thursday</i> Agape meal at 6pm	7  <i>Good Friday Services</i>  Noon—3:00 at St Paul UMC	8  Outdoor work day
9  <i>EASTER</i> Worship ~ 10:15  Picture @ the peace pole	10  AA ~ noon  PW&F 1:00 pm Tuttle Museum	11  7:15 pm Christian Ed committee meets	12  WeKirk & Youth	13	14	15
16  Worship ~ 10:15 <i>Holy Communion</i>	17  AA ~ noon	18	19  Pizza and Program	20  Lion's ~ noon  Deacons ~ 6 pm	21	22
23 Worship ~ 10:15  30 ~5 pm~ Sun. evening @ the movies: Encanto @ St. John UCC	24  AA ~ noon	25  Session 7 pm	26  WeKirk & Youth	27	28	29  11 am Tim- Hutchinson Memorial Service & Luncheon

Canned vegetable are needed for this months food bank!



1st  
Presbyterian Church

501 Washington Ave  
Defiance, OH 43512

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE