



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEFIANCE**

**January 28, 2024 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**501 Washington Avenue, Defiance, OH 43512**

**419-782-2781**

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

***WELCOME TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEFIANCE.***

***As you enter this holy space, please enter with reverence,  
respecting those who are preparing for worship.***

**GATHER**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Watch for February newsletter out this week.

Sunday Feb. 11 is the Annual Meeting of the Congregation – we have the meeting threaded through morning worship to remind us that all that we are and all that we do is our thanksgiving to God for all God has done for us, for the world, in Jesus Christ.

Tuesday: Pastor Ann is at the Leadership Commission Retreat all day & at FPC Bryan that evening.

Thursday: Deacon Calling

Wed. Feb 14 is Ash Wednesday- Pizza supper and worship.

**PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

O God, light of the hearts that know you, life of the souls that love you, strength of the thoughts that seek you: to turn from you is to fall, to turn to you is to rise, and to abide in you is to stand fast forever. Grant us your grace this day as we offer our thanks and praise. Give us the light, life and strength we need to follow and serve you all our days. Amen.

**PRELUDE**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** (based on the hymn by Cecil Frances Alexander, 1852)

L: Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild, restless sea

**P: Day by day he calls, "Christian, follow me!"**

L: Savior, may we hear your call

**P: May we give our hearts to obey you, serving and loving you best of all.**

**L: Let us worship God in Christ who continues to call us into discipleship.**

**\*HYMN 109**

**BLEST BE THE GOD OF ISRAEL**

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**(BCW)**

We are a people born of water and the Spirit. We have made promises to be Christ's faithful disciples, and to show his love to our life's end. Although we fail to fulfill those baptismal vows, God's faithful love endures forever. Confident of God's grace, let us confess our sin and the sin of this world.

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**(BCW)**

**Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.**

**\*SILENT CONFESSION**

**\*ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

**(BCW)**

Hear the good news! As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun. God's grace is poured out upon us day by day. Remember your baptism. Be thankful, and live as one who has been raised to new life! In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**\*THE PEACE**

**L: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.**

**P: And also, with you.**

**L: Please share signs of peace with one another.**

**\*HYMN 582**

**GLORY TO GOD, WHOSE GOODNESS SHINES ON ME**

## **HEAR**

**WeKIRK WORD**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**JONAH 3 AND MARK 1: 14-20**

**SERMON**

**ANSWERING THE CALL**

## **RESPOND**

**HYMN 410**

**GOD IS CALLING THROUGH THE WHISPER**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**OFFERING NOTE**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## **SCATTER TO SERVE**

**\*HYMN 721**

**LORD, YOU HAVE COME TO THE LAKESHORE**

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

*\*Please rise in body or in spirit*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Evan Bates, Larry Bates, Joy Reid, Lynn Peters, Alton Myers, Sheron Lee, Wilma Sponsler, Scott Solether, Jack Hess, Dave Roth (Youkers), Karen Solether, Dick (Wilma Sponsler), Nancy Black, Karl Leckrone, Raegan Wonderly, Sue D'Ambrosia (Nikki's mother-in-law), Carla Knoop & Carolyn Knoop, (Marilyn), Marty & Deb Kennedy (Elaine), Nicole D'Ambrosia, Judy Chase (improving at Rehab at Laurels), Pastor Fausto, Delilah Joy Clapp (6 week old baby in NICU- some improvement- Nikki's friends), Isaac (cancer; Aubrey's friend), Rita Gehring (Kristal's mother in law), family of Sally Myer, family of Jim Bruderly (Pam Reid's brother)