



## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEFIANCE**

**March 3, 2024**

**501 Washington Ave.**

**419-782-2781**

**Defiance, OH 43512**

**[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**

Monday: March 11: PW Bible Study at noon

Wednesday: March 13: 5:30 pm Fellowship Meal hosted by Jennifer & Charlie Bates

#### **PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

(Michael Anderson, The Scent of Life)

God of the everlasting waters of forgiveness, wash me clean...In Jesus we see the essence of the gospel is forgiveness. There is a refreshing release in forgiveness. When I do forgive others, I am released from their negative hold on me. Accepting the fact that you accept me releases me from the heavy burden of regrets. When I do accept forgiveness- from you, from others- I feel the lightness of the new air that leads me outward on wings of opportunities. Then your love is present and life is reborn...You have shown us what is true. Forgiveness opens the door to freedom. For freedom Christ has set us free. Amen.

#### **PRELUDE**

##### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Offering forgiveness,

**P: Accepting that I am forgiven,**

L: Creating a world of peace.

**P: This is the work of discipleship, God, journey with us!**

##### **\*HYMN 441**

**HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION**

## **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

Because of the steadfast loving kindness and mercy of our God, we can come to God in confession of our sin. May the written prayer inform your silent confession.

## **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (from Evangelical Lutheran Worship)**

Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. In your compassion, forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our savior and Lord.

## **\*SILENT CONFESSION**

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

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together in Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of the Jesus Christ, your sins and mine are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen!**

## **\*THE PEACE**

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

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

L: Please share Christ's peace with one another

## **\*HYMN 437**

**YOU ARE THE LORD, GIVER OF MERCY**

## **HEAR**

**WeKIRK WORD**

**PARABLE OF THE GREAT PEARL**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**MATTHEW 18: 21-22, 6: 9-15  
LUKE 11: 1-4, COLOSSIANS 3: 12-14**

## SERMON

## FORGIVENESS

*"Some people would rather die than forgive. It's that hard."  
Lily Owens, The Secret Life of Bees*

## RESPOND

### HYMN 445

### GOD, HOW CAN WE FORGIVE

### OFFERING NOTE

*Thank you for keeping up with your giving. Our special offering this month is One Great Hour of Sharing- we receive that offering at Easter.*

### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

#### INVITATION

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### COMMUNION

### CLOSING PRAYER

#### \*HYMN 753

#### MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE

#### \*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

#### \*POSTLUDE

**PLEASE PRAY FOR** Evan Bates, Larry Bates, Joy Reid, Lynn Peters, Alton Myers, Sharon Lee (move to Kingsbury House), 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), Marty & Deb Kennedy (Elaine), Nicole D'Ambrosia, Delilah Joy Clapp (infant in NICU- Nikki's friends), Isaac (cancer; Aubrey's friend), Rita Gehring (Kristal's mother in law), James Myers (Nikki's grandfather), Annie (Tanner's cousin's fiancé- stage 4 cancer), Jeff Heinrichs (Pastor Ann's cousin had a stroke- he lost his wife Jan 31)