



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DEFIANCE

March 31, 2024 - Easter

501 Washington Ave.

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Defiance, OH 43512

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

The blessings of Easter to you all!

April newsletter will come out next week.

PW & F will meet with St John UCC Women on Wed, April 10 at 12:30 at St John Fellowship Hall. This is instead of meeting during the eclipse on April 8.

Tools for Schools Planning meeting is Tuesday April 9 at 5:30 pm

Fellowship Soup Supper on Wed. April 10. Come enjoy the soups and vote for your favorite.

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Beloved and risen Christ, help us to live our lives by faith in you, grateful for your love for God and your abundant act of grace, mercy and love for us. Help us to offer that mercy to the hurting world, even as we celebrate the gifts you have given us, life abundant, life eternal, amen.

PRELUDE

COME YE FAITHFUL RAISE THE STRAIN
by Edward Broughton

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(from a hymn by John Bell)

L: Christ has risen while earth slumbers;

P: Christ has risen where hope died.

L: As he said and as he promised,

P: As we doubted and denied.

L: Let the world confirm the rumor:

P: Christ is Risen! God is here!

***HYMN 232**

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We stand before the empty tomb, confused and perplexed, wondering where you are. When our faith, beset by doubt, sees no further than an empty tomb today, forgive us. We cannot make sense of resurrection and so we linger in places of death, wondering: Does your love include even us? What is possible for us if love extends beyond the grave? It is a day of new beginnings, so we pray that, by your Spirit, we might start afresh, with courage to look for resurrection, even in the dark tombs of our world. Bring to mind the cry of Mary, "I have seen the Lord!" and grant us faith to believe you will call out our names...

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

With joy, hope and confidence in the One whose love is stronger than death, I proclaim to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Know you are loved and be at peace. **Thanks be to God!**

And now let us share the grace we have received.

***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 591**

HALLE-HALLE-LUJAH! (refrain)

HEAR

WeKIRK WORD

JESUS' LAST PASSOVER

SCRIPTURE READING

MARK 16: 1-18

SERMON

EASTER PROMISE - DISCIPLESHIP

RESPOND

HYMN 726

THE SUMMONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

OFFERING NOTE

We continue to receive our offerings at the doors to the sanctuary. Thank you for your gifts. God's grace has been poured out on us, in extravagant and inexplicable ways. Let us respond in kind, as we receive and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering today, that our gifts of time, talent and offering may combine, overflowing mercy and love to repair the world.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer these gifts, O God, in gratitude and hope. Through this One Great Hour of Sharing, may our individual contributions combine to raise up foundations for many generations. May hungry be fed, oppressed go free and homeless be housed. Use these gifts for your glory, O Lord. Amen.

SCATTER TO SERVE

*HYMN 233

THE DAY OF RESURRECTION

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go out to the places of ministry. See where Christ is alive and present. There is so much work for love to do. You and I are called to do it. We carry with us the presence of our risen Christ, the grace and love of our God, and the companionship and inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Go and see what love can do!

*POSTLUDE

HALLELUJAH CHORUS by G.F. HANDEL

Some of our liturgy is drawn from the One Great Hour of Sharing resources for 2024.

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, Nancy Black, Karl Leckrone, Raegan Wonderly, Sue D'Ambrosia (Nikki's mother-in-law), Marty & Deb Kennedy (Elaine), Nicole D'Ambrosia, Delilah Joy Clapp (home), Isaac (cancer; Aubrey's friend), Rita Gehring (Kristal's mother in law), Shelly (cancer; Kristal's cousin), Jeff (stage 5 kidney disorder; Kristal's cousin), Scotty (rehab, Kristal's brother-in-law), James Myers (Nikki's grandfather), Heidi Long's brother (cancer), McCague family (Antwerp- fire), Jessica Rice's sister and husband at adoption of a new son.