Holy Week Schedule

March 24, Palm Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Hosanna Celebration
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

March 28, Maundy Thursday

6 p.m. Dinner
7 p.m. Worship/Communion Service
      Nursery care provided

March 29, Good Friday

6:30 a.m. Good Friday Breakfast
7:00 a.m. Good Friday Morning Service
          Guest Speaker, Rev. Paul Lamb
12:15 p.m. Community Good Friday Service
          St. Paul’s Episcopal Church
          87 W. Main Street, Norwalk

March 31, Easter Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:45 a.m. Worship Service

*Note: There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday
From the Pastor’s Desk

Adrian N. Doll

When you’re sitting in the waiting room of a hospital for nearly twelve hours, you get to know the other people who find themselves in the same uneasy predicament of waiting and wondering. My father’s heart surgery had been well underway for over four hours before we were given even the smallest encouraging word: “The surgery is going well; the doctors are going to take him off the bypass machine and restart the heart…” Within just a few moments of our update, someone sitting across the room immediately asked how my family was doing. It was more than a question of curiosity; it was one person’s way of saying, “I care.” All of us in that waiting room were connected by a common concern for someone else – someone who was a part of our life.

Over the course of waiting, bonds of friendship and concern knit us into a family of sorts because we knew we needed each other if we were going to get through that long day. When one person was overcome with tears, someone quietly put a reassuring hand on a shoulder; and when someone else received word that things were going well, the news was greeted with a smile or a thumbs up. We were keenly aware of our need for each other in those emotionally charged moments.

Every time I read the Easter story I’m reminded just how much we need each other if we’re going to survive and thrive as followers of Jesus. Immediately after Jesus’ crucifixion and burial, the disciples cloistered themselves behind shut doors unable to comprehend the dramatic turn of events that had taken place in the span of one week. But in those moments of waiting and wondering, I believe God was preparing those men and women to depend more fully on Him and more fully on each other. I imagine them consoling each other in their angered confusion. And when the Risen Savior did first appear to those frightened men and women, they knew they needed each other if they were to take Jesus’ message of grace and hope to the world. The disciples had experienced one of the greatest gifts that a Christian community affords - the blessing of helping us to become more like Him.

My father’s surgery did go well, and I give thanks to each one of you who prayed and expressed your words of concern. As we ready ourselves to celebrate the events of Easter, I hope you’ll join me in giving thanks for the gift of a community of faith. The bonds of friendship we share are God-given gifts preparing us to share His grace and His love no matter where we find ourselves...even in the waiting room of a hospital.
Maundy Thursday, March 28
Dinner in Fellowship Hall - 6 p.m.
Worship Service with Communion - 7 p.m.

On Maundy Thursday we remember Jesus’ commandment to “love one another.” Once again this year, the Fellowship Committee will be hosting a Maundy Thursday Dinner in Fellowship Hall at 6 p.m. Our traditional Maundy Thursday Communion Service, including a reading of the Passion, will take place immediately following dinner at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Child-care will be available during the service.

Hosanna Celebration
Palm Sunday, March 24
9:30-10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Come and celebrate with us on Sunday, March 24, at 9:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall for a Palm Sunday morning of intergenerational activity stations. This is a great way to make the Easter story come alive as we begin Holy Week.

Good Friday Breakfast
March 29 at 6:30 a.m.

The Board of Deacons host their annual Good Friday Breakfast on Friday, March 29 at 6:30 a.m. in the Great Room. Immediately following breakfast, we will gather in the Sanctuary for our Good Friday morning worship service at 7 a.m. Rev. Paul Lamb will be the guest speaker. Invite your friends to join us as we remember the events of Good Friday.

Adult Education Classes

The Story within the Story
February 24
March 3, 10, 17
9:30 a.m. in the Great Room

Join Rev. Rob Smith as he begins the Lenten season with a study of the Patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, exploring the meaning of the faithfulness of God. There are “stories within stories” which reveal grace in unlikely places.

Potted Easter Flowers

Help us celebrate Easter Sunday by purchasing potted flowers to decorate our Sanctuary. Buy them in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, February 24, March 3, and 10 for $8 each, and take them home following the 10:45 Easter morning worship service. These flowers make a wonderful way to honor your loved ones.
Christian Education

Sunday School Update

Congratulations to Hannah Bond, Chelsea Chevarria, Anne Davidson, David Doll, Aiden Markley, Jonah Mersereau, Macy Miller, and Mia Strong for joining the 100 point club by attending Sunday School, bringing their Bibles, reciting memory verses and bringing friends and praying.

Pleasant Hill Outdoor Summer Camp

It’s not too early to make plans for summer church camp. Perhaps your family would like to set aside a week to explore the wonders of the camp experience. Full camp schedules, prices, descriptions and registration forms for 2013 are available at www.phoc.org. Camp scholarships are available for church members.

Rush Hour

3rd, 4th, 5th AND 6th Graders

4-5 p.m. every Wednesday after school

March 6      Regular meeting at the church.
March 13     Regular meeting at the church.
March 20     Regular meeting at the church.
March 27     Regular meeting at the church.

Reminder 2012

Confirmands and Mentors:

Mark your calendars...a reunion is being planned for Sunday, March 3 from 4-6 p.m. at Kenilee Lanes for an afternoon of bowling.

Laminator

Just a reminder that the church owns a laminator that is housed in the Christian Education office. It is available to be used for any church related committee project. Drop off items to Aundrea. She will laminate them and return to you within a week.

Vacation Bible School 2013

Colossal Coaster World:
Facing Fear! Trusting God!

“For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love and sound judgment.” 2 Timothy 1:7

July 8 - 12
9 a.m. - noon

Through every twist, turn, and dive, kids will be challenged to face their fears and trust God.
Christian Education Youth

March Youth FUNdraisers and Events

Tuesday, March 5 - Coffee for Christ
Enjoy a hot drink at Sherri’s Coffee. Check out the Catalyst youth display. All tips are going to be donated to our youth group and Pittsburgh Project team.

Sunday March 10 - Rent a Kid Fundraiser
Invite your friends and family to show their support.

Monday, March 18 and Tuesday, March 19
Bob Evans Restaurant Fundraiser
Don’t forget to support our Bob Evans Restaurant fundraiser for The Pittsburgh Project. Hand out fliers to your friends and neighbors, and ask them to eat at Bob Evans Restaurant on March 18 or March 19 anytime between 4 and 9 p.m. Our team will get a portion of the proceeds.

Friday, March 22 - Winter Jam
Meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. and we will travel together to the Wolstein Center in Cleveland. We will return by approximately 11 p.m. The cost is only $10 and there are many great Christian bands playing that night. Be sure to sign up by Sunday, March 17 at the latest!

Saturday, March 23 - 5th Quarter movie matinee fundraiser
Join us at 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. for a our movie get together. Your donation will help support our Pittsburgh Project mission team. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Enjoy a wholesome movie together.
Session wishes to thank all involved with the Youth/Senior Thanksgiving Dinner especially Diane Eschen.

Thirty one seniors attended the Keenagers Christmas Party catered by Blue Ribbon.

Joyce Ditz led the Christmas decoration committee of Janel Doll, Reggie and Judy Etherington, Jan Fegley, Bob and Marsha Sands, Reta Stark, Judy Sommers, and Burt Zimmerman. Jan Fegley designed, painted and decorated the Christmas Eve bulletins.

Following a delicious luncheon, 25 carolers sang at Carriage House, Memorial Home and 10 homes of our church family unable to attend services.

The 2013 Terms of Call for Rev. Doll was approved. A gift was given to the staff in acknowledgement of their work this year. In January the personnel committee will begin working on recruiting Aundrea Gordon’s replacement.

The following trustee projects were completed:
- Replaced dead taxus shrubs in courtyard;
- Replaced damaged doors due to break-in;
- Repair water-damaged pews;
- Ordered darkening shades for the Great Room;
- Installed test LED bulbs in Sanctuary
- Approval for a Brownie Troop to meet

Key Bank investments were reviewed. Giving was at budget with expenses on target for November.

The 2013 Mission Budget was approved.

Eight Norwalk families received Christmas baskets with food/money collected from the congregation.

The Norwalk Foundation Church has a used Community Bible Drive with drop off at Sherri’s Coffee Shop.

Susan Meier, interim General Presbyter of MVP will return on Saturday, March 2 from 9a.m.-noon for the second session of our Future Envisioning. She will be looking more closely at the demographics of the community.

Orders are being taken for 2013 chancel flowers and Easter flowers. There are still many open Sundays available for the chancel flowers. Following the weekly service, these flowers are separated and delivered by the deacons to our shut-ins.

Patricia Tkach has served as Sunday School Superintendent since 2004 and will be stepping down to work with the youth program.

Director of Christian Education Aundrea Gordon has submitted her resignation effective at the end of the 2013 school year.

Buildings and Grounds completed the installation of permanent security lights in the office, the dishwasher booster repair, and installation of a hose reel in the Courtyard. Multiple tasks are in the planning stages.

The first recipient of the “One Cent for One Sent” will be Karla Eberly of Harbor House.

Unexpected year-end giving in pledged (1%) and unpledged (29%) offerings as well as interest and dividend above budget income (52%) increased the net income for 2012. The carryover will be used for mission, youth fellowship and technology improvements.

Margot Benz and Tom Sommers will bake bread for the 2013 communion services.
Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for all the prayers and concern during my illness. It meant so much to me to know you had me in your prayers.

I am doing therapy and am told I am doing well.

Thanks to Pastor Doll, Clair Brewer and John Flickinger for the calls and words of encouragement.

Your friend in Christ,
Patricia Cotterill

Dear Friends,

I miss you all. With God’s guidance, my move to Chattanooga, TN, went well. I attend a friendly Presbyterian Church and the people love the Lord. There is an active senior age group that just fits me. My daughters and their families are such a delight to me; to be able to be with them and do things with them. Thanks for the Christmas cards and notes. May the good Lord Jesus Christ be with each one of you. “the joy of the Lord is your strength.” Nehemiah 8:10

Carol Klein

Thank you for all the prayers after my back surgery on December 1. I am doing great and back on my feet here in Indianapolis. A special thanks to Adrian and all my Mom’s (Becky Carr) small group members. I truly appreciated all the cards and prayers. It is so nice to have grown up in this church and still be remembered after all these years. Thanks again!

Megan Carr

To My Church Family,

Thank you so much for all your prayers and thoughts through this difficult time.

Bill and Kelly Cook

Dear Church Family,

The words Thank You don’t seem adequate enough to say to you. The Lord has blessed us so much with such a wonderful family of believers in Christ. The cards, phone calls, visits and many, many prayers were such a comfort during this stressful period of time. Jonah is doing well. He had no broken bones and no internal injuries. His knee is a little swollen but healing nicely. The hand of God was on him that fateful morning of January 14. For him to have hit that car or landed any other way than he did would have been far more serious than it was. The Lord’s hand grabbed him by the coat collar and yanked him upward and forward toward the tree lawn. It is a miracle. I often ask myself, how many miracles can one family expect to experience? I have no answer other than we know that God is with us, even when we don’t realize it and He loves us unconditionally by His grace and mercy through his Son’s death. I can’t imagine watching as my son was brutally beaten and tortured and then killed. Watching my son get hit by that car was torture and a picture I will not soon forget. It haunts me during the day and night. I don’t know how God could have watched His son go through what He did for us. That is pure love.

We were surrounded by love and grace on that Monday morning. The many visitors that came to the ER, and later to our home to support and lift us up, the phone calls to check on us, and the meals and cards...we just shake our heads in astonishment that we belong to the biggest and best family there is. Thank you for being there for us and lifting us up in prayer and thought and deed. God bless you all. I know He has certainly blessed the Mersereau family.

In Christ’s loving name,
Joel, Wende, Philip and Jonah Mersereau

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank each of you for all your support during this difficult time. Your prayers, phone calls, food, and kind words were greatly appreciated. Having a loving church family like you is amazing.

Sincerely,
Bob Cunningham Family
Serving in March

**Ushers**

8:30 a.m.
Sandy Miller, Jim Rhoad, Harold Uther

10:45 a.m.
Curt Markley Family

**Coffee Hour**

3 Worship Committee
10 Outreach Committee
17 Personnel Committee
24 Fellowship Committee
31 Mission Committee

**Children & Worship**

3 Tracey Sommers
10 Aundrea Gordon
17 Kristin Miller
24 Heidi Strong
31 Linda Carino

**Liturgists**

3 8:30 - Aundrea Gordon
   10:45 - Amy Bond

10 8:30 - Becky Chapin
    10:45 - Chris Canfield

17 8:30 - Matt Davidson
    10:45 - David Graves

24 8:30 - Nancy Gfell
    10:45 - Janel Doll

31 8:30 -
    10:45 - Joel Mersereau

**Nursery Helpers**

9:30 a.m.
3 Kelsey Timbs
10 Kellie Pancost
17 Marilyn McKinney
24 Hosanna Celebration

31 at 8:30 a.m.
Aundrea Gordon

10:45 a.m.
3 Edith Horton
10 Georgiana Scherz
17 Cynthia Kniffin
24 Jackie Markley
31 Bev Miller

**Separate Flowers**

3 Patricia Tkach
10 Bev Miller
17 Patricia Tkach
24 Shannon Sommers
    Sharon Peaco
31 Bev Miller

**Greeters**

Outreach Committee

**Screen Door Caller**

Jenny Jenkins

**CD Ministry**

3 Megan Barber
10 Marge Chapin
17 Scot Davidson
24 Wende Mersereau
31 Amy Bond

**Flower Delivery**

3 Norm Sommers
10 Marcia Grose
17 John Flickinger
24 Amy Bond
31 Janel Doll
“Novel Idea”

Small Group Book Club
Sunday, February 24 at 6 p.m.
in the Library

Same Kind of Different As Me
by Ron Hall and Denver Moore

This story goes deep into the development of a personal friendship between two men of entirely different upbringing, and the struggle that is required to make and maintain such a friendship across a cultural canyon. The story also reveals the true level of commitment required to be an effective leader in service to others.

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Sunday, March 24 at 6 p.m.
in the Library

The Time Keeper
by Mitch Albom

The Time Keeper is a fable about the first man on earth to count the hours. The inventor of the world’s first clock is punished for trying to measure God’s greatest gift. He is banished to a cave and forced to listen to the voices of all who come seeking more days, more years. Eventually he is granted freedom and a chance to redeem himself by teaching two people the true meaning of time.

News of Our Church Family

Our Sympathy goes to:

The family of Bob Cunningham who passed away on January 13.

The family of Maurine Schottke who passed away on January 21.

The family of Mark Winkler who passed away on January 29.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Brenna and Jessup Dapore on the birth of their son, Peyson John born on February 14. Peyson is the grandson of John and Laurie Flickinger and the great grandson of Sally Flickinger.

Directory Changes

David and Cynthia Kniffin
P.O. Box 582
1674 Ridge Road
Norwalk, OH 44857

April 2013
Messenger Deadline is Friday, March 15.
**Presbyterian Women’s Rummage Sale**

It’s too cold outside to do anything, so why not start cleaning out those closets and drawers? The Presbyterian Women’s Rummage Sale will be held on April 12 and 13. Your donations are welcome and can be picked up at your home. Please NO computers, typewriters or T.V.’s. All profits from the sale go to Mission Projects. Items also may be put in the storage room in Fellowship Hall. Setup will begin Monday, April 8. Please save brown paper bags and drop them off at the church office. Questions? Call Ann Gaston, 419-663-9655.

**Mother/Daughters mark your calendars**

**Mother/Daughter Reception**

April 28

2:00 p.m.

Dessert and Beverages

R.S.V.P. to Megan Barber at 419-499-0088

Bev Miller at 419-706-0830 or

the church, 419-668-1923 by April 21.

Entertainment will be

Jim Andrew’s, chalk artist.

**News from the Church Library**

Donations are welcome. If you have gently used books suitable for the church library use or materials your small group has used, the Library Committee will gladly take a look at them. Please place the books on the table near the card catalog and fill out a brief form to help us to properly handle your donation.

Warm up with a book from the new books cart this month. We recommend: *Help, Thanks Wow: Three Essential Prayers* by Anne Lamott and *Come to the Table, Souled Out Sisters #2* by Neta Jackson.

**Scrapbooking Fun**

The Outreach Committee is sponsoring a free scrapbooking event the second Sunday of every month. Join us on Sunday, March 10, from 6-9 p.m. for the next get together. Bring your own snacks, drinks and creativity. Be ready for fun and fellowship. Bring a friend also.

**Maple Syrup Open House**

March 3

at Pleasant Hill Outdoor Camp

4654 Pleasant Hill Road, Perrysville, Ohio

All are invited to the annual Maple Syrup Open house on Sunday, March 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. where you can enjoy a tall stack of pancakes topped with delicious, warm, homemade, maple syrup or liquid gold as we call it. The maple syrup operation will be up and running for demonstrations. It makes for a fun family day. The best part is that it is all FREE!

**Be a Part of the Conversation**

**Envision the Future;**

You are invited to attend our second strategic planning session with Susan Meier, Interim Presbytery of Maumee Valley Presbytery, on **Saturday, March 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon** as we envision our future and consider changes in our culture and opportunities to make a difference in our community. Childcare will be available.
**Missions at First Presbyterian**

**Norwalk Area Food Bank**

Help support the Norwalk Area Food Bank, a ministry of the Norwalk Ministerial Association. You may donate canned or dried food items of any kind on Food Bank Sunday, March 17. Place your donation in the wicker basket in the narthex. Envelopes for monetary donations are available in the pews each Sunday.

**Habitat for Humanity Newsletter Schedule**

The Firelands Habitat for Humanity newsletter crew needs help putting together their newsletters. They will meet at our church in the Great Room at 9 a.m. on the following dates:

- Friday, May 10, 2013
- Friday, June 28, 2013

Many hands are needed. Coffee and snacks provided. If you need a ride or have questions, call Carolyn Hartzell, 419-668-3880.

**One Great Hour of Sharing**

On Sunday, February 24, our Sunday school children will be given a calendar and fish bank to encourage involvement in One Great Hour of Sharing. Fish banks and calendars are available in the Narthex for adults who would like to participate. This offering funds three important ministries of the Presbyterian Church (USA): the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self Development of People Program. Place your gift in the special envelope found in the pews. We will collect this offering through Palm Sunday.

Please join us for an evening of fellowship and outreach.

**Saturday, March 16**

6:30 p.m. in the Great Room

The struggling marriage of a fire captain and his wife provides the backdrop for this action/relationship film. “FIREPROOF” shows a clear picture of God’s love for us and what it means to truly love a spouse as it challenges audiences to embrace the hope of a new beginning.
The Mission of First Presbyterian Church is to Worship and Serve Jesus Christ.

We fulfill this mission as we:

Worship The Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
Grow in our understanding of the Christian faith;
Care for each other;
Share Christ’s love with the world in word and deed; and
Give of our time, talent, and treasure in gratitude for God’s grace.

Set your clocks ahead on Saturday, March 10.