

The PRESbyterian

"Learning, Loving, Giving--Christ Alive in the Believer"
March 2026 Volume LV, Issue 3

Prayer Concerns

Mary Ellen Beans, Park Village Southside, 1019 Oldtown Valley Rd SE, Rm 26F, New Phila
Jane McEwan, 2594 E High Ave, Rm #110, New Phila
Ginny Stephenson, Schoenbrunn Health Center, Rm 112, 2594 E. High Ave, New Phila

Easter Tulips

Tulips will once again be available to order for Easter Sunday. Flowers will be \$10 per pot. Forms will be available in Sunday bulletins or in the church office. Please designate how you'd like them dedicated in the Easter bulletin and if you'd like to keep your flowers or send them to a shut in. Orders will run from March 8th through March 23rd. Assorted colors will be ordered—no guarantees for specific colors.



Tables of Eight

The Tables of Eight meal will be held on Saturday, March 28th at 6pm. The meal will be chicken and dumplings, mashed potatoes, green beans, signature salad, baked custard and cookies. Dinner is \$10 per person. All are welcome but reservations are needed. Please contact the church office or Carolyn Berry to reserve your spot!



Holy Week Services

Join us a week before Easter Sunday as we commemorate the Passion of Christ:

April 2 @ 7pm: Maundy Thursday Parish Service
(Uhrichsville Presbyterian Church; 633 N Main St, Uhrichsville, OH 44683)

April 3 @ 12pm: Good Friday Service
(New Phila First Presbyterian Church)



Lenten Special Offering

During the next month we will be collecting for the PCUSA's "One Great Hour of Sharing" special offering to support the denomination's development ministries. Information and donation envelopes are available on the sanctuary mission table.

"Souper Bowl"

Thank you to everyone who participated in our special collection for the Dover-New Phila Food Pantry. We raised \$400!

A Note from Mary Ellen Beans:

Thank you all for your prayers, visits, and phone calls! I greatly appreciate you all!

THANK YOU!

Pastor's Corner

One thing that gets under my skin more than anything else is when people attempt to use guilt or shame against others in the name of religion. "God hates this", "God will punish for that", and other reasons used to make people see themselves and feel lesser than they are. While guilt and regret are legitimate emotions, and often used by the LORD to instruct, they should never be used to control or entrap others in someone else's interpretation. The LORD is powerful enough to make any displeasure known independently and does not need humans to control or shape the wider creation. And that sense of guilt comes up more during the season of Lent, often seen as a time to "make it up" to the divine for what we have done in our lives.

But we know salvation and redemption are not transactional, cannot be bought or paid for by human means. There is nothing the LORD wants that is not already under that divine control. No amount of hand wringing that will bring Jesus down from the cross. Jesus has willingly taken that place for us, has willingly taken on our mistakes and failures, for the purpose of transforming them into something which builds us up and makes us better. It is not about obsessing about and having our noses rubbed in our sins, but how much we are willing to learn from them so we might embrace what is truly good. That is why Jesus embraces the cross the way he does, because it represents life and purpose beyond the physical end of life and what truly defines and makes us who we are. It is not the powers, teachings, and philosophies of the world which can do that. The LORD, as the embodiment of life itself, reaches into our innermost beings and says, "This is worth saving."

Journeying with Jesus in this time, embracing and commemorating the Passion of Christ, is embracing what life is about and where it truly comes from. Other humans cannot create life and purpose, only copy it for the sake of benefiting from it. But the LORD directs the whole of the universe, sets everything in its rightful time and place, and encourages us in our daily lives to choose goodness in all forms. Not just for our sake, but for those who watch us. It is not just about what we say, but what we do which demonstrates the way of Jesus as a certainty. The Gospel helps us move beyond guilt and regret to see the true power of resurrection and redemption at work. Demonstrating what humanity meant for control, the divine makes for liberation, freedom, and opportunity. **-Rev. Joe**



Jack's House of Hope Capital Campaign Project

Our church will be accepting donations toward the "Jack's House of Hope Capital Campaign"- the county homeless shelter renovation. We have already raised \$3585.00 toward their effort! Any who wish to contribute may mail their donations to the church office, give them during the Sunday offering, or visit the Friends of the Homeless website to donate online (<https://fohtusc.org/hoh/>).



Construction Parking

As the construction of Jack's House of Hope takes place, we thank you for your patience in terms of parking at the church. Parking is available on the gravel lot along the fence and side alley, and on the street along East High Ave. The inner section closest to the door is reserved for handicap/limited mobility parking and drop off. Thank you for keeping the entrance to this clear (marked by cones)!

Anticipated repaving and expansion of the parking lot is estimated to begin this coming spring.

Sunday Study Group

Join us **Sunday Mornings at 9:15am** for our study group! Anyone, and everyone, is welcome to join! Details are available through Rev. Joe!



“First Celebration” Sunday

Join us on **March 1st** as we celebrate Holy Communion during service and Church Brunch following service. Come and enjoy the fellowship of the saints!

Cookies for Sundays!

What’s your favorite cookie? Do you have a recipe you just love to make? Every Sunday (except for the first Sunday of the month) we have cookies and coffee in the fellowship hall following the service. Would you like to bring cookies to share? They can be home baked, purchased from a bakery, store bought—it doesn’t matter! Sign up in the church office!



Friends of the Homeless Meal

Our monthly Friends of the Homeless dinner will be held on **March 8th** at 6pm. While we are fully funded for the monthly meals, please consider donating toward the FOTH General Operations or the Jack’s House of Hope Project.

ONLINE MINISTRY

All online worship content (including pastor’s messages, bulletins, and newsletters) are available on the church website (www.newphilapc.org). Mailings of weekly services are available upon request to the church office.

Greeters and Ushers

We need volunteers for liturgists, worship stewards, greeters/ushers, and cookies each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is available in the office to volunteer, or you may call the church office to sign up.

Session Members:

Class of 2026: Ethelyn Ann Eichel, Gail Hedges

Class of 2027: Doug McIntire, Sally Walker

Class of 2028: Pat Laporte, Craig Stewart

Deacon Members:

Class of 2026: Jackie Stutz

Class of 2027: Bonnie Majewski

Class of 2028: Ruth Joyce Zimmerly

Office Hours:

8:00am-3:00pm Monday - Thursday
Closed: Friday

Church Email and Phone:

office@newphilapc.org
330-343-7114

Our Church:

Sunday School: 9:15am

Worship Service: 10:30am

Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:00am in the pastor's office

Do you have something to add to the newsletter? Please call or email the church office by the 20th of the month for placement in the following newsletter.

March 2026

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

1 Communion All Church Brunch	2	3	4 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	5	6 Office Closed	7
8 6pm- FoH Meal	9	10 6pm- Jack's House of Hope Committee Mtg	11 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	12	13 Office Closed	14
15	16	17 7pm- Session Mtg	18 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	19	20 Office Closed	21
22	23 6pm- Friends of the Homeless Board Mtg	24 7pm Finance Mtg	25 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	26	27 Office Closed	28 6pm- Table of Eight Meal, All welcome, RSVP, \$10pp
29 Palm Sunday	30	31	1 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Mtg	2 7pm- Maundy Thursday Service at Uhrichsville Presbyterian	3 Office Closed 12pm- Good Friday Service	4

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Happy Easter!

Communion

March Birthdays: 1st- Kelly McIntire; 4th- Carol Bichsel; 5th- Rev. Joe Svancara; 8th- Mary Ellen Beans; 19th- Michael L'Amoreaux; 20th- Barbara Bonisolli; 23rd- Kyle Laughlin; 25th- Libby Stine

March Anniversaries; 1st- Joe & Edie Erwin; 8th- Kevin & Diane Marshall; 21st- John & Joyal Pittman

We'd like to announce your birthday and wedding anniversary in the newsletter!
Please help us to make sure we have your special day by calling the church office to let us know!