

The PRESbyterian

"Learning, Loving, Giving--Christ Alive in the Believer"

March 2025

Volume LIV, Issue 3

Prayer Concerns

Mary Ellen Beans, 2844 Tabor Ridge Rd, NE, Mineral City 44656

Jane McEwan, 2594 E High Ave, Rm #110, New Phila

Carol Phillips, The Inn at Northwood Village, 5799 N Wooster Ave, Dover

Marlene Singhaus, Park Village Care Center, Rm 409, 1525 N. Crater Ave, Dover

Ginny Stephenson, Schoenbrunn Health Center, Rm 112, 2594 E. High Ave, New Phila

COMMUNITY ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

MARCH 5 @ 7PM

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

202 E HIGH AVE.

NEW PHILADELPHIA, OH 44663

Join us for a Lenten ecumenical worship experience, to discover where God is leading his one Church in this season!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: EMMANUEL LUTHERAN, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, SCHOENBRUNN MORAVIAN, AND TRINITY EPISCOPAL.



Annual Congregational Meeting

We will be holding our Annual Congregational Meeting on **March 2** after worship service. It will feature a pot-luck luncheon, so please bring a covered dish to share! All church members are eligible for a vote for meeting matters, so please attend and make your voice heard!

Tables of Eight

Tables of Eight meal will be Saturday, February 15th at 6pm in the church fellowship hall. The menu is hearty homestyle pot roast, rustic garden carrots and onions, golden roasted potatoes, fresh garden harvest salad, decadent dessert selections, bread and drinks. Cost is \$10 per person. All are welcome! Bring a friend! We do ask that you RSVP to Carolyn Berry or the church office.

"Soup Bowl Sunday" Collection

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our "Soup Bowl Sunday" collection to benefit the Dover-New Phila Food Pantry! Together we collected \$620 to benefit those struggling with food insecurity in our community.

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)!

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 \$1500 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/>).

Pastor's Corner

As we prepare to enter the Lenten season, we prepare for a time of discovery, understanding and insight. We know this is a period where we prepare for Jesus' journey to the cross and the ultimate sign of redemption to all, and nothing should surprise us about that outcome. Yet when we encounter this event, the risen Lord, we are not the same people ever again. Something changes within us, resonates when close to these works, and pulls us into something which makes us see our purpose and lives differently. It is as if the LORD is pulling us toward something, something we have either ignored or were clueless about. Slowly but surely the LORD teaching us, and bringing us back to something we have wandered from due to distraction or misplaced priority.

Jesus himself prepares us for this time from his words in Luke 9:23-27:

"If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it. What does it profit them if they gain the whole world, but lose or forfeit themselves? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words, of them the Son of Man will be ashamed when he comes in his glory and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. But truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

Perhaps we have come to see the cross as something overwhelming and difficult we must bear with if we are to be disciples. We must sacrifice, give up, and suffer to understand Christ's plight. But even if we give up and sacrifice, could we ever reach the level of suffering Christ did for the sake of the world? And perhaps taking up the cross does not just mean giving up but also taking on. Accepting teachings, works, or habits that will stretch us and help us to see the divine beyond our limited perspective. To challenge our existing beliefs so we might see the character and nature of the true LORD, one who is ever-present and ever-watchful over our lives and what they will become.

In this Lenten season we should not be anxious or worried about if what we are doing is pleasing to the LORD. It is a time to understand and step into what the LORD is already doing and set into motion, because everything Jesus experiences and demonstrates is for our benefit. To help us learn, grow, develop, and step out of what might be suffocating our lives to experience something better. Beyond our mere imaginations and leave us in awe at the Emmanuel ("God is with us") who has our back even when we are not aware. **-Rev. Joe**



Sunday Study Group

Join us **Sunday Mornings at 9:15am** for our study group! We are beginning a new book reading "Foxe's Book of Martyrs" by John Foxe. Anyone, and everyone, is welcome to join!



Friends of the Homeless Meal

Our monthly Friends of the Homeless dinner will be on **March 9** at 6pm. We need volunteers to help, and a sign-up sheet is available in the church office. We are fully funded for the monthly meals, but if you would like to give consider donating toward 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.

"First Celebration" Sunday

Join us on **March 2** as we celebrate Holy Communion during service. Our Church Brunch normally held that same time is canceled for our Annual Congregational Meeting.

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!



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 2025: Renee Miskimmin (clerk), Craig Stewart
Class of 2026: Ethelyn Ann Eichel, Gail Hedges
Class of 2027: Doug McIntire, Sally Walker

Deacon Members:

Class of 2025: Carolyn Berry
Class of 2026: Jackie Stutz
Class of 2027: Bonnie Majewski

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 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>EVERY SUNDAY 9:15am- Sunday Study Group 10:30am- Worship Service followed by coffee and cookies in the fellowship hall</p>						1
<p>2 Communion Annual Congregational Meeting and Pot Luck</p>	3	4	<p>5 10am- Bible Study 7pm- Ash Wednesday Service at Emmanuel Lutheran 8pm- AA Meeting</p>	6	<p>7 Office Closed</p>	8
<p>9 6pm- FoH Meal</p>	10	<p>11 6pm- Jack's House of Hope Committee Meeting</p>	<p>12 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting</p>	13	<p>14 Office Closed</p>	<p>15 6pm Tables of Eight Dinner</p>
16	17	<p>18 7pm- Session Meeting</p>	<p>19 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting</p>	20	<p>21 Office Closed</p>	22
23	<p>24 6pm FoH Board Meeting</p>	<p>25 7pm Finance Meeting</p>	<p>26 10am- Bible Study 8pm- AA Meeting</p>	27	<p>28 Office Closed</p>	29
30	31	<p>March Birthdays: 1st- Kelly McIntire; 4th- Carol Bichsel; 5th- Rev. Joe Svancara; 8th- Mary Ellen Beans; 19th- Michael L'Amoreaux; 20th: Barbara Bonisolli; 25th- Libby Stine</p> <p>March Anniversaries: 1st- Joe & Edie Erwin; 8th- Kevin & Diane Marshall; 21st- John & Joyal Pittman</p>				