



He is Risen



# What's Up Wickliffe!

APRIL 2025

## ~ A CALL TO GRATITUDE AT EASTER ~

Holy Week and Eastertide are not typically associated with stewardship. It is unlikely that Palm Sunday or Easter would be primetime for a sermon on stewardship. But in its larger sense, stewardship is *everywhere* in this sacred season: in our gratitude for Christ's sacrifice, our awe at God's incalculable blessings, and our commitment to a lifelong calling to service in the Spirit.

### April 5 – Palm/Passion Sunday

Holy Week begins with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem ([Matthew 21:1-11](#)). In contrast to the extravagance of human royalty, Jesus fulfills Scripture's prophecy of the king arriving humbly on a donkey.

Notice that Jesus does not use his Godly powers to summon the donkey; instead, he calls on his disciples to do so, inviting them to direct their will to help fulfill this holy moment. Generosity is present everywhere: in the owner who does not hesitate to let his animal be used according to God's purpose, and in the crowds who lay not only palms but even garments on the road to greet this humble king.

Whether today, on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday, what better time than Holy Week to point to Jesus' most extravagant sacrifice for us: the offering of his very life. Even as he faces betrayal by Judas, he shares the Passover meal with his disciples, celebrating the new covenant sealed by the sacrifice of his blood. Even as he endures denial by Peter, humiliation by political and religious powers, and death on the cross, Jesus steadfastly fulfills his calling for our sake. The magnitude of his offering puts to shame the tokens of loyalty we bring to God. Yet even more importantly, may the power of his sacrifice move us to lay down our offerings – indeed, all that we have, and all that we are – in gratitude at the foot of the cross.

### April 12 – Easter Sunday

### April 19 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter

### April 26 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter

Our gratitude for Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is followed by our awe at God's astonishing gift of new life in the resurrection. John 20:1-18 and John 20:19-31 together paint a picture of the risen Lord meeting us not in a prescribed or limited way, but with the generous gift of meeting us wherever we are. First, as Mary Magdalene, Simon Peter, and the "other disciple" go to the tomb and find it empty. Even in their confusion, this revelation is enough for the other disciple to see and believe (John 20:1-10).

Next, Mary Magdalene stays at the tomb, weeping in grief. She sees Jesus, but mistakes him for the gardener. Jesus offers her what she needs to believe: to hear her name from his lips, which transforms her grief to ecstasy (John 20:11-18).

Then, Jesus appears to the disciples in the upper

room, where they have gathered in fear. He offers them peace, and shows them the wounds in his hands and side. Seeing him, and hearing his voice, their fear is transformed to joy (John 20:19-23). Next, Jesus appears again, this time to Thomas, who has not yet seen. To him, Jesus offers not only sound and sight, but invites him even to touch his hands and side. This offering alone is enough for Thomas to believe, and his doubt is transformed to belief (John 20:24-29). Finally, Jesus turns to us, saying: "Blessed are those who have not yet seen and yet have come to believe" (John 20:29), echoed by the Gospel writer: "These words are written so that you may come to believe ... and that believing, you might have life in his name" (John 20:30-31). The ongoing offering of the Gospel will never end, so that generation after generation might know the good news.

Next, the lectionary moves to Luke, and the walk to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Again, Jesus meets his followers where they are, with a gift they can receive. This time, he walks alongside them, hearing their grief and doubt, and only then interpreting the Scripture. Through his humble accompaniment and patient revelation of Scripture, he gives them the gifts they need to have hope. Then, he does even more: he breaks bread with them, revealing his presence as the risen Lord, transforming their confusion into breathtaking clarity.

Jesus' persistence to meet his followers wherever they are, in whatever form they need, urges us to consider how we offer our gifts as well. Rather than "one size fits all," there are many ways our offerings can be made. Rather than simply assess what amount of time or money we can offer, Jesus' model urges us to consider *what gifts are most needed*. The form may change; the timing may shift; for in all things, the stewardship of our presence is offered not for our glory, but for the sake of the world that God so loves.

~Rev. Dr. Christine Chokian, Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

### Check Out What's Inside

- Page 2 April Schedule  
Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Page 3 2025 Per Capita Info  
In Step With Session
- Page 4 One Great Hour of Sharing  
Maundy Thursday Worship Service
- Page 5 Deacon News, Easter Sunday Service at  
Hubbard FPC, Discovery, Goodtimers,  
Needle's Eye
- Page 6 FPC of Youngstown Events
- Page 7 Church Women United Event
- Page 8 April Calendar



## APRIL SCHEDULE

\*\*\*\*\*

- April 6**      **5th Sunday in Lent**  
                   **◆Support Meeting**
  
- April 13**     **Palm Sunday**
  
- April 17**     **Maundy Thursday Worship**  
                   **Service with Hubbard FPC**  
                   **◆Communion**
  
- April 20**     **Easter Sunday**  
                   **Worship Service held at**  
                   **Hubbard FPC**
  
- April 27**     **Second Sunday of Easter**  
                   **◆Benevolence Sunday**



Happy Birthday!

---

April 21 Kerry Schneider

---

Happy Anniversary

---

April 17 Al & Bev Bagoly  
 April 18 Paul & Georgia Velly

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday - 9:00am - 12:00pm  
 Tuesday - Closed  
 Wednesday - Closed  
 Thursday - 9:00am - 12:00pm  
 Friday - Closed

**(Hours may vary. Please contact the office for an appointment if you need in the church)**

Church Website: [www.wickliffepc.com](http://www.wickliffepc.com)  
 Secretary's Email: [wickliffepc@gmail.com](mailto:wickliffepc@gmail.com)

---

Wickliffe Presbyterian Church  
 45 Idlewood Rd.  
 Austintown, OH 44515  
 P: 330-792-6441 F: 330-792-1006

---

TLCC Daycare and Preschool  
 Director, Norma Johnson



*May these colorful jelly beans remind you this Easter:*

*White is for the light of Christ,*  
*Red is for His love,*  
*Orange is for the warmth we feel, from the Holy Spirit above.*  
*Pink is for eternal peace,*  
*Green, for our growth in Christ.*  
*Yellow is for the remembrance that for our sins He paid the price.*  
*Purple is for the strength we feel, no matter where or when knowing that Jesus died on the cross for us, and on Easter rose again.*

***Have a Blessed Easter!***



*He is Risen*



**2025 Per Capita increased to \$33.00. Per Capita information flyers are available at the church.**



## IN STEP WITH SESSION

Your Session met on March 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss our plans and update all on activities our Teams have encountered in the last month. We were pleased to welcome Rev. Amber Balista as our moderator and know she will be a helpful asset to our Session. We also want to thank Rev. Meta Cramer for her guidance during the last several years.

We had Don Wilson from the Resource Center speak on mission plans for the next four years. Service projects> (2025-...T. Rogers Hospice Care Center in Akron on May 17<sup>th</sup> and Warren Family Mission on Oct 18<sup>th</sup>) (2026-Multi day trip to Cass Community Social Services in Detroit) (2027-Project Hospitality-Staton Island in New York) (2028-International trip to be announced). Session showed interest and Elder Donna Cooper will take the lead. Anyone interested, please direct any questions to her.

We also invited Rev. Rob Joy to join us. He is showing interest in being our temporary pulpit supply minister starting in May through August. This will give Janelle a reprieve. We will keep you informed once we hear from our Presbyter and have our questions answered. He has shown willingness to help with hospital visits, funerals etc. This is great news for our church.

Our Teams gave their report as follows:

Growth: Annual Picnic will be on August 10<sup>th</sup> @ the Aust senior center  
They are trying to set up date for the Needles Eye service. Also wanting to decide on possibly a movie night with TLCC invited.

Service: Mowing to begin soon. Still in process of finding a new Church Insurance company. Our current one expires in April. Roof in bad condition. Looking into suggestions from current company on cost to replace. Jeff will be attending the "Safe Sanctuary Training Session" on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Other ideas are in the works and announcements will be made as decisions are fine tuned.

Support: Jamie spoke on the Financials. Our pledges are down but we want to thank TLCC for helping with the utilities. It's an up and down struggle to be able to keep our bottom line in check. We want to thank our members for supporting Wickliffe as we move into the future months.

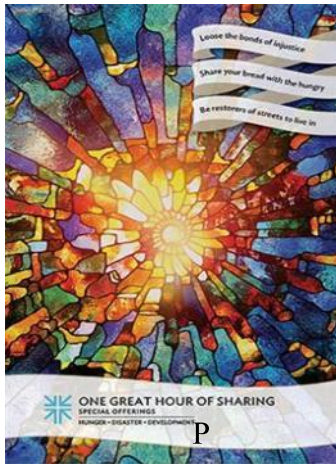
Blessings to all and know that we are only a conversation away from helping in any way..... *Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session*



*He is Risen*



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Received during the Lenten season (March 5 - April 20), each gift to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING helps improve the lives of people in challenging situations. The OFFERING provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

In fact, ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world!

RESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA) receives 32% of funds. PDA works alongside communities as they recover and gives hope after natural or human-caused disasters!

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP) works to alleviate hunger, care for creation, all causes of poverty! PHP receives 36% of funds.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP) invests in communities responding to oppression, poverty, injustice, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. SODP receives 32% of funds.

The OGHS offering will be received on April 13, Palm Sunday. Please consider what you are able to give.

Many thanks for giving! *Donna Cooper*

### ATTENTION MEMBERS

### SPECIAL MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

**On Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 7:00 PM, Wickliffe Presbyterian will hold Worship Service led by Pastor Bonnie Dutton. We have invited the members of Hubbard First Presbyterian Church to attend as well.**

**Please note that Communion will be served.**





## Deacon Ministry

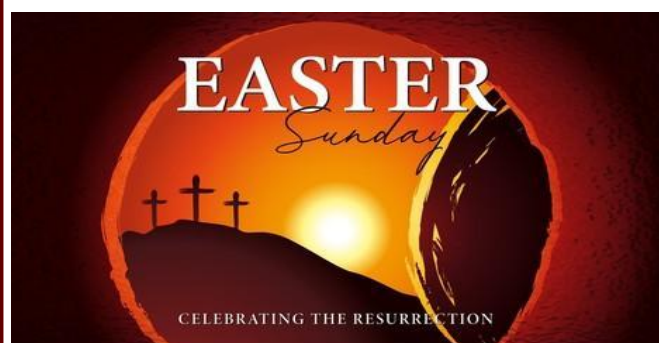
### DEACON NEWS!

Spring is here and Easter will be here soon. Please bring in any kinds of food and paper products for the Deacon's cupboard. If you know of a needy family please give their name to a Deacon. We will pack food baskets the Monday before Easter.

**Communion** will be served on **Maundy Thursday, April 17**. Hope you can attend this special service at 7 PM.

Mark your calendar for May 18, 2025 which will be the **Deacon's Annual Ice Cream Social** after church.

More news will follow next newsletter. Enjoy the nice weather.  
*Debby Fabian, Moderator of Deacons*



shutterstock.com · 2138254271

### \*IMPORTANT NOTICE\*

Wickliffe Presbyterian Church's members will celebrate **Easter Sunday (April 20) Worship Service** at Hubbard First Presbyterian Church at 11:00 AM.

22 Westview Ave.

Hubbard, OH 44425

### Needle's Eye Soup Ministry

Thank you so much for jars of peanut butter, cans of beans and soup donated in March. If you haven't donated yet, please consider doing so in April. Bill and I get such a warm welcome when we take items to Needle's Eye. Perhaps, a Wonderful Wickliffe Member would like to go with us?! Just give me a call. 330-651-3253.

Thank you! *Donna Cooper*



**GOODTIMERS will meet Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 11:30 AM at Denny's.**

~Grace Brown

**The DISCOVERY GROUP will meet Tuesday, April 29 at 12:30 PM here at the church.**

~Grace Brown



## Upcoming Events at First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown

As we continue to celebrate 225 years of ministry in Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, we are bringing back events and worship services we have enjoyed through the years. This includes the annual Schaff Lecture and our Labyrinth. See below for more information.

### Labyrinth at FPCYO

During Lent we will have a Labyrinth out in our Helen Chapel every Sunday through Tuesday when the Church is open (Su 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., M 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Tu 7:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.). It will also be available to walk all of Holy Week (Su 9 a.m. – 1 p.m., MWThF 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Tu 7:30 – 7:30 p.m.). We ask that everyone wear socks (no bare feet and no shoes) to protect the canvas. We will have a basket of clean socks available in case you forget. There will be information about the labyrinth and directions for use available.



### The Schaff Lecture

Save the Date In partnership with Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, the annual Schaff Lecture is taking place on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at the First Presbyterian Church of Youngstown. There was surprise change to the event in the last few days, but we will still be hosting the event. Be on the lookout for details in the coming weeks. We are excited to offer several ways to engage with the lecturer, including a clergy workshop, dinner, and evening worship. Registration information will be sent out in the Presbytery announcement email when it is available. All fees will be collected at registration. • 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Clergy Workshop: Relevant Preaching in Unsettling Times. This event must be registered for in advance. There is a cost of \$10 to cover the cost of supplies and materials for the event. Clergy Registration will open on March \_\_\_\_. Public Registration will begin March \_\_\_\_. • 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be available in the parlor, music will be on offer in the sanctuary, and volunteers will be available to share information on the history of the church. • 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Dinner in the Helen Chapel. Seating is limited and registration is required. Meal options are Swiss Steak, Stuffed Chicken, and Eggplant Parmesan. The cost of dinner is \$20. 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. Community Worship. All are welcome to attend. We are finalizing details on what participation may look like. If you or a group from your church is interested in helping lead worship, please contact Payne Warner at [pastor@fpcyo.org](mailto:pastor@fpcyo.org).



**CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
MAY FRIENDSHIP SERVICE DAY  
FEAST OF SALADS  
SATURDAY, MAY 10, 2025  
SAVE THE DATE!!**

**MAIN LIBRARY**  
305 Wick Ave.  
Youngstown, Ohio 44503

REGISTRATION 10:00 am  
MAY FRIENDSHIP SERVICE 10:30 am  
LUNCHEON 11:30 am

Donation \$5.00 with a Salad; \$10 without

**Registration Form Due: Saturday, April 19, 2025**

MAIL TO: Donna Cooper 1003 Collins Ave. Austintown, OH 44515

Phone: 330-799-0190 or 330-651-3253

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTIONS: ENTER PARKING LOT IN BACK OF LIBRARY FROM RAYEN AVE.  
SIDEWALK LEADS FROM PARKING LOT TO ENTRANCE. EVENT ROOM IS TO THE RIGHT AFTER ENTERING  
THE LOBBY.



# April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1</p>  <p><b>APRIL FOOL'S DAY</b></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5:45 PM Tops</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service</p> <p>Support Mtg.</p> <p>8:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>11:30 AM Goodtimers at Denny's</p>	<p>10</p> <p>5:45 PM Tops</p> <p>6:30 PM Session Mtg.</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13 10:00 AM Worship Service</p>  <p>8:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 7:00 PM Service with Communion</p>  <p>5:45 PM Tops</p>	<p>18</p> 	<p>19</p> 
<p>20 11:00 AM Worship Service at Hubbard PC</p>  <p>8:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:45 PM Tops</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>10:00 AM Worship Service</p>  <p>8:00 PM AA Mtg.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:30 PM Discovery Group at WPC</p>	<p>30</p>			