The Mission of First Presbyterian Church:
To Help People Know God Through Vital Worship…
Dynamic Growth… Faithful Service

Deadline for the April 2019 Newsletter is Tuesday, March 19
Deadline for articles or information for News & Notes is to be turned into the office for the following month’s publication by the nineteenth of each month. You are invited to email bryanpres@firstpresbryan.org or fax 419-636-8252 as well as submit in written form!

Sunday Morning Summer Worship Schedule
9:00 am Contemporary Service
10:00 am Fellowship Time
10:30 am Traditional Service

Remember our church in your will

SERVICE ON MARCH 6TH, AT 6:30 PM

Lent begins on Wednesday, March 6th this year. We will have a potluck dinner at 5:30pm with all the kids from KREW and Impact! Bring a dish to pass.
At 6:30 we will all meet in the Sanctuary for Ash Wednesday worship. Barry will begin his Lenten sermon series “Last Words/First Words” looking specifically at Jesus’ words from the cross: “I thirst.” We will share together in communion and the ashes of repentance! We hope you will come and invite a friend to come with you!
See you in church on Ash Wednesday.
Below is the schedule of sermons for the month of March...see you in church!

March 3: “A Life of Praise & Worship.” Based on Psalm 100

March 6, Ash Wednesday: Barry begins his new sermon series—Last Words/First Words. This series looks at some of the last words Jesus spoke from the angle how His last words are words of life and hope and new beginnings for us.

March 10: Last Words/First Words #2: “You Have Made My House a Den of Thieves.”

March 17: JB Orendorff is preaching for Barry as he will be downstairs serving as head spiritual director for the Men’s Great Banquet.

March 24: Last Words/First Words #3: “Why Have You Forsaken Me?”

March 31: Last Words/First Words #4: “Not My Will But Yours Be Done.”

June Webster to Retire!

June Webster, our Music and Arts Director, has announced that she will be retiring at the end of the choir season at the end of May. She has been on staff here at church at least 45 years. We will be working on some kind of event to celebrate her many years of ministry at our church. Watch for more details to come! June has been a real blessing to this church and she will be missed on staff. More info to come soon!

WORDS FROM WOODY

UPCOMING EVENTS FROM THE CHILDREN & YOUTH DEPT.

Up All Night 2019
#ThisCrazyLove

A special thank you to everyone involved in the many opportunities to help with our annual youth event! We had over 75 students enjoy time at the YMCA, food, games, special live music, worship, prayer, and most important the amazing message of the gospel and God’s crazy, amazing, reckless love for each of us. Hearts were changed and new opportunities to minister opened up throughout the entire night. None of this would have been possible without the support of this congregation, Impact appreciates you all!

WinterJam

The Youth Group will be heading to Christian music’s largest annual tour ‘WinterJam’ on March 28th. If you know a student 6th – 12th grade who would like to make the trip with us to Fort Wayne please contact Woody! (familycc@firstpresbryan.org)

| Income/Expenses 2019 vs 2018–January Year to Date |
|----------------|----------------|
| 2019 | 2018 |
| Income | $31,329 | $30,431 |
| Expenses | $19,378 | $32,570 |
| Net | $11,951 | $(2,139) |
March 2019

During the season of Lent I will be preaching a sermon series called: Last Words/First Words. This begins on Ash Wednesday and continues through Easter Sunday.

It occurred to me recently that Jesus never did anything haphazardly or with little or NO thought—so I wondered if the words Jesus spoke the last week and hours of His life just might have deeper meaning and implications for us...Jesus’ followers. These last words of Jesus were death for Him but I see such life and hope for us in these same words. It’s almost as if Jesus was trying to send us all a message through these final words the last week of His life!

I am convinced the words Jesus spoke as he was dying and during the last week leading up to His crucifixion are in reality words of life for you and me. His last words speak into our lives, our situations, our choices, our junk, and help us move forward and they breathe life into us! Jesus even had an intentional plan and purpose behind every word He spoke the last week of His life and even in His last hours and moments! God wastes nothing, not even Jesus’ last words.

Come join us each Sunday in Lent and even on Ash Wednesday as we explore the deepest meaning for us and our faith in Jesus’ last words.

Invite a friend to join you!

See you in worship!
Be blessed and be a blessing!
All in Jesus’ Name!

Barry

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CHURCH STAFF SCHEDULES

This is a reminder regarding times our staff will be in the church and available to you:

**Barry Sweet**, Pastor: usually available most mornings in the office. Friday is his day off. Contact via phone, email or Facebook. (barry506@firstpresbryan.org OR bbear6616@gmail.com)

**Joanne Israel**, Administrative Assistant: Monday through Friday 9:30-5:00 (bryanpres@firstpresbryan.org)

**Mike Bever**, Financial Secretary: available on Monday and Friday 9:30-2:00 or you can contact him via email (finsec@firstpresbryan.org) or leave a phone message in the church office.

**Mike (Woody) Wortkoetter**, Children, Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 8:30-2:30 and Wednesday 12:30-8:00. (familycc@firstpresbryan.org)

**Mike Wortkoetter**, Media Coordinator: Contact via email (familycc@firstpresbryan.org) or phone

**June Webster and Tami Smith**, Music Department—No set office hours, contact via phone

**Rebecca Underwood**, Custodian—9:00am to 2pm Mon., Tues –Thurs., Fri. (custodian@firstpresbryan.org)
Pontius Pilate: The link to the historical and political world of Jesus. Often in worship we recite the Apostles’ Creed or the Nicene Creed. Three names are mentioned in those creeds: Jesus Christ—God’s only Son, Mary—chosen to bear God’s Son, and Pontius Pilate—Roman Procurator and judge, judge of one of the most important trials in history. In this study we will get to know Pilate from a political and historical perspective. Pontius offers us life through a Roman’s eyes and thus our eyes may be opened as well.

Your life may be changed as was mine in this study. Your eyes will be opened as to what Jesus’ life meant to the world at the time. We will learn what the suffering, death, and resurrection should mean to us in the context of the world today.

A study of Pontius Pilate, based on the historical novel by Paul L. Maier will be for six consecutive Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm beginning March 13 in one of the Adult classrooms in the educational wing. Registration and book is required.

Signup sheets are available in the gathering area beginning February 24. Facilitator for the class will be Rev. Grant Nicholls.

Alpha Bible study following Tuesday Free Meal:
Our guests that attend the Tuesday Free Meal have requested that we offer a Bible study after the meal each Tuesday! This gives us an opportunity to not only feed their body but also their souls. Grant Nicholls will be teaching Alpha from 6:15 to 6:45pm each Tuesday night during Lent. Any of you are invited to attend and be involved with this class as well! Please come!

MUSICAL CONCERT COMING TO OUR SANCTUARY ON JUNE 30
On Sunday, June 30 the Blackwood Country Gospel Quartet will hold a concert in our sanctuary! They are 8 time Grammy Award winners and have won 27 Gospel Music Association Dove Awards, plus 5 All American Music Awards. This is an outreach music event that we want you to come to and we want you to invite your friends as well! Grant Nicholls is coordinating this event for us. The only cost to you is a free will offering and your time! Put it on your calendar today!

MAT WEAVER’S MINISTRY UPDATE
Bob DeWille of Mat Weaver’s Ministry would like the Missions Committee to pass along an update. As you may recall, it takes approximately 1200-1500 plastic grocery bags for each mat which is three feet by six feet by ¾ inch thick. These mats are durable, bug resistant, non-absorbent, quick dry, and lightweight.

So far this year, Bob has weaved 18 of these sleeping mats, recycled 32,400 bags, and collects 6,000 to 10,000 bags each week. Last year Bob recycled 295,177 bags, and his goal for this year is to double that number! Thank you for the huge response to this ministry, and please continue to bring in those bags! Bob and the environment thank you!
Thank You:
We would like to thank the following people for help around the church lately:

- Pat Goshorn for cleaning the Prayer Shawl closet.
- Grant Nicholls being willing to lead a Bible study for our Tuesday Free Meal guests starting this month.
- All those who provided daily devotions for our Lenten Devotional. Thanks to Carol Rowan and Mary Lou Nichols for coordinating it and Joanne Israel for typing and putting it together!
- For all the donations given for the Sanctuary Homeless Shelter and for plastic bags donated so beds can be weaved for the homeless!
- Nick Eschhofen for leading one of our Visioning sessions! Great job!

To all who have sent cards, prayed, and even provided food while Judy has been in rehab! You are a blessing! —Barry and Judy Sweet

Dear Deacons, Thank you so much for the Valentine’s Day card and gift card to B-dubs. It will come in handy one night when I don’t want to cook. Thank you for encouraging me and for praying for me during my college years. God has blessed me with an church family! I miss all of you and thanks again.

Best Regards, Tyler Roushia

Dear Church Family, Thank you very much for the gift card and Valentine. I will get great use out of the gift card and really appreciate it. What a neat surprise. Thanks again, Sam Culler

I would like to thank the church for your thoughtfulness at Christmas time; cookie delivery and also the card. It is so good of you to keep us on the roll of membership. Howard is not able to remember many things of the past and in conversation he will speak but not have the attention to follow and remember after several minutes. Everything is fine otherwise… I would like you to use this check for youth in the church. That’s how we grow!

To our First Presbyterian Family, Thank you for your prayers, cards, phone calls, and encouragements. We have felt your love, and Christ’s love through you. An extra thanks to Carol Rowan for the delicious meal. I believe I am cancer free and it is never coming back.

In His Arms, Donna Sprow

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY
MINISTRY UPDATE:
The Mission Committee voted to honor this ministry by purchasing two “studs” for the next house they will be building. These are being painted by Charity and Grace Meuleman.

When these studs are ready they will be placed in the gathering area for all of us to sign our names for prayers of prosperity. Also, if you would like to purchase a stud, they are $50 if you decorate or $75 if you have Habitat Humanity do it. They will be on sale until March 15th by calling Habitat at 419-636-9093. Please join us in the signing.

Kairos Prison Ministry (Help Charlie Nichols in and out of the Toledo Prison)
Help can be in many forms; Cookies – Charlie needs to provide 120 doz. cookies by Wed. Mar. 13 as his part of the 5000 doz. cookies used for the 3 day “Short Course in Christianity”, Prayer – sign up for a 30 min. time slot to help show God’s unconditional Love, Green Agape – Monetary gifts will help support the 24 resident guest costs of $150. each for the weekend, Closing Attendance – By attending the Kairos closing at 12:00 p.m. Sunday, May 24, You will help put a face on Jesus’ community of unconditional love and grace. SEE THE KAIROS TABLE IN THE GATHERING AREA FOR MORE INFORMATION AND OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP SUPPORT THIS MINISTRY.
February 22, 2019

To Our Dear Friends at the First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your very generous gift of $500.00. We here at H.E.L.P. are grateful for your continued support for our ministry to the residents of Williams County that are in need. Included with this letter is a copy of the 2018 Year End Report. Thus far in 2019 H.E.L.P. has assisted 44 families that is 60 adults and 23 children. Without your gift many would not be helped!

May the LORD richly Bless and give you increase!

Thankfully,

Jeffrey Lewis
H.E.L.P. Director
Office Hours are Monday or Friday from 9 a.m. to Noon (Except Holidays)

(All scriptures are KJV)
Matthew 25: 40 “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”

*Psalm 41:1*: Blessed is he that considers the poor; the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. 

Note: H.E.L.P. is a service provided by the Bryan Area Ministerial Association and is funded by YOUR generosity!

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Outreach of Bryan Area, Inc.
P.O. Box 445
Bryan, Ohio 43506
419-638-4717

November 18, 2018

Bryan First Presbyterian Church
506 Oxford Drive
Bryan, Ohio 43506

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of more than 50 bags of groceries to the Outreach of Bryan Area, Inc. food pantry. We sincerely appreciate your generous support to serve those in need through your donation. Your gift will help many people in our area.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jenolla Tilton, volunteer
November 16, 2018

First Presbyterian Church
406 Oxford Drive
Bryan, OH 43506

Dear Friends,

It is with humble hearts we send sincere appreciation for the gift of $1,000. Your continued support is a heartwarming example of God’s love as we transition to housing for those in need.

In 2018, we were able to build another home in Pioneer for a family in need. They worked on their project beside by side with many volunteers to make the dream of home ownership possible. They will embrace a new financial responsibility as they begin the 30-year (interest-free) mortgage. They have dedicated many long months preparing through financial classes and budgeting requirements, showing them to recoup rent payments, mortgage & escrow payments. They have developed a sense of pride, knowing the many challenges have been overcome and their efforts have paid off and created a dream come true for their families!! It is undisputed that their lives have been enriched through the ministry of Williams County Habitat for Humanity!

In recent conversation with Marilyn Scott, we discussed another opportunity for involvement. In 2018 we began a program called “Sponsor the Stud”. For a small fee, we provide an actual 2x4 stud to decorate with scripture, your church’s mission statement, prayers for the incoming family, etc. We understand that she has brought the information to the missions committee for review.

For 2019, we have expanded the sponsorships to include different areas of the build. We have found this to be a wonderful way to increase community involvement and an ideal way to have a hands-on opportunity for the youth of Williams County!!

We are delighted with the creative artwork and heartfelt kindness which was apparent to all who viewed the stud which framed this year’s build. We are looking forward to another great year and hope you are able to join in this fun event.

We are incredibly grateful that First Presbyterian Church has played such an active role in the success of this ministry. Please know that we appreciate the consideration and being selected as a worthy cause. We are incredibly blessed to be located in a community having support and active participation in making a difference!!

Until the next doors open, we will praise Him in the Hallway!!

Blessings,

[Signature]

P.O. Box 366
Bryan, Ohio 43506
www.habitatwilliams.org
Email: williamcountyhabitat@gmail.com

Phone: 419-636-9097
First Presbyterian Church  
508 Oxford Dr  
Bryan, OH 43506

We are so grateful for your gifts to the Kairos Prison Ministry. Through your donations, the ministry is able to pursue its mission of ministry to those who are impacted by incarceration. Through the grace of God, and enabled by your gifts, we are working to bring persons in all in shame, guilt, unforgiveness, and hatred to know the healing and saving power of Jesus Christ, and a new way of life.

We hope you understand how much your support of this ministry means to the people with whom we come into contact. Lives are touched and new hope is born because God has put our work on your heart. We are eternally grateful and hope that your love for us and our mission in Christ's name might continue.

Thomas Wig  
Financial Secretary for Ohio  
Kairos Prison Ministry International

Kairos Prison Ministry International Inc is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and we acknowledge your charitable contributions listed below which were given to the ministry with no benefit, supplies, or assets of any kind received in return (other than the eternal satisfaction of enabling work in the name of Christ Jesus).

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MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 – John Hamilton
2 – Dominic Workoetter
4 – Bob Meuleman
8 – Pat Goshorn
9 – Joseph Eschhofen
12 – Marjorie Buell
13 – Rebecca Underwood
14 – Mike Culler
15 – Evelyn Witzerman
18 – Judy Shilling
19 – Nancy Berkheiser
19 – Jana Horton
20 – Tim Hollabaugh
21 – Harry Dalby
22 – Judy Karnes
22 – Grant Nicholls
27 – Patrick O’Dwyer
29 – Bill Brewer

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

1 – Daniel and Emily Dwyer
5 – Chris and Diana Moore Eschhofen

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please put these events on your calendar so you can plan to attend!

March 6, ................. Ash Wednesday-Potluck @ 5:30pm
........................................ Worship Service @ 6:30pm
March 14-17 ............. Men’s Great Banquet
March 21-24 ............. Women’s Great Banquet
April 14 ..................... Palm Sunday
April 18 ..................... Holy Thursday worship @ 7pm
April 21 ..................... Easter Breakfast @ 9am
........................................ Easter Sunday Worship 1 service at 10am
May 26 ..................... Graduation Sunday
June 9 ..................... Pentecost
June 30 ..................... Blackwood Country Gospel Quartet Concert