

FPC NEWS

A NEWSLETTER FOR FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DON'T GIVE UP ON PHYSICAL BIBLES

BY CHRIS POLSKI

Last year, when my son went to college, I gave him one of my most precious earthly belongings—the Bible I used from the time I was in high school until I was almost 50 years old.

That Bible went through at least two rebindings, and most of its pages were creased, tattered, or coffee-stained. A few pages were even partially torn. It held almost three decades of markings and notes made from sermons, Bible studies, and personal devotions. Perhaps most interesting were the dozens and dozens of Post-it notes I stuck on the pages when I gave short devotionals or homilies. Some were over 20 years old, going back to when I was a youth minister.

I gave my son this Bible for two reasons. First, I wanted him to take a physical Bible to college. Second, I wanted him to experience, through all the visual clues, a fully used Bible—a sort of generational witness to the importance of keeping the faith. (Continued on page 8)

KEY DATES

APRIL 1

Church Office Closed

APRIL 6

BFB Revitalization Dinner | 5PM

APRIL 7

Worship with Wavaires | 10AM

APRIL 8

Church Office Closed

APRIL 14

Communion Worship | 10AM

APRIL 27

Festival of the Risen King | 11AM

DEEPEN YOUR FAITH

THE WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

Q. 70. WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

A. Justification is the act of God's free grace to sinners,¹ by which he pardons all their sins and accepts and looks on them as if they were righteous,² not because of anything worked in them or done by them³ but because God imputes to them the perfect obedience and full satisfaction of Christ⁴ that can only be appropriated by faith.⁵

1. Rom 3.22, 24-25, 4.5.
2. 2 Cor 5.19,21, Rom 3.22, 24-25,27-28.
3. Ti 3.5,7, Eph 1.6-7, Rom 3.28.
4. Rom 5.17-19, 4.6-8, 3.24-25.
5. Acts 10.43, Gal 2.16, Phil 3.9, Rom 3.25-26, 5.1.



READING PLAN

WEEK 1 | APRIL 1-5

- ☐ Psalm 48
- ☐ Psalm 49
- ☐ Psalm 50
- ☐ Psalm 51
- ☐ Psalm 52

WEEK 2 | APRIL 8-12

- ☐ Psalm 53
- ☐ Psalm 54
- ☐ Psalm 55
- ☐ Psalm 56
- ☐ Psalm 57

WEEK 3 | APRIL 15-19

- ☐ Psalm 58
- ☐ Psalm 59
- ☐ Psalm 60
- ☐ Psalm 61
- ☐ Psalm 62

WEEK 4 | APRIL 22-26

- ☐ Psalm 63
- ☐ Psalm 64
- ☐ Psalm 65
- ☐ Psalm 66
- ☐ Psalm 67

WEEK 5 | APRIL 29-30

- ☐ Psalm 68
- ☐ Psalm 69

YOUR MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

PSALM 93

1 The Lord reigns; he is robed in majesty; the Lord is robed; he has put on strength as his belt. Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved. 2 Your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. 3 The floods have lifted up, O Lord, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. 4 Mightier than the thunders of many waters, mightier than the waves of the sea, the Lord on high is mighty! 5 Your decrees are very trustworthy; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore.

BIRTHDAYS

- 4/1 Darrell Fryman
- 4/2 Jack Horner
Dean Bankson
- 4/8 Cathy Detrick
Alex Thomas
- 4/10 Marilyn Light
- 4/13 Chris Hayes
Chris Mumaw
- 4/17 Phyllis Royer
Carson Henry
Jim Detling
- 4/20 Andrew Fryman
Dan Hawley
- 4/25 Donn Thornhill
- 4/29 Mary Lee Moore
- 4/30 Beth Vehre
Russ Royer



ANNIVERSARIES

- 4/3 Wes & Patti Jetter
- 4/15 Andrew & Jenna Gilman

EVENTS



FESTIVAL OF THE RISEN KING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024
11AM-2PM**

Wholly Smokes BBQ | Bouncy Houses
Carnival Games | Prizes | Face Painting
Balloon Animals | Yard games & MORE!

VOLUNTEERS: We have over 40 kids pre-registered for the festival already and the festival is still about a month away; meaning this will be our **BIGGEST** festival yet! We **NEED** your help. Please sign-up at the welcome desk (or on the app). If you can't help the day of—see Paige Ervin. There is plenty of help needed beforehand too!

ATTENDEES: If you have kids attending the festival; please pre-register them on the app today so we can have an accurate count for food/snacks!

SPONSORS: New this year; we are looking for sponsors for the event to help offset our costs. We need you all to be the hands and feet in asking the people and businesses you know for their support. Flyers to take to local businesses or individuals are available at the welcome desk. Please take a few when you're at church next. We would like sponsors committed by April 15, Tax Day! We have already raised \$1000 in sponsorships. Your help is making a difference! (Flyer on pg. 11.)

DIRECTOR OF MINISTRY OPERATIONS UPDATE

By Paige Ervin

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION WHEN YOU NEED IT

This past month was a busy one and a lot of people had questions come up about dates and times for various events at the church. Here are 2 ways to stay informed!

1. FPC News – Our monthly newsletter has all the details in it about any upcoming events. The newsletter is always available on our website and on the app. Take a hard copy home with you from church and hang it on your fridge!
2. Church App – Our app is available on smartphones AND computers. It always has a running calendar of events available for you to view. It also has the latest prayer requests and more. See me if you want help getting the app set up!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP WITH THE WAVAIRES

Join us for worship on Sunday, April 7 at 10am, as we welcome the Wavares and their visiting families. If you are available to help with breakfast that morning; please contact Pastor Andrew. He is the Wavaire parent responsible for feeding them.

ONLINE GIVING

Online giving is available on the app. When logged in, you can setup recurring tithes using a credit card or have them pulled directly from your bank account. If you are interested in learning more about how to give online; see Paige in the office. She would love to help you get it all set up!

OFFERTORY SIGN-UP

During our Sunday morning worship services, we have a time set aside to give back to the Lord our tithes and offerings. In lieu of passing plates, we have someone share their musical gifts with us and ask people to contemplate what it is the Lord is asking them to give. We are always looking for more individuals to share their gifts during this part of the service. If you are interested, please sign-up on the app today or contact the church office.

NO DEACON SOUP AND SALAD

The Deacons have made the decision to not have a spring fundraiser due to the busy calendar of events already taking place. They look forward to serving you in the fall during a Soup & Salad luncheon.

CAST YOUR CARES CHALLENGE

The challenge is for you to submit a weekly, personal, prayer request via the app (or the offering boxes) to Pastor Andrew. We encourage you to use the offertory time to submit your request each week.

GROW OPPORTUNITIES

MEN'S STUDY

The men will meet again on Saturday, April 6th at 8:30am at the church, in The Nook. Their current study, "Transformation" is based off Romans 12:2. Contact Augie R. (906-523-4459) for more details.

WOMEN'S STUDY

The women will meet again on Saturday, April 13th at 8:15am at the church in The Nook. Contact Jan Roestamadji (937-692-6404) for more details.

PASTOR'S STUDY

Every Wednesday at 10:30am, Pastor Andrew will continue his study through Ezra in The Nook. All are welcome to attend. (This study will resume April 17.)

COVER THE CHURCH

In the parlor, this prayer group focuses on praying for FPC, its' Sunday morning worship service and ministries. You are invited to pray silently in the parlor or pray aloud as you feel led. They will meet every Sunday at 9:30am and pray until 9:45am, leaving plenty of time for socializing before church!

BFB REVITALIZATION DINNER

This month's dinner is scheduled for Saturday, April 6th from 5-8pm at the home of Craig and Susie Leland. Childcare is provided, but RSVPs are required. Contact Paige in the office if interested.



PRAYER

Please continue to pray for the following updates from last month.

March 2023 Prayer Updates:

03/27/2024: Please be praying for Jack Horner. Gloria called to let us know he was taken to the hospital today.

03/26/2024: Terri Fryman will begin a new treatment regimen today at OSU for a recurrence of cancer. Jim is waiting for test results regarding health issues. They would appreciate your prayers.

03/25/2024: Ted and Holly Finnarn would like you to pray for their friend, Eric Hussey, as he is scheduled to have back surgery tomorrow at MVH in Dayton.

03/23/2024: Gloria Horner had a brief visit to Wayne Hospital, but is now back home. Please pray for her well being, and that her new medications would work as intended!

03/21/2023: Please continue to pray for Jack and Gloria Horner. Strength and mobility are becoming more significant challenges every day. Your prayers are appreciated!

03/17/2023: Samuel Howell had a tongue tie that was causing occasional gagging & choking. He had a procedure last Thursday to remove some tissue under his tongue. Now we must massage that area (several times a day for a month) to prevent the tissue from growing back. Pray for his recovery.

03/17/2024: Your continued prayers for those recovering from the destruction the storms left behind are greatly appreciated. Specifically, we lift up the Haviza's neighbors in Winchester, IN who lost their homes. We also lift up the parents of young children in our community who lost their homes and are doing their best to stay calm and be there for their children in this new season filled with stress and unknowns.

03/03/2024: Please keep Dale and Anna Lee Dickerson in your prayers as they grieve the loss of their sister-in-law, Cindy Dickerson.

03/03/2024: Please pray for Jim and Rebecca Detling as they mourn the loss of Jim's mother.

FPC LIFE (CONT. PG. 9)

TORNADO RELIEF

Ted Finnarn heads the state of Ohio's Farm Service Agency and played a key role in getting relief to local farmers who suffered from the recent tornados. Thank you, Ted, for serving our community well!

NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Thank you to everyone who helped during Holy Week. We had prayer nights, the men's breakfast, and various worship services. We want to extend a special thank you to our Maundy Thursday foot washers for this year; Ted Finnarn, Mark Howell and Marnelise van der Walt. Thank you, all, for serving our body in this way!

NEWLY PUBLISHED BOOK

Tish Shepherd recently published her own children's Bible called, "Shepherd's Bible Story Book." The book was illustrated and written by Tish herself. You can buy a copy on Amazon today. If you see Tish, ask her about this new project!

RIBBON CUTTING

Thank you to everyone who attended our Ribbon Cutting last month. It was a great day to be able to celebrate the completion of this wonderful renovation!



FPC KIDS SPECIAL

By Ruth Gilmore

Look to hear from another one of our FPC Kids next month!



Hi! I am Ruth Gilmore. I am a 1st grader at Greenville, and I am 7 years old. I play soccer, basketball, tennis, swim, and do gymnastics. I also really like to play piano, my favorite song to play is Silent Night.

On Saturday, March 23, my brother and I had a piano contest at Miami University. I was a little scared, but it turned out to be really fun. I got a unanimous superior on both my songs, and I am excited to go back next year!

When I am not playing piano or sports, I like to create fashion with my sewing machine, spend time with my family and play with my big brother Philip.

First Presbyterian Church of Greenville Ohio
Minutes of the Session of
February 8, 2024

I. **Opening**

A. **Call meeting to order with reading of the Word and prayer**

The February 2024 stated meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Greenville was called to order on February 8, 2024 at First Presbyterian Church at 7:00 PM by Pastor Andrew Gilman. Pastor Gilman opening the meeting with prayer.

Members Present: Pam Bowman, Lisa Headley, Rebecca Detling, Peter Haviza, and Randy Tester (5). Quorum was met.

Members Absent: Craig Leland and Jan Roestamadji

Guests: None

Approval of Agenda A motion was made to approve the docket, by Peter Haviza and seconded by Pam Bowman. The motion passed 5-0.

Approval of Minutes Pam Bowman motioned to approve the January 2024 minutes. This motion was seconded by Randy Tester. The motion passed 5-0.

II. **Agenda Items**

Financial Report There was no financial report for this month.

FYI Expanding the Scorecard Andrew Gilman presented and read a brief section (Chapter 3: Expanding the Scorecard) from the book *Anatomy of a Revived Church* to the Session. Session and Pastor Gilman discussed the topic for a few minutes before moving on to other business.

Parish Life (Rebecca Detling) Rebecca submitted a brief 3 paragraph report on various ideas being brainstormed for carrying out coffee hour and other activities in the new nook and hall spaces created by the recent renovations. She also gave a verbal presentation to the session concerning some of these ideas.

Building Renovation John Vehre (JV) mentioned that Garman Miller had an additional billing of \$326.25 since the last session meeting, bringing total billing up to \$50,640.53. JV also reported that project is essentially complete, although there are a few minor finishings touches yet to be done. He also indicated, that there will be a meeting to go over punch list items with a representative from Garman Miller. Randy Tester also pointed out a few of these items, although a formal written list will be compiled following the February 26 punch list inspection. Randy mentioned that investments have done well lately and even with \$129,636 being withdrawn from them to cover building expenses, the funds still showed a positive growth.

Building Committee (Randy Tester) Randy reported on a back draft issue that Bolyard's addressed on a water heater. The estimate for a fix is \$285.00. There are also issues with a gas valve and flu pipes. Cost to repair that appears to be around \$435.00. Randy also indicated that he would like to look into new vendors, and also wants to establish better communication with all vendors.

Two groups would like to use the church facilities. Both groups have used these rooms for programming before. The first group was Mary Kell's Recital. A motion was made by Lisa Headley to allow them to carry out their recital for a fee of \$50.00. This motion was seconded by Peter Haviza and passed 5-0. Montessori also wants to use the building for one of their activities. Peter Haviza motioned to allow them to do this, which was seconded by Rebecca Detling and passed 5-0.

Ribbon Cutting A ribbon cutting ceremony has tentatively been scheduled for March 16, 2024.

Pastor's Report (Andrew Gilman – written submission) Pastor Gilman submitted a written report of his activities for January. He also orally mentioned worship services, One on one discipleships, Revitalization meetings, home visitations, Bible studies and general assembly work for church health at the Presbytery. Peter Haviza motioned to accept the report, seconded by Lisa Headley, and passing by a margin of 5-0.

Deacon's Meeting A written Deacon's report was submitted to session. After reviewing it a motion was made by Peter Haviza to accept the report, seconded by Rebecca Detling, and passing 5-0.

III. Closing

Prayer. A closing prayer was made by Peter Haviza.

Adjournment. Peter Haviza motioned to adjourn, which was seconded by Pam Bowman. The motion passed 5-0.

John Vehre

Andrew Gilman

Clerk of Session

Moderator of Session

LEADERSHIP MEETINGS THIS MONTH

DEACONS	MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2024	7:00PM
STAFF	THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2024	7:00PM
SESSION	THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024	7:00PM

DON'T GIVE UP ON PHYSICAL BIBLES (CONT.)

Do Physical Bibles Still Have Value?

Recently, the elders of our church had an interesting conversation about physical Bibles. As in many churches, we've noticed an increasing tendency for people to use Bibles on their phones or to not bring a Bible to church at all. This is especially true for younger generations.

At first, the conversation focused on purchasing more pew Bibles so copies are easily accessible in every row of our church. But as the conversation evolved, we began to consider the unintended consequences of this—sending the signal that we don't expect people to bring their own physical Bibles to church. Of course, we also considered the need to have Bibles for those who don't own one or who may not be Christians.

In the end, our elders decided to provide more Bibles in the pews while also exhorting people to bring their Bibles to church. We're grateful God's Word is easily accessible through electronic means, and almost all of us use electronic versions of the Bible regularly. But holding a physical Bible in our laps during worship has unique benefits.

1. It creates a visual memory of Scripture texts.

After using the same Bible for decades, I can visualize where on a page a meaningful Bible passage is located. Even when I can't remember the exact reference, I know if I scan the pages of my Bible, I'll eventually run across that pink highlighted section with several notes on the lower left corner of the page somewhere in the Pentateuch.

2. It enables curious exploration while listening to a sermon.

Holding your Bible in your lap while a preacher expounds a text has obvious benefits for following the sermon. But it also provides opportunities for the Spirit to prompt your mind to read sections of the page that aren't being preached on or to flip to a cross-referenced verse, creating interesting connections with the larger text.

3. It limits distractions from mobile devices.

Having a physical Bible in our hands gives us something solid to hold and drastically reduces the temptation to thumb swipe from our Bible app to email or the latest sports scores.

4. It provides a durable place to write and keep notes.

The columns of our Bibles make a great space for scribbling notes or interesting insights from preachers, Bible teachers, and even our own minds as we listen to scriptural proclamation. Some Bibles are published with wide margins to accommodate note-taking.

5. It signals Scripture's value to the next generation.

In a culture that's always looking for what's new and next, there's something redemptively subversive about holding open an ancient book every Sunday morning. To the younger people seated around us in our sanctuaries, this seemingly simple act sends a tangible signal of abiding value.

6. It creates a spiritual keepsake for the next generation.

Regularly reading and studying the same physical Bible creates a living keepsake we can pass on to someone in our family who can carry on the work we started. Lord willing, he or she will in turn pass it along to the following generation.

I may have given my well-worn Bible to my son, but as I write, I'm looking over at a 1914 edition of the Greek New Testament with my wife's great-grandfather's name written on the inside cover. It contains his scribbles about the wonder of the gospel throughout. This Bible too has been thoroughly handled, with pages barely holding together and the binding failing. But its tatters bear witness that the faith we hold as a family was present generations ago, and they remind me that how we view our Bibles today can have generational consequences.

FPC LIFE (CONT.)

RIBBON CUTTING



MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP



MARCH SESSION MEETING

Cora and Randall Ervin attended their first session meeting last month (Thursday, March 14, 2024) when they were at the church helping their mom finish setting up for the upcoming Ribbon Cutting and the tornado sirens went off. Everyone in the building was moved to the basement for safety.



APRIL 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
31 Easter Sunday ● 8am Worship Team Rehearsal ● 8:30am Cover the Church (Pray) ● 9am Sunrise Worship	Apr 1 Office Closed ● 7pm Deacons Meeting	2	3	4 ● 7pm Staff Meeting	5 Office Closed	6 ● 8:30am Men's Study ● 5pm BFB Revitalization Dinner
7 Waverly Sunday ● 9am Worship Team Rehearsal ● 9:30am Cover the Church (Pray) ● 10am Worship	8 Office Closed ● 7pm Youth Group	9 Pastor Andrew Away (Teaching at EPC Church Health Workshop)	10	11 ● 7pm Session Meeting	12 Office Closed	13 ● 8:30am Women's Study
14 Communion Sunday ● 9am Worship Team Rehearsal ● 9:30am Cover the Church (Pray) ● 10am Worship	15 Festival Sponsorships Due	16 ● 10:30am Bible Study	17 ● 10:30am Bible Study	18	19 Office Closed	20
21 ● 9am Worship Team Rehearsal ● 9:30am Cover the Church (Pray) ● 10am Worship ● 11:15am Festival Volunteer Me	22 Festival of the Risen King Final Setup ● 7pm Youth Group	23	24 ● 10:30am Bible Study	25	26 Office Closed	27 ● 11am Festival of the Risen King
28 ● 9am Worship Team Rehearsal ● 9:30am Cover the Church (Pray) ● 10am Worship	29	30 May 1	May 1 ● 10:30am Bible Study	2 ● 7pm Staff Meeting	3 Office Closed	4 ● 8:30am Men's Study ● 5pm BFB Revitalization Dinner

*This calendar can always be found on the app.



FESTIVAL OF THE RISEN KING SPONSORSHIP PACKAGES

<p>Silver</p> <p>\$ 100</p> <p>2 Wholly Smokes Vouchers Displayed Banner Ad listing in Event Guide</p>	<p>Gold</p> <p>\$ 250</p> <p>Everything in Silver PLUS: 3 additional Meal Vouchers Ad listing displayed on all TVs at the event</p>	<p>Platinum</p> <p>\$ 500</p> <p>Everything in Gold PLUS: 5 additional Meal Vouchers Table to display your own promotional materials at the event</p>
--	---	---

Event Details:

An afternoon of free entertainment for the whole family!

WHOLLY SMOKES BBQ | BOUNCY HOUSES | CARNIVAL GAMES
PRIZES | FACE PAINTING | BALLOON ANIMALS | YARD GAMES

Interested in sponsoring this event? Visit www.GreenvillePres.org for more details.

SATURDAY	APRIL 27	11AM-2PM
----------	----------	----------



FESTIVAL of THE RISEN KING

SATURDAY
27 APRIL

An afternoon of free entertainment
for the whole family!

WHOLLY SMOKES BBQ | BOUNCY HOUSES | PRIZES
CARNIVAL GAMES | BALLOON ANIMALS | FACE
PAINTING | LIVE ENTERTAINMENT | AND MORE!

- Skip the line and preregister
- Festival open 11am-2pm
- Rain or shine

Scan here to preregister!



FPC Greenville, 114 E 4th St
(Located between Beantz and A&B Coffee)





RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
114 EAST FOURTH STREET
GREENVILLE, OH 45331

PHONE: (937)548-3188
EMAIL: INFO@GREENVILLEPRES.ORG
WEBSITE: WWW.GREENVILLEPRES.ORG

LIVE THE

Story of Redemption

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DOWNLOAD
OUR *App*

STAY UP TO DATE WITH WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CHURCH

FPCGreenville.ChurchTrac.com