



Chimes

MARCH

Dear Church Family,

Our church's largest mission for many years has been and continues to be the Presbyterian Child Center. As I was preparing the 2023 financial numbers for our church's annual statistical report for the Office of the General Assembly, I got an idea of how much the church spends supporting the PCC. The amounts are only rough estimates because there is no precise way of splitting things like utility costs between the church and the PCC. Also, I didn't even try to estimate the value of the building space itself – if the PCC were paying rent for the amount of space that it uses, its finances would be entirely different.

In 2023 the Mission Committee provided \$7,181 in direct support to the PCC. About \$2,100 of that paid for the Brightwheel childcare management software, which is essential for helping us run the center. Other support included providing holiday and teacher appreciation lunches and gift cards for the PCC staff. Other support from the church was indirect. In total the church provided about \$15,700 of indirect support that included part of the Christian education director's compensation, utility costs, and insurance costs. A conservative estimate is that the church provided a total of at least \$23,000 of support for the PCC in 2023.

Yet, even with the generous support of the church, the PCC has been losing money. In fact, if it had not received some very large grants from the state, we would have had to close the center. The reality is that the center has not yet recovered from the pandemic. Our enrollment is down, and we continue to have problems with staffing. We have trouble staffing our center with enough reliable employees to allow us to fill our rooms, even though we have increased their wages considerably.

Yet, those aren't the only changes that the pandemic left in its wake. We are beginning to realize that the needs of the community are changing. Other preschool options exist. One advantage of the PCC has been that we offer full-day care in addition to a preschool program. Now, part-day preschools are partnering with other providers to offer wrap-around care – in essence offering full-time care.

Currently, the biggest need in the community seems to be for children from eight weeks up to three years, that is, before they are potty trained. We are not yet at our capacity of 39 children in that age range because of staffing. When our staffing problems are resolved, we could fill those rooms quickly. We would like to expand our capacity for that age range, but only four rooms have diaper changing areas and sinks. The sinks are obviously the hard part because of the plumbing that is required. We are now looking into ways of adding at least one more room for children younger than three.

The changing needs of our community have me wondering where the mission focus of our church intersects with those needs. Many of our PCC families are facing challenges at home and are using a variety of social services. Do we have anything to offer those families? When we want to invite people to our church, inviting them to a worship service may not be the best way to start. What could we invite people to come and do with us? Would hosting classes in the evening be helpful? I'm not sure where to begin, but I would like to be able to do more to share the love of Christ with our PCC families and respond to the changing needs of our community.

Blessings,

Pastor Mark





PCC NEWS

The Theme for the month of March is “Easter Eggstravaganza!”

We are gearing up for a new program called Reading Across America. The focus is to increase our reading time. The children REALLY enjoy the reading time they receive from Carol Sue Ames. Carole comes in about once a week to read to the Pre-K Sunshine friends class and the Buzzy Bees class. The PCC would like to invite you to come and read to the kids. The children also thoroughly enjoy Ms. Val’s music time, singing and dancing along with Ms. Val’s ukulele.

We would like to send a big THANK YOU for your support of our fund raiser in February. You helped to make it successful.

Believe it or not our 4 year olds will be graduating soon. We are preparing for that day with graduation classes. It is an exciting time for the kids, and a bit sad for the teachers as they have to say goodbye to their kids as they leave for Kindergarten.

Here is a list of events for the month of March:

- March 4-8: The program ‘Read Across America” kicks into full gear.
- March 11-15: Our unpredictable Spring weather.
- March 18-22: St. Patrick’s Day and the color green.
- March 25-29: Easter! Our kids really look forward to the Easter Egg Hunt!

GOOD NEWS! Dusty Hoover has been promoted to assistant PCC administrator. She was being trained to help cover for Abbey when she had her baby in April. Then, Abbey had an unexpected surprise, and had her baby a bit early on February 5, at Riverside Methodist Hospital.

Abbey’s son, Ezekiel, came in at 2 lbs. 7.3 oz. and 14.76 inches long. Both baby and mom are doing well. Little Ezekiel is tolerating the feedings he is receiving from the neonatal nurses. He will remain in the hospital for about 8 weeks as he grows and puts on weight. We are not sure when Abbey will be returning, but we miss her and our prays go out to her and the family as they await Ezekiel’s homecoming.

~ Dusty Hoover



what r u up 2?

Get up to something instead of giving something up this Lent.

Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. Rather than just “giving up” in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is “up to” and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. Instead of bemoaning what we can’t do, or used to do, in a culture where “measuring up” to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things that we can do right now to respond to God’s call in our place, for our time.

This season of Lent, join us as we answer the question: What r u up 2? To find your Lenten journal, go to:

<https://keap.page/ny163/what-r-u-up-2-guided-journal.html>

You can print it or keep it digital. Also, join us for our Lenten Study, which is held on Thursday evenings during Lent from 6-7 in the parlor.

Can’t come in person ... let the office know and the Zoom link will be sent to you.

WHAT'S HAPPENING? ...

IMPORTANT DATES

March 8-17: Pastors Mark & Désirée on vacation

Holy Week ...

March 24: Palm Sunday, marking Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem

March 28: Maundy Thursday service at 4:30 PM, followed by a Seder meal

March 29: Good Friday service at 7:30 PM, remembering the passion and death of Christ

March 31: Easter, celebrating Christ's resurrection

March 29 & April 1: Office will be closed

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by OGHS - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent, each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need.

This offering will be taken on **Sunday, March 24.**

SEDER MEAL

If you are wondering what to expect at our Seder meal on Maundy Thursday, we will have a candle lit table with plates of cheese, raw vegetables with dip, raw fruits, an assortment of crackers and breads, and dessert will be cookies or items eaten with the hand. (Don't expect pies or cakes).

In lieu of lamb, you will see a various selection of lunch meats.

This is not a true Seder meal, but represents the spirit of the meal.

EASTER EGGS and CANDY

The Deacons are collecting plastic Easter eggs, candy, stickers, and small trinkets to help celebrate a bunny hopping good time. The eggs can be filled or unfilled.

Your donations can be dropped off at the Church anytime between now and March 3, when the Deacons will start to fill the eggs. Can't drop off before March 3, the final 'fill' day will be Palm Sunday.

An Easter egg hunt will be held on Easter Sunday, after the service, for all children in attendance. See Rhonda Miller with any questions. Thank you for your support!

LOS MARIACIS and SUFFICIENT GRACE

Dine In or Take Out

This is an excellent way to support Sufficient Grace AND enjoy a delicious meal. On March 4, 5 & 6, Los Mariachis will donate 20% of your total bill (excluding tax) to Sufficient Grace.

All you need is a coupon, which we have at the church office. Stop by to pick one up and support a great mission.



SISTERS IN THE LORD

Saturday, March 9, 2024

1-3:00 PM

The next gathering will be held at St. Paul's AME, 11 West Center Street, London

Bring yourself, your Bible and a friend. Any questions, contact Joyce Lloyd at 614-390-7834 or tjlloyd196@me.com

MEN'S GROUP

The next men's group will be on Thursday, March 14, at 9:00 AM. It will be at Pastor Steve's home ... 4050 State Route 187, London. Join in for a light breakfast, thought-provoking discussions, and biblical study. See you there!

PRAYER LINE

All requests to be submitted to Shelley Jones at shelly.j.jones8@gmail.com or call 614-425-7570.

IMPORTANT: Due to privacy issues, please make sure any prayer request is with consent of the person concerned.

Let the pastor know when her presence is needed. If you wish to have prayer concerns lifted during the worship service, please email the church office.



PRAYER REQUESTS FROM PASTOR ABOU OF THE REFORMED NATIONAL CHURCH OF THE SAHEL (RNCS)

Please continue to keep Pastor Abou, his church, the children, and his outreach program in your prayers. Prayers are needed for a new roof of the church in Guinea Bissau. Please pray for peace in the area, prosperity, and endurance.

Jelly Bean Prayer

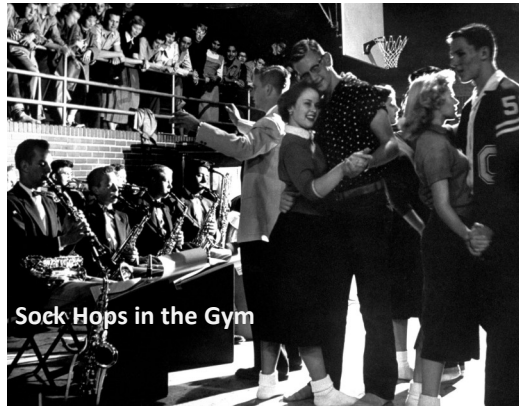
Red is for the blood He gave.
Green is for the grass He made.
Yellow is for the sun so bright.
Orange is for the edge of night.
Black is for the sins we made.
White is for the grace He gave.
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

An egg full of jellybeans,
colorful and sweet
Is a prayer, is a promise,
is an Easter treat!

REMEMBER WHEN ...



Soda Fountains



Sock Hops in the Gym



Juke Boxes



The Beach Boys



Hot Rods



Vinyl LP's



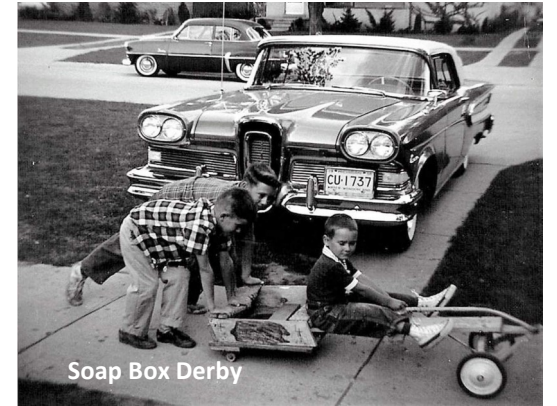
Family Picnics



Drag Racing



Drive In Movies



Soap Box Derby



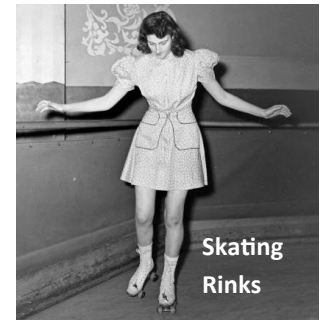
Milk Delivery



Drug Store Lunch Counters



Tupperware Parties



Skating Rinks



Service Stations w/service



MEET THE MACKS

Who hasn't been enchanted by Luke, or amazed by Kelsey? But let's tell you a little bit more about the family!

Stephanie was born and raised in London, Ohio. Kevin was born and raised in Spencerville, Ohio. They met in November of 2007 at an OSU vs. Michigan house party. They've been together ever since and married on October 30, 2010.

Kevin graduated from the University of Northwest Ohio in 2009 with a B.A. in Business Administration. Today, he works for Sims Construction as the warehouse/parts manager. Stephanie graduated from the Ohio State University in 2011 with a B.S. in Animal Sciences. Today, she is president of the Kiwanis Club of London and on the Board for United Way - Clark, Champaign and Madison Counties, serving on the Impact Committee. She also volunteers at London Elementary with the PTO, teaches Junior Achievement, and on our mission committee. Stephanie is a genetics and marketing consultant for Misty Meadow Dairy in Tillamook, Oregon (working remotely).

Their daughter, Kelsey, age 7, is in the 1st grade at London Elementary. She loves to draw and be creative, building worlds in Minecraft. She is active in basketball, soccer and softball. Their son, Luke, is 4 and in his first year of Pre-K at Fairhaven Early Learning Academy. Luke likes to build things out of Legos, magnets and Play-doh. The family has a 3-year old Shiba Inu, Cotton. They also have Sable, a 10 year-old grey cat.

They officially joined the Presbyterian church in 2019. Kevin and Stephanie are Cleveland Browns fans, and Luke is leaning towards the Browns. On the other hand, Kelsey has been a Jacksonville Jaguars fan since she was 3. As a family, they play lots of games and bake together. The Macks all love to read and watch movies together. You will often find them at the London Public Library. They are also very big into Pokemon and Pokemon Go.

The next time you see the family, stop and say hi, and see what they have been up to!

MARCH FUN BITS

First day of spring will be March 19 ... the Vernal Equinox. Day and night will be equal length.

*Daylight Savings begins March 10. Move your clock **AHEAD** one hour.*

March has **TWO** birthstones ... Aquamarine, which represents serenity **AND** the Bloodstone, which symbolizes courage. The birth flower for March is the daffodil.

March's full moon, the Worm Moon, reaches peak illumination on the morning of Monday, March 25. Look for it in the evening of Sunday, March 24 as the Moon rises above the horizon.

The last three days of March are known as the 'borrowing days'. They have a reputation for being stormy.

The first telephone was patented on March 7th, 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell.

Folklore for the Season
- A wet spring, a dry harvest.
- Thunder in spring, cold will bring.
- So many mists in March you see, so many frosts in May will be.

Coca-Cola was invented in March 1886.

Remember, if March comes in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb! Or will it?

St. Patrick's Day
March 17.
WEAR YOUR GREEN!





Gary & Marci Bogenrife
 3-16
 Emmett & Crystal Schrock
 3-23

An Old Irish Blessing

*May love and laughter light your days,
 and warm your heart and home.*

*May good and faithful friends be yours,
 wherever you may roam.*

*May peace and plenty bless your world
 with joy that long endures.*

*May all life's passing seasons bring the best
 to you and yours!*



DOT MORLOCK	3-1	ESTHER WHEELER	3-21
LINDA RIDENOUR	3-5	GEORGINA WELLS	3-23
ROB NEWMAN	3-10	NANCY BAKER	3-29
THOMAS LLOYD	3-10		
ROBERT MCDONNELL	3-11		
PAUL OSWALT	3-15		
WILLIAM TURVY	3-15		
KELLY ARMFELT	3-16		
LAUREN HART	3-18		
JANET HUNT	3-18		
KEVIN CLEMMONS	3-19		

There are two zodiac signs associated with people born in March: Pisces (March 1 – March 20) and Aries (March 21 – March 31).

People born in March have a unique blend of characteristics.

Pisces are known for their empathetic, compassionate, and sensitive nature. They are highly intuitive and often have a deep connection to the spiritual and emotional realms.

Aries are characterized by their courageous, energetic, and enthusiastic spirit. They are natural-born leaders who enjoy taking charge and are not afraid to face challenges.

In general, the March born often have a positive outlook on life, finding the silver lining in any situation. They possess a vivid imagination that fuels their creativity. They are passionate about their interests, and able to adapt to different situations. The March born can also be impulsive and a bit impatient.

March 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
25 ● 9am Sunday School ● 10am Worship	26 ● 6pm LLAMA	27	28 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 6pm PCC Committee Meeting	29 ● 6pm Lenten Study ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	Mar 1 FRI	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
● 9am Sunday School ● 10am Communion 2 more			● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 5pm Christian Education Zoom IV	● 6pm Lenten Study ● 6pm Worship Committee Meeting ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	Pastors Mark & Desiree on vacation through March 17	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Pastors Mark & Desiree on vacation through March 17						
Blood Pressure Screen, after work 2 more	● 11am PCC Leadership Meeting		● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 4pm Stewardship Commission	● 9am Men's Group 3 more		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Pastors Mark & Desiree on vacaiti ● 9am Sunday School ● 10am Worship			● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 4:30pm Session Meeting	● 11am Session Review ● 6pm Lenten Study ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
1 Great Hour of Sharing collection ● 9am Sunday School ● 10am Worship - PALM SUNDAY			● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 6pm PCC Committee Meeting	● 10am LLAMA ● 4:30pm Maundy Thursday Servic 2 more	Good Friday-Office Closed ● 7:30pm Good Friday Service	
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6
● 9am Sunday School ● 10am Worship - EASTER	Easter Monday-Closed		● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 5pm Christian Education Zoom IV	● 6pm Worship Committee Meeting ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal		