



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

E m p h a s i s

APRIL 2025

Imagination

As a kid at the doctor's office I always looked for the Highlights Magazine for Children. Do you remember the magazine? And what I always turned to first was the Hidden Picture page. What you immediately saw on the page was a picture of kids in a tree house, or Johnny Appleseed walking across a field sowing apple seeds, or a family washing their car. That was the picture; something from everyday. Nothing so special.

But hidden in the picture were small things you had to look closely to see. It took a type of imagination. I would turn the page this way and that to find a paint brush and a fish and a hockey stick. Imagination wasn't making something up. Rather it was the belief that there was something more to see and then looking carefully to see it. And I did.

The central task of faith and sermon and hymn and sacrament is one of imagination. By that I don't mean fantasy or make-believe. But rather I mean to envision new realities, good hopes, surprising expectations about ourselves, others, our world, and God. It's to look beyond the edge of what we are so sure we know to "the hidden pictures" that have always been there. Certainly there is a place to understand our Christian faith with our reason and to experience Christian faith with our emotions. But Christian faith is more than what we think and how we feel. Rather it is learning to see through the story of the Bible...to see as God sees, and live as if God's reality is the only one that really matters. And it takes some imagination to do that.

When Jesus spoke of the cross and death and resurrection, it was a word of imagination. He looked beyond the edge of what everyone saw and believed through the love and power of God. His imagination did not make sense to his followers; "Resurrection? How could that be? What does that mean?" But later when they looked through the empty tomb and their own experiences with the risen Lord, they imagined a different way of life; one filled with truth and hope and love and resurrection.

"Listen, I will tell you a mystery"...a mystery about death and resurrection. It is the imagination of Paul looking through death to the last trumpet, our resurrection, and the victory of God for us promised in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Resurrection imagination is not fantasy or make-believe. Rather it's looking carefully through death to the Easter story and seeing what has always been there: resurrection and new life in the wonder of God.

(continued on page 3)



Tea Party
Presbyterian Women
of First Presbyterian Church
Invite you to a tea

Sunday, April 6, 2025 12:15 PM
in Fellowship Hall

Sign up in the library or the office by April 1 if you plan to attend.
You may also indicate any food restrictions on the sign-up sheet.

April 2025 Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 6 5th Sunday of Lent. I Corinthians 13. Dr. Hink preaching.
13 Passion/Palm Sunday. Isaiah 50:4-9 and Luke 22:39-53. Dr. Crooks preaching.
17 **Maundy Thursday. 7:00PM.** Communion and darkening of the sanctuary as the Passion Story is read.
20 Easter Sunday. Communion. Celebration of resurrection through immersive experience with the story from Luke 24. Dr. Hink preaching.
27 "Blue Grass Sunday." I Samuel 8:1-22. Dr. Hink preaching.

Worship Notes

- ♦ "Holy Week," Passion/Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday, is the very center of Christian faith. As always, Holy Week services at 1st Church will be filled with beauty and wonder.
- ♦ "Maundy Thursday" worship at 7:00PM will be preceded by a simple soup dinner at 5:30PM in Fellowship Hall. "Stations of the Cross" will also be set up in the sanctuary and Henderson Chapel for prayer and reflection before and following the Maundy Thursday service.
- ♦ Easter Sunday will once again be shaped by the resurrection story from Luke 24: from darkness to light, from resignation to joy. The immersive Easter worship service invites people to both hear and experience the surprise and joy of Jesus' resurrection. This is a wonderful service to invite family and friends to attend.
- ♦ "Blue Grass Sunday" is back on April 27th. Banjos, mandolins, and guitars will shape an "old fashioned" type of worship experience. Then following worship there will be a 30 minute Blue Grass concert. This will be a special Sunday.

A Look Ahead at Worship

- ♦ Dr. Hink and Dr. Crooks will return to preaching from I Samuel following Easter. I Samuel tells the story of Israel moving from a loose confederacy of tribes to a kingdom with a king, and all the security and challenges that brings. In its own way I Samuel wrestles with "religion and politics," something to pay attention to today.
- ♦ Special Sundays: May 4 baptism of Noah Dillinger; May 11 Mother's Day and Bible Sunday; May 25 Memorial Sunday; June 8 Pentecost and communion; June 15 worship moves to Fellowship Hall at 10:00 AM with a/c, digital projection, and a more casual style.

FRIENDS on a MISSION

Mission Team
2025

Save the Dates!

Help.....Pray.....Attend

Lots of Love Cookout
June 26, 5-7 PM

Mission Sunday
September 14 10 am-12 pm

Trunk or Treat
October 19, 3-5 pm



Welcome
THESE NEW MEMBERS

On March 30, 2025, the following joined 1st Presbyterian Church as new members. Please welcome Joellen Cain, Shirley Gibson, and Lori Seinar-Roknick.

We look forward to getting to know them and welcome them to 1st Church!





Remember Our Shut-Ins

Ridgewood 724-347-0998

One Elston Way,
Hermitage, PA 16148
Gail Hink, 206
Shirley Sankey, 303
Mary Ellen Foltz, 305

Gables Care Center
351 Lahm Dr, Hopedale, OH43976
Betty Hudson



- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Paul Goodwin | 18 Mia Esper |
| 2 Albert Jones | 21 Lee Ann Sok |
| 3 Chase Bender | 21 Jerod Toskin |
| 4 John Reed | 23 Missa Eaton |
| 4 Robert Cunningham | 24 Charles Jurenovich |
| 5 Stephanie Plyler | 24 Olivia Ruth |
| 6 Erica McCracken | 25 Margaret Warren |
| 7 Linda Willey | 25 Connor Raatz |
| 10 David Hofing | 26 Beth Jurenovich |
| 11 Shirley Sankey | 26 Rebecca Smalley |
| 13 Jamie Goodwin | 28 Tom Amundsen |
| 13 Dustin Donner | 29 Rosann Sauers |
| 18 Elizabeth Esper | 30 John Donner II |

Puzzle!

First, write the word that fits each definition. Then transfer those letters to the correct numbered lines below, completing John 20:17 (NIV). Finally, unscramble the circled letters to complete the sentence at the bottom.

1. Water that falls from the sky 1 2 3 4

2. Birds lay these in a nest 5 6 7 8

3. A newly hatched hen 9 10 11 12 13

4. These bloom in spring 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

5. A caterpillar transformed 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

6. Dirt mixed with water 30 31 32

J 5 8 31 20 8 2 3 32 " I 2 30
2 20 12 25 4 32 11 4 6 24 16 30 29
F 2 23 10 18 26 2 4 32 29 16 22 1
F 2 24 10 25 19 23 16 30 29 G 16 32
2 4 32 29 16 31 1 G 16 32
John 20:17, NIV

Jesus has _ _ _ _ _ !

Answers: rain, eggs, chick, flowers, butterfly, mud. Jesus said, "I am ascending to my Father and my Father, to my God." (John 20:17, NIV) Jesus has risen!

Special Date in April

- ♦ Holy Week, April 13-20
- ♦ Palm Sunday, April 13
- ♦ Maundy Thursday, April 17
- ♦ Good Friday, April 18
- ♦ Easter, April 20
- ♦ Administrative Professionals, April 23

(continued from page 1)

"Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed." (I Corinthians 15:51-52)

Thankful for Imagination to Ponder the Hidden Mysteries of Life and Faith,
Glenn



The Church in the Digital World

1st Church has a very active and professional presence in the digital world. Every Sunday the services are made available through the 1st Church You Tube Channel. On most Sundays 15-30 people watch the service as "live stream" (at same time as worship at the church). That service is then recorded on the 1st Church You Tube Channel and watched at a later time by another 50-75 people. That means that on most Sundays 65-100 additional people are sharing in worship at 1st Church digitally.

Those friends who watch worship on their television or computer include members who had to work on Sunday mornings, members away on vacation, members and former members who moved away and want to stay in connection with 1st Church, members and friends who opt for pjs and a cup of coffee on a Sunday morning, and non-members who have become friends of 1st Church through discovering 1st Church digital worship. So if you can't attend 1st Church on a Sunday morning, remember the digital service to watch in time or at a later time. And if you find the digital service helpful, pass it on to friends and family. We would like to see the number of people watching 1st Church worship online grow.

So how do you see the worship services online? First visit the 1st Presbyterian Church of Sharon website. Click on "FPC Videos." Then click on "Live." It's that simple.

Special thanks to our Tech Team, Dave Gill, John Ackley, and Missa Eaton who do such a professional job. Thanks also to our Sound Team, Dave Reel, Barney Scholl, and Rich Arnold, who work with the Tech Team to make sure mics and sound levels are adequate.

Church Attendance for February 2025

2024		2025		Online
4th	99	2nd	86	71 views
11th	82	9th	60	80 views
18th	116	16th	67	102 views
25th	<u>88</u>	23rd	<u>110</u>	90 views
385		323		
26%		30%		



ANKH, OR ANSATÉ CROSS

Originating in Egyptian hieroglyphics, this symbol represented life and regeneration. The shape and meaning made perfect sense to ancient Christians, who appropriated it as a sign of eternal life.

Financial Giving News
February 2025

Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	1,915.10	1st Sunday	382.50
2nd Sunday	4,379.89	2nd Sunday	322.50
3rd Sunday	3,325.19	3rd Sunday	1,172.50
4th Sunday	5,390.89	4th Sunday	282.50
Total for February	15,011.07	Total for February	2,160.00
Budget for February	14,904.17	Budget for February	1,385.50
Balance for February	106.90	Balance for February	774.50
Total for Year to Date	26,016.28	Total for Year to Date	3,495.00
Budget for Year to Date	29,808.33	Budget for Year to Date	2,771.00
Balance for Year to Date	(3,792.05)	Balance for Year to Date	724.00

PoetryProsePastry



Presented by local writers from RAA’s “FOR THE LOVE OF WRITING” (FLOW) group.

First Presbyterian Church, 600 E. State St. Sharon, PA
In “The Library” Coffee Room on second floor.

You’re invited to an open mike night to share poetry, prose and also eat local pastries! Readings are limited to 5 minutes each piece so all can participate!

When: Sunday, April 27th from 6 to 8 p.m.
Cost: Free event

Parking and door entrance is on the east side of the building between the church and the apartments. For more information:
Contact Debbie Derrenbacher 724/866-1588.



MISSION TEAM PRAYER PROGRAM

Adopt-A-Cop is an international prayer protection ministry for law enforcement officers.

It was founded by Chaplain Sgt. Ken Rochell of Michigan State Police in 1998 to serve as a bridge between local churches and their local law enforcement agencies.

The purpose of **Adopt-a-Cop** is to assign law enforcement officers to a group, or individual who will pray daily for them. While 1st Church is not involved directly or officially with this Ministry, the Mission Team wanted to maintain the spirit and encourage the congregation to pray for our own local police officers. The Team will announce a new officer each month and ask for prayers for them and their family. Our youth will make cards and the Mission Team will include a \$25 gift card for each officer of the month.

APRIL

Joshua K. Sonney

Sharon Police Department

SOMETHING OLD,
Something New

Use scrap paper to fuel new growth and make a gift that keeps on giving.

What you need:

- Scrap paper
- Water
- Herb or flower seeds
- Blender
- Strainer
- Cookie sheet
- Towel
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Tear the scrap paper into strips and place in a bowl. Cover the paper with water and let it soak overnight.
2. Pour the mixture into a blender and blend about 10 seconds.
3. Strain and squeeze the paper pulp to remove excess water. Place in a bowl.
4. Sprinkle seeds over the pulp and mix to incorporate them into the pulp.
5. Shape the pulp into a flat layer on the cookie sheet. Use a towel to soak up excess water. Allow the paper to dry completely.
6. Tear paper into shapes or fold into a card. You can plant the paper directly into soil. Water it and then watch your plants grow!





Lenten Reflection and Education

Lent is the Church season for slowing down and reflecting on life and faith and God. To help with that spiritual reflection:

The Lenten devotional guide *A Way Other Than Our Own* by Walter Brueggemann has been available for members and friends to pick up and read. 25 booklets went quickly so 15 more were ordered. There are still a few left.

Adult Sunday School, 10:00-10:45AM in Fellowship Hall, has been a discussion on weekly readings in *A Way Other Than Our Own*. Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink lead those discussions. Following Easter the Sunday School class will return to a discussion of Jesus' parables.

Prayer Stations will return on Maundy Thursday at 1st Church. Various pictures of the Passion Story will be placed on easels in the sanctuary and Henderson Chapel. Before (4:00-6:30PM) and following (8:00-9:00PM) the Maundy Thursday service people can make the Lenten journey from Station to Station with the beauty of candlelight and soft music.



Stations of the Cross

April Amusements





APRIL

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:00 Men’s Fellow- ship-Panera 1:00 Staff-106	3	4	5
6 PW Tea-FH	7 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Shenango Valley Chorale-FH	8 1:30 PWCT-106	9 12:00 Mary/Martha Circle-FH 1:00 Program Staff-CR 6:00 Admin Team-CR	10	11	12
13.Palm Sunday/Annual Re- port 12:00 Annual Meeting 12:00 Deacons-FH 12:00 Worship Team-Parlor 12:00 Mission Team 12:30 Carillon Choir	14 6:00 Scouts 7:00 Shenango Valley Chorale-FH	15 5:00 Nom Com-CR	16 7:00 Men’s Fellow- ship-Panera 12:00 Staff Lunch D&M-Library	17  Worship	18 	19 10:00 SVC Board- Rm. 206
20 	21	22 6:00 Amateur Radio- FH	23	24	25	26
27 Blue Grass Sunday 12:30 Carillon Choir-206 6:00 Session-206 6:00 Poetry Prose Pastry- Library	28 6:00 Writers’ Group- Library 6:30 Scouts Red & White Banquet-FH 7:00 Shenango Valley Chorale-Sanctuary	29	30 7:00 Men’s Fellow- ship-Panera	Sundays in April 9:30 Choir Practice-303 11:00 Worship in Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship@First FH = Fellowship Hall CR = Conference Rm.		