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Financial Results

January 2024

	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
Revenue:	\$126,619	\$126,468
Expenses:	\$ 56,688	\$ 69,569

Your continued support of God’s work through FPC is truly appreciated!

Upcoming Events

February 13: Begin Mark study

February 14: Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18: Lent Workshop; (2nd Hour) Youth Gathering (5pm)

February 20: Stated meeting of Maumee Valley Presbytery (virtual)

February 21: Begin Lenten Suppers

February 24: Mobile Food Pantry

first NEWS&VIEWS

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CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

First Presbyterian Church

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Our Vision:

Honoring our heritage, we are a dynamic body welcoming all to Christ’s spacious table, illumined to serve God with imagination and love.

Lent 2024

A letter to someone I love

written by Sarah Are A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Dear loved one—  
I hope you let go.  
I hope you let go of holding yourself to impossible standards.  
Lower the bar. Give yourself grace.  
God delights in who you are.  
And while you’re at it, I hope you let go of ignoring your beauty.  
The mirror is tired of your harsh words, for you are made of star stuff and music.  
You are the only you there is, and you. are. simply. stunning.  
And I hope you’ll consider letting go of certainty.  
For the sun will always rise and set, and you will always be loved.  
What more do we really need to know than that?  
So let go of your fear.  
Let go of perfection.  
Let go of busyness as a sign of your self worth,  
And the notion that creativity is a luxury.  
Be wild and free.  
Plant roots like a redwood,  
And a spine like a sunflower;  
For the days are short, and you are beautiful.  
I love nothing more than to see you happy.  
So don’t be afraid to let go.  
The only thing you cannot lose is God’s evergreen love.

Join us this Lent for an intentional time of reflecting on what it means to more faithfully follow Christ by discerning what you could let go from your life and what may need to be cultivated. We hope you will find connection with a devotional, the Wednesday night supper reflection, Sunday second hour or any of the times we’re offering this Lent to help you ponder what may be holding you back (like fear or isolation) and what would be helpful to cultivate in your life (like humility, or generosity) to help you pursue a more authentic relationship with God and the world around us.  
Dive deeply into God’s love this Lent, and see how God may transform you.  
~Pastor Jessie



# Mission Opportunities



**Saturday February 24,**  
8:00-10:00am (approx).  
A great way to help our neighbors who need food assistance and to be a light for Christ. Sign up outside the office.

**Sunday March 10,**  
11:00am-12:30pm in the Great Room. Help will be needed with items for the menu (Mexican Casserole), preparing for the meal on Saturday as well as serving and clean up on Sunday.



Future dates are May 25, August 10 and December 7.

Lent is [One Great Hour of Sharing](#) season! One of four special offerings of the PC(U.S.A.) our gifts support disaster relief, help lift people from poverty and feed the hungry. Three programs benefit: [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#), [Self-Development of People](#) and [Presbyterian Hunger Program](#). You can give with a check (please note OGHS) or by [clicking here](#). Know that your gifts are used wisely as there are no administrative costs to these entities (our Per Capita funds those). We will dedicate our gifts on Easter Sunday (March 31).



**Daryl the Barrel** is collecting Cream Soups during February. Please consider picking up some on your next grocery run and dropping them in the barrel in the Narthex. Cream of Mushroom, Cream of Chicken, Cream of Celery etc all welcome. **In March** please bring razors and body wash, for men and women.

75  
YEARS



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



Christian  
Clearing House

## Christian Clearing House Caring Cupboard

February

toothbrushes & toothpaste

March

paper towels

**A new year means it's Per Capita time!** This year's Per Capita is \$39.10 per active member of the Congregation. Your Stewardship and Finance Committee appreciates our members' paying this promptly (memo/note 'per capita'). Yet you may wonder 'what is Per Capita and why do we pay this?' As a connectional church, the PC(U.S.A.) seeks to be of resource and support at all levels—Congregational, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Our Per Capita dollars fund many of the administrative duties of the denomination, such as the Stated Clerk's office, support for Mid-Councils and much more. *And that means more of our mission dollars (think any of the special offerings) go toward helping people, not funding overhead costs.* You can learn more [here](#) about how your Per Capita supports Christ's work in the world through the PC(U.S.A.).



# Onward & Upward

Join us March 8. It's a **Mystery!** What will it be? Those who were present in February had a vote and the results will be revealed soon. Some guarantees: it will be fun, you will strengthen your connections, lunch will be provided and there will be room for you to attend and to bring friends! Sign up on the sheet outside the office so our lunch hospitality will be abundant—and don't forget to invite a friend or two!



Thursdays are the place to be at church! Each week **Lunch Bunch** gathers at 12:00 to share fellowship. We meet in room 113 *unless* it's the second week, when we morph to Onward and Upward and meet in Fellowship Hall! Bring your lunch and enjoy casual conversation. During Lent we will have some more focused conversations on Cultivating and Letting Go. There will be an opportunity to contribute to our Sanctuary tree (and you should attend February 18 2nd Hour to learn more about that!).



Sunday, March 17, 3:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir,  
Chamber Orchestra & Organ

Clinton Miller, conductor     Dr. John Schwandt, organ

First Presbyterian Church  
2330 South Main Street Findlay, Ohio 45840  
[findlayfpc.org](#)

Enjoy singing but can't make a weekly commitment year round? You are welcome to sing with the choir for the Requiem! Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings, 7:00-7:45. There will also be a dress rehearsal on Saturday, March 16 from 10:00am-Noon. [Email Clint](#) with questions.



## Nursery School & Facility

**OPEN HOUSE**

**FPC Nursery School  
Registration/Open House**

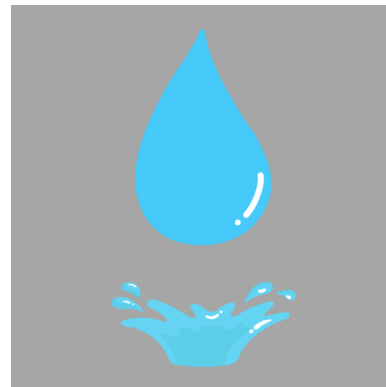
**Tuesday, February 20 at 7:00pm**  
in Fellowship Hall.

Children who will be 3 or 4 by  
August 1 are eligible.

All eligible families are welcome to come explore the great opportunity our Nursery School offers. Scholarship help is available!



**Our Nursery School** is up and running again following the damage from the water. Due to quick thinking and action only a minimal number of supplies/books were actually lost, and the office is in the process of being rebuilt. A wall has been constructed to protect the students from construction and the teachers have helped all our students feel safe in this time.



**Nursery School**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS**

At its February meeting, the Session approved asking the congregation to begin building a Scholarship Fund for our Nursery School. Currently four families are using scholarships and the funds for those will run out before the end of the current year. The immediate need is for \$422 per month (\$1732). High quality preschool education is deeply beneficial to students who start Kindergarten much better prepared, so this is a solid investment in our community's future. If you would like to contribute toward this permanent fund, please note 'nursery school scholarships' on your check. You can also give through online and note 'NS Scholarships.'

- Repaired the hot water heater.
- An air handler unit coil froze and caused hot water to spray for hours over-night, causing damage to room 214 and the preschool office and hallways. Repairs to these areas are underway.
- A temporary wall has been built in the preschool to separate the construction area from the children.
- The Cylinder has been replaced in the Fellowship Hall Dishwasher.
- A backflow in the boiler room was leaking into the Great Room kitchen. It has been rebuilt and installed.
- We have purchased 36 – 60" round tables for the great Room. They are light-weight and much easier to do quick tear downs and set-ups! The old tables will be relocated upstairs in the Fellowship Hall table closet.

**FACILITIES**  
**UPDATE**

## Faith & Fellowship

### Cultivating and Letting Go.....

Join us Sunday February 18 following worship for our special 2nd Hour Lenten Workshop. All ages should gather in Fellowship Hall for a time of reflection and creative expression. We will be building beauty in our building each week beginning with this workshop!

*How will you grow this Lent?*



### Wednesday Lenten Suppers February 21-March 20

**Come at 5:30pm for a simple, yet delicious meal,  
warm fellowship and a time of creative reflecting.**

**Help provide the meal one  
week: sign up to bring Soup (3);  
Salad (4); or Bread (3)**

**Sign up outside the office; call  
419-423-2112 or email  
[info@findlayfpc.org](mailto:info@findlayfpc.org)**

### Easter Egg-stravaganza! Saturday March 23, 3:00-5:00pm



Children! Come join our Youth for a fun time of activities and egg hunting. Candy, prizes and more. Separate hunts for preschool and elementary ages. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us!





# Beloved Children of God

## Godly Play During Lent

What is a miracle? Who was Jesus, really? How do the events of antiquity relate to our present times?

There are so many important questions central to our faith, ones which all serious Christians must be willing to ponder. Rather than give our children pat answers that extinguish their curiosity about our God, our world, and our place in the Story, Godly Play invites young hearts and minds to engage with big questions, encouraging an attitude of wonder to carry throughout our lives.

In the three years I've been leading Godly Play, we've focused on the relationship between God and God's People (the record of love and forgiveness that it is!), and Jesus' message to us as laid out in his parables and rhetoric. This Lent in Godly Play we'll be exploring, for the first time, the stories of some of the miracles attributed to Jesus. For the first five weeks, we'll hear and consider the stories of Jesus' apparent power over the elements

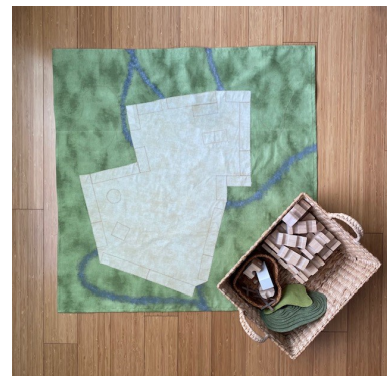
(Matthew 8:23-27), his ability to heal (Mark 5:23-41 and Luke 5:17-26), the provision of his abundance (John 6:1-4), and his calling forth life from death (John 11:38-44). We'll wonder together what a miracle is (and isn't), what it says about the person performing them, what it means for those receiving them, those who witness them, and whether miracles still happen today.

Palm Sunday will be a retelling of the events of the week leading up to his crucifixion, and, perhaps the biggest miracle of them all, his subsequent resurrection. We hope you and your children (and grandchildren!) can be present to explore these very special stories. As we say in Godly Play, they are, indeed, strange and amazing.

Families are invited to continue the conversations and the wondering at home.



Godly Play map of Jerusalem, with the Garden of Gethsemane and the Temple in the foreground.



**Youth Activities (6th-12th)!** On **February 18** we will have our afternoon gathering from 5:00-7:00pm. We want our great chefs to provide a meal! [Click here for more information](#) and to sign up. Delicious food, fun, fellowship and planning our Egg-Stravaganza are all part of the fun that evening! *Friends are welcome!*

**February 25, March 3, and March 24** we will gather in the Youth Room during 2nd Hour for discussions around 'What Do I believe?'

On **March 10** we will help prepare for the Community Dinner during 2nd Hour.

**March 17** will be our evening gathering from 5:00-7:00pm (following the Requiem).

**Montreat Middle School Conference (July 17-21):** a \$25 deposit is due February 25 so that our group reservation can be made in time to save on registration costs. Questions? [Email Leslee.](#)



*[God] removes every branch in me that bears no fruit.  
Every branch that bears fruit [God] prunes to make it bear more fruit. John 15:2*

## Cultivating..Letting Go..

**Sunday 2nd Hour Faith Formation** during Lent will be a time of growth. Yet growth also involves cutting away what is dead or unneeded. **Cultivating and Letting Go** is our overall theme for Lent.

**February 18:** We gather in Fellowship Hall following worship for a special workshop for all ages. We will have light refreshments.

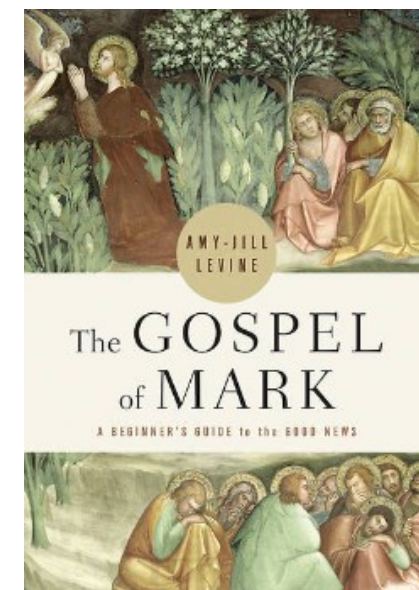
**February 25-March 24:** Cultivating Hospitality. How welcoming are we as a congregation, really? For several weeks we will discover how we can grow our hospitality and be more welcoming of others. We will do a small 'audit' of our physical space and current practices, looking at specifics and then broaden our analysis in the final two weeks. Who are those we can be more intentionally welcoming? What does hospitality mean in our civic engagement? Pastor Jessie and Ellen Huginin will be leading.

**February 20-March 19:** Join us each Wednesday evening for dinner at 5:30pm followed by reflections on Cultivating and Letting Go. We will be creating beauty for our sanctuary together as we grow in love for ourselves and our neighbors. We conclude in time for choir rehearsal!

**We also have a devotional guide** available for you—**The Poetry of Lent-A Lenten Companion to Mary Oliver's Devotions.** The guides and poems will be available in the Office and the Narthex.



**The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News** by Amy-Jill Levine is our guide for our Tuesday Bible/book study. We gather Noon-1pm starting February 13 in room 211 where we will have a brief video and discussion. Bring your lunch! There are six sessions and we will plan to discuss one each week, although we will also be flexible! Books are available (but not required) in the office for purchase. However your experience and learning will be better (it's not a hard read and there's much to learn). Amy-Jill Levine is a New Testament scholar and she is Jewish! She brings a unique perspective to the New Testament that will be enriching. Elizabeth Wright and Leslee Kirkconnell will be leading the study. JOIN US and invite a friend. Class runs February 13-March 19 (although the group can decide to extend as desired),



**Summer Camp** is a wonderful place for children and youth to cultivate and let go! **Registration is open** for camp at [Kirkmont](#) and all children and youth who are 3 years and up have a camp experience option. There are also two camps for adults who like to quilt! Scholarships are available to help with the cost. Camp experiences grow young disciples in deep ways!

