



What's Up Wickliffe!

APRIL 2023

The Bible describes how the men standing guard at the resurrection tomb when the angel appeared as falling like dead men because they were so shaken by fear. Their mortal beings were not equipped to withstand the presence of a spiritual being.

The Bible describes the apostles out at sea when they saw Jesus walking on the water as being terrified and crying out in fear.

In the book of Revelation, John the apostle sees Jesus, he falls at His feet as dead.

Think of the emotions involved in these scenarios. There is the element of losing consciousness, feeling shame, terror, or unworthiness. Coming face to face with God cannot be measured or described with human vocabulary words. There is nothing in our existence that matches the reality of what we will encounter when facing God at the judgment seat. Someday, we will all stand before God to give an account of what we did with the grace given to us.

Imagine this: A young man encounters God after death and finds himself ushered into the presence of bright light, unsure of where is or how he got there. He squints through the rays of brightness blinding his eyes and sees a man sitting in a chair with a tablet of paper and a pen. He is asked to approach the man and reluctantly steps forward as his heart rate begins to beat and he realizes it is pointless to try to run away. He begins to tremble uncontrollably. What does this man want with me, he ponders, and why am I so afraid? Who arranged this and why wasn't I alerted ahead of time? What is going on? The young man is asked some questions and is so overtaken with fear that he cannot answer coherently. The voice coming from the man sitting in the chair is loud like thunder and does not sound like any other voice he has ever heard. He falls down and feels buried in guilt and shame and remorse. This is not good, he chides to himself. What a fool I have been. I should have listened, and now it is too late. I dug my own grave, and there is no turning back.

Imagine this: A mom stands idle, admiring her surroundings as bright lights and music fill the atmosphere, giving off a sense of calm reassurance. Is this the moment she read about in her Bible? Where is my Master, she asks herself. She does not remember being taken away from earth, but she does remember her last prayer – a

prayer letting God know she is all His, a prayer expressing her anxiousness to meet Him face to face. She is overcome with peace but cries when she is called to step forward in the man's presence. Without being able to control herself, she blurts out how sorry she is for not evangelizing, for staying home to raise her children instead of starting a church. She apologizes for teaching her children godly principles instead of moving overseas as a missionary on foreign soil. She weeps, wondering if she heard it all wrong. She hangs her head and covers the tears in her eyes.

Suddenly, she feels a soft touch on her shoulder, and peers up to see the face of Jesus, with eyes radiating pure love and acceptance, She catches herself wanting to lunge forward to hug Him around the neck, but He reaches out first to embrace her while telling her how long He has waited for this moment, to finally pick up one of His children who lived so faithfully, so committed, and sacrificially gave all she had to secure eternity in the hearts of her children.

Lord, teach us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom. Thank you for knocking relentlessly at the door of my heart and thank you for sending your Holy Spirit who helped me open that door, so you could come in and have eternal fellowship with me.

Ann O'Donnell ~ MannaEXPRESS

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APRIL SCHEDULE

- April 2 Palm Sunday
 ♦ Communion
- April 9 Easter Sunday—He Is Risen!
- April 16 Second Sunday of Easter
- April 18 (Tuesday) ♦ Session Meeting
- April 23 Third Sunday of Easter
- April 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter



April 12 James Davies
 April 21 Kerry Schneider



April 17 Albert and Beverly Bagoly
 April 18 Paul and Georgia Velly

Church Office Hours:
 Monday - 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Tuesday - Closed
 Wednesday - Closed
 Thursday - 9:00am - 12:00pm
 Friday - Closed

(Hours may vary. Please contact the office for an appointment if you need in the church)

Church Website: www.wickliffepc.com
 Secretary's Email: wickliffepc@gmail.com

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 45 Idlewood Rd.
 Austintown, OH 44515
 P: 330-792-6441 F: 330-792-1006

TLCC Daycare and Preschool
 Director, Norma Johnson
 330-792-9048





The Deacons have planned their year of activities. We are so happy December was active for the Deacons. We were able to deliver 30 presents for the Protestant Family service, 80 items, including hats, gloves, scarves and socks for the Fish Samaritan and 17 Christmas Boxes for Protestant Christmas Child. Thanks to all generous members who donated to make these possible. Deacons also donated 4 turkeys to Rescue Mission this year. We did not have any needy family names turned in at Wickliffe.

Communion will be served Palm Sunday, April 2. Please plan on attending. The Deacon Ice Cream Social will be held in May. More details to follow soon. We are excited about activities happening at Wickliffe. The Deacons would like to thank all members who support us faithfully.

Peace and Love, Debby Fabian, Moderator of Deacons



One Great Hour Of Sharing

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has sent financial aid to East Palestine, Ohio. PDA shares funds in the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering which will be taken up on **Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023**. PDA has grants available for the village.

E.P. Presbyterian Church's Pastor Fritz Nelsen is in contact with PDA and can request more aid if or when needed.

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has partnered with others to take action to share God's love. Through these three life-saving programs, Presbyterians are there to advance the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability.

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- Self-Development Of People

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

Thank you for your generosity! Donna Cooper

Needle's Eye Soup Ministry

Look for your initial and please give cans of soup, beans, or peanut butter! These donations are given to the elderly in our area who find their food supply very low at the end of the month. You can find the basket beside the Fellowship door.

Thank you for your generosity!
Donna Cooper



This month's initials are: **B—C—D**



2023 Per Capita is \$32.50. Per Capita information flyers are available at the church.



May these colorful jelly beans remind you this Easter:

White is for the light of Christ,

Red is for His love,

Orange is for the warmth we feel, from the Holy Spirit above.

Pink is for eternal peace,

Green, for our growth in Christ.

Yellow is for the remembrance that for our sins He paid the price.

Purple is for the strength we feel, no matter where or when knowing that Jesus died on the cross for us, and on Easter rose again.

Have a Blessed Easter!



Ronald McDonald House

"POP TABS—Reminder"

This is a reminder that you take time to collect **Pop Tabs** for our **RONALD McDONALD HOUSE Outreach**. You will find the tall plastic container in

the Narthex. Let's please see how fast we can fill the jug this time. Blessings to all for your support of this worthy cause!

~ Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session

REMINDER FROM JEFF

Jeff Bryant is still collecting **aluminum cans** this year for a project with the VFW called "**Cans for Vets**".



Please bring your cans to the church (garbage can is placed near the door) or set them by the garage for this very worthy cause. Jeff will be collecting the cans for the remainder of the year.



A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen.





IN STEP WITH SESSION



We, as your Session, have had a little difficulty finding time to meet. We need to have a moderator in order to have an official meeting so we have had to move our meetings from after Sunday Worship to Tuesday evenings. Solution solved.

We met on March 7th and unfortunately only had 4 Elders present. This has been a problem with our boards as well. Our Deacons and TLCC Board are dealing with low attendance. We still have Covid outbreaks on occasion.

During our Session meeting we discussed the following:

-Service has been dealing with not only the roof issue but also problems with the boiler/furnace. We are also dealing with plumbing issues in the two major bathrooms. Jeff B. is trying to stay on top of these repairs and keeping an eye on costs.

-We are meeting with two other Churches in Hubbard on March 19th pertaining to ideas on how to move forward as we deal with not having a Pastor and have to fill the pulpit. We ask for our member's patience as we are being guided by The Presbytery Committee on Ministry. It is a slow process and, even though we may have disagreements on who we have filling the pulpit, we all need to be aware that we are in Worship to praise our God. Please thank the person who fills the pulpit because it is very difficult for Janelle to find someone to serve. It is also very difficult to find someone to replace Pastor Mark. We are looking for a Part time Pastor. We can't afford anyone full time financially.

We, as your leadership, want to thank everyone for helping in anyway as we hold our Church together. This would include the Deacons, TLCC Board, Repair and Grounds, our Church Secretary, Custodian, Pianist, Session Teams, Treasurer and of course myself, the Clerk of Session. Even though we may step on toes on occasion, we all mean well. Let us know if you have concerns. We don't have all the answers and know that some things we have done in the past are being kept on hold for now. This can't be helped.

I pray along with you that we will all work together for the good of the whole and give our best as we do God's work in a faithful manor.

Blessings to all with love from your Session and Clerk of Session, Nancy O'Hara



ATTENTION DEACONS AND ELDERS!

Please make it a habit to check your mailbox in the church office on Sundays when you are here.

If you would do that at least once a month, it would be most appreciated. Thanks much!!



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He
Chose
The
Nails

The Nail reminds me I was a sinner condemned to die.

The Nail also reminds me of my great worth. Esteemed worthy of the sacrifice of God's only Son. Jesus Christ regarded me precious enough that He endured the pain and agony of the cross and shed His blood to give me life.

The Nail reminds me daily to take up my cross and follow Him.

The Nail didn't hold Him to the cross, It was His love for me!

"and He is the propitiation for our sins...and for the whole world" 1 John 2:2

Submitted by Nancy Truslow



The Dogwood Tree

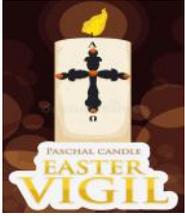
When Christ was on earth, the dogwood grew to a towering size with a lovely hue.

It's branches were strong and interwoven and for Christ's cross its timbers were chosen. Being distressed at the use of the wood, Christ made a promise which still holds good; "Not ever again shall the dogwood grow to be large enough for a tree, and so slender and twisted it shall always be with cross-shaped blossoms for all to see.

The petals shall have bloodstains marked brown and the blossom's center a thorny crown. All who see it will think of Me, nailed to a cross from a dogwood tree. Protected and cherished this tree shall be a reflection to all of My agony.

Submitted by Nancy Truslow

April 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 
2 10:00 AM Worship Communion  PALM SUNDAY 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	3	4	5 11:30 AM Goodtimers	6  Maundy Thursday 5:45 PM Tops	7  GOOD FRIDAY	8  EASTER VIGIL
9 10:00 AM Worship  Easter he is risen 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	10	11	12	13 5:45 PM Tops	14	15
16 10:00 AM Worship Service Support Mtg. 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	17	18 Session Mtg. at 6:00 PM	19 12:00 PM Esther Circle	20 Newsletter Deadline 5:45 PM Tops	21	22  Earth day
23 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.	24	25 12:30 PM Discovery Group	26	27 5:45 PM Tops	28	29
30 10:00 AM Worship Service 8:00 PM AA Mtg.						