

# One Great Hour Of Sharing—April 1, 2018

Around the world millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world—sharing in God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural and human-caused disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor and oppressed.



*First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.*

*May the peace of Christ be with you!*

First Presbyterian Church  
1328 Griffith Avenue  
Owensboro, KY 42301



## “People of Grace” A monthly newsletter for First Presbyterian Church April 2018



One of the truths in our society is this: money, for better or worse, provides access or “a place at the table” with those who have and exercise power. While that combination of money and power can be used in a variety of ways, faith communities have a history of using their monetary resources to impact this world for incredible good.

Without even considering the funds held by individual churches, Presbyterian-related seminaries, colleges/universities, and other related entities, the Presbyterian Church (USA), through its pension fund and national foundation has somewhere between 10-12 billion dollars of invested capital. That ranks our church as one of the top 3 wealthiest denominational investors in the United States. My husband, Rob, serves the PC(USA) as the lead staff person for the Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investing, or MRTI, a committee of our denomination which works to leverage this “seat at the table” as an institutional investor for powerful good in the world.

“We believe that Jesus Christ is at the heart of everything we do, and that includes how we invest our money,” Rob says. “As faith-based investors, MRTI implements church policy on socially responsible investing by engaging corporations in which the church owns stock.”

This work is done in three ways. First, our denomination screens its investments by avoiding companies connected with tobacco, alcohol, gambling, for-profit prisons, weapons production and human rights violations. Second, our church provides financial capital for economic development in often-overlooked communities. The third aspect of MRTI’s work is shareholder engagement. Rob says, “Many people think that what we do is divest from companies we disagree with, but corporate engagement with our faith-based and values-based investing partners is where we spend most of our time, through dialogue with corporate representatives.” In recent years, that shareholder work has enabled our denomination to negotiate socially responsible outcomes with such companies as Philipps 66, Marathon Petroleum, Valero Energy, as well as companies involved in the auto, travel and tourism industries.

Historically, it was our denomination’s work through MRTI that paved the way for faith-based communities to influence the South African government during the time of apartheid. And our denomination continues to look for ways to encourage companies to work in ways that make this world more peaceful and just.

This summer, MRTI will be a focus at our denomination’s General Assembly. A movement within the denomination is pushing the church to categorically divest all of its funds held by the Board of Pensions and Foundation from the fossil fuel industry. MRTI recommends that the church continue its engagement process by keeping its funds invested so that it can maintain its “place at the table”. The decision will ultimately be made by the commissioners at General Assembly this summer, so be on the lookout for what happens.

Want to learn more about how you can align your personal investments with our denomination’s guidelines? The Presbyterian Foundation can help you customize your portfolio to match the church’s guidelines or suit your own mission priorities. Further, Rob would also be happy to share more information with folks. Every dollar makes an impact in some way, so prayerfully considering where money goes is part of our call to be good stewards of God’s gifts.

*Christine*

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### Quote of the Month

*The week that changed the world continues to change our lives.*





April Birthdays  
 Birthday Flowers:  
 Hyacinth & Daisies

- 2 Meleton Morales
- 3 Mitchell Coomes
- 3 Ben Shelton
- 5 Credea Heffelfinger
- 8 Jean Fortune
- 8 Sarah Clancy Mahoney
- 10 Will Clancy V
- 11 Maggie Davis
- 11 Caroline Lashbrook
- 11 Yee-min Lin
- 12 Corey Johnson
- 12 Diane Watson
- 13 Elizabeth Riddle
- 13 Jillian Thomas
- 19 Jean Gilliland
- 20 Lore North
- 22 Harley Bravo
- 24 Art Hazel
- 25 Andrew Moore
- 25 Paul Puckett
- 26 Dayton Heffelfinger
- 26 Nathaniel Holcomb
- 26 Maebel Fohr
- 26 Jerry Price III
- 27 Lorraine Corkran
- 28 Evelyn Triplett
- 28 Susan Nail
- 29 Emily Harris
- 30 Bill Hughes

**Anniversaries**

- 3 Pat & Waitman Taylor
- 22 Ashley & Corey Johnson
- 22 Norma & Sam Smith
- 30 Valerie & Chuck Holcomb



**Session Highlights - March 2018**

Session met on Monday March 12th

- Approved \$300 required increase in Pastor's Pension & Insurance
- Approved \$1500 from available Small Gifts fund for new web page
- Approved a wedding for September 29, 2018
- Christine is seeking people interested in serving on Strategic Planning Team

**Meeting Highlights - March 2018**

**Christian Education**

- March Madness bracket competition as Youth fundraiser
- Discussion of Tween group for grades 3-5
- Planning Easter Egg Hunt

**Congregational Care**

- No meeting

**Congregational Life**

- Providing food for Maundy Thursday worship
- Coordinating Easter Breakfast with Men's Sunday School
- Confirmation class reception on May 20th

**Finance**

- \$1500 approved for new web page from available small gifts

**Mission**

- Next Pitino meal is April 29th
- One Great Hour of Sharing to be collected April 1st

**Personnel & Planning**

- No meeting

**Outreach & Evangelism**

- New Web Page design firm hired
- Visitors March: 11

**Property**

- Security cameras installed
- Members attended security lecture
- Security subcommittee continues to seek ways to keep church safe

**Worship & Music**

- Discussed plans for Holy Week services
- Attendance 4th-101, 11th-96, 18th-107, 25th-114

**Deacon's Report**

- Meet the first Wednesday of each month at 4:30
- Have begun visits and set home communion dates

**Pastor's Report**

- 18 pastoral care visits
- Led service for Martel Wightman
- Met w/ Mary Lou Taylor and Red Pixel Studios regarding web page
- Began work on Holy Week services

**Church Work Day**

Our next Church Work Day will be **Saturday April 17th** from **8:30 am to noon**. **Work will focus on the outside** during these early spring months. Please consider helping out. As always there will be food and beverages. If you have questions, contact Chris Gramelspacher: 270-316-8519.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 10:30 Palm Sunday	26	27	28	29 5:30 Maundy Thursday	30 6:00 Good Friday	31 6:00 Great Easter Vigil
EASTER 9:30 Breakfast 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt	2 12:00 Congregational Life Mtg 2:00 B90 Grp	3 10:30 Lydia Circle	4 10:00 Book Grp 4:00 Prayer Grp 4:30 Deacon's Mtg 7:00 Choir	5	6	7
8 5:00 Youth Group	9 Love Our Children Day 2:00 B90 Group 6:00 Session	10 6:00 SpiritLifters	11 10:00 Book Grp 3:00 Coffee Cup 4:00 Prayer Grp 7:00 Choir	12 Holocaust Remembrance Day	13	14 Dictionary Day
15	16 2:00 B90 Group	17 10:30 PrimeTimers	18 10:00 Book Grp 3:00 Coffee Cup 4:00 Prayer Grp 6:00 Healing & Wholeness 7:00 Choir	19 11:00 B90 Grp Bicycle Day	20	21 8:30 Church Work Day
22 11:30 Christian Ed Mtg 11:30 Mission Mtg 5:00 Confirmation & Youth group	23 2:00 B90 Group	24 10:00 Outreach & Evangelism Mtg 4:00 Property Mtg	25 10:00 Book Grp 3:00 Coffee Cup 4:00 Prayer Grp 7:00 Choir	26 10:00 Pastor's Book Study 4:00 Finance Mtg	27 Arbor Day	28
29 2:00 Pitino Shelter Meal	30 2:00 B90 Group	Every Week 9:00 Spanish Worship & Nursery Available 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 4:00 Spiritual Formation			Celebrate Diversity Month	

## Sunday School

**Children's Sunday School**  
(preschool - 5th grade class)  
Begins at 9:30 in the first floor Kindergarten Room.



**Youth Sunday School Class**  
Meets at 9:30 in the Youth Room to study *Echo the Story* curriculum.

**The Adult Sunday School Class**  
Meets at 9:30 in the Gardenside Parlor to look at various topics related to the church, Bible, current events and social topics.

**The Men's Bible Class**  
Meets at 9:30 downstairs and uses *The Present Word* literature.

**Spanish Language Worship Group**  
Meets at 9:00 in the Chapel. All are invited whether or not you speak/understand Spanish.

## Fellowship

### SpiritLifters

**Tuesday April 10th 6:00 pm**  
Restaurant: Miller House  
RSVP to Pat Hale 270-314-1881  
halres@bellsouth.net

### PrimeTimers

**Tuesday April 17th 10:30 am**  
Program: Citizen's Police Academy  
Lunch will follow (\$5.00)  
RSVP to Charlotte Puckett  
charlotte214050@yahoo.com  
270-926-2532

### Church Night Out

**Friday April TBD 6:00**  
Babysitting at church 5:45  
Restaurant: TBD  
RSVP to Christine Coy Fohr  
ccofohr@gmail.com



## Group Study

### Spiritual Formation

Meets on Sundays at 4:00 pm  
**Dates: April 8, 15, 22, 29**  
**Reading: TBD**—stay tuned!

### Lydia Circle

Meets First Tuesdays at 10:30, bring a lunch  
**Date: April 10 (second Tuesday this month only)**  
**Reading: *Cloud of Witnesses*, Lesson 7**

### PW Coordinating Team

Meets quarterly on the 3rd Thursday at 10:30  
**Date: May 15 10:00 am**  
Annual Gathering; Team meeting to follow

### Wednesday Book Group

Meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am  
**Dates: April 4, 11, 18, 25**  
**Reading: *Days of Awe and Wonder* by Marcus Borg**

### Coffee Cup Theology

Meets on Wednesday at 3:00 pm  
**April 11, 18, 25**  
**Discussion: Sunday Lectionary**

### Pastor's Study Group

Meets on the last Friday of the month at 10:00 am  
**Date: April 26**  
**Viewing: *Entertaining Angels: The Dorothy Day Story* starring Moira Kelly and Martin Sheen**



## Weekly Prayer Meeting



As a community of love and care, we want to know how we can be in prayer for one another. Because of this, we meet on **Wednesdays at 4:00** in the Gardenside Parlor. Just come if you would like to pray with us on:

**April 4, 11, 18, 25**

If you have a prayer request, email Christine and your person or request will be included.

## Healing & Wholeness



There will be a Service for Healing and Wholeness on **Wednesday, April 18th at 6:00** in the Chapel. Our services for healing and wholeness offer a space for members to bring their pain, worry and longing before God, knowing that God is present even amid our darkness.

## Holy Week @ FPC

**Maundy Thursday**  
**March 29 @ 5:30 pm**  
**Fellowship Hall**



On Maundy Thursday, we explore Christ's "mandate" (*maundatum*) during the last supper that we love one another. Beginning at 5:30 in the Fellowship Hall, a simple meal will be offered. Please RSVP the church office by March 27th.

**Great Easter Vigil**  
**March 31 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Sanctuary**

The Great Easter Vigil will be Saturday March 31st at 6:00. We will gather at the front steps next to a fire pit, and then enter the sanctuary for our service. Called "the brightest jewel in Christian liturgy", its roots go back to early Christian times.

It proclaims the universal significance of God's saving acts in history through four related services: the service of light, the service of readings, the service of Baptism and the service of the Eucharist. Through light and word, water and the table, the vigil celebrates what God has done, is doing and will do.

**Good Friday**  
**March 30 @ 6:00 pm**  
**Sanctuary**

Our Good Friday service will be held at 6:00pm on March 30th. It will be a Tenebrae service where—through reading and song - we will hear again the story of Christ's arrest, trial and crucifixion, accompanied by a gradual extinguishing of light in the sanctuary.

In addition, our choir will offer pieces of special music for this powerful service.

**Easter Sunday**  
**April 1 beginning @ 9:30 am**

**9:30** Easter Sunday begins with breakfast for all in Fellowship Hall coordinated by the Congregational Life Committee and the Men's Sunday School Class.

**10:00** Next, get ready for some fun as we head out to our playground for our annual Great Easter Egg Hunt with our children.

**10:30** Finally, we will gather in our Sanctuary for our traditional Easter Service complete with brass music and all our voices singing Alleluias! Music will begin at 10:15.

## Empty Bowls 2018



Tickets are on sale for the annual Empty Bowls of Owensboro fundraiser. This year the event will be Saints Joseph and Paul Catholic Church Parish Hall.

There are only 300 tickets and often the event sells out early—so if you plan to go, get your ticket early! Tickets are \$15 and available at these locations:

1. AllState Insurance - Dave Lidow 1210 Burlew Blvd. Suite A
2. Next Level Church 2613 Cravens Ave.
3. Saints Joseph & Paul Catholic Church 609 E. 4th St.
4. Chris Gramelspacher has 10 tickets.

## Circle These Dates!



As we complete Holy Week and spring arrives for good, there are lots of events coming up at FPC. Please circle these dates and watch your newsletter for more details as they draw closer.

- May 20** Confirmation Sunday & Reception
- June 3** Picnic Fundraiser for Weekday School @ The Kirtley Highland home
- June 10** Gifts of the Spirit Celebration
- June 24** Southern Gospel Sunday
- July 9-13** Vacation Bible School

## March Happenings

PrimeTimers



Youth Olympics



SpiritLifters



Church Work Day



Palm Sunday



B90 Challenge



March Madness Fundraiser



## Pastor's Book Group



This month our Pastor's Book Group will take a different format. Instead of a book, we will watch a movie together.

On Thursday, April 27th we will gather in the parlor at 10:00 am to watch *Entertaining Angels: the Dorothy Day Story*. Starring Moira Kelly and Martin Sheen, *Entertaining Angels* tells the story of Dorothy Day, the incredible woman who founded the Catholic Worker Movement, which has houses and shelters across the world.

As a young socialist radical, Day considered herself an atheist. But through interaction with the poor, she became a woman of deep faith and, in recent years, the church has begun the process of considering her sainthood.

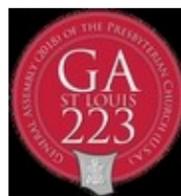
An interesting note: when Martin Sheen was a young, struggling actor in New York City, he would visit the Catholic Worker house for a warm meal. It was there that he met Dorothy Day, and his experience with her led both to his deep Christian faith and his interest in making this film.

Come for this inspiring movie about an incredible woman, and one of our pastor's heroes.

And, if you would like to learn more about her, you might consider reading some of her work. *The Long Loneliness* is her fascinating autobiography and *The Reckless Way of Love* is a newly comprised collection of her writings.



## General Assembly 2018



Did you know that the **223rd General Assembly** will be held this year in **St. Louis, Missouri** from **June 16th to the 23rd**? The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) meets biennially in even-numbered years. It consists of commissioners elected by each of its 173 presbyteries. Half of the commissioners are elders and half are ministers.

The General Assembly reviews the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

The GA acts on hundreds of items of business, which it receives through the reports and recommendations of various assembly entities and through overtures from synods and presbyteries.

Over the years, the church has done groundbreaking work at GA, such as voting to allow women to be ordained in 1955. In more recent years, the GA has continued to make decisions regarding ordination, while also considering overtures on such topics as marriage, church property, and involvement with for-profit prisons, to name a few.

At this year's GA, some key topics will include the structure of our denominational offices as well as an overture to divest church money from the fossil fuel industry. To learn more about this movement, read Christine's front article. Following GA, Christine and her husband, Rob, will share highlights and make sure you are "in the know" about all things PC (USA)!

## B90 Update



Our B90 challenge is well underway—the group is now reading Psalms which is just about the half-way mark! The two weekly B90 discussion groups are enjoying the brief videos designed to provide a perspective for the week's readings and help stimulate discussion.

People are saying they are gaining a new sense of biblical history. Some are surprised by some of the stories they did not know were there! Some couples are reading together out loud. Others are listening to audio versions of the Bible. Everyone struggles with keeping up at times, but all seem to be really enjoying this challenge. One thing is sure, when we complete this challenge, we won't ever have to say we wish we had read the entire Bible again! Great job everyone!

## Tween Time!

Coming soon to FPC - The Tween Group! Do you have children in the 3rd-5th grade? Are they interested in making and developing friendships with other kids in our church?

Please join us on April 22nd at 5:00 in Fellowship Hall for our first meeting. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Allison Bates, Debbie Hutchinson, or Stephanie Dube



## Children's Day Out



March was a busy time for CDO! St. Patrick's Day, Spring and Easter offered great opportunities for art, math and science for our little learners. They made rainbows, counted shamrocks and made Irish Potato Candy.



Upcoming Dates:  
Spring Break  
April 3-5

## Ray Kramer Recognized



Raymond (Ray) S. Kramer  
Decades of Service to the  
Men's Bible Class

Congratulations to Ray Kramer who was recently recognized for his many decades of service to the Men's Sunday School Class. This picture/plaque will grace their classroom wall. Stop by and see!

## Our Youth

The youth are ending the month of March learning about Holy Week and going through the Stations of the Cross.

They are also enjoying watching church members compete on their Final Four Brackets to raise money for their summer trips. They very much appreciate how their fundraising projects are so enthusiastically supported by the church. Over \$200 was raised.

In April our youth will honor Earth Day and will focus on conservation and preserving our plant.

### Upcoming Dates.

April 8 Youth Group  
April 22 Youth Group



## Worship & Wonder

In April the children will worship and wonder about:

April 1 Easter!  
April 8 The Road to Emmaus  
April 13 Good Shepherd and the Wolf  
April 22 Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper I  
April 29 Good Shepherd and the Lord's Supper II

