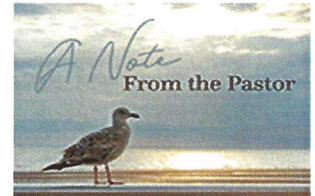




April 2024

This week I received a few thoughts to ponder from a friend. Actually, it was 26, but here is a sampling:



- ◆ Is it a good vacuum cleaner if it sucks?
- ◆ If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?
- ◆ Why do we say something is out of whack? What's whack?
- ◆ Why do "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?
- ◆ Why do "fat chance" and "slim down" mean the same thing?
- ◆ Why do "tugboats" push barges?
- ◆ Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?
- ◆ Why do we put suits in a garment bag and garments in a suitcase?

Years ago, a young man, about 6-years-old, came out of the sanctuary in the springtime and asked me, "Why is the day Jesus was executed called, 'Good Friday'?" It's certainly worth pondering, especially for a 6-year-old! The fact is, I know plenty of adults who have never asked that question or pondered it!

So, why is the day that Jesus was beaten, scorned, and savagely put to death in all His nakedness on a roughhewn cross called "good". The earliest known use of the term "Good Friday" was in a British dictionary published in 1290. They said the term derives from "God's Friday". It is the day in which mankind did its worst, yet God did His best.

New Testament Scholar, D.A. Carson, writes, "It was not nails that held Jesus to that wretched cross; it was His unqualified resolution, out of love for His Father, to do His Father's will, to demonstrate God's love for sinners like me." So, Good Friday is a great day, for on that day He traded places with us. He took all of the divine judgment of sin that each one of us deserved. On that day Jesus conquered sin and death so that we will never be separated from God on this side of heaven or the other.

If you had asked His friends, or His mother, on that day if it was a "good day", they would have unequivocally said, "Absolutely not!" But by Sunday evening, they would have changed their response dramatically.

While every one of those questions to ponder have a clear answer, but no answer is clearer and more consequential than the one that answers the question, "Is Good Friday really good?" Praise the Lord it is! The Best Day!



April's Cheapest lunch – April 7th

Make plans to be with us for the cheapest lunch on Sunday April 7th, after the 10:30 worship service. We are planning to unveil a unique opportunity to the entire Congregation during this lunch. It's an opportunity to extend the benefits of what the Lord has done among us throughout the years, and particularly over the past year or so. We look forward to having you with us!

MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, April 14th, immediately following the 10:30 worship service there will be an important meeting of the congregation to update everyone on the building project. At this meeting we will review all of the revenues and expenditures along with some additional tasks to be undertaken. As in the case of our presentation, at the commencement of this project, a question-and-answer period will follow our presentation.

You will be amazed at the divine provision for the entire effort. The quality of the workmanship is only equaled by the faithfulness and generosity of God's people. Make plans to be with us!

May 17th and 19th Grand Opening Celebration

Friday, May 17th and Sunday, May 19th promise to be historic days in the life of First Presby. This is the weekend that we will celebrate and dedicate the new building! On Friday night, from 5:00 to 8:30pm, we plan to host the congregation and the community to dinner, a commemorative program, tours of the new building, and music. Sunday, May 19th we will have one worship service at 10:00am in the sanctuary, followed by a brief dedication service in the new building, a buffet luncheon, tours, and games. We are looking to have nearly 1,000 people join us for all or part of this weekend. As a result, we will need scores of volunteers to make all of this possible. Please say, "Yes," when you are asked to join the ever-growing group of volunteers needed to make this all happen!

Report from the PNC

We are now at 80+ profiles received and 75 reviewed to date. We have begun Zoom interviews with a few candidates who we feel might be possibilities for us moving forward. A couple are self-referred and one accepted our invitation to apply. We are in the very early stages of getting to know these candidates. But after some careful research, we know what we are looking for.

From "Bible in One Year" 2023 by Nicky Gumbel:

"An online survey listed all the qualities that people expect from the 'perfect pastor': They preach for exactly 12 minutes. They are twenty-eight years of age, but have been preaching for thirty years. They work from 8 am until midnight every day, but are also the caretaker. They frequently condemn sin, but never upset anyone. They wear good clothes, buy good books, drive a good car, give generously to the poor and have a low salary. They make fifteen daily calls to parish families, visit the housebound and the hospitalized, spend all their time evangelizing the un-churched and are always in the office when they are needed. They are also very good looking!"

We're on this!!!! But it might take a while.....

Your PNC

Friday, April 12 at 6:30.

We will be showing "Antwone Fisher" The movie is inspired by the true life experiences of Antwone Fisher.

It tells of a troubled sailor who is ordered to see a naval psychiatrist about his volatile temper. Little does he know that his first step into the doctor's office will lead him on a remarkable emotional journey to confront his painful past and connect with the family he never knew.





LEGO Building Event

Registration Closes
Thursday 4/18/24 at 9:00pm



<https://tinyurl.com/mrxr98b8>



FREE Community Family Event

Saturday 4/20/24
Grades K-5: 1:00pm-2:00pm
Grades 6-12: 2:30pm-3:30pm

Theme: Ready, Set, LEGO!

Space is Limited
Max Capacity: 100 Per Session

We Provide the LEGO!

First Presby Irwin
Downstairs Social Room
617 Main Street
Irwin, PA 15642

Follow Us on Facebook: First Presby Irwin - Brick Squad



MARCH WRAP-UP:
OUT OF THIS WORLD!

March's theme, Cosmic Adventures, took builders on a once in a lifetime space expedition! The builders utilized their imagination to build space-themed creations, such as rocket ships, space stations, planets, etc. Once built, LEGO astronauts were strategically placed to bring the creations to life!

To supplement the space theme, builders were given the ability to experience a one of a kind cosmic encounter in the Glow Zone. Here, glow-in-the-dark LEGO bricks were used to construct creative designs that would radiate under blacklight. Sure enough, the Glow Zone transformed into a LEGO galaxy!

Buckle up and start your engines - we'll be racing to build with you again!

UPCOMING SCHEDULE

- 4/20/2024
Grades K-5: 1:00-2:00pm
Grades 6-12: 2:30-3:30pm

Theme: Ready, Set, LEGO!

- May 2024 - TBD
Grades K-5: TBD
Grades 6-12: TBD

All club events will be held in the Downstairs Social Room

Monthly Themes Subject to Change

www.facebook.com/groups/fpibricksquad



Come bowl with us!



K-5 Youth Club Outing

Wednesday, April 24th, 6-8pm
North Irwin Fire Hall

\$7 per child -
bringing a friend!

bowling, pizza,
ice cream & soda
bowling balls & shoes



*A fun evening out
with your peers!*

RSVP: by April 22nd to
heather@firstpresbyirwin.org
OR 404-414-6794

LET'S GO HIKING! @ Ohiopyle



Come join us for a
Spring Youth Fellowship Hike!

We will meet at the church
and ride together.

Bring a water bottle!

Sunday
April 28
1 - 5pm

RSVP to Lauren: 412-582-9306 or
Heather: 404-414-6794



Senior Citizens Dinner 2024

Presented by the Norwin High School Student Council



This event is free to Norwin residents aged 55 and older. There is a maximum of 500 tickets being offered, so RSVP soon!

- The event will take place on **Sunday, April 21st**
- The event will be held at **Norwin High School**
- Enter through **Door 6**
- Doors will open at **12:45**
- Seating will begin at **1:00**

How to RSVP:

Residents who are 55 and older can order tickets by sending a self addressed and stamped envelope to the High School. Please specify if you need one or two tickets. We will receive your envelope and mail it back to you with your ticket(s) inside. (Tickets are first come, first serve!)

Envelopes can be addressed to:

Norwin High School Student Council
251 McMahon Drive
North Huntingdon, PA 15642
ATTN: Mrs. Hufnagel Sr. Citizen's Dinner

The Event:

Doors will open at 12:45. As you enter Door 6, you will be greeted by a member of the Student Council. Please have your name and phone number written on the back of your ticket(s) before you arrive. After you are checked in, please take a moment to look at the raffle baskets available to you. Place your ticket(s) in the container for the raffle basket of your choice before you get seated in the auditorium.

At 1:00 pm, we will offer the blessing and then guests will be seated. Dinner will be served at approximately 1:15 pm. The menu consists of roast turkey with stuffing, mashed potatoes, golden corn, salad, and cobbler with ice cream. We are sorry, but no meals or unfinished meals may be packaged for any reason. We expect dinner to end at 2:15, at which time you will return to the auditorium.

Entertainment will begin at approximately 2:30 PM. The Norwin Show Choir and Select Orchestra will provide your entertainment. Raffle basket winners will be announced following these performances.

Parking is available in the main lot between the High School and the Administration building. Enter through the auditorium entrance of the cafeteria. Handicapped parking for those with valid handicapped passes will be permitted in the reserved handicapped parking areas on the Rt. 30 side of the High School. Volunteers will be in the parking lot to assist. We look forward to having you as our guests! You may email Mrs. Hufnagel at hufnagel.angela@norwinsd.org with questions.

We hope to see you there!



To Carol Armstrong, Janet Bentz, Linda Bugajski, Ella Filson, Kathy Floyd, Betty Harvey, Diane Johnston, Sandy Kutz, Paula McFarlane, Peggie O'Neal, and Kathy Sullenberger, for their help putting the March newsletter together.

To Glen & Susan Harmon, Linda and Fred Johnson, Jerry Buzzard for stepping in to help clean the church when our custodian resigned.

To Linda Bugajski, Linda & Fred Johnson, Maxine Lenhart and Melinda Copeland for volunteering to open the food pantry Fridays. Opening an extra day during the week will benefit those in need.

To members of Carpenter's Apprentice, Rick Burdelski, Glen Harmon, Sam Hensel, Fred Johnson, Keith Johnston, Earl Kiser, Joe Smola for work they did in the walkway project between the new addition and the social room.

To Diane & Keith Johnston, Bill & Maureen Presseau, Don Jackel, Lori Bertani, Anna Marie Woodle, Kathy Paskas, Brenda Daniels and Robin Toops for volunteering at the Blessing Board in Shaler. It was a very busy and rewarding Day of Blessing.

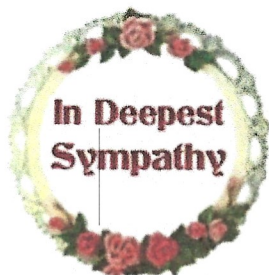
To the "M" Team for putting together the Easter bags for our homebound members and for the area nursing homes.



My heartfelt thanks to my amazing church family for the cards, calls, texts, hugs and prayers during Bob's long illness and passing. You're all a blessing. Diane Waddell



Congratulations to Steven & Sydney George on the arrival of their baby boy, Alexander David George on March 6, 2024. He weighed 7 lbs. 5 oz. and was 20 3/4 inches long.



Love and sympathy to Grady, Jamie and Owen Hoffman on the death of Grady's father, Ralph Hoffman, March 5, 2024.

Love and sympathy to George Altman and family on the death of his wife, Gail March 18, 2024

Prayer Requests:

Fred Aggers, Joe Avolio, Jan and Russ Batchelor, Christian Mark Bell, LTC Nicholas Bell, John and Joy Benedek, Bernie Bercklin, Nancy Bostian, Brian, Charlene, Diane Brosnahan, Bryce (8 yrs, old) Phil Chute, Kathy Cocaine, Laurel Columbus, Mike Cullen, Holly Culley, Lillian Cummings, Jamie Doran, Ken Dzialowski, Cheryl Dufford, John Duncan, Mary Lou Eisaman, Eli & Ezra*, Wilbur Frye, Gerry, Claire Halucka, Megen Harmon, Sue & Glenn Harmon, Grady, Jamie & Owen Hoffman, Gina Ilich, Emma Illar, Inna & family, Vivian J., Jacob, Becky Jadlocki, Jeff, John/Barb, Julie Klembara, Larry Kramer, Sharon Kramer, Ethel Logan, Pete Legerski, Jerry Lomicka, Bill and Carol Lomicka, Lori, Baby McKenna, Bob Magill, JoAnn Martz, Mary, Mason, Becky Martello, Mike, Vivian Miller, J. Alan Minter, Shirley Minter, Don McCann, Craig McDowell, JoAnn McKnight, Jennifer Nagoda, Howard O’Neal, Grace P., Bryce Matthew Patrick, Jim Peters, Theda Porterfield, Rick, Karen Rose, Jason S., Shirley Schmidtke, Dana & Rico Seeno, Shelby Sisco, Amber Stanko, Diane Waddell, Stella Waltmire, Will, Janet Wise, and Jeff Youell

Our Service Personnel: Staff Sgt. Zachary Coleman, SFC James Davis, Vaughn Estep, Sgt. Luke Frye, Sgt. GY Sgt. Chris Keba, 2nd LT Andy Marlin, CDR Timothy Minor, Spc. Noah Rady, Dominic Duke, Jeff Cmar and Connor Ramage

Praise and Thank You: All construction workers, staff, and volunteer workers on the church addition. Eli and Ezra* Eli has reached the required weight to come home from the hospital – thank you Lord. Ezra has underlining health conditions and will remain hospitalized at this time –continue to be with him, Lord.

If the person you placed on the prayer list has been moved to Praise and Thank You or removed from the prayer list in error, please contact either Taska Smola at tsmola@verizon.net or Ginny Pellis at gabby@firstpresbyirwin.org with updated information. Thank you.



****Special Note:** Prayers for the surviving family members of the Miranda John Family and the extended family of Tyler King. We also pray for our church members, David, and Lauren Diffenderfer along with their infant son, John. The Diffenderfer family resided next to the John/King residence. The fire spread to their house, and it was destroyed. They and their animals escaped and are being housed in a nearby hotel.

- ◆ Contributions can be made to the church office.

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
31 Easter Sunday 8:15am Worship Service 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care	1 6:30pm Evangelism 6:30pm GriefShare	2 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	3 5:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	4 9:30am Devotional meeting 7:00pm Bell Choir	5 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	6 8:30am Planning Meeting	7 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Parents' Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care 11:30am Cheapest Lunch	8 6:30pm GriefShare	9 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Fellowship	10 10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Youth Club 6:00pm Youth Fellowship 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Stewardship & Finance	11 6:30pm D TEAM Meeting 7:00pm Bell Choir	12 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord 6:30pm Movie Night	13
14 8:15am Worship Service, Bell Choir, Coffee Hour 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Parents' Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Bell Choir, Child Care, Coffee Hour 11:30am Meeting of the Congregation	15 6:30pm GriefShare	16 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Circle 1 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	17 10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	18 5:30pm Session	19 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	20 The Brick Squad - Lego Build	21 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Parents' Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Baptism, Child Care, Cookie Hour	22 6:30pm GriefShare	23 9:30am Circle 3 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	24 10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Youth Choir 6:00pm Youth Club Bowling & Pizza 6:00pm Youth Fellowship 7:00pm Chancel Choir	25	26 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	27
28 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Parents' Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care 11:30am Deacon meeting 12:00pm Youth Hike @ Ohionpyle	29 6:30pm GriefShare	30 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Youth Fellowship Mini Golf & Ice Cream Social 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	1 10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir	2 9:30am Devotional meeting	3 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	4							

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Parents' Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care 11:30am Deacon meeting 12:00pm Youth Hike @ Ohiopyle</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Youth Fellowship Mini Golf & Ice Cream Social 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:30am Devotional meeting</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service 9:00am Graduation Breakfast 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Parents' Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care 11:30am Cheapest Lunch 11:30am Confirmation Class Graduation Reception</p>	<p>6</p> <p>6:30pm Evangelism 6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Stewardship & Finance</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>11</p> <p>The Brick Squad - Lego Build</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Mothers Day 8:15am Worship Service Coffee Hour 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Parents' Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Bell Choir, Child Care, Coffee Hour</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>14</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Fellowship</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>5:30pm Session 7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord 5:00pm Grand Opening Celebration</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>9:15am Confirmation Class 10:00am Worship Service, Child Care 12:15pm Dedication of the New Building 12:30pm Buffet Luncheon, Tours, and Games</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Circle 1 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>22</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Parents' Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care 11:30am Deacon meeting</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30pm GriefShare</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Circle 3 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 5:30pm Youth Choir 7:00pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord</p>	<p>1</p>