



First Presby Press

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May 2024

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### Pentecost 2024



The man was from Atlanta. He was called the “Dean of Preachers”, for he taught preaching there for decades. As part of his summer ritual, he and his wife would travel out west for R&R and some occasional preaching engagements. One particular Sunday morning he was in Kingsman, Kansas to preach.

When he arrived, he discovered that he was listed in the bulletin as giving a children’s sermon. Now he hated children’s sermons because it is nearly impossible to communicate biblical truth by analogy or comparison. Nevertheless, he agreed to do it.

He called the children to the front of the sanctuary and took off his shoe. He asked, “Who can tell me what these little holes are called where we put the laces?” A little girl spoke up and said, “They’re called the holes where we put the laces.” And immediately he was reminded why he hated children’s sermons. He commended her for trying and then said, “They’re called eyes. And we all have them so that we can see the needs of others.”

Next, he pointed to the tongue and talked about the importance of being careful with what we say. Then finally, he pointed to the sole and asked, “Does anyone know what this third things is?” Instantly, a boy named Troy raised his hand and said, “Yes, I know what that’s called. It’s called a bottom and we all have one!” With that, all over the sanctuary, the adults broke into uproarious laughter. Finally, when it subsided, knowing that he’d never be in Kingsman again, he said, “Yes Troy, you’re right! We all have bottoms, and if all of us in the church would get off our bottoms, the church could really move forward.” That’s what happened on the first Pentecost after the Resurrection.

Now, there are many who say that Pentecost was the day the church was born, but that’s false. The day the church was born was actually the evening of the Resurrection when Jesus found His disciples cowering in fear behind locked doors. John tells us in Chapter 20 that Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” At that moment His disciples were born again. At that moment the church was born.

But Pentecost was seven weeks later. On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples, and more than 100 others, with His full power. And what followed was that the church got off its bottom. Supernatural tongues were spoken. The Word of God was proclaimed. And 3,000 souls were saved. And the balance of the Book of Acts is a testimony of Christians doing the work of ministry Jesus Christ had done, with the same results.

Someone has said, “For a nation of the size and austerity of ancient Israel, it’s surprising that they had so many parties.” It is surprising until you see that it’s God also sanctioned every one of them.

The first party of the year is Passover. It occurs at twilight on the 14th day of the first month of the lunar calendar, somewhere between our mid-March and mid-April period. It’s always easy to locate Passover on the calendar, because it always falls on the first full-moon of the Spring Equinox.

The second party is the week-long Feast of the Unleavened Bread. Though Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread are two separate feasts, they happen back-to-back over the first 8 days of Spring. It’s in the first day of Unleavened Bread, called the “Feast of First Fruits” Jesus breathes on His disciples. That day is called the “Feast of First Fruits.”

The third party is the Day of Pentecost. It occurs seven weeks after Passover in late May or early June. Pentecost is the celebration of the spring harvest. It’s 50 days after the celebration of the First Fruits. So, think of what the Bible is telling us. Jesus breathed on His disciples on the day called “First Fruits” and 50 days later He sends the Holy Spirit upon them and a full harvest is reaped.

What a perfect set up that is for Sunday May 19th, Pentecost 2024. As you know, this is the time we will gather to celebrate and dedicate the new building. First Fruits are passed. Jesus has saved our souls and blessed us in marvelous ways. May 19th, is when we will celebrate His outpouring of blessing with a new building and a church dedicated to His Glory, for the benefit of Irwin and beyond. Please enjoy reading about all the things we have planned to glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



## New Preaching Series

Beginning Sunday May 19th, we will not only celebrate and dedicate ourselves and the new building to His glory and the benefit of Irwin, we will begin an 8-week series on the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

Not long ago, woman at First Presby mentioned to several others that she would like to learn more about the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, that was only a day or two after this series was conceived. While some might say that it's a coincidence, when one consider the work of the Holy Spirit today, such a conclusion is fanciful.

The title of the first message is, "The Unknown God," and it is totally fitting to consider this Pentecost Sunday. On the day in which we celebrate all that the Lord has done in our midst over the past few years, how perfect it is to see and know the One behind it all.

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## Be On The Lookout!

On May 20, the day after the grand celebration and dedication, we will be sending each of you a letter that highlights the meeting of the congregation on Sunday, April 14th. At that meeting, we presented a full picture of the progress of construction and finances. Included in the presentation was a description of what we intend to do in reconstructing the new parking lot, reconfiguring the Pennsylvania Avenue parking lot, and reroofing all of the roof surfaces of the existing church buildings. (If you haven't seen the parking lot construction work by Adam Kerber and his men, it's a sight to behold. We fully expect the new parking lot to be maintenance free for years to come.)

The letter will recap the presentation and give us all an opportunity to respond. Be sure to look for it!

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## 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 volunteers needed to make this all happen! P.S. We have more than 75 people who have already signed up.

**\*Reservations are needed for the buffet luncheon on Sunday. Contact Ginny by phone or [ginny@firstpresbyirwin.org](mailto:ginny@firstpresbyirwin.org)**

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## Adult Spring Refresh Groups

Two new adult refresh groups began on Sunday, April 14. It's not too late to enroll! "From Dust to Glory" is a 50+ week exploration of the entire Bible. Utilizing the Ligonier Ministries video series of the same name, participants watch a 22-minute video with Dr. R.C. Sproul, followed by a discussion led by Bill Martin. Each participant receives a class notebook and weekly handouts that correspond to the lesson. If you have ever wondered how the Bible fits together, this class in the Library is for you!

The second class offer is "Examining Mark", the first gospel written. Led by Gary Filson, this verse-by-verse study seeks to plumb the depths of this 16-chapter account of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This class meets below the sanctuary in the room in which Dan and Doug had their temporary offices (the former Junior High Room).





# 1st Church Merch!



At the beginning of last month, we launched the new line of First Presby wearables. Our first order went in on April 24 and was over 100 pieces!! If you did not make the cut off, don't worry! We will be placing another order soon after the Grand Opening Celebration, so you won't miss out.

There are 8 different pieces to choose from: short sleeve polo, 1/4-zip long-sleeve sport-wick shirt, 1/4-zip fleece sweater, microfleece vest, soft shell vest, hoodie, full-zip hoodie, and an apron. Each one comes embroidered with the new First Presby Irwin logo shown above. Items are on display in the social hall or you can head over to our website and see!

To place an order, fill out the form below and drop it off with either Heather or Ginny along with your payment. You can also email your order form to [heather@firstpresbyirwin.org](mailto:heather@firstpresbyirwin.org)

Exciting things are happening here!

[www.firstpresbyirwin.com/1st-church-merch/](http://www.firstpresbyirwin.com/1st-church-merch/)

## First Church Merch – Order Form



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payment  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_  Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

M/W	Description	Size XS – 4XL	Color	Quantity	Unit Price	*Add'l \$ 2-4XL	Amount
M	Polo – Short Sleeve		Navy / Dk. Grey		\$45	\$	\$
M	¼ Zip Sport-Wick Long Sleeve Shirt		Navy / Lt. Grey		\$47	\$	\$
M	Microfleece Vest		Navy / Dk. Grey		\$45	\$	\$
M	Soft Shell Vest		Navy		\$72	\$	\$
W	Polo – Short Sleeve		Navy / Dk. Grey		\$45	\$	\$
W	¼ Zip Sport-Wick Long Sleeve Shirt		Navy / Lt. Grey		\$47	\$	\$
W	Microfleece Vest (to 3XL)		Navy / Cream		\$45	\$	\$
W	Soft Shell Vest (to 3XL)		Navy		\$67	\$	\$
U	Hoodie		Navy / Lt. Grey		\$38	\$	\$
U	Full-Zip Hoodie**		Navy / Lt. Grey		\$42	\$	\$
U	¼ Zip Fleece/Sweater		Blue / Lt. Grey		\$67	\$	\$
U	Apron		Navy		\$22	\$	\$

\*ADD \$2-2XL; \$6-3XL; \$8-4XL

\*\*FULL-ZIP HOODIE: + \$5 FOR 3XL-4XL

**Total** \_\_\_\_\_





**APRIL WRAP-UP:  
ZOOMIN' ALONG!**

"Ready, Set, LEGO!" was the theme for April's event, and each builder was challenged to create a race car that would be utilized for a derby track racing competition.

To begin construction of the race car, builders were given an axle assembly with four wheels. From there, builders used their creativity and imagination to engineer all vehicle components. Prior to competition, builders had an opportunity to evaluate their cars' performance on a test run, and if necessary, modifications were made.

When the racing competitions were finished, the first place winner received a LEGO trophy! However, as a reward for good sportsmanship, all builders received a sweet LEGO-shaped cookie!

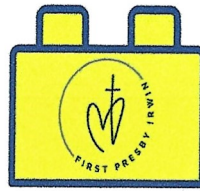
Come One, Come All as we make our way to the LEGO Carnival!

**UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

- 5/11/2024  
Grades K-12: 2:30-4:00pm

All club events will be held in the Downstairs Social Room  
\*Monthly Themes Subject to Change\*

[www.facebook.com/groups/fpibricksquad](http://www.facebook.com/groups/fpibricksquad)



# LEGO Building Event

Registration Closes  
Thursday 5/9/24 at 9:00pm



**FREE Community Family Event**

Saturday 5/11/24  
Grades K-12: 2:30pm-4:00pm



Space is Limited  
Max Capacity: 100

**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

## The Blessing Board Collection

On Saturdays, May 4 and May 11 we will be picking up and accepting donations of furniture and household items for our Blessing Board collection space. If you need items to be picked up, please call the church office and leave you name, phone number, and best time to call and we will call to arrange a pick up. If you can bring your items to the church, there will be someone here to accept them only between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm on both Saturdays. Come to the double red doors on Main Street in the new building. Thank you for being a part of this great ministry outreach.

### Prayer Requests:

Fred Aggers, Marge Anke, Joe Avolio, Jan and Russ Batchelor, Christian Mark Bell, LTC Nicholas Bell, John and Joy Benedek, Bernie Bercklin, Nancy Bostian, Rich Bowen, Brian, Charlene, Diane Brosnahan, Bryce (8 yrs, old) Phil Chute, Laurel Columbus, Lee Critchlow, Mike Cullen, Holly Culley, Lillian Cummings, Jamie Doran, Ken Dzialowski, Cheryl Dufford, John Duncan, Mary Lou Eisaman, Wilbur Frye, Gerry, Megen Harmon, Grady, Jamie & Owen Hoffman, Gina Ilich, Emma Illar, Inna & family, Vivian J., Jacob, Becky Jadlocki, John/Barb, Julie Klembara, Larry Kramer, Sharon Kramer, Ethel Logan, Pete Legerski, Lori, Baby McKenna, Bob Magill, JoAnn Martz, Mary, Mason, Becky Martello, Margot Minor, J. Alan Minter, Shirley Minter, Don McCann, JoAnn McKnight, Jennifer Nagoda, Howard O'Neal, Grace/Ted P., Bryce Matthew Patrick, Theda Porterfield, Rick, Karen Rose, Jason S., Shirley Schmidtke, Dana & Rico Seeno, Shelby Sisco, Amber Stanko, Diane Waddell, Nancy Wahl, Stella Waltemire, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> LT Andy Marlin, CDR Timothy Minor, Spc. Noah Rady, Dominic Duke, Jeff Cmar and Connor Ramage

**Praise and Thank You:** For God's love for each of us, For the care given by family and friends to all listed and not listed, For our praises to God thanking Him for his actions in all of our lives, For the continued work on the addition and our old building too, For all the workers both professional and those volunteering, For their safety and health. We praise and thank you, 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 [tasmola@verizon.net](mailto:tasmola@verizon.net) or Ginny Pellis at [Ginny@firstpresbyirwin.org](mailto:Ginny@firstpresbyirwin.org) with updated information. Thank you.





To: Carol Armstrong, Linda Bugajski, Ella Filson, Susan Harmon, Diane Johnston, Sharon Lunn, Sandy Kutz, Charlene Lauderbaugh, Maxine Lenhart, Paula McFarlane, Peggie O'Neal, and Kathy Sullenberger, for helping with the April Newsletter.

To: the following people that helped make our move to our new addition so much easier. Carol Agosti, Don & Judy Baker, Phyllis Bornak, Rick Burdelski, Declan & Wyatt Duckett, Glen & Susan Harmon, Bettie & Paul Harvey, Linda & Fred Johnson, Diane &

Keith Johnston, Adam Kerber, Sandy Kutz, Dilly & Don Miller, Bob Morgan, Martha Pattullo, Bob & JoAnn Popovich, Missy Smith, Joe Smola, Taska Smola, Sam Strohm, Marc Wakeman, Anna Marie & Boyd Woodle, You are all appreciated!!!!

To Diane and Keith Johnston for installing cabinets in our new meeting room on the first floor.

To Linda and Fred Johnson for constructing the shelves for the food pantry.

The Blessing Board would like to thank everyone for help with the furniture assembly project. They are pleased and very appreciative with all that's been accomplished and at this time we can take a break from this project. The Blessing Board does expect to be getting more boxes of furniture donations in over time. When they get a good supply, they will be in contact with us again to help with another furniture build project.

To all our friends at the First Presbyterian Church of Irwin, Thank you so much for the Easter baskets full of goodies for our residents. They were truly appreciated.  
Thank you, Lisa and Sherri

On behalf of all the residents I would like to thank the members of the church for giving us the Easter basket of wonderful goodies. The Redstone Easter Bunny delivered them to us and they surely brought a big smile to my face. I enjoyed all of the goodies in the basket. We appreciate you thinking of us.  
Sincerely, Nancy Wahl

Friends, Thank you so much for the Easter bag you left at my door. You are such a thoughtful church. I enjoyed all my little gifts even my cat played with the candy filled egg. Thanks, Sheila Gilpatrick

The Fellowship Committee would like to express THANKS to the following folks:

To Cheryl Jeffcoat for the fine job of monitoring the Movie Night. The evening of snacks, fellowship and an excellent movie, "Antwone Fisher" were enjoyed by all who attended.

Thanks to the following fine people for stepping up to lead their groups for upcoming Cheapest Lunch Sundays:

Heather Duckett-Christian Ed.

Sandy Kutz-Evangelism

Lori Bertani-Mission

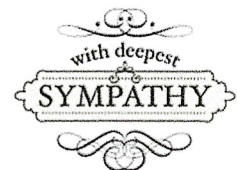
\*\* A special THANKS goes out to the Knitwitnesses who had a very successful April Cheapest Lunch – with a record-breaking attendance of 115 folks served – thanks and keep up the great work, "knitting ladies"!

Luca John Regola, son of John and Lauren Regola was baptized Sunday, April 21, 2024



We would like to welcome new members: Amanda Frye, Susan Myers, Katlyn Watkins-Pressseau, Susan Riazzi and Diana Shearer.

Love and sympathy to Christine Minnich and family on the death of her husband, Ronald Minnich, April 9, 2024.





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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care 11:30am Deacon meeting	27 6:30pm GriefShare	28 9:30am Circle 3 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	29 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Chancel Choir	30 7:00pm Bell Choir	31 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	1 1
2 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Confirmation Class 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care 11:30am Cheapest Lunch hosted by the Christian Education Committee	3 6:00am Evangelism 6:30pm Evangelism 6:30pm GriefShare	4 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	5 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Chancel Choir	6 9:30am Devotional meeting	7 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	8 8
9 8:15am Worship Service 8:15am Worship Service Coffee Hour 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Communion, Childcare, Coffee Hour	10 6:30pm GriefShare	11 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts 6:30pm Fellowship	12 10:00am Food Pantry 7:00pm Chancel Choir 7:00pm Stewardship & Finance	13 13	14 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	15 The Brick Squad - Lego Build
16 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care, Cookie Hour	17 9:00am PSC Day Camp Norwin	18 9:00am PSC Day Camp Norwin 11:00am Staff Meeting 1:00pm Circle 1 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	19 9:00am PSC Day Camp Norwin 10:00am Food Pantry 4:00pm Johnston House	20 9:00am PSC Day Camp Norwin 5:30pm Session	21 9:00am PSC Day Camp Norwin 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	22 22
23 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care 11:30am Deacon meeting	24 24	25 9:30am Circle 3 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	26 10:00am Food Pantry	27 27	28 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	29 29
30 8:15am Worship Service 9:15am Jumpstart & Refresh 10:30am Worship Service, Child Care	1 1	2 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Boy Scouts 6:30pm Cub Scouts	3 10:00am Food Pantry	4 9:30am Devotional meeting	5 10:00am Food Pantry 1:00pm Knit-Wit(nesses) for the Lord	6 6