



FROM THE
PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Dr. Doug Rehberg



A Matter of Gratitude

The old man on the pier couldn't go a week without saying, "Thank you!"

His name was Eddie Rickenbacker. For years I would drive across the Rickenbacker Causeway connecting Miami to Key Biscayne without noticing the pier alongside the highway and without knowing the story of its namesake.

He was born to Swiss immigrants in Columbus, Ohio, in 1890. He was the third oldest of seven children, all living in poverty. When Eddie's dad died in a construction accident in 1904, Eddie had to drop out of school to become the principal family breadwinner.

Eddie was fascinated by automobiles, so he started out as a mechanic and then a car salesman. By age 21 he was driving race cars. He placed thirteenth in the first Indianapolis 500. Three years later, he set a world speed record of 136 miles an hour at Daytona. By the time World War I broke out, Eddie was one of America's top race car drivers.

Hearing the war news, Eddie decided to leave his civilian life and join the Army Air Service. Despite his lack of education, Rickenbacker finished flight school in 17 days and went on to fly 134 combat missions, with 26 kills over Europe. Retiring as a major, Eddie kept the title, "Captain Rickenbacker," feeling that it was a rank he earned and deserved.

But Eddie wasn't finished with his positions of notoriety. Soon he became the first president of Eastern Airlines and quickly grew it into the biggest and most profitable airline in the world. While shaping Eastern's future, Rickenbacker was on a flight that crashed, killing 11 and injuring many others, including Eddie. He suffered several broken bones and required months of rehabilitation. But a year later, he was on his way to New Guinea to inspect American troops and deliver a message to General Douglas MacArthur when his B-17 went down in the South Pacific. All 8 men aboard the plane survived, but they were left stranded in rubber rafts hundreds of miles from any land mass. For three weeks they battled the weather, the water, the sharks, and the sun. But most of all, they battled hunger. After 8 days their rations were gone. It would take a miracle for them to survive. And a miracle happened.

After an afternoon devotional service, the men said a prayer and tried to rest. As Rickenbacker was dozing with his hat over his eyes, something landed on his head. He would later say that he knew it was a sea gull. He didn't know how he knew... he just knew. That gull meant food... if he could catch it. And he did. The flesh was eaten. The intestines were used for bait. And the crew survived two more weeks at sea before being rescued.

Continued on the next page...

The January Thaw (March Edition) Fundraiser Benefitting The Carpenter's Apprentice

Was a huge success!



Last year when The Carpenter's Apprentice began planning the first January Thaw event, we were expecting to raise maybe two or three thousand dollars. That's if we had enough help and if everything went well. It was a huge success and we raised \$7,400.00. That was more than we ever thought possible. This year when it was suggested that the goal would be \$10,000.00, many people had doubts that would happen. When the snow came in January, we began to think, the doubters might be right. Now the belief is that it only helped to make the January Thaw, March edition, even better. We want to give a big thank you to Heather Duckett, Karen Crissman, Rev. Rehberg, Dan Miller and Ginny Pellis. They did a tremendous amount of work in organizing, planning and promoting the event. Thank you to the great work of John Brosnahan and his team for preparing the dinner. According to the information we have, there are many people, in addition to the various Church Committees, Teams, and the other participating Churches that helped. The volunteer list we have has over 75 names that helped in one or more ways. This includes everything from donating cupcakes, fantastic baskets, gift packages and other items, to planning, organizing and setting up for the event. We also had a very large number of helpers working at the various areas the day of the event, from preparing and serving the dinner, manning all the stations and activities, and cleaning up afterwards. We also want to especially thank all the people who attended the dinner and participated in the all the activities. With everyone's help and participation we were able to raise over \$12,000.00* to support the operation of The Carpenter's Apprentice. Thanks to your participation we will be able serve many people in need of help in the Irwin community.

***With additional donations coming in after our event the total monies raised comes to \$17,000.00**

The Carpenter's Apprentice Spring Fix-It Weekend May 15-17, 2026

*Mark
YOUR
Calendar*

Join The Carpenter's Apprentice (TCA) for our annual Spring Fix-It Weekend on May 15-17, 2026! This community outreach event brings volunteers together to help neighbors in need with essential home repairs and improvement projects.

Volunteers of all skill levels are welcome — whether you're a seasoned contractor or simply willing to lend a helping hand. There's a place for everyone to serve and make a difference.

TCA is also currently seeking nominees — homeowners who need assistance with repairs or accessibility improvements. If you or someone you know could benefit from this ministry, we encourage you to submit a nomination.

Visit www.thecarpentersapprentice.org for more information on how to volunteer or nominate yourself or someone else.

Come build hope and strengthen our community — one home at a time!

A Matter of Gratitude

Continued from page 1

What was a sea gull doing hundreds of miles from land? Only God knows. Someone has said, "Coincidence is a word used by God when he chooses not to sign His name." But this gull had His signature all over it, and Captain Rickenbacker knew it. That's why, later in life, just a few years before I arrived in Miami, every Friday evening just before sunset, Edward Vernon Rickenbacker would walk over to the pier with a bucket of shrimp with a heart full of thanks. And we would be wise to do the same.

Though most of us have not survived early childhood poverty, or a two separate plane crashes, we have much in common with Captain Rickenbacker. We, too, have been saved by a Sacrificial Visitor. We, too, have been rescued by One who journeyed far from only God knows where. And, like Eddie, we have every reason to look into the sky and worship the God of the Cross and the Empty Tomb. Unlike a gull at sea, our Sacrificial Visitor took the time to sign His Name... in His own flesh and blood. May our hearts open with an extra measure of gratitude this April and beyond! May our hearts not go a day without saying, "Thank You!"

THE LAST WEEK OF OUR SAVIOR'S LIFE

**Palm
Sunday**



Jesus makes His triumphal entry into Jerusalem
Matthew 21: 1-11
Mark 11: 1-11
Luke 19: 28-38
John 12: 12-15



Jesus cleanses the temple
Matthew 21: 12-14
Mark 11: 15-17
Luke 19: 45-46



Jesus teaches in the temple
Matthew 21: 23-46; 22; 23
Mark 11: 27-33; 12
Luke 20; 21: 1-4



Jesus foretells signs of His Second Coming and teaches related parables
Matthew 24-25
Mark 13
Luke 21: 5-36

Jesus is betrayed, arrested, tried before the Jews and Pilate, and scourged
Matthew 26: 47 - 27: 31
Mark 14: 43 - 15: 20
Luke 22: 47 - 23: 25
John 18: 1 - 19: 15



Jesus suffers in Gethsemane
Matthew 26: 36-46
Mark 14: 32-42
Luke 22: 19-46



Jesus teaches His Apostles and offers the intercessory Prayer
John 13-17



Jesus has the Last Supper with His Apostles and administers the sacrament
Matthew 26: 17-30
Mark 14: 12-25
Luke 22: 7-20



Jesus is crucified
Matthew 27: 31-56
Mark 15: 21-41
Luke 23: 26-49
John 19: 16-37



Jesus ministers in the spirit world
1 Peter 3: 18-20

**Easter
Sunday**



Jesus is resurrected and appears to Mary Magdalene
Mark 16: 1-11
John 20: 1-18



The resurrected Savior appears to the Apostles and other disciples
Matthew 28: 16-20
Mark 16: 12-20
Luke 24: 13-43
John 20: 19-29

April is National Volunteer Month

“Why Be a Volunteer?”

*It's not for money, it's not for fame
and it's not for any personal gain.*

*It's just for love of fellow man,
It's just to lend a helping hand.*

It's just to give a tithe of self.

*That's something you can't
buy with wealth*

*It's not the medals worn with pride,
It's just for that feeling deep inside.*

It's that reward down in your heart.

*It's feeling that you've been a part
of helping others far and near.*

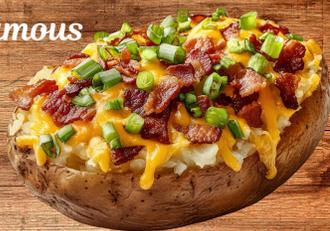
That's what makes you a VOLUNTEER.

We ♥ our Volunteers

Join us for “The Cheapest Lunch in Town”
on the 2nd Sunday in April

for the Knitwitnesses infamous
“Baked Potato Bar”
after 10:30 service

Sunday, April 12th



DID YOU KNOW?

Located in the vestibule by the entrance to the Sanctuary is our First Aid Station. In the desktop there are first aid supplies, a blood pressure cuff, an AED station (defibrillator) mounted on the wall, a wheelchair and a walker.

Youth Fellowship Bowling Outing



Fun was had by all on Sunday, March 15th when youth fellowship headed to Lokay Lanes Bowling Alley for a great afternoon of bowling, pizza and comradery.



ATTENTION ELDERS!

The Worship Committee is looking for elders, whether currently a member or not of our church. If you have been ordained in another Presbyterian Church and would be interested in serving communion we want to add you to our current list of elders.

Please contact Ginny in the church office with your name to be added to the list of inactive elders. You can call 724-863-5910 x113 or email: ginny@firstpresbyirwin.org



If you are grieving the loss of a spouse, child, family member, or friend, it may be hard for you to feel optimistic about the future right now. You have probably found there are not many people who understand the deep hurt you feel. This can be a confusing time when you feel isolated and have many questions about things you've never faced before.

A former GriefShare member says:

"I've learned that I'm not alone in my grief. Tears are ok and they cleanse the soul. That there is no one way to grieve. Everyone's Grief Journey is different and all journeys are valid. Even though I still miss my loved one, I am able to move forward. I'm able to laugh, love and enjoy life. That doesn't mean I don't have bad days. I still do!! But I have the tools to move on. Reading Bible scriptures is one way. Getting more involved in church life is another and most of all acknowledging my grief and not trying to hide it. Without GriefShare I'm sure my anger and hurt would be overwhelming and I would still be pushing people away. These past 13 weeks have made a world of difference by teaching me to move from mourning to joy. I still have work to do but, now I have the resources to move forward to joy."

GriefShare meets Mondays, through June 8 at 6:30 PM to help you face these challenges and move toward rebuilding your life. Call the church office at 724-863-5910 x113 if you have any questions or would like to register. Each GriefShare session stands on its own, so you don't have to attend previous meetings in order to feel comfortable joining us at anytime.

SPRING CLEANING

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH
8AM - 12PM



Listed are some of the items that need tackled after a busy year with lots of use.

- Walls in the new kitchen
- Clean ovens in both kitchens
- Clean convection oven doors
- Clean condensers on fridge and freezers in both kitchens
- Paint around glass block windows in social hall
- Paint transition room from social hall into new building
- Strip and Wax social hall floor
- Clean up flower beds outside
- Clean front porch area of the new building

If you are able to lend a hand please let Dan know by phone or email (724-863-5910x114 or dan@firstpresbyirwin.org).



MAUNDY
Thursday
APRIL 2nd
Service 7pm
Communion

Have the same mindset as
Christ Jesus,
who... made himself
nothing by taking the
very nature of a servant.
Philippians 2:5-7, NIV

The Walk of the Cross
Friday, April 3rd
Starting at First Presbyterian of Irwin,
proceeding to Holy Trinity Lutheran, Irwin First Assembly,
then finish at Irwin First United Methodist.

This solemn walk will include scripture readings, prayers, singing and moments of reflection at various stops. Let us remember the path Jesus walked to Calvary.

"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."
-Mark 8:34

EASTER
Sunday

"Don't be alarmed," he said.
"You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. *He has risen!*
He is not here. See the place where they laid him."
Mark 16:6, NIV

APRIL 5TH
8:15 & 10:30
SERVICES

1000 Bible Questions in Rhymes, Puzzles, Quizzes & Games

by Mildred Olive Honors

TRUE OR FALSE



- T/F 1. A church in Philadelphia is mentioned in the Bible.
- T/F 2. Revelation is called the Apocrypha.
- T/F 3. The smallest book in the Old Testament is Obadiah.
- T/F 4. Nimrod was a "mighty hunter before the Lord."
- T/F 5. The Jewish feast of Pentecost celebrated the deliverance of the Jew in the days of Esther.
- T/F 6. Daniel was one of the three men in the fiery furnace.
- T/F 7. There is a story in Genesis about a man who never died.
- T/F 8. King David had only one wife.
- T/F 9. Philip, the disciple, doubted that Jesus had risen until he saw the nail prints in His hands.
- T/F 10. Samson pulled down the walls of Jericho.
- T/F 11. Absalom led a rebellion against his father, King David.
- T/F 12. The Bible says that money is the root of all evil.
- T/F 13. David wrote all the Psalms.
- T/F 14. Josiah was eight years old when he became king.
- T/F 15. A lucky person is called a "Jonah."
- T/F 16. Solomon's temple was built without noise.
- T/F 17. St. Paul made tents for his living.
- T/F 18. "Jots and nettles" means very small things.
- T/F 19. The "unleavened bread" of the exodus was made without yeast.
- T/F 20. "Thou shalt not lie" is one of the Commandments.
- T/F 21. In Bible days leprosy was an incurable disease.
- T/F 22. The Jewish Year of Jubilee came once in fifty years.
- T/F 23. "Sackcloth and ashes" is a Biblical term for repentance.
- T/F 24. Jezebel was a Phoenician princess.
- T/F 25. Deborah cut off Samson's hair.



Answer Key: 1. True. Rev. 1:11. 2. False. Apocalypse 3. True 4. True 5. False. Purim 6. False 7. True. The man was Enoch and God took him out of the world by "translation" * instead of death. See Hebrews 11:5. 8. False. He had about eight. 9. False. Thomas 10. False. Temple of Gaza 11. True. 12. False. "The LOVE of money;" (1 Tim. 6:10) 13. False. He wrote many of them. 14. True. Second Kings 22:1. 15. False. An unlucky person. 16. True. First Kings 6:7. 17. True. 18. False. The expression is "jots and tittles." Nettles are thorny weeds. 19. True. 20. False. There is no specific commandment against lying. Exodus 20:16 forbids bearing false witness against one's neighbor. 21. False. Lev. 14 proves that leprosy was frequently healed although it was contagious. 22. True. Lev. 25:8-16. 23. True. 24. True. 25. False. Delilah was the lady involved. *Translation: to convey or remove to heaven without death (8th definition in The American College Dictionary)



The Blessing Board is asking for volunteers to help at **Day of Blessing** in West Mifflin on Tuesday, May 12th. We will be there from approximately 8:00am to 1:00pm. If interested in going, please call Brenda Daniels at 724-515-2047.

The Blessing Board is in need of *Queen Sheet Sets, Pots & Pans and Dish Cloths*, these can be dropped off at the church at any time.



An Evening of Fellowship at Redstone

On February 24th, the Evangelism Committee welcomed The First Presby Redstone residents, their family and friends for the sixth time to an evening of fellowship and communion in the chapel of the main Redstone building. Twenty-four guests were served communion after a Bible reading and an inspirational Lenten message given by Sam Strohm. Marge Anke led in singing two hymns accompanied by Andy McFarlane. Several members



brought friends of different denominations who were so moved by the event, they can't wait to come back to the next one on June 16th! Redstone members and guests were given a Lenten/Easter tote bag packed with special themed items and treats. Special thanks to Phyllis Bornak, Bettie Harvey, Don Jackel, Fred Johson, Andy McFarlane and Sam Strohm for so graciously giving of their time and assistance to help make this a special evening for everyone.



Next Evangelism meeting is Monday, May 4th at 6:30. (No April mtg.)

April Events

- 4/2 Maundy Thursday Service**
- 4/3 Walk of the Cross
- 4/5 Easter Sunday Services**
8:15am & 10:30am - No Jumpstart
- 4/6 Worship Committee Meeting
- 4/7 M-Team Meeting
- 4/9 D-Team Meeting
- 4/13 Christian Education Meeting
- 4/14 Fellowship Meeting
Stewardship & Finance Meeting
- 4/16 Session Meeting
- 4/17 Movie Night "Sully"
- 4/18 Spring Clean Up
- 4/21 Circle 1 Meeting
- 4/25 Confirmation Retreat
Brick Squad - Lego Build
- 4/26 Deacons Meeting
- 4/28 Circle 3 Meeting

April Event Highlights

Movie Night

Friday, April 17th
6:30 PM



Stars: Tom Hanks, Aaron Eckhart, Laura Linney

A 2016 American biographical drama film directed by Clint Eastwood. The film follows Sullenberger's 2009 emergency landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River, in which all 155 passengers and crew survived, and the subsequent publicity and investigation.



The Brick Squad

FREE Community Lego Build
Saturday, April 25th
1:00 - 2:00PM!

In The Downstairs Social Hall
ALL ages are welcome!
Theme: Create, Build, Inspire!
Join us for a fun afternoon of building...
We provide the Legos!

Prayer Requests

Marge Anke, John Anker, Jan Antos, Jacqueline Chandler, Betty Comer, Tom & Susie Dibiaso, Ron DiClaudio, Scott Diffenderfer, John Duncan, Selma Duncan, Betsy Frye, Megen Harmon, June Hart, Richard Himler, Inna & family, Becky Jadlocki, Joe, Larry & Sharon Kramer, JoAnn Martz, Kate McCorkle, JoAnn McKnight, Bob Magill, Katie Miller, J.Alan Minter, Isobel Nelson, Jack Noonan, Laura P., Bryce Matthew Patrick, Howard Pence, Marge Ryan, Sara, Connie Steck Schade, Shirley Schmidtke, Carol Smalley, John Smith, Bev Sowash, Addie Spehar, Larry Stamford, Juanita Strome, Brian Trumble, Tom & Carol, Bob Vaughn, Dane Wakeman, Bernice Walker, Stella Waltemire, Ian Welch, Mary Louise Whitehead, and Jeff Youell

Praise and Thank You

All God's People, Thanksgiving for: Cynthia's hip replacement & recovery, Jan Batchelor, Lanny R. Conley, Gerry, Bob Hahn, Hudson, Emma & Ashley Joe Jordan, Bill Martin, Dan McCready, and Owen

Our Service Personnel

Jeff Cmar, Staff Sgt. Zachary Coleman, SFC James Davis, Dominic Duke, Vaughn Estepp, Sgt. Luke Frye, Sgt. GY Sgt. Chris Keba, 2nd LT Andy Marlin, CDR Timothy Minor, Sgt. Noah Rady, Connor Ramage and Col. Brian Trumble

Church Outreach Programs

Carpenter's Apprentice, The Blessing Board, Church Food Pantry, College Outreach project. Prayers for the volunteers and the families supported by these programs.

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



Thank you to Dan Brentzel and his crew (Debcon) for getting our church back in shape after our flood. We can't think of another company that could have done it with so much love and affection.



Faith
flourishes
in His presence

Planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish.
Psalm 92:13, NIV



Baptism
All things have become new.
2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV

March 15th
Dawson Jordan Wedel
Son of Jordan and Alyssa Wedel



Love & Sympathy

Love and sympathy to family and friends of Lenore Bouldin who died March 7, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF IRWIN

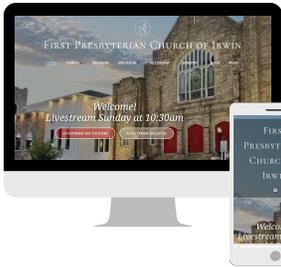
617 MAIN STREET

IRWIN, PA 15642

www.firstpresbyirwin.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

April
2026
NEWSLETTER



Visit [our website](#) for
the most up-to-date
calendar
information!



CHURCH STAFF

- Rev. Dr. Douglas Rehberg Minister x115
- Rev. Sam Strohm Ministry Associate
- Daniel Miller Business Manager x114
- Karen Crissman Administrative Assistant x110
- Ginny Pellis Receptionist/Secretary x113
- Heather Duckett Children's Ministry Leader x116
- Kyle Dynys Youth Ministry Leader x117
- Katie Redmond Childcare Supervisor
- Judy Baker Youth Choir Director
- Diane Johnston Bell Choir Director
- Sue Gray Custodial Supervisor