



Newsletter Update

March/April 2023

Mar 12, 2023 - Daylight Saving Time Starts

Sunday, March 12, 2023, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned forward 1 hour

Save the dates for Worship and Fellowship...!!!

- March 4 - Multi-Presbytery Congregational Learning Day via Zoom, 9 am-1 pm.
<https://pbygenval.org/congregational-learning-day/>
- March 5 – Worship with Holy Communion @ 11 am.
Guest Pastor: Rev. Keith Sundberg, Worship Leader: Lianne Walker.
- March 12 – Worship @ 11 am.
Guest Speaker: Pauline Kraus.
- March 19 – Worship @ 11 am.
Guest Speaker: Peggy Massung.
Garden of Edin Spring Equinox Event, 2-4 pm.
- March 26 – Worship @ 11 am. Guest Speaker: Shari Gould.
- April 2 – Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion @ 11 am.
Guest Speaker: Bob Aiken, Worship Leaders: Sue Payne and Jan Zeart.
- April 5 – First Wednesday Supper @ 6 pm and Team meetings @ 6:30 pm.
- April 9 - Easter Worship Service, 11 am.
Guest Pastor: Rev. Charlie McClung, Worship Leader: Linda Rummel.
- April 11 – FUPC Family Night, gather @ 5:30, Supper @ 6 pm.



March Mission: Presbytery Pledge April Mission: Ghana partnership

First United Presbyterian Church

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Your Mission Team would once again like to make this a year of helping those in our congregation and/or our community who are hurt, ill or lonely...someone in need of a spiritual and/or mental lift. We thought we might like to start by making Easter Happy for those who are unable to get to church this Easter.

As you all know, every year we in the congregation buy lilies to beautify our church on Easter Morning. We would still like to do that, but perhaps keep the number of lilies in our sanctuary a bit smaller. With that in mind, we ask that, while we honor those we have lost, we would also remember those in our congregation who need a bit of cheer. Our thoughts were that, perhaps, those who are ill or in a home that is not their own, would appreciate waking up on Easter morning to a beautiful lily in their home or room. Please see the attached **Easter Lily Order Form** to be part of this thoughtful mission project.

Also from the Mission Team: Beginning on March 12th we will return to a second passing of the offering plate to benefit the Mission of the Month. A second passing of the offering plate on the second Sunday of each month had been the routine at FUPC prior to COVID. We hope to boost our monthly mission giving once again with this practice. Thank you for your donations.



Garden of Edin holds a fun Spring Equinox gathering.

The calendar say that springtime begins when the Sun moves our direction and crosses the equator. That annual sign of hope and warmth is a prime occasion for the "Garden of Edin" Community Garden to celebrate.

The gardeners who raise the produce in this garden invite you to join them in the Fellowship Hall at FUPC for a community celebration on Sunday, **March 19, from 2 to 4 p.m.**

2023 Applications will be available for a \$15.00 raised bed.

Shop and enjoy the talents of our Gardeners: Garden Art, Herb/Flower Seedlings, Paper Crafts, Needle Crafts, Rock Painting, Flower Seeds, Pottery Chance Auction, Hands on Activities...and much more!

Even if you are not a gardener or do not plan to request a Garden of Edin plot this year, the people of FUPC are especially encouraged to attend. This is a great opportunity for the people of the church to connect with people from the community who come to our property multiple times throughout the year.

The Garden of Edin now is a self-governing organization. It was started as a mission outreach supported by the people of Edinboro Presbyterian Church and the Presbytery of Lake Erie.



Special Olympics Pennsylvania returned to Seven Springs Mountain Resort for the 2023 Winter Games...

Hundreds of athletes, coaches, and volunteers from all corners of the state gathered at Seven Springs to participate in three days of winter sports, including alpine skiing, cross country skiing, and snow shoeing. FUPC's Anthony Honeycutt was among the athletes representing General McLane High School.

Congratulations, Anthony!

FUPC's Witherspoon Scholarship provides assistance for further education

Thanks to a gift made by an FUPC member decades ago, this congregation is able to offer a small scholarship to members who are pursuing higher education. Anyone who is attending a post-high school program can apply for the Witherspoon Scholarships. Although these often are awarded to incoming first-year students, you also may apply for any year of school heading toward a bachelor's or masters degree, vocational certificate, seminary or other eligible schooling.

Each person may receive these funds one time only, so if you have not been given a Witherspoon Scholarship in a previous year, consider applying for 2023-2024. The **application deadline is April 30** each year. If you know of a college student or a college-bound student who might be interested, please encourage them to get the simple application from the church office soon.

Please join us for FIRST WEDNESDAY, April 5th...

Supper and fellowship begins at 6pm. Ministry Teams meet from 6:30 – 7:30pm. The First Wednesday Suppers and Team Meetings are open to everyone. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcome. Any of these teams could use your help to do the work of the congregation. Please consider where your talents could fit into the life of the church.

Teams include: Fellowship, Children & Youth Ministry, Business/Finance Team, Stewardship, Worship, Mission, Facilities, Personnel, Technology/Social Media.

April Mission of the Month:

OUR GHANA MISSION PARTNERSHIP

Edinboro Presbyterian Church and our network of congregations in Lake Erie Presbytery have a hands-on partnership with churches in the western African nation of Ghana. Representatives from our region have traveled there to worship and learn from these Christian brothers and sisters, and a few years ago FUPC hosted some of the Ghanaian pastors who were on a tour of western Pennsylvania.

Our April "Mission of the Month" continues to strengthen our bond as we join with the churches there to provide ministry to the people of Ghana. In the past, these funds helped to buy motorcycles for some of their pastors and lay pastors. (Previously, some of them were bicycling to between six and ten churches each Sunday, due to the shortage of trained pastors.) We helped to buy computers to provide a learning lab and homework/study area at one of the church facilities. This became an outreach to help children and teens from throughout the community, not just those who already were connected with the congregation. We continue to fund supplies, equipment and training for the Wapuli Health Clinic which cares for underserved people from a huge region.

Your financial gifts this month will continue this partnership, as we and they together do good work for the people who are sick, pregnant, poor and faithful. Checks should be payable to FUPC, then mark "Ghana" on the memo line or the envelope.

A second passing of the offering plate on April 9th, Easter Sunday, will give you an opportunity to participate in this worthwhile partnership.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

February 22nd – April 9th

your impact

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

\$3.1 million granted by PDA in the United States and 15 countries

80 grants impacting 23 countries given by PHP

over 3,000 people trained in food production around the world

191,182 Gift of the Heart Kits and Blankets distributed

276 certified PC(USA) Earth Care congregations helped care for creation

1,500 trees planted in Nigeria, in addition to others around the world

\$15,000 Funded Metropolitan Tenants Organization

\$9,000 Funded the Civil Society Coalition for Poverty Eradication

786 Presbyterian congregations purchased eco-palms for sustainable forestry and livelihoods

\$15,000 Funded Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing, Inc.

Psalm 91

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.
I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.
He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.

You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.
A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.
You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked.

If you say, "The LORD is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling,
no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.
For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;
they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.

"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.

He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Try reading Psalm 91 every day for the next month. Your life will be changed because this is a triumphant song of faith. In it we learn that God is our dwelling place. It's under his wings that we find refuge, even in the midst of the universal evil that surrounds us.

We all face dangers and heartaches in life because we live in a lost and fallen world. But in the midst of these difficulties, we can be absolutely confident that we are not alone to deal with them. God's faithfulness is our constant shield. We are covered by the shadow of the Almighty! Oh, the security that is ours in God's promise that he will be with us in trouble (Psalm 91:15).

These unchanging promises are for those who choose, by an act of their will, to put themselves under the care and protection of the living God. These promises are for those who dwell within the shelter of the Most High, who make their home with Jesus.

Why is this a psalm of irrepressible beauty? Because in it we are given a fresh glimpse into all that is ours through Jesus Christ our Lord. We come away from this psalm with an overwhelming sense of awe and wonder at God's continual provision for us. Hope MacDonald

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT by Arthur Jackson

Psalm 91:11–12 is among the many Old Testament psalms quoted in the New Testament. When Jesus was tempted in Jerusalem, the devil said to Him, "If you are the Son of God, . . . throw yourself down from here. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone'" (Luke 4:9–11). Psalm 91 is indeed a song about God's protection, but the verses Satan quoted were misapplied. What the devil did amounted to abuse of Scripture. His quote was meant to tempt Jesus to test God by putting Himself in harm's way. But rather than foolishly test God, Jesus would trust the One who declared Him to be the "Son, whom I love" (Luke 3:22) all the way to the cross.

Sarah Martin Reel, MD

Dr. Reel (AQA, Wake Forest University School of Medicine, 2019) is resident physician, Department of Pediatrics, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, OH.

He was five years old. He had a short buzz cut, mischievous eyes, and a smile that stretched from ear to ear. His laugh filled the room, and his favorite superhero was Iron Man. I first met him when I rotated on the Pediatric Surgery service as a third-year medical student. Mom had to be away from his bedside to care for her other children, and as the medical student, I had more opportunities than other providers on the team to spend time with him. We had superhero battles, played hide-and-seek (the best spot was behind the curtain), and watched movies.

He was listed for resection on a day that I was at the hospital. We looked through his scans prior to the case and talked through the methods they would use to dissect the tumor from any remaining healthy tissue. I read about his oncologic diagnosis, and about the treatment course he was facing.

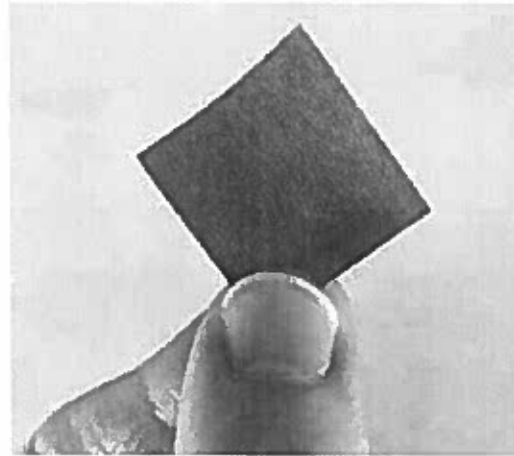
I remember standing in the operating room and watching the surgeon remove a large tumor. She presented it to me with both hands before it was taken to be labeled and sent to pathology. Over the next few days, while I was on service, we would go to his room in the early hours of the morning to ask if he pooped, if he had pain, or if he liked the cafeteria chicken nuggets. He was always ready to play despite the pain and the early hours, and the other medical student and I would memorize a new joke to tell him each day.

"What is Iron Man's favorite drink? Fruit punch!" He always laughed.

By the time I rotated back to Pediatrics later that year, I knew that I was going to be a pediatrician. I was excited to be assigned to a week of Hematology and Oncology. During that rotation, the little "Iron Man" was re-admitted. This time it was for fever with neutropenia, a common concern for patients undergoing chemotherapy. When I went into his room to see him, he was crying. His mom was holding him and rocking him back and forth. She was telling him a story about rain and the hardships we all face in life.

"The rain comes, and it might look grey and dark outside, but it is helping the flowers to grow," she said. "When the sun comes back, the rain will dry, and the flowers will be left shining in the sun." She went on to explain to him how coming into the hospital was a cloudy part of his story currently, but that the sun was coming.

It was true—he was soon up and running around with his brother. His counts recovered, and his cultures were



Piece of confetti Dr. Reel carries in her wallet a reminder that even on the hardest days, the sun is coming.

negative. I went to see him the morning that he was going home.

"What did Iron Man say to Spider Man? Don't bug me!" He smiled and waved to me before they left.

Our paths crossed again during my fourth year of medical school, when I selected to rotate on the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology service as an Acting Intern. This time, something was wrong. His face was puffy, and his body was weak. We ordered imaging and labs. His disease had greatly progressed. The attending came to review the scans with the team in the workroom.

"This is it," he said with finality. He discussed the findings with the family, and we watched mom's heart break in front of us.

The pediatric unit has a bell hanging in the hallway. It is brought to life by patients who ring it to proclaim that they have completed treatment for cancer. Our care team talked with the patient's family, and mom expressed to us that it would mean a lot to him to ring the bell. We all agreed.

On his bell-ringing day, many of his former providers lined the hall. We held confetti to throw as he rang the bell. Despite being swollen and bruised, his smile was huge as he rang the bell over and over. He was thrilled, and we all cried. Afterwards I picked up a piece of blue confetti and tucked it in my pocket.

I am a resident now, living the days that I dreamed of as a medical student. This past year, I matched into a fellowship position in Pediatric Hematology and Oncology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Whenever I contemplate my career, I remember this superhero who lived fearlessly and fully to the end. It is no surprise that he gravitated toward Iron Man, someone who was brave and determined in the face of danger.

To this day, I carry that piece of confetti in my wallet as a reminder that even on the hardest days, the sun is coming.

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