



TIDINGS

First Presbyterian Church

It Takes Grace...

Well, by the time you read this we will have celebrated the Resurrection. Once again we will have felt the wonderful love of God – so deep that He was willing to send His Son as a human to live before us, die in our place, and rise again so we can, too. For many in our church family, it is just the celebration we have needed and it could not have happened soon enough in the midst of our grief and pain over losing loved ones.

Now that Easter has come and gone...I worry. I worry about me, because I know me real well. And, if you are like me, you should be worried, too, at least a little. Now that Easter has been celebrated, how long will it take before we revert back to some really sad ways of thinking. I really hope and pray I don't do this, but the tendency is there to make our experience with God through Jesus a religious attempt rather than a relationship gained.

* Can we put an end to thinking Christianity is about manipulating people with guilt?

Pledge with me that we will not think, "How could she do that, after all Jesus has done for her?"

* Can we put an end to thinking we are encouraging that person in the faith by comparing his walk with others who have seemingly done so much better? "I just know you can turn your life around if you just start acting like _____. He is so strong in his faith, and you could be, too, if you just tried harder!"

* Can we stop trying to be someone's hero? Can we stop giving our brilliant testimonies of how wonderful our walk with Jesus is? We say that we want to show others how obedience pays off and how faith wins out, but we somehow forget the times we have so badly failed, hoping our audience won't consider we are no better than every witness in Scripture who had trouble staying on course...just like us.

Can we just say how thrilled we are to know God's love is better than our love, that His compassion is stronger than

mine or yours, that we were sinners headed for hell, but because of the cross and an empty grave (and not because of anything we could do on our own) we can be certain that we are bruised children the Father is calling to His lap? That, to me, is something I can hold onto, something I can remind myself of, something that makes me want to please my Father with this life before me...with the want-to of a relationship rather than the guilt or pressure of a have-to religion.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him."

[John 3:16-17]

Easter-Every-Day Blessings!

RevLon.

Door of Hope News

Door of Hope Pregnancy Care Center is a non-profit, faith-based organization dedicated to serving those who are in an unplanned or crisis pregnancy. Since 1995, their trained volunteers have provided loving, non-judgmental support to those they serve

For the month of April our church will be collecting items to donate to the Door of Hope.

Please bring your donations in and put it in the bassinet that will be located in the narthex.

Items needed:

Baby Wash

Baby Lotion

Diaper Rash Ointment

Wipes

Newborn and size 2 diapers

New hooded towels

New clothing 0—24 months

THE GREAT BANQUET SEASON IS MARCHS ON!

Last month kicked off the Great Banquet season with rewarding weekends at the Hopkins and Muhlenberg County Jails, along with YES and Chrysalis weekends here and at FUMC. April brings on more opportu-

nities to serve, pray for, and sponsor guests in house and at Green River Prison. Please consider how you might be a part:

Men's Great Banquet #171 -April 14-17

Green River Correctional Center #11 -- April 21-24

Women's Great Banquet #172 ----- April 28-May 1

“FAMILY”

Fresh on my mind are the thoughts of what has happened in our family over the past few weeks. It has been for us a time of ups and downs, good news and not so good news, bright days and days of gloom. I won't open up all the details but I do want to allow you some insight into our life. February 23rd Denise got contacted from our daughter-in-law Katie that her water had broken and that she was at the doctor with her mother since Brad, our son, was out of town. Only being around 14 weeks pregnant this was not good news and the initial diagnosis was that the baby would not survive. This was devastating to say the least and as a family we prayed together that night encircled tight. It was something we never would have expected but God had been preparing Brad all the way home as he traveled over 2 hours to get there as quickly as he could. He was the husband and Daddy that Katie and Lexi needed in this moment and he reassured them of God's provision and grace even in the midst of this. Brad prayed a prayer for his wife and unborn son and his daughter that was very excited about being a big sister. I couldn't have been more proud of him as he thanked God, petitioned God and praised God in the midst of an unforeseen tragedy.

Fast forward three weeks and we still have a baby boy with a strong heartbeat and hope in having a healthy baby! According to the fetal specialist there needs to be fluid around the baby for him to develop normally, so we are still praying that the leaking fluid would envelope him as it should and that he would continue to grow and form exactly

as he should. Katie is doing everything she can to protect and nurture this life she carries within her. She has found a community of mothers who have been through the same thing and she has been blessed so much by the support, encouragement and hope that they bring. And her faith has never wavered and her attitude has been awe-inspiring as she walks through this one day at a time. We appreciate so much all the prayers that you have lifted up for us during this time and we ask that you would continue to pray. Pray specifically that the leak would be sealed and that fluid would envelope Lincoln as it should. That's his name, Lincoln Bradley Scott. Lincoln, is a surname of Celtic origin meaning "lake settlement" or "from the settlement by the pool." It's just one of many reminders that God is in control and we are resting in Him and His provision of healing!

This past Saturday we surprised Denise's Mom and Dad with a party celebrating 60 years together as husband and wife! Everyone was there! Their two children and their spouses, 9 grandchildren and their spouses and 5 great-grandchildren with number 6 on the way! It was a great day and everyone had an amazing time and Betty and Walter were so surprised and happy that we could all come together and celebrate this amazing accomplishment!

On both ends of the spectrum and everywhere in between God is good all the time! And we see His design and gift of family as the foundation for nurture and development for husbands and wives and children to grow in their knowledge and un-

derstanding of God our creator, sustainer and redeemer. He is our ever present help and provision and in Him we find all we need or could ever hope for! I hope that Easter has been a reminder to you that our Father gave the greatest of sacrifices in His Son, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ who has given us salvation and a new identity in Him! And though Jesus ascended to His rightful place He gave us His Holy Spirit an ever present counselor, comforter, advocate and guide who indwells within us! May we all bear witness to the One who gives us the ability to reflect love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control!

"Listen, O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." Deuteronomy 6:4-9

In Christ's Love,

Rob

Romans 12

YOUTH NEWS

Please continue to pray for our youth and all that we do here at First Presbyterian. As we near the end of the school year we are looking forward to embarking on our high school mission trip to Pine Ridge Reservation in Pine Ridge, South Dakota June 11-19 with our friends from the W. KY Presbytery. Please begin praying that we will reflect Jesus to those that we go with and encounter during those days. Students go-

ing on the trip are Kenzie Conover, Emily Fischels, Madison Cummings, Abby Brown, Haley Cope and Deleante Allen along with Michael Milam and myself.

May 4th we will be having our annual Senior Celebration/Sweet Treats/Grill Masters Cook-off. For those that would like to contribute to the competition by grilling some meat or by entering your famous sweet treat please contact Rob and let him know. We are hoping to

have a big crowd come out and encourage and congratulate our 6 seniors that will be graduating. They are Noah Collins, McKenzie Conover, Hunter Goodwin, Dakota Miller, Logan Taylor and Sierra Walker.

ON THE INSIDE

This year 273 days span between Easter and Christmas that includes 39 Sundays. What will you be doing during that time? Paul instructs Timothy to

preach the word, be urgent in season, convince, rebuke, and extort, be unfailing in patience and in teaching. My prayer is that we who claim the name of

Jesus do as Paul instructs. See you on the outside, Pete.

April Birthdays & Anniversaries

3rd	Darrell & Bev Engelhardt (A)	21st	Darrell Engelhardt
4th	Michael Skultety		Phyllis Klym
5th	Dan Martin	23rd	Patsy Sutton
	Kendrick Nuttall	26th	Mary George Peyton
6th	Aimee Goodwin	27th	Caitlyn Perryman
7th	Anna Leasure	28th	David & Alisa Betts (A)
10th	Doug & Suzanne Henley (A)		Michael Hunt
	Laura Ken Hoffman		Reed Tabor
11th	Susan Edmonson		Olivia Thomas
14th	Erin Winstead	29th	Gavin Ricketts
15th	Mike Agin	30th	Russell & Susan Fischels (A)
18th	Dale & Sharon Davis (A)		

Girl Time Group

Girl Time Group had a great organization meeting in March! We have planned events for the rest of this year. We hope you can come to any or all of them! On April 22, we will be going to Faith Missionary Baptist Church for dinner and to hear Eva Self speak. We will meet at the church at 5:15pm for the 5 minute drive. Please contact the church office (270-821-6426) by April 10 to join in. If you need a ride, tell Dawn and we can pick you up! You are welcome to bring your mom, daughter, or friend!

Elizabeth House donations will be accepted (A Christian shelter for women and children). They accept clothing, books, toys, women's toiletries, cleaning products, toilet paper and paper towels. See Girl Time bulletin board for additional information.



April 2016

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 <i>Holy Hilarity Sunday</i>	4 <i>7PM GB Team Meetings</i>	5 <i>7PM Session Meeting</i>	6 Spring Break—No Activities	7	8	9
10	11 <i>7PM GB Team Meetings</i>	12	13 <i>5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal</i>	14 Men's Great Banquet #171 →	15	16
17 →	18 <i>7PM GB Team Meetings</i>	19	20 <i>5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal</i>	21 Green River Great Banquet #11	22	23
24	25 <i>7PM GB Team Meetings</i>	26	27 <i>5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal</i>	28 Women's GB #172 →	29	30

BEYOND THE WOODLAWN STORY

Last month Rob and Lon led a sermon series based on the things learned from the *Woodlawn* Christian movie. There truly is a lot to glean from that movie portraying the true story of how one group of young men on high school football team in a forced integrated setting

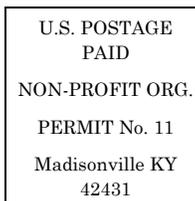
made the state of Alabama pause and consider what might happen if people of faith lived out their lives for Jesus – “one hope, one truth, one way.” Please continue to pray that we might see a time soon when people of different backgrounds can come together, united by our faith in Christ.

If you didn't get to see the showing of the movie back at the beginning of Lent (or if you'd just like to see it again), it is now in our church library and can be checked out for your viewing.

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Return Service Requested