

The Chimes

February 2023

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE — NOT TO BE SERVED

WORSHIP

A WORD FROM PASTOR JIM

Thank you!

Sometimes there don't seem to be the right words or enough words to convey what you are feeling. This seems to be one of those occasions for me. The gift of the trip to the Holy Land that was so graciously and lovingly extended to me from our SPR and all of you, came as a complete surprise and I am still overwhelmed by it all. To get to share a trip like this has been a dream of Amy and mine for many years. Amy and I are so blessed and feel so fortunate to be able to serve alongside all of you at Perrysburg First. What a gift you all are!

I can't help but marvel at how God works. While preaching about grace the week I was presented with this gift, I learned as much about grace in that moment from all of you than almost any other time in my life. To receive such a gift as it is offered, an act of love and grace really requires a person to set aside any ideas of "worthiness" and humbly accept what is offered as a gift.

So, thank you. Thank you for the gift, thank you for your kindness, thank you for your generosity, thank you for your love and care, and thank you for teaching us about grace.

We love all of you and we love serving with you at Perrysburg First Church! Grace and peace to you! Jim & Amy

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON GRACE

Last Sunday (January 29th) we wrapped up our latest sermon series *The Scandal of Grace*. As we discussed, grace is all about God's unconditional love extended to us in and through Jesus and his invitation to accept and live in that grace. None of us deserve it or can do anything to earn it. God offers it freely to us. All we can do is accept it as it is offered – a free gift.



As Pastor Jodi pointed out in her message on the story of the prodigal son, grace can seem unfair. There may be occasions when it seems like grace goes too far and even dismisses the seriousness of sin. As I talked about the first week of the series, that is not the case. **Grace doesn't excuse sin.** God is fully aware of the seriousness & consequence of sin. God is grieved when we choose to stay in our sin – the life choices that keeps us separated from him – and ignore the grace he offers to us to receive his love. Make no mistake, God's grace is costly. (CONT.)

STAY CONNECTED



Perrysburg First Church



419-874-1911



perrysburgfirst.church



@perrysburgfirstchurch

Jesus gave his life as the ultimate expression of that grace and God's unconditional love for you and me. One thing that makes grace so amazing, it reveals God treasures the sinner even in the deepest darkest moments of our sin! As I have found, when I receive God's grace and begin to live in that grace, I discover that the gospel of Jesus does indeed have real answers to what life is meant to be.

Friends, our world needs grace more than ever right now. Will there be some though who will choose to ignore God's love and grace? Unfortunately, according to scripture, yes. There will be some who will not accept the gift of God's grace. That's tragic to me.

God offers the greatest gift we can ever hope to receive – his grace – and it is absolutely free for the taking. But you have to take it. **You have to take it!** Let us become a people of grace.

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

I love the local church. And I have come to love this church (which means all of you 😊) and your heart and passion for God and others. I ❤️ First. For me, one of the most compelling reasons I give financially to the local church is because I believe that in and through the local church God is relentlessly working out his plan of salvation. Because the local church is the body of Jesus in the world today, we are the hope of the world. To say it another way, I believe in the local church and the power of a local faith community to be used by God to have far reaching impacts on a community and the people that live there. Friends, we are to be stewards of that vision and mission. Our faithful giving supports that work and brings God's vision and mission to life. I hope you will plan to join us in February for I ❤️ First.



INFORMATION

FEBRUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

<i>February 2023 Prayer Focus</i>			1 God's Promise Isaiah 41:10	2 Light Matthew 5:16	3 God's Comfort Psalm 23:4	4 Burdens Matthew 11:30
5 Creation Isaiah 64:8	6 Healing Luke 6:19	7 Waiting Psalm 27:14	8 Handiwork Galatians 2:20	9 Loneliness John 8:12	10 Grace Ephesians 2:8	11 Rejoice Psalm 13:5
12 Worthiness Colossians 1:9	13 Comfort 2 Corinthians 1:3	14 Love Psalm 5:7	15 Worry Matthew 6:34	16 Contentment Hebrews 13:5	17 Enduring Love Psalm 136:1,13	18 Complete Love Ephesians 3:18
19 Gift of Rest Ecclesiastes 10:10	20 Endurance Psalm 73:26	21 Assurance Numbers 13:30	22 Ash Wednesday Ecclesiastes 3:20	23 Community 1 Peter 4:8	24 Perseverance Hebrews 12:3	25 New Creation 2 Corinthians 5:17
26 Easing Burdens Matthew 11:28	27 Follow Jesus John 10:27	28 Gratitude Luke 17:16				

ASH WEDNESDAY

We hope you will join us for one of our Ash Wednesday services on February 22nd at 12:15pm and 6:30pm. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

BYKOTA

BYKOTA will resume meeting on Sunday, February 5th. If you have any questions, please contact Irma Wolf.

ALZHEIMERS ASSOCIATION CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

The Alzheimer's Association will be holding a monthly caregiver support group meeting at Perrysburg First. Meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of the month from 3-4pm in the Youth Room. The first meeting is on **March 7th**. For more information, contact the church office.

EVENTS

PRIME TIMERS- DEATH BY CHOCOLATE

The theme for the February luncheon should not be hard to figure out! We will meet on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14th, at noon in the Multipurpose Room. As always, there will be frivolous fun and fellowship with friends! We hope to see you there!

AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION CPR TRAINING

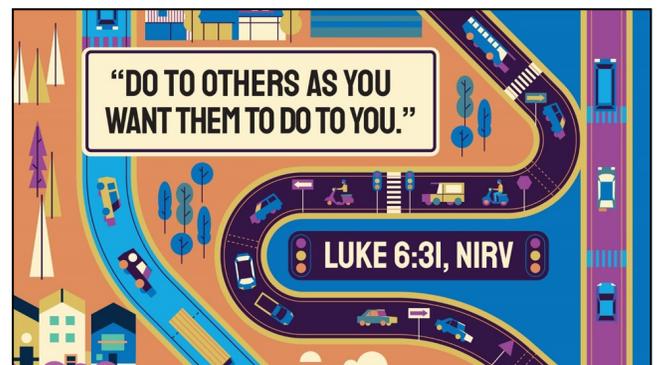
We are excited to offer American Heart Association Family & Friend CPR training for Perrysburg first members, staff, and our preschool families. The training will be on Tuesday, March 14th from 5:30-7pm in the Fellowship Hall. The cost to attend is \$25 per person and can be paid the day of via credit or cash. You must be ages 10+ to attend. To register, go to: www.ohiocpr.com, click on "Calendar", and go to March 14th to register. If you need assistance, please contact the church office.

FAMILY MINISTRY

FEBRUARY CHILDREN'S CHURCH CURRICULUM:

Theme:

Monthly Verse:



Monthly Overview for Children's Church: The connection between RESPECT and God's character.

We often think about respect in terms of vertical relationships we have with others—respect for parents, teachers, and people in authority. Those are important, but equally important are the more horizontal relationships we have with people, like siblings, friends, and even people we may not get along with. This idea of valuing others and having mutual respect is seen all throughout Scripture and is a necessary way to communicate with others and demonstrate God's love with them.

We see throughout Scripture that all people have value because they were created in God's image. God values us and wants a forever relationship with us. God sent Jesus to make that possible. We follow God's example when we show others that they have value too.

Bottom Line 1: Include people who are left out.

Bottom Line 2: Show respect even when you don't get along.

Bottom Line 3: Take time to show others they are important.

Bottom Line 4: Remember God is most important.

OUR STAFF

Senior Pastor
Jim Jennings

Pastor of Family Ministry
Jodi Packard

Administrative Assistant
Betsy Martin

Treasurer
Irma Wolf

Music Director
Tim Cloeter

Multi-Media Coordinator
Dax Rice

Organist
Tolanda Kronfield

Prime Timers Asst.
Tolanda Kronfield

Preschool Director
Sharron Waclawski
419-874-9318

MISSIONS

- **Adopt-A-Bed**
We continue to collect new twin bedding and pillows for Let's Build. We are planning another bed build for this September.
- **Community Closet at Riverside**
Riverside Elementary School is a Toledo local school that we are supporting by supplying their Community Closet. Thank you to all who donated items during December. We have purchased additional clothing, hygiene, and cleaning items to help meet their needs.

Praise God! Through the generosity of several members of our congregation, the tuition costs for all of the children at New Hope Education Center have been fully funded! New Hope Education Center is the school for K-6th grade run by Pastor Davies and Huruma Tent of Prayer in the Mathare Slum of Nairobi, Kenya. God is good!

SERVE

PERRYSBURG CHRISTIANS UNITED (PCU)

During the Lenten season, the PCU Food Pantry promotes an event called "Feed the 5000". This is a campaign for each church to collect canned meats (chicken, beef, pork, tuna, chili, beef stew, and Spam). This year the campaign starts on Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, and ends on Good Friday, April 7th. Please place your donations for this event in the 2 wooden boxes on the floor located by the Missions Wall in the Lower Narthex. Thank you for your continued support of this important source of food for people in the Perrysburg community.

PERRYSBURG FIRST AND PCU

The churches of PCU are asked to contribute specific items to the food bank each month. For the month of February, we are asked to donate shampoo. For March, donations of crackers would be appreciated. Thank you for your continued support of PCU!

Donations may be made online at www.perrysburgfirst.church under 'Give'.

The submission deadline for the next Chimes newsletter is on/around the 25th of the month.

Perrysburg First Church
200 W. Second St.
Perrysburg, OH 43551
office@perrysburgfirst.church

Church Office Hours

Monday - Friday: 9am - 2pm

Office: 419-874-1911
office@perrysburgfirst.church

There is always a chance we could be out of the office, so we encourage you to call ahead before stopping by.