



# First Presbyterian News

April 2022

401 Lincolnway East,  
Mishawaka, In. 46544



The following story I found is from *“The Language of Love: The Secret to being Instantly Understood”* by Gary Smalley and John Trent.

One of the most influential preachers of the last several centuries, Charles Spurgeon, saw a young boy was carrying an old, bent bird cage, and inside was a sorrowful-looking field sparrow. Intrigued by the sight, Spurgeon stopped the boy and asked him about the bird. The boy answered, “Oh, this? It’s just a sparrow, and it’s my bird. I found it.” Then Spurgeon asked, “What are you going to do with it?”

The boy said, “I think I’ll play with it for a while, and then when I’m tired of playing with it – I think I’ll kill it.” He made that last comment with a wicked grin.

Moved with compassion for the bird, Spurgeon asked, “How much would you sell that bird for?” “You don’t want this bird, mister,” the boy said with a chuckle. “It’s just a bleeding field sparrow.” But when he saw the old gentleman was serious, suddenly his mind took a step toward extortion. “You can have this bird for – two pounds (*This would be worth more than a hundred dollars today*)” “That’s my price. Take it or leave it,” the boy said defiantly.



Spurgeon did pay the price, and then he took the bird to a nearby field and let it go.

The next Sunday morning, Spurgeon brought and placed an empty bird cage on the pulpit and recounted the story about the little boy and how he had purchased the bird from him at a high cost.

He said, “You see, an evil specter called Sin had us caged up and unable to escape. But, God sent his one and only Son to pay the price for our sins and set us free. This is the story of Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection.”

If it wasn’t the Romans or Jewish or entire human race who nailed Jesus to the cross, then, who was responsible for the death of Christ? In 2 Corinthians 5:21, the apostle Paul writes, **“Christ had no sin, but God made him become sin so that in Christ we could become right with God.”** God put our sin on His Son Jesus and punished it there. How could God do this? No one would have expected God to put his one and only Son on the cross. But that’s exactly what happened. Why?

**“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”** -John 3:16-

How does God feel about us, and what has he done, if anything, to help us? There is no greater and no more glorious answer than that given in John 3:16. The cross of Christ is the ultimate evidence of God’s love for us. Do you believe Jesus died in your place for forgiveness and eternal life? God paid the price through his own Son’s blood to redeem us, set us free from the wrath and penalty of sin, and reconcile us back to him.

How should we respond to the love shown us by our God this Easter?

**For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.** -1 Corinthians 6:20-

Happy Easter, Pastor Daniel



## Lenten Book Study

Our Lenten book study will feature *Entering the Passion of Jesus, A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week* by Amy-Jill Levine. Jesus’ final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with great loss or great reward and His followers risked as well. We take risks today, as we read and re-read these stories, as we follow His lead. Come join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent to dig deeper into Jesus’ final days on earth. We will have coffee, tea, and treats. The study will begin at 6:30, and the final two meetings are April 6 & 13.

Christine Wukovits, CE

## Presbyterian Women



The big **THANK YOU for a successful March Upper Room Sale**. It takes many hands to donate, sort, mark, arrange items and welcome shoppers on sale dates. The more we sell, the more we can help others.

**Upper Room** work days are Saturday April 2nd 10:00 am - noon and Wednesday April 20th 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Next sale is set for June 4, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**April 24th is our "Gifts of Women" Sunday** with a guest speaker. We traditionally hold this on the Sunday after Easter to give our pastor a break after Holy Week. During the service we also install our new officers, dedicate our Birthday Offering, collect money to buy school supplies for Rica, our adopted child, and award an Honorary Membership. The Birthday Offering is having it's own special birthday. For 100 years PW birthday offerings from around the world have been funding mission projects.

**May 14th is Malawi work day** 10:00 am - noon. Come and help us cut and sew to make pads for young girls in Malawi.

Ways you can become involved in the work of PW:

Are you part of the Prayer Chain? Simply email or call Lynett Heritz or myself.

Do you crochet or knit? Make a prayer shawl or help Knit for Peace, an organization that donates hats, scarves, mittens to children and adults.

Join a Bible Study Circle. If interested call Teresa Primmer or Carole Polk.

**UNITY GARDENS** is our mission focus for April. Unity Gardens is located at 3701 Prast Blvd. in South Bend. It is a local non-profit organization founded by Sara Stewart in 2008 to offer fresh, locally grown food to everyone in the surrounding communities. It is a uniquely dignified free food model that supports over 40 open gardens, free gardening classes, and summer wellness programs like Garden Camp (which Gia has attended), chef potluck picnics, and more through a seven-acre urban ecosystem.

Be sure to visit the Unity Gardens booth at the South Bend Farmers Market to purchase their own honey, plus plants for your gardens and flower beds this spring. They have a wide variety of tomatoes and peppers plus much more. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering notify Sara Stewart at: [growunitygardens@yahoo.com](mailto:growunitygardens@yahoo.com)

**Bible Study: Lesson Eight: Mary in the Faith Tradition of the Church**

Mary is the most talked about mother, not grandmother this time, of Jesus. Mary seems to be more passive and active and therefore, a sympathetic figure for women of all ages. She models a true disciple for all followers of Jesus. What can we learn from Mary about discipleship?

Elizabeth Circle 7pm on the 18th at Mary Ann D's, Ruth Circle 7pm on the 21st at Darlene's.

Thank you, Darlene Seufert, Co-Moderator of PW

**One Great Hour Of Sharing** Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. These are things that we don't think twice about having. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)



[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP), and Self-Development of People (SDOP)] all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

This offering will be taken on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, April 10 and 17. You will find an envelope for this offering in your box of giving envelopes. If you don't have a box there will be envelopes by the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary.

This offering responds directly to the needs [food, clothing, shelter, justice] God has called us to fulfill in Isaiah 58. Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports programs in over 100 countries. If we all do a little it adds up to a lot!!

Mary Ann Dentino, Mission Committee



**Worship 10 am**

**April**

**Fellowship 11 am**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Upper Room work day 10 to noon
3 5th Sunday of Lent Greeter... Bill B. Usher... Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Chuck Wukovits Worship & Music 11:15	4	5	6 Lenten Study 6:30 pm	7	8 In the Bend- QoV Work day 9 to 2pm	9 In the Bend-QoV Work day 9am to 2pm
10 Palm Sunday Greeter...Bill B. Usher...Carole P & Greg P W.L. Dyan Phillips Deacons 11:15am	11	12	13 Lenten Study 6:30 pm <i>last one</i>	14 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service Carole & Mike ushers	15 Good Friday	16 Mystery Quilts 10 to 11 am
17 <b>Easter Sunday</b> Communion Our Choir in the Loft Greeter...Bill B. Usher...Michael G W.L. Judy Sulak	18 Elizabeth Circle 7pm Mary Ann hosting	19	20 Upper Room work day 2 to 4 pm	21 Ruth Circle 7pm Darlene hosting	22	23
24 <i>Gifts of Women</i> Greeter...Bill B. Usher...Carole P & Rose Marie W.L. Darlene Seufert Session 11:15am **Book Club 3pm **note date change	25	26	27	28	29	30

One  
great hour  
of sharing



**Greeters needed!**, Please sign up on the sign up sheet on the Clip Board if you are able to be a greeter some Sunday. Easy, but important job! Please be at the East door at 9:45 am till 10 am. We are Thankful for Bill, who has stepped in and handled this during the last couple of years in this difficult time.



