

# Towerbell

INDEPENDENCE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
MARCH 2020



## One Great Hour of Sharing

### *Holy Week and Easter*

Palm Sunday is **April 5** and Easter Sunday is **April 12**. Join us Easter morning for breakfast in the Gathering Room hosted by the Deacons at 9:30am, followed by Easter service at 10:30am. Feel free to invite your friends and families who might not have a local “home church”! \*\*There will be no coffee hour following worship on Easter.

The last day to order Easter flowers is Sunday, **March 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Keep an eye out for future information on Holy Week, as Rev. Hudson is working on the possibility of holding Maundy Thursday (**April 9**) and Good Friday (**April 10**) services, possibly in conjunction with one or more area churches.

## Calendar

- **Mar 1**—Church School & Worship with Communion (**FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**)
- **Mar 4**—Evening Bible Study; Knit Wits; Rise Against Hunger @ John Knox
- **Mar 5**—Morning Glories
- **Mar 8**—Church School & Worship; Deacons
- **Mar 9**—Evening Circle
- **Mar 10**—Investment Sub-c’ee and Property & Finance C’ee meetings
- **Mar 11**—Evening Bible Study
- **Mar 15**—Church School & Worship; Session
- **Mar 17**—Mission Team meeting
- **Mar 18**—Evening Bible Study; Knit Wits
- **Mar 19**—Outreach Team meeting
- **Mar 22**—Church School & Worship
- **Mar 23**—Presbytery meeting @ Rocky River
- **Mar 25**—Evening Bible Study
- **Mar 28**—Fall Cleanup Day
- **Mar 29**—Church School & Worship

## Worship Activities

Rev. Hudson's sermon titles and scripture selections for **March** are provided below:

- 3/1 *What Did God Say?*  
Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11  
Liturgist: Paula Trill
- 3/8 *For God So Loved The World*  
Genesis 12:1-4a; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17  
Liturgist: Lauren Somple
- 3/15 *Give Me A Drink*  
Exodus 17:1-7; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42  
Liturgist: Beverly Rospierski
- 3/22 *What Do You See?*  
1 Samuel 16:1-13; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41  
Liturgist: Jan Adams
- 3/29 *Bones*  
Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45  
Liturgist: Lauren Somple

### Pastor Search Update

**The PNC is now Online!** On Feb. 20, our church's Ministry Information Form was put up on the Church Leadership Connection Website. During this process, we are matched up with various pastors who have information on their Personal Information Form that matches ours! What does this mean? We are beginning to look at potential candidates and hope to begin conversations with some of the individuals in the very near future! We are truly trying to find someone who will be a great fit for us, so continue being patient and prayerful that the right person will come our way! In addition to the website, we have reached out to two nearby seminaries to inquire about their placement opportunities for students. Stay tuned for what's next!

~ Laura Butler

## Deacon's Corner

As the first day of spring nears, and we look forward to spring flowers, sunshine, and the welcome sight of the red-winged blackbirds and robins, our thoughts turn to preparations for Easter!

Deacon Donna Edwards is working on ordering the Easter flowers for the Sanctuary. Order forms are in the bulletins and the deadline for ordering is March 15. Each plant is \$7, and we have a choice of lily, tulips, daffodils and/or hyacinths. Some plants will be in the Gathering Room, and any remaining after Easter (not picked up) will be delivered to shut-ins and those who are unable to join us in worship. Once the order is in, Donna will pick up the flowers and display them in Church. Thank you Donna.

I had the pleasure of visiting with Bill Addison on his birthday, which was also Presidents' Day. He lives in Medina at The Western Reserve Masonic Community—a really **big** place! I wandered around trying to find him, and luckily spotted him in the hallway as he was coming back from a lunch date with his son at Bob Evans! He gave me a tour of his beautiful 2-bedroom apartment and I was so impressed how spacious and lovely it is. We talked about Emmeline and his family and he told me to tell everyone at IPC that he enjoys hearing from us and talking with Betty Jazbinski on the phone. So give Bill a call, or write to him, and tell him what is going on in your life!

I also visited with Millie McCarty, who is at The Oaks of Brecksville. Millie is looking well and chipper. We enjoyed a nice chat in the common area about church and Scotland, and then we strolled down to her room. Soon, in came her lovely granddaughter, who I enjoyed meeting!

We were delighted to see Marge Johnson and Barbara Flood at Church on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>! You girls looked great and it's wonderful to have you back!!

Our own Deacon Phil Holt is still under the weather and we miss him. We want to thank Carol Tomasko for helping Nina K. out with the communion duties!

Many thanks to Bev Rospierski for bringing the wonderful vegetarian soup to coffee hour on March 1<sup>st</sup>. It was a double treat to have hot soup and birthday cake provided by Laura Butler!!!! We hope to see more of you this month in our "green" Gathering Room for coffee and conversation.

~ Deacon Nancy Jermann,  
Moderator

## SPOTLIGHT ON... MARK SPINO



Mark grew up in South Euclid and attended Catholic Schools for 12 years, graduating from Benedictine High School. From there he went to Kent State University with a Secondary Education degree in Social Studies. He was a teacher and football coach for 3 years before crossing over into manufacturing. Currently he

has his own business, Premier Search, for recruiting professionals for manufacturing companies. He has been married for 28 years to Amy. They have 3 grown-up kids who all live in the Cleveland area – Alexandra, Matthew & Jacob. They moved to Independence in 2006 and all 3 graduated from Independence HS.

Mark describes himself as a “refugee from the Catholic faith.” After years of uncertainty he started visiting different Protestant denominations including Gospel House, an evangelical church where he began developing his passion for Bible studies. He adheres to a literal translation of the scriptures but realizes that many others have different interpretations. We are lucky that he landed at IPC in 2018 and has attended regularly ever since. Before Pastor Bill started Wednesday Bible studies, Mark attended the Evening Circle’s study last year.

Mark is interested in most sports – football, golf, pick-up basketball, and sand volleyball on Whiskey Island (subs for his son’s team). He has a great smile and a sunny personality to match. An unknown fact about Mark is that recently he won a Super Bowl square with 4 other college friends for a \$15,000.00 pot!!! No wonder he is smiling!

~ Karen Shallcross

## Presbyterian Women Tidbits

**We need your help and the good news is that you can help from your house!** The Presbyterian Women used jewelry sales last year were so successful that we would like to continue with them this year. However, we need more donations of your unwanted jewelry to stock our “boutique.” Please review your jewelry treasure troves and bring any donations to the church office. Thank you in advance for your generosity. If you have any questions, call Janis Carr at 216 262-5180.

You can find the January/February issue of the Presbyterian Women magazine, Horizons, in a magazine file in the church’s library. The January/February magazine’s theme is “Humility and Respect.” “In this issue, contributors explore the many ways we engage with the world and the people in it. Sometimes that means respecting ourselves enough to realize that we have valuable contributions to offer .... Other times, engaging faithfully with the world means having the humility to stand quietly and listen.” Two articles dealing with the main topics are “Racial Healing and Reconciliation” by Catrelia Hunter and “Nothing We Do Is Enough: Humility and Climate Change” by abby mohaupt (the author prefers her name lowercased). Curl up on a cold winter’s day and read Horizons!

~ Janis Carr

## Update from Session

The contract between the Board of Session and Rev. Hudson, as approved by the Presbytery through its Committee on Ministry, is a one-year contract expiring on April 22, 2020. Session has asked Rev. Hudson to continue as Transitional Pastor while PNC continues the search process for a permanent called pastor, and Rev. Hudson has agreed to do so. He and Session will be working on the terms of an extension over the next 4-6 weeks. We are grateful for his continued guidance and leadership!

~ Elder Wendy Lavey

## Financial Corner:

Feb	Operating revenue	\$18,756	Operating expense	\$10,629	Net Operating income	+\$8,127
YTD	Operating revenue	\$32,882	Operating expense	\$26,041	Net Operating income	+\$6,841

\* About one-third of 2020 pledge income has been received through the first 2 months of the year.

## Outreach Team News

At the February meeting of the Outreach Team, the following ideas about events/projects emerged, and we want input from YOU – the members and friends of IPC – as to which ones you would like to participate in. Please contact an Outreach Team member or email Karen Shallcross at [kshallx@prodigy.net](mailto:kshallx@prodigy.net) with your preferences and/or ideas for any other event/project for the future. We plan on having a bulletin flyer for Palm Sunday to also get input from the congregation.

- Strawberry Fest in June (church-wide or community-wide?)
- Independence Little Theatre show in the fall (Sunday matinee or Fri/Sat evening?)
- Once a month lunch at a local restaurant
- Once a month dinner at a local restaurant
- Picnic (Elmwood Park or Metroparks?)

Thank you for your input!!

Outreach Team: Barb Csuti, Karen Embrescia, Mike Messenger, Bev Rospierski, Karen Shallcross

~ Karen Shallcross

### *Mission in Motion (March 2020)*

Hello IPC!

Love INC continues to be a wonderful resource for us as they are hard at work helping one of our congregants. We were also able to refer someone to them who had called the IPC office for help in February. We will post quarterly reports from Love INC on the bulletin board as soon as we receive the next one.

From the Crisis Fund we distributed \$500 to Convoy of Hope to help with recovery from the Australian Wildfires and \$250 was sent to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to provide aid after the earthquake devastation in Puerto Rico.

Plans for the Cooperative Mission meeting on **May 8<sup>th</sup>** are progressing, with a personal invitation being extended to the Mobile Presbytery unit that was at Babe's Café in Independence on 2/24. The Presbytery members suggested that we submit this event to their Email Newsletter (done!) and they suggested we submit any other public IPC events to this newsletter to increase our reach. There is an easy form to complete on the Presbytery website for activities like concerts, rummage sales and more to promote any good work and opportunities moving forward.

### *TWO MISSION TRIP OPPORTUNITIES*

John Knox Presbyterian will be sending a group to Guatemala for a construction mission trip June 16-24. Contact Chris Hoffa ([ckh649@gmail.com](mailto:ckh649@gmail.com)) if you would like more information. Chris is also putting together a construction mission trip to Nicaragua for next January.

There is another great opportunity, the **Merge Conference**, which is a blended youth conference and mission trip that the IPC Mission Team is willing to use mission funds to help sponsor. Whether you are an adult willing to chaperone, or a youth aged 12 and over interested in participating, please see a Mission Team member for more information or visit the website online at <https://groupmissiontrips.com/trip-types/merge-conference>. Examples of mission activities include tutoring students from low-income families and visiting senior centers. Participating youth receive six hours of leadership training and will perform approximately 25 hours of community service. Adults will learn key strategies for excelling in youth ministry. This seems like a really amazing opportunity for a faith and fun-filled week!

~ Lee McGovern, Mission Team Leader



## Do you know?

Grace or “saying the blessing” is not just a prayer that we say at a family dinner table or perhaps at a church potluck where it refers to the practice of thanking God for our food before a meal. There is more to it than that. Let’s look into it a little.

“Saying the blessing” follows the examples of Jesus and the apostle Paul both of whom said it before meals. How do we know? Paul spoke of Jesus in Acts 27:35 (KJV), “And when he had thus spoken, he took bread, and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all: and when he had broken it, he began to eat.” Then in Matthew 15:32-38 (KJV) when Jesus fed 4,000 men besides women and children, “he took the seven loaves and the fishes, and gave thanks, and brake them, and gave to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitudes.” In Luke 24:13-35 (KJV) on the day of Jesus’ resurrection, two of his followers travel to the village of Emmaus where Jesus joins them on the road. In Emmaus Jesus stops to eat with them. At the table Jesus “took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them. And their eyes were opened, and they knew him.”

Since we owe everything we have to God’s grace, it is appropriate to thank him always. Meals provide a good time to pause and do just that. Romans 11:36 (KJV) “For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to him be glory forever. Amen.”

There is no excuse for not “saying the blessing”. The following simple Grace was copied from the menu of Der Dutchman Restaurant in Bellville, Ohio. Thank God and “say the blessing” wherever you are!

*Lord, we thank you for this meal  
For all the blessings you impart  
For our family, for our friends  
And for living in our heart. Amen*

*gotquestions.org; biblegateway.com;  
kingjamesbibleonline.com*

*- Janis Carr*

## Presbyterian 101

**Q:** What do Presbyterians have to do with St. Patrick’s Day?

**A:** Quite a bit, at least in the United States. Boston has long claimed to have held the first St. Patrick’s celebration in the American colonies. On March 17, 1737, or thereabouts, a group of 26 men of Ulster birth and ancestry gathered to honor St. Patrick. These men founded the Charitable Irish Society to provide “relief of poor, aged and infirm persons, such as have been reduced by sickness, shipwreck and other accidental misfortunes.” The group also wanted to cultivate a spirit of unity and harmony among the resident Irishmen and their descendants in the Massachusetts colony and “to advance socially and morally the interests of the Irish people.” It turns out that these founders were predominantly Presbyterians! In 1760, the Society dropped the requirement that only Protestants could join. By 1800, the Society’s annual meetings were held on March 17 and the group clearly identified with Ireland’s national patron, St. Patrick. The Society is the oldest Irish organization in North America and continues to live its original motto: “With Good Will Doing Service.”

*~ Wendy Lavey*



**Presbyterian Trivia:** This isn’t specific to Presbyterians, but do you know how the date for Easter is set each year?

**Answer to Feb Trivia:** The well-known female mathematician who was also a Presbyterian Elder and choir member was Katherine Johnson. If you saw the movie, Hidden Figures, you probably knew the answer! She was highlighted in PC(USA) materials for Black History Month. Ms. Johnson died at the age of 101 on Feb. 24.

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Postage

TO:



**SPRING CLEANUP DAY: SATURDAY, MARCH 28,**  
**8AM-WHENEVER (Weather backup day is April 4)**

## Scripture readings for Lent

**Zephaniah 3:17** *"The Lord your God, is in your midst, a mighty savior, who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his life."*

**John 10:10** *"I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly."*

**Thank you to all contributors to the October issue of IPC's Towerbell: Rev. Bill Hudson, Laura Butler, Janis Carr, Nancy Jermann, Wendy Lavey, Lee McGovern, Karen Shallcross and Paula Trill. All errors belong to Wendy as editor and layout specialist! Color printing donated. Updates and articles are due to Wendy by the last day of the preceding month, although earlier is better!!**