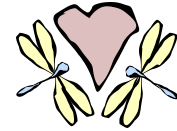




February 2024



First Presbyterian Church, 100 North 10th, Richmond, IN 47374

Dear Church Family,

There's a song we used to sing in church that goes like this:

*"Holiness, holiness is what I long for.
Holiness is what I need.
Holiness, holiness is what you want from me."**

As the song continues, the noun changes each verse: it names holiness, then righteousness, then faithfulness. When I was a little girl, I associated each of those words with a certain consistency that demanded severity. I understood holiness as perfection, righteousness as infallibility, and faithfulness as rigid devotion. I imagined I was covered in filth, and I needed to be roughly scrubbed clean.

Because the song is so repetitive, even decades later, it still gets stuck in my head. But, recently, in a moment of clarity I can only credit to the Holy Spirit, the tune stayed the same in my brain, but the lyrics changed.

*"Gentleness. Gentleness is what I long for.
Gentleness is what I need.
Gentleness, gentleness is what God gives to me."*

I wanted to share that epiphany with you as we approach the beginning of Lent.

It's only two weeks until Ash Wednesday, the start of the Lenten season. In previous years, you may have used the time leading up to Lent to think about what you "should" give up or what you "should" add in to set apart the season. Indeed, the 40 days* between February 14th and March 31st could be covered with "shoulds" that I believe would bring us closer to guilt, not closer to God. Instead, this year, I pray that we might find this season overflowing with what we need.

With gentleness,
Pastor LydiaGrace

*By Artist Donnie McClurkin, "Holiness is What I Long for"
*not counting Sundays



Spring Semester 2024
Pastor LydiaGrace's Office Hours

Sunday: 9am-12noon (in the church)
Monday: available through email
Tuesday: 11-5pm (in the church or providing pastoral care)
Wednesday: OFF
Thursday: available through email
Friday: 5:30-7:30pm (in the church or providing pastoral care)
Saturday: Sabbath

Pastor LydiaGrace's Email: lydiagrace.espiritu@gmail.com

Job Description for Half-time Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Indiana

Primary Responsibilities

The pastor will:

- be responsible for Sunday bulletin writing/compilation
- be responsible for Sunday sermon writing/preaching
- be responsible for baptism, communion, funerals and weddings
- attend Presbytery meetings
- moderate Session meetings/congregational meetings
- **maintain office hours for 6 hours for a set day per week**
- **provide pastoral care to those homebound, hospitalized, sick, or in need of a pastoral visit (This may be used in conjunction with office hours.)**
- facilitate back up pastoral care system in case of emergencies

Secondary Responsibilities*

The pastor will:

- provide pastoral care to those attending Dinner at the Lamp, the weekly free community meal
- attend church fellowship events
- teach a seasonal Bible Study
- teach a seasonal Sunday School class
- attend monthly Richmond Area Ministerial Association meetings
- write an article for the church newsletter
- attend a designated portion of monthly commission meetings/deacon meetings upon prior invitation from the commission chair/lead deacon
- be responsible for up to two "extra" services during Advent and up to two "extra" services during Lent
- provide additional support as necessary

Welcome to our new digital church newsletter!

Starting in 2024, PresbyNews will be in your email inbox at the beginning of each month.

The church family is no longer paying for a subscription to the postage bulk mailing system: if you would like the digital newsletter printed for you, please contact the church office or sign up to receive a physical PresbyNews on the sign-up sheet on the announcement board in the church parlor



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

and pitch-in dinner Sunday, February 25, 2024 following the regular Worship Service; please bring dishes to share and your own table service.
(snow date March 3)

BOOK CLUB

Please join us in the church parlor for our next book discussion February 12, 6:30 PM, "Black Cake," Charmaine Wilkerson.. Great discussion and we bring snacks!

DAYTON DRAGONS

Last year we had a fun outing to a Dayton Dragons baseball game—please join us this year! Friday, June 7, tickets \$10 each, transportation included! Get tickets from Jon Richwine.

2024 per capita is 43.61 for each active member of a Presbyterian Church.

Do you miss singing in the church choir? Come join

The Hymn Singers

Starting February 8, The Hymn Singers will gather every Thursday from 6:30-7:30pm in the Board Room.

LG Gray will lead this lively ensemble where we'll sing each Sunday's upcoming hymns, prepare special choral pieces, and optionally end the evening with beloved hymn requests. It will be good to sing together again!

See you there

*This offering is a gift of time and talent given to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church with the approval of the Worship and Music Commission; it is not meant to be counted as a part of Pastor LydiaGrace's part-time hours.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Celebrations
To those with
February Birthdays & Anniversaries!



SYMPATHY is extended
to the family and friends of:

Violet Stevens who died January 18

*Flo Fleenor on the death of her sister-in-law
Phyllis Hagy, Jan. 23*

*Lynda Hinshaw and family on the death of her
son David Hinshaw on Jan. 25*

Barbara Bastin who died Jan. 27



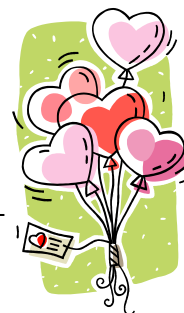
“Souper” Bowl

“Souper” Bowl Sunday is February 11. Bring cans of soup and place in the box in the education wing entry. Soup will be donated to our Community Food Pantry

Thank You

Dear FPC friends,
Thank you for your many expressions of love and caring during my recent hospitalization as well as during this time of rehab. Your cards, visits, texts and all the expressions of kindness have been very uplifting and helpful. You are so good at showing God’s love in tangible ways and it has meant a lot .

Becky Harper



Lenten Study Opportunities

STEVE STOLLER will lead a Lenten study on "The Pursuit of Holiness" each Sunday morning from February 18 through March 24, 9:00 to 10:00 AM, in the down-stairs boardroom. Our class book will be "The Pursuit of Holiness" by Jerry Bridges. If you want to participate, please sign up in the parlor and take a copy of the book and class schedule. We hope you can join us and learn more of how to grow in the holiness that God desires for all of us!

JON RICHWINE will lead a 6-week Lenten Study beginning Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1 PM (*book to be announced*)

Possibility of evening class to be announced when date/time available.

Ladies Lenten Luncheon

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

First Presbyterian Church
100 North 10th Street
11:30 AM

Tickets \$5.00
available from Diane Whitehead



Ash Wednesday

service and Imposition of ashes
February 14, 2024 ~ Sanctuary
12:40-1 PM



Lord, make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.

First Presbyterian Church

100 N 10th St
Richmond IN 47374

Pastor: Rev. LydiaGrace Quine-Espiritu Gray: lydigrace.espiritu@gmail.com

Youth Director: Jon Richwine; richwinejon41@gmail.com

Emily: emilyaflee@gmail.com

Church Phone: 765.966.2234

Fax: 765.966.8174

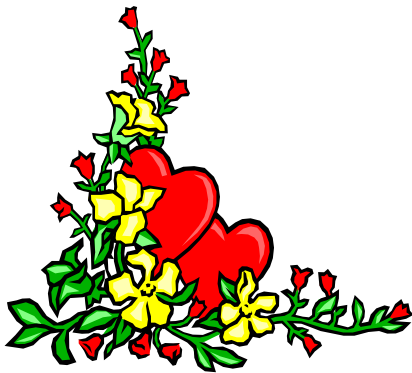


Church E-Mail: fpcrichmond100@gmail.com

Website: firstpresrichmond.squarespace.com

Cable broadcast on Channel 21, Sunday 7 PM

**“Do not store up for yourselves
treasures on earth...For where
your treasure is, there your
heart will be also.”**



Deadlines for Church Office

All articles for PresbyNews must be received in the Church Office by **8 AM** on the Thursday following a regular Session meeting. The deadline for the March newsletter is 8 AM, Thursday, Feb. 22

Also, *reminder*, the bulletin information needs to be received by Wednesday, 4 PM. Thursday, 8 AM, is the deadline for any check request. Checks are written on Friday, signed on Sunday, mailed on Monday. If you need something, please submit the check request one week before it's needed.