

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

April 3, 2011 10:00 a.m.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

*"First Presbyterian Church of West Seneca is an inclusive community, welcoming all people to its worship and prayers, regardless of race, gender, or social status."*

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### PREPARATION

"Religion is assaulted most by the pretence of religion: but the more it is pressed down, the more it rises up."  
-John Calvin

### CHIMING OF THE HOUR

PRELUDE                      *Beneath The Cross of Jesus*                      -Maker

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

May these candles represent the Light of Christ within each of us, separate yet one in forgiveness, love, peace and Spirit.

#### WELCOME

*Today, your presence both enriches us and this time of celebration together. Please sign the friendship pad located in your pew. If you would like to be on the pastor's weekly "Invite for Worship," leave your email address. Please write prayer requests on a pew card and pass it to the end of the pew during the opening hymn.)*

#### PRAYER OF AWARENESS

We pray: Holy and One God, may this hour be a time of honesty and receptivity, as we listen to receive Your Word for our lives. May peace be renewed in each heart and mind as we ponder the words of Jesus and open our hearts to truth, the truth of Eternal forgiveness and peace to live. **Amen.**

\*HYMN                      267                      *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If anyone claims to know, he or she knows nothing as he should. If we are live without condemning ourselves and others with guilt, our thinking needs to change, in repenting, and in accepting anew the Kingdom of God within. Let us pray:

**Holy Spirit, who surrounds and indwell us, longing to direct our minds if we but listen, come to us in these moments of confession and intention. Help us to hear**

-continues

\*All who are able may stand

**the words of peace we so often miss, to let go anger, resentment, impatience, condemnation and guilt. We confess how easily we forget ourselves as One with You in Spirit. Today, help us to return to our Christ Minds as we give up self condemnation and experience release through forgiveness, taught centuries ago in the teachings of Jesus. Amen.**

*(silence to listen)*

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

God came into the world not to condemn the world but to set it free. To not believe in His Oneness within is to condemn ourselves. Today, believe and be set free, knowing you too are the Sons and Daughters of God!

**MUSICAL RESPONSE**            2054    *Nothing Can Trouble*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy and Indwelling Spirit, give us listening minds as we listen for your Word written from the hearts and minds of those yearning for You. **Amen.**

### **THE READINGS**

**First Reading Ephesians 5:8-14** "We are to Be Children of Light"

**Responsorial Psalm 23** "The Lord is My Shepherd"

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me;**

**your rod and your staff — they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

**The Gospel, John 9:1-41** "The Blind Man Sees"

### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

### **TIME WITH THE CHILDREN**

(Any children 3yrs –4<sup>th</sup> grade may leave for church school)

**REFLECTIONS**            *Blinded by Beliefs*

## SILENCE

**\*AFFIRMATION** "Tell the People Not to Cry" by John Fire Lame Deer, Lakota Elder  
(told to his son, Archie, as he died)

**Our Elders know about the two Worlds, the Physical Word and the Spiritual World. Many times, before we pass to the Spirit World, our relatives, who have gone there before us, will come for us and they will help us. The Spirit World, the Elders say, is a good, happy, and harmonious place. When we die, it means we have only entered another world. We will all see one another again. Great Spirit, allow me to understand both the Spirit World and the Physical World. Today, let me be happy. Amen.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

This is a house of God. A place of peace. A place where we befriend one another.

Let us greet another as a sign of God's peace and of our shared friendship. The peace of God is here... to stay.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*You are invited to share the peace with your neighbors.*

**RESPONSE** 324 Open My Eyes That I May See

## CALL FOR THE OFFERING OF GIFT AND SELF

### THE OFFERING

**OFFERTORY** *In This Moment of Remembrance*

-Wood

**\*RESPONSE** 592 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

## THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### The Thanksgiving:

...And so, with Elizabeth who prophesied a birth, Martha who longed for the Christ, and James and John who sought to follow in the Way, we continue our praise, saying:

All: **Holy, holy, holy, vulnerable God, heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of God.

All: **Hosanna in the highest.**

### The prayers for the People

## **Bread and wine**

We remember...

Long ago, so our tradition says, Jesus took bread, offered thanks for it, and broke it:

'This bread is broken, as my body will be'.

*Bread broken*

He handed it to his friends, and invited them to eat: 'Remember all that I have been to you'.

We remember...

Long ago, so our tradition also says, Jesus poured a cup of wine, offered thanks for it, and gave it to his friends: 'This wine is poured out, as my life will be. As you drink give thanks for all I have given'.

*Wine poured out*

Bread... the very stuff of life. Wine... fruit of the vine.

## **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Communion**

Let us share this bread and wine as Jesus lived it, knowing that our lives are forever changed by this and every breaking of bread.

*Bread and wine served in continuous line and to those who choose to remain seated.*

### **Anointings**

#### **After communion**

Life affirming God, bless this table-gathering of your people. May the supper shared together, strengthen us in our witness to the world. **Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*HYMN**        2171    *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** (In Unison)

**The Light of God surrounds us;**

**The Love of God enfolds us;**

**The Power of God protects us;**

**The Presence of God watches over us;**

**Wherever we are, God is. Alleluia! Amen.**

**POSTLUDE**        *Chimed*

(The congregation treats the postlude as its closing time of worship and leaves after it is completed.)

## FELLOWSHIP

Morning coffee, tea and refreshments are now served. You are invited to join Pastor Dave in the pastor's study for the continued discussion of Tom Harpur's book, "The Pagan Christ." The discussion will start in about ten minutes.

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Pastor: Rev. David Persons  
Layreader: Janice Jones  
Greeters: Marilyn Mohr & The Perillo family  
Counters: George Shaffer

## SUNDAY NEWS ANNOUNCEMENTS

**We welcome all who** worship here this morning. Please join us for coffee after the worship service.

**Large print copies** of the Order of Worship, The Hymnal and the NRSV Bible are available at the back of the church.

**Phonic Ear hearing assistance** program is available. Please see an usher for more details.

**Prayer Request Cards**, located, in your pew, are for any prayer requests you wish included in the Prayers of the People. If you have a prayer request, please annotate your request on the back of the card, then pass it to the end of the pew (whichever end is closer to you) for collection by the usher during the opening hymn. Please do not place the card in the offering plate, as the card suggests. "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." *Philippians 4:6*

**You are invited** to join Pastor Dave again this Thursday as we continue Tom Harpur's book "The Pagan Christ." We will conclude his chapter titled, "Christianity Before Christianity."

## CHILD CARE

**Infant/Toddler Nursery Care** during worship is provided for your children.

## CALENDAR

Today	- April 3	10:00 a.m.	Worship w/ Communion – <i>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</i>
		11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
		11:10 a.m.	Book discussion
Mon.	- April 4	7:00 p.m.	Common Meeting Night
Wed.	- April 6	1:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Arthritis Foundation Exercise program Lenten Journey @ Life Church
Thurs.	- April 7	7:00 p.m.	Book Discussion
Sun.	- April 10	10:00 a.m.	Worship – <i>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</i>
		11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Time
		11:10 a.m.	Book discussion

## PRAYER CONCERNS

### Members of our congregation

John Christmann ♦ Paul Rasp

Our special prayers are extended to Myrt Halligan as she mourns the sudden death of her husband, Bill. A memorial service will be conducted tomorrow, April 4, at 4:00 in the Kloc Funeral Home. Visitation hours are from 1 to 4 prior to the service.

### Family & Friends of our congregation

Elaine Bergman (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Erna Burdick (Sue Piersa) ♦ Donna Burns (Sue Piersa) ♦ Kathy Miller Colmerauer (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dan & Judy Cravotta (Janice Jones) ♦ Pauline Deletti (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Linda Dories (Sandy Fiegl) ♦ Cathy Folaron (Cheryl Wilczak) ♦ Rosanne Folaron (Cheryl Wilczak) ♦ Joy Gordon (Debbie Ball) ♦ Ed & Dorothy Gutowski (Ed Gutowski) ♦ Carolyn Halley (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Jill Miller-Kisker (Jane Lankes) ♦ Dee Dee Labby (Cheryl Labby) ♦ Aaron Miechurski (The Halligan's) ♦ Donald Mohr (Sandy Perillo) ♦ Mary Orofino (Marilyn Mohr) ♦ Maureen Patti (Helen Somer) ♦ Jodi Rustski (The Fischers) ♦ Elizabeth Shaffer (George Shaffer)

### Service Men & Women

Russell Molnar ♦ Pat McCullough ♦ Zachery Goggins ♦ Alison Lankes ♦ Erik Brown ♦ James Schmidt ♦ Matthew Jones ♦ Kyle Ernst ♦ Mike Barnum

Each week we invite you to hold in your prayers different families and individuals in our church. As an act of faithfulness we pray for each other. This week we pray for:  
Phillip Colligan    Bill & Nancy Hay    The Piersa family    Wendy Warren

## CHURCH NEWS NOTES

**FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION:** today is Communion Sunday and as always we will be collecting non-perishable food for the food pantry. Please remember to share what we have been given with others by donating to the local food pantry.

**FEEL FREE to contact Pastor Dave** if you would like a conference or interview with him about questions you may have. He is planning to come to the church office each Thursday and if you let him know ahead of time, he will plan to meet with you. Email him at [dapersons@hotmail.com](mailto:dapersons@hotmail.com) or call 716-712-6728. You can also read Pastor Dave's several blogs, Youtube Talks, Facebook sharings, and Twitters through his website: [www.Davepersonspirit.com](http://www.Davepersonspirit.com).

<b><u>Attendance for March 27<sup>th</sup></u></b>
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