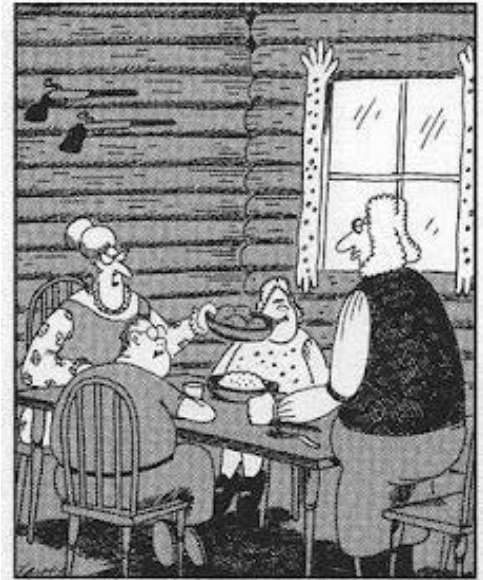




Messenger of Hope

April 2025

A week ago was the 200th anniversary of Patrick Henry's famous proclamation, "Give me liberty, or give me death." It's one of those quotes that sticks in my head, mostly due to the comic artistry of the late Farside creator, Gary Larson. As I write this, Senator Cory Booker has been speaking on the floor of Congress for a few hours now. "Liberty" is a theme that keeps coming up a lot in his speech, and in the cultural conversation these days. Indeed, it's even been featured in the sermons of our Lenten series, from the "Let my people go!" moments of the Exodus to the loss of liberty in the Babylonian exile and occupation. In Galatians 5:1, Paul writes, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery." If we didn't read any further, we might think that our freedom, our liberty, was the end-goal itself! It's like a plant breaking forth from the seed casing. It's not enough to just get out; there has to be something more...



"For crying out loud, Patrick — sit down. ... And enough with the 'give me the potatoes or give me death' nonsense."

In last week's sermon, I mentioned the Jewish philosopher Viktor Frankl. While doing my sermon prep, I learned that he has written extensively about the need to balance Liberty with Responsibility. To this end, he suggested that we in America need to have a large statue, just off the West Coast, to parallel the Statue of Liberty on Ellis Island, something that evokes this onus of accountability. It's not enough to know that we've been set free from tyranny, the weight of sin, or what have you. We must know what we've been set free for. Being freed people leaves us with an obligation; how will we use that freedom? Will we work to make it known that freedom is available? Will we seek to set others free? Deep down, everyone wants to be free.

How we answer those questions is directly connected to our understanding of what we've been freed from. This is why we practice Lent the way we do. We always know, generally, that Christ died for our sin, but Lent gives us time to become acutely aware of how far afield we've strayed, how deep our treachery goes, and how heavy were the chains that bound us. As we wrap up this particular season, I hope your eyes are opened anew to the magnificent freedom we are given in the life, work, death, and resurrection of Jesus. What's more, I hope your imagination can run deep with the implications of that bounteous liberty, and what you might do with it! That is where your ministry really starts moving, and the flourishing of your growth begins.

~Pastor Ben

HPC Information

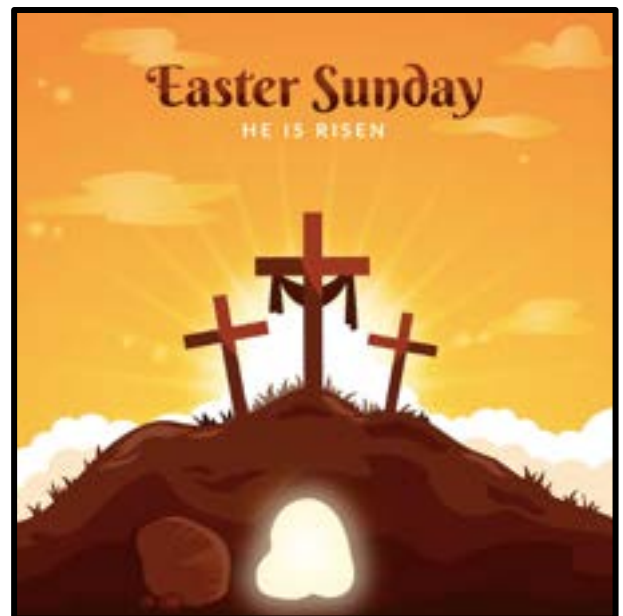
HPC Attendance			
Date	In Person	Online	Total
3/30/25	34	6	40
3/23/25	30	11	41
3/16/25	23	6	29
3/9/25	36	6	42
3/5/25	18	8	26
3/2/25	33	0	33
2/23/25	27	6	33
2/16/25	0	0	0
2/9/25	26	12	38
2/2/25	28	6	34



Above: Soup supper during Lent on Wednesday. **Above Left:** HPC Service Attendance, Snow day 2/16, Facebook issue 3/2, Ash Wednesday 3/5. Average: March, 36, February 35.

Left: Income was lower than expenses in February. **Below Left:** Choir sounding great during Lent.

3 Month Financial Report			
	December, 2024	January, 2025	February, 2025
General Fund	\$45,502.93	\$43,388.15	\$42,204.68
Income	\$8,615.00	\$9,778.00	\$10,296.73
Expense	\$12,391.59	\$11,896.68	\$11,483.77
Net	(\$3,776.59)	(\$2,118.68)	(\$1,187.04)



March Session Minutes

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Property – Elder Andy Forsythe - No report.

Mission/Outreach – Elder – Betty Jane Davis - Shoe boxes approved for 2025.

Finances – Elder John Tuttle - No report.

Worship – Elder Tony Ganson - Working on church manuals, setting up summer music, planning Christmas concert.

Christian Education – Elder Betsy Shoffstall - Adult Sunday school will resume watching “The Chosen” on March 23 at 9 am. Belle Center will hold VBS on June 16-19 9am – 10:30 am. Our youth are welcome to attend. Volunteers from our church are welcomed.

Calendar: Easter Egg Hunt – April 12, Maundy Thursday service April 17 7 pm.

Next session meeting April 15, 2025, 6:00 PM.

We are grateful for these blessings:

- Praise for Shirley's birthday on March 7.
- Praise for John & Suzy's anniversary.
- Praise for a first great grandchild for John and Suzy.
- Praise for a beautiful day, no more freezing weather.
- Praise for Donna S back with us in worship. Thanks for all the prayers and encouragement.
- Praise for flowers appearing despite the cold.
- Praise for Lois W who has recovered from recent setbacks.

Lord, hear our prayers for these trials we face:

- Prayers for June W. as she goes through therapy at Logan Acres.
- Prayers for Donna S as she recovers.
- Prayers for Mason as he takes his mid-term exams.
- Prayers for Sharon's family after the passing of her cousin.
- Prayers for Scott's brother-in-law, Ron on the passing of his brother.
- Prayers for Tony's friend who is in the Lima hospital.
- Prayers for the Joe Roberts family on the loss of Deb.
- Prayers for everyone traveling this spring break.
- Prayers for all the 3 Stoner brothers (Keith, John and Jim) as they face upcoming treatments.
- Prayers for the Roger Brown family on his passing.
- Prayers for our home bound members -Bernie G. at home, Betty H. at the Homestead, Lois W. at The Gables (Marysville), Lenny Y. at home.

Bernie Ganson
4423 County Road 222
Huntsville, OH 43324

Lennie Young
120 Poplar Court
Lakeview, OH 43331

Lois Williams (Room 304)
Heritage Senior Living
1565 London Ave
Marysville, OH 43040

Betty Hemphill (Room 106)
Logan Acres Senior Community
2745 County Road 91
Bellefontaine, OH 43311



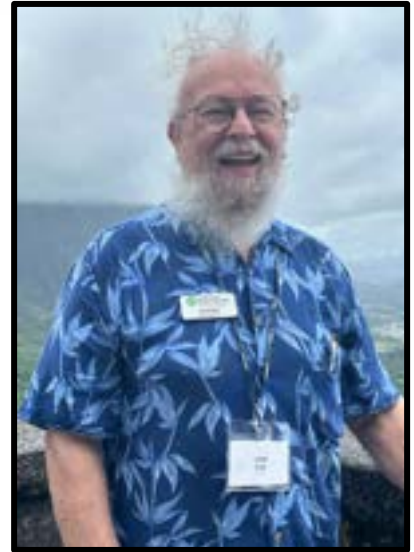
Above: Betty with her 4 great grandchildren

They would love to receive cards from us!

FACES WE LOVE



Left: Shirley with her 6 great grandchildren. **Right:** Jerry having fun in Hawaii. **Below Right:** 4 generations Kevin, Kelsey, Parker & Barb. **Below:** Suzanne with her grandchildren. **Below Left:** Barb with her great grandchild Parker.



Left: Cambria selected to the National Technical Honor Society. **Right:** Phoebe and Zoe and Joel Gordon in musical Annie, Jr. Grandchildren of Todd and Joyce Gordon.





HPC HAPPENINGS APRIL 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6 pm Soup Supper	3 Mark Gordon	4	5 Connie Hall Jerry & Ann Jenkins
6 10 am Worship	7 Tori Hurley	8	9 6 pm Soup Supper	10 Pastor Ben Beres	11	12 11 am Easter Egg Hunt - Lion's park
13 10 am Worship	14	15 Michelle Tuttle Rachelle Ruth	16 Doris Brooks 6 pm Soup Supper	17 Donna Brown 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	18	19
20 EASTER 9 am Breakfast 10 am Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10 am Worship Audrey Burton Donna Martz	28 Tim Gietzen	29	30			

Thanks to those who serve us well!

Helping with Worship in March:

Lay Readers: Betty Jane Davis, Betsy Shoffstall, Tony Ganson

Pianist / Organist: Aryn Forsythe

Greeters/Ushers: Brown family



Left: Aryn playing beautiful music during Lent. **Above:** Betsy serving as our lay reader.



*Worshipping God,
Loving Our Neighbors*

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Check us out on Facebook under
"Huntsville Presbyterian Church"

*God Bless
You!*