

# The Good News March 2023

## *Pastor's Pen*

Our focus for Lent is Jesus's *Sermon on the Mount*, which covers an entire two chapters in the Gospel of Matthew (chapters 5-7). Significant events in the life of Jesus happened on mountains. After Jesus's baptism we are told that he "was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness where he was tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1), and the last temptation occurred on a mountain. "The devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me'" (Matthew 4:8-9). And Jesus refused. Then Jesus descended this mountain and began his ministry in Galilee, declaring, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has drawn near" (Matthew 4:17).

Later in Matthew Jesus led three of his disciples up a high mountain and the glory of God showed forth. We are told at that place, "He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white" (Matthew 17:2). Then afterwards, they descended the mountain and Jesus resumed his ministry. Matthew's gospel also tells us Jesus would ascend a mountain to pray to separate himself from the crowds (Matthew 14:23). It's worth noting that Jesus went to the "Mount" of Olives where he prayed just before his arrest (Matthew 26:30).

So, when the Bible tells us Jesus went up the mountain and began to speak, it makes sense that this was a significant event as well. In these teachings from the "Mount" Jesus wants to make it clear that he represents the fulfillment of the Old Testament Law and the Prophets. Six times we hear Jesus qualify his teachings with the words, "You have heard it said" (in the Old Testament Law), and then following it with, "But I say" to explain his reinterpretation of these laws. In doing this, Jesus was putting himself at odds with the religious leaders of his day because they considered themselves the experts of the Jewish Law and saw themselves as the guardians of the Law's standard. It was as though Jesus was saying to the people, "These Pharisees and scribes (the religious leaders) are no longer the experts, I am." The bold claim of Jesus was that he was the new authority!

So, during these remaining weeks in Lent, we will explore what the Sermon on the Mount has to say to us today and how these teachings apply to us.

See you in Church,

*Pastor Peter*

### **MARCH 5:**

On this Second Sunday of Lent, the scripture reference from the Sermon on the Mount is for Matthew 6:25-34, with a special emphasis on verse 25, "Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"

### **MARCH 12:**

This Third Sunday of Lent we will look at what Jesus says about Judging others: "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3)

### **MARCH 19:**

Jesus said, "Ask, and it will be given to you; search and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you" (Matthew 7:7).

How do we reconcile these words to our life experiences when we feel we have truly asked, searched and knocked and nothing came of it?

### **MARCH 26:**

Jesus concludes his Sermon on the Mount with these words: "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like the wise man who built his house on rock" (Matthew 7:24). By saying this Jesus is challenging us all to examine what is truly foundational to our lives.

## FROM THE SESSION

The session met for its first stated meeting of the year on Monday, **February 13, at 7:00 p.m.** The meeting was conducted in person at the Northfield Church. Session actions/discussion included:

1. Mission and Evangelism Committee: session voted to promote the One Great Hour of Sharing Special offering during Lent. NPC will be providing a meal for North Church in Cleveland on April 23. Plans are being made for mission representatives to speak at NPC during worship.
2. Christian Education: There will be follow up discussion groups for those attending the *Jesus Revolution* movie. The Pastor will be providing an adult study on Wednesday afternoons during Lent.
3. Property and Finance: The committee had their February meeting at which they prioritized the work projects for the year.
4. Worship and Music: Plans are being made for the Ash Wednesday (February 22) and Maundy Thursday (April 6) special services.
5. Next presbytery meeting is March 27, and will be using a hybrid format.
6. Kathy Moore, the liaison to the daycare, informed session that the search for a new director continues. There is no recommended hire as of this session meeting date.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST MARCH 18:** The men of the church are invited to an informal breakfast gathering on Saturday, March 18 beginning at 9:00 am. This will be an informal time of fellowship and devotional time. Please let Scott Williamson know if you plan to attend so we can have a count .

### ADULT STUDY FOR LENT BEGINS MARCH 1:

The pastor will be leading a six-part adult study during Lent called

*Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws.*

It is based on a book by that name by Adam Hamilton.

In this study, we will explore the life of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus's care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts.

As we study Luke and see Jesus's concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

Classes will meet at 1:00 pm in person in the church library on March 1, 8, 15, 22,29, and April 5.



### NPC recognized for 190 years

Ohio State Representative Bill Roemer and Ohio State Senator Kristina Roegner presented official State of Ohio letters of recognition to NPC to commemorate the 190th Anniversary of our Church.

## Finance/Building & Grounds Committee

News you can use:

By April 1 NPC will be using a Huntington Bank payroll service to process monthly salary for our 4 employees. No Maintenance Fees for the service; direct deposit offered for employees; online payroll information for both individual employees and our Treasurer; payroll service submits IRS payroll forms and accepts responsibility for timely submission of Federal and State forms; checks processed within 2 business days of receipt of employee hours—all this for \$49.99/month. All good news and advantageous for our employees.

As of this date we have 36 family units who have tithed a total of \$124,730 for 2023. If you wish to join in and submit a tithing commitment; please contact the Finance Committee or the NPC office!

Are you looking for your church envelopes to donate to the church? The printing company is still working on it and envelopes should be to our church by early March. In the meantime, please use any leftover envelopes you have from previous years, yellow pew envelopes or any empty envelope you have at your home----just be sure to write your Name, the current date, \$ amount and fund (s) to which you are contributing.

THANK YOU for your patience!

Have you visited our NPC website lately? We are working on a new ONLINE DONATION option. We will be utilizing a giving program serviced by the Presbyterian Foundation. Lakewood and Fairmount Presbyterian churches successfully use this program - so I tried it out on their websites. EASY to use and SECURE! We will let you know as soon as we go live with the "GIVE NOW" online donation program!

### INCOME AND EXPENSES

	<u>Jan 23</u>	<u>Jan 22</u>
Total Income:	\$15,110.00	\$25,144.01
Total Expense	16,915.36	16,594.44
Net Income	-1,805.36	8,549.57



## Mission & Evangelism Committee

NPC Mission Committee will worship and break bread with North Church on April 23. We welcome you to sign up and join us at the North Church.

If you cannot come down to North, perhaps you can buy a new pair of socks or a men's tee shirt (M-XL) for us to give the congregants.

These believers appreciate your prayers, too as they live in very sparse conditions on the streets of Cleveland.

Please contact Don Davies if you can join in or help.

Thank you!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Feb 22—April 9

There are millions of people who need help with safety, sustenance and hope. One Great Hour of Sharing supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self Development of People.

If you would like to read more about the Special Offerings, please access this link: <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org>.



# March 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1  1pm Adult Study	2  6:30 Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	3	4
5 <b>Communion</b> 10:15 Worship  12:30 VBC Worship	6	7	8  10am Property & Finance meeting  1pm Adult Study	9  6:30 Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	10	11
12 <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME</b> 10:15 Worship Deacons meeting  12:30 VBC Worship	13  10am Women's Association  7pm Session	14	15  1pm Adult Study	16  6:30 Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	17	18  9am Men's Breakfast at church
19  10:15 Worship  12:30 VBC Worship	20 <b>First Day of Spring!</b>	21	22  1pm Adult Study	23  6:30 Bell Choir 7pm Choir 8pm AA	24	25
26  10:15 Worship  12:30 VBC Worship	27	28	29  1pm Adult Study	30	31	

It's time to get your copy of The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom and start reading this inspirational biography.

“Corrie ten Boom was a Dutch watchmaker who became a heroine of the Resistance, a survivor of Hitler’s concentration camps, and one of the most remarkable evangelists of the twentieth century. In World War II she and her family risked their lives to help Jews and Underground workers escape from the Nazis, and for their work they were tested in the infamous Nazi death camps. Only Corrie among her family survived to tell the story of how faith ultimately triumphs over evil. Here is the riveting account of how Corrie and her family were able to save many of God’s chosen people...There is no pit so deep that God’s love is not deeper still...God’s love will overcome, heal, and restore.”



Our meeting to discuss the book will be Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 5:30, at NPC.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS



Teresa Van DerMeulen 4th  
 Scott Williamson 5th  
 Carol Metz 12th  
 Linda Goldenbogen 22nd  
 Kirk Louis 27th

## EASTER BREAKFAST APRIL 9th 9-10am

Easter morning before worship.

There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex.

Breakfast provided by the Elders and Deacons.



### Easter Flowers Order Form

Spring will be here soon and with it the season of rebirth and renewal. Easter is on April 9th. It is time for the Deacons to place our holiday order for Flowers. The Easter flowers listed below are available for purchase.

The cost is \$10 for a 6 ½” foil wrapped pot.

**All orders must be received in the church office by Monday, March 13th.**

The order will be placed with the greenhouse the following day to assure pricing and delivery dates.

Please indicate your choice of flower, circle color preference, and mark the number of plants desired.

Checks should be made payable to Northfield Presbyterian Church and marked for Easter Flowers.

Cash payments should be placed in an envelope and also marked Easter Flowers.

Payment must accompany all orders.

Easter Lilies \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips (red, pink, or yellow) \_\_\_\_\_

Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_

Hyacinths (Blue or Pink) \_\_\_\_\_

Pansy Baskets (Assorted Colors in one basket) \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Taking flowers home? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Cash ( ) Check ( ) Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Flowers marked for take home should be picked up after the 10:15am service on Easter Sunday. All other flowers will be distributed to those who are ill or shut-in. Please mark your order form appropriately.

# At the DAYCARE: Valentine's Day Fun!



Miss Mary Jane's class passed out their Valentines and had a special treat of ice cream sundaes before lunch!

**ALL OUR KIDS RECEIVED VERY SPECIAL VALENTINES:**

A great shout-out goes to the students of the Nordonia Schools. Amy Gay, the Family Support Specialist for Nordonia School System selected our Northfield Presbyterian Daycare children to receive the Valentine cards created by the students. The artists are from the elementary, middle and high school grade levels. What a wonderful pay it forward gesture of children giving to children...The Nordonia students also made Valentines for the 115 homebound Nordonia Hills Meal Delivery Program. NPC made sure the students were complemented for their artwork and kindness to others in their neighborhood.



The Women's Association is sponsoring a collection of personal care products for the Emergency Assistance Center. We invite all members of the church to also bring in items. Please put them in the box in the Narthex. They are collecting things like shampoo, lotion, deodorant, razors, toothpaste, shaving cream, and liquid soap.

TEAC is always collecting items on the list at right as well.

Thanks for helping!

<https://teacenter.org/home.aspx>

## MOST NEEDED ITEMS

food & hygiene

- Fruit & Applesauce Cups \*
- Applesauce - Jar
- Snacks for children's lunches
- Ketchup - Mustard - Mayo
- Canned Fruit - Pears & Mixed
- Ensure Nutritional Shakes
- Saltine Crackers
- Cream of Celery Soup
- Diapers - Size 5 & 6
- Pull-ups - All Sizes
- Diaper Wipes (desperate need)
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Dishwasher Pods
- Toothpaste

# TETÉLESTAI

MATTHEW 28: 19-20

"IT IS FINISHED."

A MUSICAL PORTRAYAL OF  
THE TRIAL, EXECUTION, AND  
RESURRECTION OF  
JESUS THE MESSIAH

SCRIPT & LYRICS BY JOEL NAGY  
MUSICAL SCORE BY RUSS NAGY

## Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

9080 Shepard Rd., Macedonia OH

Friday, March 17th at 8:00pm

Saturday, March 18th at 8:00pm

Sunday, March 19th at 2:00pm

FREE ADMISSION - DONATIONS ACCEPTED

CLEVELAND PERFORMING ARTS MINISTRIES (440) 944-0635  
LIVETHEPASSION.ORG



TETÉLESTAI IS A REGISTERED SERVICE MARK OF TETÉLESTAI INC.

The long-running musical passion play *Tetélestai* will be coming to **Our Lady of Guadalupe Church March 17th, 18th, and 19th 2023**. The cast & crew of this visually moving passion play is excited to share the Good News of Easter with you. *Tetélestai* brings the Gospel to life with a cast & crew of over 100, full theatrical staging, sound & lighting, costumes and live singing. Watch the church website and newsletter for details and to see how you can attend or volunteer to help. Seeing the passion reenacted through *Tetélestai* is a powerful and moving way to prepare for the holy season of Easter. It has become a tradition for families across northeastern Ohio. Please visit **LiveThePassion.org** for more information.