

Eastern Area Churches
of the
Cincinnati Presbytery



Rev. David Choate

Our deepest condolences go out to Brenda Choate, her family and their entire church community in the recent passing of her husband, Rev. David Choate.

On Monday, March 2, 2026, David went home to the Lord after a lengthy illness.

In recent years, David served as pulpit supply for our Georgetown Church, as Moderator for the Red Oak Church Session, and served as a member of the Eastern Area Steering Committee.

Please continue to pray for Brenda and their family, as well as the Georgetown Presbyterian Church, as they navigate the days ahead.

Mowrystown News

From Deb Tissott

The men of our church treated us to a Valentine Brunch following the service on February 16th. They had a full menu of breakfast foods and a fruit plate. They did a wonderful job of making a wonderful, tasty treat!

We're in the final stages of repairing our church following a leak in the belfry. This past Fall we had the bell tower roof replaced and are now doing the finishing touches to repair and repaint the damaged area in the sanctuary.

Circle #2 ladies are fixing muffins for the Warm Muffin Ministry to the shut-ins and will be collecting items for the local Homeless Shelter. Collections for Operation Christmas Child have already started and will continue until this coming Fall.

Our church will be hosting our Maundy Thursday service on April 2nd where we will be serving stew. And this year is our turn to host the Easter Sunrise Service for the joint community service of the churches in Mowrystown.

But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom. 5:8 NIV

News from Cherry Fork...

From Brenda Shupert & Norine Behm

February was long with the snow and cold. As this is written it is about 60 degrees outside and the sun is trying to shine. What a change!

Seasons change from Summer to Fall, Fall to Winter and Winter to Spring. Sometimes in the Ohio Valley the seasons change daily. But I am looking forward to the season of Spring, when the sleeping trees awaken, the grass turns green, the flowers poke their bright little heads out and beckon the birds and bees to come have a drink.

Life is always changing. That is the one constant thing, besides God, that we can count on. We can be thankful that God doesn't change. His Word remains constant. God's love for us is never ending, and of His kingdom there is no end!

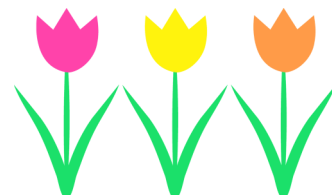
Cherry Fork has been having a good time every month with Christian Crafting! In January, we worked on prayer journals that were fun to make. Each person made something different. In February, we painted a fleur de lis in Mardi Gras-style on matts. Now, in March we will be painting Shamrock flowers on real flower pots. Everyone is welcome - come and enjoy the fellowship and fun!

Don't forget our Community Luncheons on the last Wednesday of each month. Our March luncheon will be on the 25th from 11:30 - 1 pm. Sue Fulton reports that we served 657 meals in 2025. We are so blessed that we can be a blessing to our community!

Easter activities coming up:

- Maundy Thursday with Seaman & Winchester at Seaman - 7 pm
- Good Friday at Cherry Fork - 7 pm
- Easter Breakfast - 8 am Easter Sunday

Spring will soon be here and the snow (we pray) will be gone. Everyone have a wonderful Easter and remember why we are so joyful - yes, JESUS!



Keeping up with Cranston!

From Rev. Chris Torrey
(via *The Chimes Newsletter*)

This year during Lent we are learning about the One Great Hour of Sharing offering taken each year in the Presbyterian Church (USA). The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - *disaster, hunger, poverty, and refugees* - serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. This offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.

At the Annual Meeting of Cranston Memorial, Church Treasurer, Ruth Saylor and Missions Treasurer, Jackie Nelson reported that this past year, the Mission Committee received contributions of \$12,681.58. When we add the General Fund and Mission Giving by the congregation of Cranston, we find that over 15% of our annual giving goes to Missions! That is an amazing strength for our church!

Thank you to our church family for giving personal care products to the First Fruits offering which go to the NRAM food pantry each month. In January and February, we donated over 130 items. We receive the First Fruits offering on the first Sunday of every month.

You're invited! Join David Annett during Lent on Wednesdays at 1 pm for a ZOOM study and discussion of **From Wilderness to Glory** by biblical scholar N.T. Wright. pastor@cranstonchurch.org

ASH WEDNESDAY

We had a great beginning to this Lenten season at West Union Presbyterian on Ash Wednesday! We are grateful for West Union's hospitality and for all the people who came to worship. Several of our own EAC churches were represented as well as other community churches in the area. We especially appreciated the homily that Neil DeAtley from the West Union Presbyterian Church shared with us.

West Union Updates

From Neil DeAtley, CRE

Peace be with you. My name is Neil DeAtley, and I serve as a commissioned ruling elder for the First Presbyterian Church of West Union. This is a relatively new role for me, as I began my ministerial duties over the summer of 2025.

For some time, we at West Union, have been discerning how the Creative Spirit is calling us to imaginatively respond to the missional needs of our community. In response to our understanding of the divine will, we have initiated several ministries:

- A community service group for youth. Consisting of young adults from the West Union area, this group includes both members and friends of the congregation. We gather every other month for a community service activity, and in the alternating months we offer a recreational event. The response has been positive and encouraging.
- A youth catechism class that serves as both a pre-baptismal course and preparation for confirmation. We are also experimenting with involving older youth in the facilitation of this group.
- A book study for young to mid-life adults, in which we are reading and reflecting on *Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief* by former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams. This group is intentionally ecumenical, drawing from people from a variety of backgrounds and faith communities. We have also formed a Sunday School class working through the same book. This group is composed primarily of long-term members and friends of our congregation.

For all of these ministries, we request your prayers and assure you of ours in the year ahead - that we may perceive Deity all around us, and that we may live each day incarnationally, even as we pray, "thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."



To the Cross

By: Rev. Mike Hughes

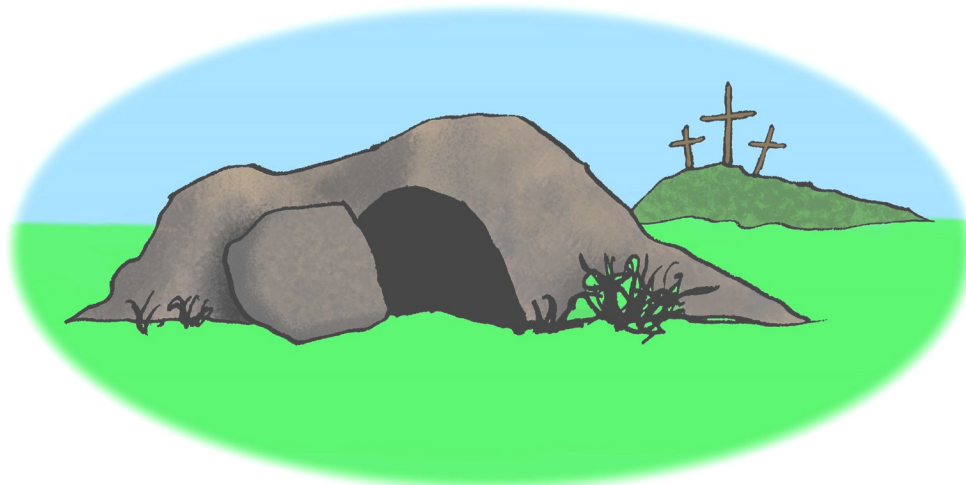
“Growing up” (I started my spiritual journey at 45 years old) in a Wesleyan-Armenian evangelical church, I found that Lent was recognized, but not emphasized. When God called me to pastor a Presbyterian church, well, I found it emphasized. I have grown to appreciate the liturgy, and the additional importance, placed on Jesus’ final journey.

I still find giving up things for a season a little disconcerting, primarily because I’m not a sacrifice kinda guy. I believe Jesus sacrificed everything for our sins, and it’s our responsibility – *not sacrifice* – to follow and obey His teachings. To become more like Him is to His praise and glory, and loving God and loving people is the big-picture way to do that.

In his Lenten message this year, Pope Leo XIV gave an invitation that made me go, “hmmmm”. He said, “I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor.” That definitely comes under the heading of *things-I-wish-I’d-said*, and it leads me to add that we should also refrain from *actions* that hurt our neighbor. I believe that giving up things like these would exhibit our desire to live out our love – not just for 40 days, but forever.

Speaking of forever, here’s another thing: How about giving up ourselves to God? And not just part of ourselves, which is where we usually stop. How about our whole selves? That’s what He asks for.

When Jesus bled out on that cross, we received His entire being as ransom for our sins. We can turn toward Him in faith and obedience, or we can turn away from Him. There are no other options – and both are eternal.



He is not here; He is risen!

EAC Leadership Team 2025-2026

Moderator/Treasurer	Rev. Mike Hughes
Vice Moderator	Rev. David Choate
Secretary	Linda Watson
Past Moderator	Sue Fulton
Member	John Martin
Member	Rev. Mike Brazelle
Member	CP Norine Behm
Honorary Lifetime Member ..	Rev. Dr. Ruth Dunn
Coordinator	CP Barbara Jean Havens

Mark Your Calendars!

- ♦ Mar. 25 - Community Luncheon @ Cherry Fork (11 - 1)
- ♦ Mar. 29 - Palm Sunday
- ♦ Apr. 2 - Maundy Thurs. - Cherry Fork, Seaman, Winchester @ Seaman (7 pm)
- Mowrystown
- ♦ Apr. 3 - Good Fri. - Cherry Fork (7 pm)
- ♦ Apr. 5 - Easter Sunrise Svc. - Seaman @ Lions Club Park (7 am) w/ breakfast after & regular
service at 10:30 am
- Mowrystown hosting community Sunrise svc.
- Easter Breakfast - Cherry Fork (8 am)
- ♦ Apr. 20 - Vine articles due

NEXT TIME!

Articles & Photos due for May/June, 2026 edition:

Mon., Apr. 20th

Tell us your Graduation & VBS plans!