



Presbyterian

R E P O R T E R

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"Spring Cleaning"
Caroline M. Kelly, pastor

Traditionally, spring is the time of year when people would give their homes a thorough cleaning. Maybe you still do. It is warm enough now to open the doors and windows, shake out the rugs, wash the curtains, and air out the house. It's time to pack away wool sweaters, flannel sheets, and winter boots. You might wash the windows or hose down the patio or porch and pull out those chair cushions that you've stored all winter. Warmer weather is coming and you want to be ready for it!

Lent is a similar time in the life of the church. The Easter season is coming and we want to be ready for it. For five weeks, we have been invited to reflect on our lives and what we might need to clear out or pack away in our lives to make room for God. It's easy to get caught up in the everyday routine of our lives, relegating our time with God to whatever we have left over at the end of the day. Lent invites us to create intentional space and time for God. Some do that by fasting from something – television time, junk food, Facebook. Others take up something new – a service project, a course of study, regular bible reading and prayer.

Creating time for God allows us to listen to what God might be saying to us and to pay attention to the ways God working in our daily lives – in big ways, but also in small ways. Maybe you got interrupted by a phone call you didn't have time for, but when you answered, it turned out to be the best part of your day. Maybe you had to work late one night and didn't get home until nearly dark, but on the way home, you discovered the best place in Cumberland to view a beautiful sunset (and you did!). Maybe a door that you've been knocking on for a long time remained closed, but another one you hadn't even imagined was opened.

When you create the space and pay attention, you prepare yourself to notice the ways God breaks into your life, bringing healing and reconciliation, hope for the future or courage to step out in faith. These are resurrection moments – moments in which we get a glimpse of the fullness of life that God's victory over death makes available to us.

Easter is coming and we will begin the final leg of the journey during Holy Week. It's the hardest week of Lent, remembering and participating in the story that leads to Jesus' death. But it's the only way to get there. You just can't get to the empty tomb without first having faced the cross. So, join us on Maundy Thursday and on Good Friday as we prepare to fully embrace the gift of the resurrection in our lives on Easter Sunday!

Lenten Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Caroline".

MARCH SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met in the church library at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2017, for its stated monthly meeting. The Rev. Caroline M. Kelly served as Moderator. Ann Kellermeyer served as Clerk via FaceTime.

The Session took the following actions:

- After hearing a report from Laura Fiscus of the Ad Hoc Committee to examine the Youth Ministries Coordinator's job description, Session approved the revised job purpose description and the direction that their work is taking.
- Approved the year to date financials as of February 28, 2017.
- Approved the request of Carole Helmick to remove her name from the membership rolls in order to transfer her membership to Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church, Naples, Florida.
- Approved the requests of Stephen Chappell, Jeannine Clark, Doug and Linda Holler from the membership rolls.
- Approved the Clerk's request to remove Lianna Bissell, Robert Dawson, Julie Edwards, Bailey Ellsworth, Donnie Ellsworth, Allie Getty, Sam Griffith, Jr., Carol Lee, Daniel Levitas, Matthew Levitas, Derrick Morgan, John Stitely, Patrick Terry, and Erin Williams from the roll since they have ceased to participate actively in the work and worship of the congregation.
- Approved the Mission Committee's recommendation to schedule the Dakota Learning Camp Auction fund raiser for Sunday, April 30th 2017 and to advertise it to the Cumberland area community.
- Approved the recommendation of the Worship and Music Committee that communion be served by Pastor Kelly at the Women's Retreat on April 29th.
- Approved a joint recommendation from Buildings and Grounds and the Administration and Finance Committees that Session engage Glass Services of Cumberland to paint the walls as part of the hall ceiling project for a total of \$3,133 to be funded by the Endowment Fund (Wills and Memorials).
- Approved a joint recommendation from Buildings and Grounds and the Administration and Finance Committees that Session engage Grace Built Home Improvement to install nine replacement windows in the Heritage Room, the Learning Tree Class room, and bathroom in the basement at a cost of \$11,479 to be funded by the Endowment Fund (Wills and Memorials).

In addition Session heard:

- A report from Judy Stern that the monthly outreach dinners will not move to the Gilchrist YMCA, as previously announced, but continue to be held at the HRDC building until the safety issues around the Y can be resolved.
- A report from Carolyn Mathews that the April 2nd shared service with our sister church in Vsetin, Czech Republic, will include shared sermons, liturgy and music.
- A report from Rev. Kelly that approximately 40 people attended the previous Lenten Study.
- A report also from Rev. Kelly that she has been asked to serve as Vice-Moderator of the Baltimore Presbytery. She has accepted.

If you have any questions please contact the Clerk or Moderator.



Bill Workman	3-Apr
Chris Gallo	5-Apr
Nancy Hodges	14-Apr
Bob Kazary	14-Apr
Ann Kellermeyer	14-Apr
Gwen Harris	15-Apr
Matt Young	15-Apr
Mary Gallion	17-Apr
Brenda Luger	17-Apr
Dale Corley	22-Apr
Joyce Macy	25-Apr



Joyce Macy and Gwen Harris will both be celebrating their 91st birthdays this year.

**2017 COMPASSION, PEACE & JUSTICE
TRAINING DATE**

FRIDAY, APRIL 21 FROM 8:00AM-4:30PM

**New York Avenue Presbyterian Church
1313 New York Avenue NW
Washington, DC**

**Confronting Chaos, Forging Community-
and Battling Racism, Materialism, and Militarism**

Join fellow Presbyterians at Compassion Peace and Justice Training to look at how our church and our partners are confronting racism, materialism, and militarism in this country and abroad. through plenaries and workshops, we'll analyze current context and provide tools for members and congregations to act on these urgent issues.

Cost: \$85.00

With a registration to Ecumenical Advocacy Days: \$70.00

Students and youth (under 30): \$40.00

A \$50.00 scholarship is available to anyone that would like to attend this event.

To register, visit: [presbyterianmission.org/
ministries/compassion-peace-justice/
washington/advocacy-training-weekend/](http://presbyterianmission.org/ministries/compassion-peace-justice/washington/advocacy-training-weekend/)

**SAVE THE DATE:
Planned Giving
Seminar Tuesday,
May 2, 2017 at
6:30PM**

Mark your calendars for 6:30PM, Tuesday, May 2nd, and plan to join us for a workshop on Planned Giving: Composing a Legacy. Olanda Carr, Ministry Relations Officer for the Presbyterian Foundation, will help us explore the critical connection between faith and legacy giving. Does your will / estate plan speak of God's grace and love as the source of your faith? To assist with answering this question, participants in the workshop will be provided with an overview of charitable giving instruments to consider when evaluating and discussing estate planning options with financial and legal advisors. Resources will also be distributed to further assist with the estate planning process.

LEARN & GROW

LENTEN STUDY SERIES CLAIMING OUR JEWISH ROOTS: HOW JEWISH PRACTICES INFORM OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND LIFE



Members of First Presbyterian, St. Paul's Lutheran and Emmanuel Episcopal enjoy fellowship and learning at this year's Lent on the Hill Study, a four-week series designed by Pastors Marsha Bell, Caroline Kelly and Martha Macgill to help us understand our Jewish roots and how they inform our Christian Faith. Special thanks to Sandra Burton and Lynn Getty (Emmanuel Episcopal) for planning the meals for each week and for their able team of Barb and Paul Aber, Buck and Jane Belt and Rolfe Singerman.

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD & FELLOWSHIP GATHERINGS

Thanks to the leadership of Bryan Wodaski and the hospitality of a regular group of members, we are able to enjoy good food and fellowship together every first Sunday of the month following worship. It's been a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make new friends as we prepare to start a new week. If you would like to contribute food for the gathering, please be in touch with Bryan Wodaski at hand_guy@hotmail.com.

We welcome any and all who want to provide hospitality in this manner!



REGISTER NOW FOR THE WOMEN'S RETREAT

Join us for our annual spring retreat on Friday and Saturday (April 28-29) at the Belt Farm in Romney, WV. Katie Ross will facilitate our exploration of some of the women in the New Testament, through story-telling and reflection. Come to strengthen relationships with one another and God through worship, learning, bread breaking and fellowship. Please contact Brittany by email at firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com or call her at [301-777-3700](tel:301-777-3700) to reserve your place. Some minimal expenses may be incurred but we are not asking for any payment at this time.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance), provide food to the hungry (the Presbyterian Hunger Program), and helping to empower the poor and oppressed (Self-development of People).

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters (32% of the offering.)

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed (36% of funds raised).

Self-Development of People (SDOP) invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills (32% of money raised).

The official day for contributing to this worthwhile offering is on Easter Sunday, April 16. Please consider giving generously.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) is a mission-oriented organization within PCUSA and includes local congregational women's "circles" who meet for Bible study, mission support, and fellowship. Our church had an active membership with several circles for many years which is now discontinued. PW continues as a vibrant international organization, and some day it may return to our church.

It was at a PW Churchwide Gathering that Georgene McKenzie and Linda Smith met Vida Gill, Director of Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) in Pakistan. From that meeting, our church has continued to support their school construction and students. Vida has visited our church several times.

In closing out a remaining PW bank account, the balance from our Presbyterian Women's account has been sent to PEB in Pakistan. These funds will be used to provide much needed shoes, socks and sweaters for students. We would like to let all past members of our circles know the status of the remaining funds.

Georgene McKenzie

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

THE GREAT DAKOTA GIVEAWAY! SOUP & CHILI RODEO, LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION



**First Presbyterian Church
11 Washington St.
Cumberland, MD
Fellowship Hall
Sunday, April 30th at 12:30 PM
Auctioneer: Buck Belt**

**Help us raise funds to send 20 inspired volunteers to serve at a
summer learning camp for children in South Dakota**

The Great Dakota Giveaway
Sunday, April 30th at 12:30 p.m.

**Yes, I will come to support our volunteers and enjoy this fellowship and food event.
(All the food you can eat for only \$5 per person!)**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Number attending: _____

I can donate the following items: _____

I can donate the following service to be auctioned (babysitting, car wash, consulting, teaching):

If you have any questions or if you would like to make a donation,
please contact Robin Bissell at rbissell444@gmail.com .

WORSHIP & MUSIC

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9 at 11:00AM at First Presbyterian

Maundy Thursday, April 13 at 7:00PM at Emmanuel Episcopal

**Good Friday, April 14 at 12:00 PM at First Presbyterian (in the Chapel)
and 7:00PM at St. Paul's Lutheran**

**Easter Sunday, April 16 = Sunrise service at Rocky Gap at 7:00AM
and a traditional service in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian at 11:00AM**

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Dear Friends,

Despite some cold and blustery days, the first month of Lent has been full of activity and meaning in the music ministry at First Presbyterian Church. In worship we have been inspired by the sounds of the recently moved Yamaha piano, the music of Bach as interpreted by The JoyBells, the brilliant storytelling of Katie Ross, the limitless tonal capabilities of FPC's pipe organ, and the continued commitment of the members of the Sanctuary Choir.

With the promise of spring now upon us, I'm particularly looking forward to the joint Holy Week worship services with our neighbor churches on April 13 and 14, in which our choir will collaborate with the choirs of Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran, singing repertoire of 20th and 21st century composers. These services will also include special musical offerings by our own Mikayla Dodge, soprano, Brenda Luger, flutist, and the Ecumenical Four Quartet (including Zach and Mikayla Dodge.)

Then on Easter morning at our 11:00 service, we will welcome several young brass players from Frostburg State University who will accompany the choir and congregation in festival anthems and hymns. And the best part is, there's still time to join the choir for these services! If interested, please speak with me after worship, or call or email anytime.

In Christ,
Bryan Lohr
Director of Music Ministries

bryan@bryanlohr.com

[\(814\) 442-4168](tel:(814)442-4168)

First Presbyterian Church
Eleven Washington Street
Cumberland, Maryland 21502

April

We Thank God For:

Address Service Requested



Like us on Facebook!

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Watch us live on Livestream- Sundays at 10 a.m.
You can either signup through your email address or
Facebook account.

new.livestream.com/accounts/4246707

301-777-3700

www.fpc-cumberland.org