

March 2022



First Presbyterian Church E-News

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A Note from the Pastor

Lent is on the way.

As we journey together in this season, we will be using resources from Sanctified Art to help us explore the theme "Full to the Brim: An Expansive Lent." Using the theme, we will explore a different way of viewing this holy season.

One of the things that drew me to this theme was the way that it opens up God's character to us. We get to explore parables and promises of God that are abundant and expansive instead of the usual restrictive emphasis prescribed to Lent. While we walk this road together, each of us are encouraged to be authentically who we are - to counter scarcity and injustice, to extend extra grace to ourselves and others.

Please join us in worship and our Christian Education offerings during the weeks ahead to uncover what God wants us to know in this season. Together we can live a life that is Full to the Brim and an example for everyone in our lives.

Your walking buddy,
Pastor Alison



Just a reminder that daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 13th.
Be sure to turn your clocks forward one hour!

Nurture

Joys and Concerns

Happy
Birthday!

Pam Jan 2-Mar
MikaylaDodge 4-Mar
Joe Aurigemma 6-Mar
Sheri Sterne 6-Mar
Suanne Casseday 8-Mar
Chelsea Boor 11-Mar
Sandra Burton 11-Mar

Randy Stroup 15-Mar
John Johnson 17-Mar
Linda Smith 17-Mar
Jackie Boor 19-Mar
Gary Hartung 20-Mar
Kay Williams 20-Mar
Zach Dodge 22-Mar
Joe Weaver 25-Mar
Rolfe Singerman 27-Mar
Bryan Wodaski 30-Mar

Learn and Grow

A direct and compelling headline

Lent is upon us and while we should always be seeking to grow our faith and our relationship with God, Lent provides us an opportunity to be especially thoughtful and committed to this goal. There are numerous opportunities at First Presbyterian to help guide you along this journey to the cross. The devotional "The Journey to Jerusalem" is available for anyone who would like a copy. This book will also serve as the framework for our adult Sunday School class (10am in the chapel). Together we will explore and discuss Jesus' final days as he makes his way to Jerusalem and the cross. We will also be joining with Emmanuel Episcopal for a 6-week study on the book "Entering the Passion of Jesus." Led by Pastor Alison Peters and Reverend Martha McGill, this study will explore the risks of Jesus' final days and how we face risks in our Christian life. This class will be meeting Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm in the Gathering Place, beginning on March 2nd. **It is not too late to join any of these activities. Reach out to the church administrator, Brittany Jackson (firstpresbyteriansecretary@gmail.com) to request a copy of either book today!**

While Lent is generally a time of penitence and preparation, I also invite you to remember what is on the other side. The season of Lent and Easter is a reminder that we have been the recipients of God's grace through Jesus' death and resurrection. Grace that is unearned, unbound, and unlimited. Grace that is full to the brim and overflowing. It is a costly grace, as described by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, for "...what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us. Costly grace is the Incarnation of God."

As we step into this season, we encourage you to consider some practices for spiritual growth at home.

- **Use a daily lectionary** – The Faith Formation team has selected the devotional above to aid in your journey but there are many other devotionals available. "These Days" devotionals are available on the table in front of the Secretary's office for your taking and if none are left let us know and we can order more. There are numerous other devotionals available which the Faith Formation committee would be happy to suggest. You can also find "Taking Faith Home" in the weekly bulletin email.

· Explore different spiritual practices (contemplation, journaling, Lectio Divina, meditation, etc.) during the six weeks of Lent.

· **Pray** – Set aside time each day for prayer.

· **Work to renew or restore broken relationships** by reaching out to estranged friends or family members with a personal letter or (where appropriate and possible) a visit.

A Prayer for Lent:

Dear God,

In this season of Lent, we're reminded of our own difficulties and struggles. Sometimes the way has seemed too dark. Sometimes we feel like our lives have been marked by such grief and pain. Lord, rise up within us, let your Spirit shine out of every broken place. Allow your power to be manifest through our own weakness, so that others will recognize it is You who is at work on our behalf. We ask that you would trade the ashes of our lives for the beauty of your Presence. Trade our mourning and grief for the oil of joy and gladness from your Spirit. Trade our despair for hope and praise. We give you thanks today and every day. Thank you that you are with us in whatever we face and that you are greater than any trial. We know and recognize that you are Sovereign, we thank you for the victory that is ours because of Christ Jesus. We thank you that you are at work right now, trading our ashes for greater beauty. We praise you, for you make all things new. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Save the Date: Easter Egg Blessing Milestone



We will be having an Easter Egg Blessing on **April 10th**, Palm Sunday, at **1:30 PM**. There will be a light lunch, egg dying, Easter story-telling, and an Egg Hunt. More information coming later.

Opportunities to Serve

Thank You from the South Dakota Learning Camp

Robin Bissell and Aaron Hendrickson would like to thank our church members and friends for the amazing support of the Dakota Camp during the Soup Sale. Special thanks to Ann Kellermeyer, Amy and Bill Workman, Julie Courtney, Robin Ayers and Cynthia Speis for making delicious food to sell. We are very grateful to our community supporters, Caporales Bakery and Berry Plastics. Finally, many thanks to those of you who purchased food, especially those who made very generous donations (including Billy Kohl in South Dakota) to support our summer trip to South Dakota.

Worship with Us

Ash Wednesday Service
March 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM



Join us on tomorrow, March 2nd at 7:00 PM
in the sanctuary for our Ash Wednesday Service!

Upcoming Community Events

ITALIAN MUSICIANS PRESENT "NOTTE DI LUCE"
World Artist Experiences Event

World Artists Experiences (WAE) will present a group of four renowned Italian musicians on Sunday, March 13th at First Presbyterian Church, , at 3:00 PM. The concert is free, and open to the public. Donations are appreciated. Those attending the performance are asked to wear masks and follow safety procedures.

The program will begin with renowned mezzo soprano, Mariella Guarnera, who will sing songs by Bach, Saint-Saëns, Massenet and Webber. Ms. Guamera has performed with orchestras and operas throughout Europe, in leading roles such as Carmen in “Carmen” by Bizet, and Suzuki in “Madama Butterfly” by Puccini, and with artists such as José Carreras and Andrea Bocelli.

Following this will be the program, “Notte di Luce (Night of Light): a Performance in 10 Pictures”. It was composed by Federico Longo during the pandemic as his way of “bringing the positive to the darkness in such unprecedented times”.

“Notte di Luce” is a story told through dance. It consists of ten scenes of recorded dance and narration, plus live accompaniment by violinist Domenico Masiello and pianist Michele Fazio, as well as electronic accompaniment by Federico Longo.

The scene takes place inside a theater. A sweet, elderly lady sits with two children on the stage and tells a fascinating and mysterious story. As the children look at the stage, the characters materialize and the story unfolds. The two children watch in amazement, listening to the comments of the old lady as the ten scenes unfold.

Night of Light is a character, which has always lived in light and has never seen darkness. As the story unfolds, she experiences misery and darkness but makes an inner journey, until she reaches a superior state of consciousness. Before the last scene, the old lady tells the children to close their eyes and to look for Night of Light in their hearts. They find themselves, as adults, on stage, dancing with Night of Light.

Federico Longo is a conductor, composer and pianist who is recognized, and has performed, in prestigious venues throughout Europe and has composed for prominent occasions.

Violinist Domenico Masiello has won numerous national and international music competitions,

Pianist Michele Fazio has won numerous first prizes in international piano competitions, and performed as soloist with orchestras in Europe.

World Artists Experiences is a non-profit organization which bridges people and culture across the continents using the international language of the arts and citizen diplomacy. For more information, call 301-268-4037, go to www.worldartists.org or email wae@comcast.net.