

First Presbyterian Church

Lenten E-News



Connect with First Presbyterian Church

A Note from the Pastor

The season of reflection and waiting is one that we are very familiar with in our cycle of faith, yet sometimes we want to think about deprivation and giving up things that bring us joy. I know there have been many years where I dutifully gave up something that made me happy like snacks or coffee. But, when I think about the message Jesus brought to us, it acknowledged our sinful ways and accepted an undeserved grace anyway. God offers a full table instead of an empty one.

Tables and Grace



This year's theme is "Tables and Grace" which allows us to take a look at stories and parables about food. Tables are places we come to be filled up and places where we gather in community. Let us come to tables traditional and obscure ready to see where God's grace is breaking in!

If you want to contribute to our theme, share a table setting from your home.

We will use these in the upcoming weeks to set the communion table for God's feast! Table settings will be returned to you by April 2nd so they are ready for your Easter Dinner!

Just another guest,
Pastor Alison

A Note from the Clerk of Session

The year is off to a good start! Our January session meeting was full of good news: about our financial state, plans for landscape, maintenance and improvements to our property, acknowledgement of how generous our members are to our mission partners, Lenten activities and faith development aids for use in the coming months, a reflection on the artwork that added to the Advent/Christmas season; and other ways our committees are actively working on being engaged in the church both within and beyond our walls.

We also were made aware that one of our elders is feeling a call to ministry. Josh Gilhart, co-chair of Faith Formation, a regular liturgist and adult Sunday School leader, has been accepted at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa for the spring semester. He will attend on-line. Our congregation will be a part of his journey over the next few years by providing prayerful encouragement to him. This month the Session will meet with a representative of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry for an orientation to this process. This is an untrod path for the members of this church and an exciting opportunity for us to support Josh as he discerns where God is leading him. We all have much to learn.

Take time to review all of the varied ways to be involved in the life of our church and participate in any or all of them. They are listed in this newsletter, in the bulletins and highlighted on our social media pages. The church is you, and me, and all of us together; one in the spirit, one in the Lord.

Listen! I stand at the door and knock; if any hear my voice and open the door, I will come into their house and eat with them, and they will eat with me. Revelation 3:20 Good News Bible

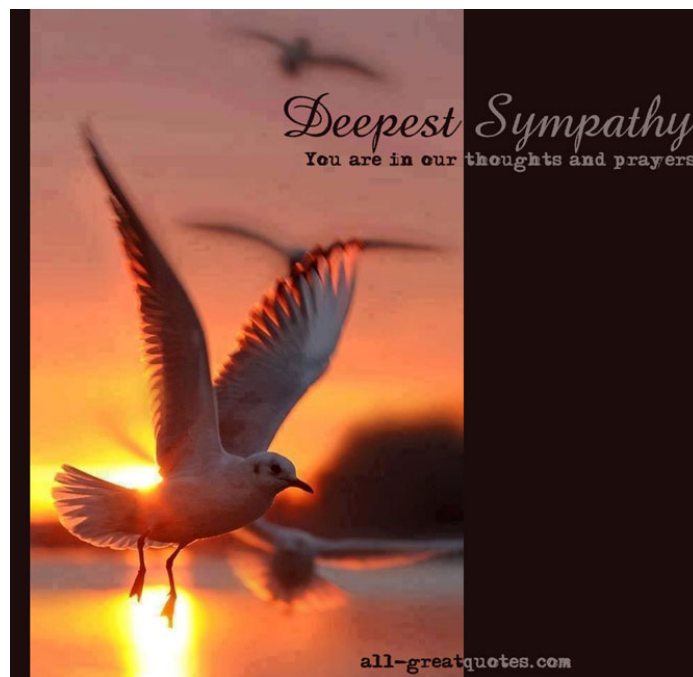
Carolyn Mathews, Clerk of Session

Nurture

Joys and Concern



Pam Jan 2-Mar
Mikayla Dodge 4-Mar
Joe Aurigemma 6-Mar
Sheri Sterne 6-Mar
Suanne Casseday 8-Mar
Chelsea Boor 11-Mar
Randy Stroup 15-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



SYMPATHY & PRAYERS to Randi and Sheri Sterne on the death of Randi's mother and member, Norma Sterne, on Monday, January 30th.

SYMPATHY & PRAYERS to the family of Sandra Burton on her death on Monday, February 6th.

Learn and Grow



Lenten Devotional 2023

We hope you'll follow along daily, be deepened in your faith through this year's ministry of our community, and prepare your heart to celebrate at Easter the new life that Jesus Christ made possible for all as we reflect on *Imago Dei*.

Use this devotional resource in the way that best enhances your Lenten thoughts and practices:

- » **Read a printed copy.**
- » **Read and listen online.** Visit www.pts.edu/devotional.
- » **Receive daily e-mails.** Go to www.pts.edu/e-mail, click "Devotionals."



[Click here to view and print the Lenten Devotional.](#)

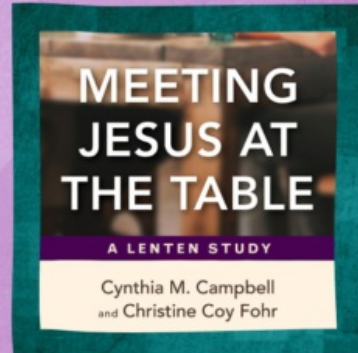
Join FPC for Lent!



Shrove Tuesday
Intergenerational Event
February 21st
5:30pm



Adult Sunday School
Spiritual Practices
Rev. Martha MacGill
Feb. 26 - April 2nd Sundays - 10:00am



Bible Study
Meeting Jesus at the Table
Thursdays Starting March 2
5:45pm (5 Weeks)



Guest Speaker
Dr. Rosann Catalano
March 24th & 25th



Easter Egg Blessing
Saturday April 8th



Jesus Christ Superstar
April 2nd
The Maryland Theater

A digital Lenten devotional will also be provided

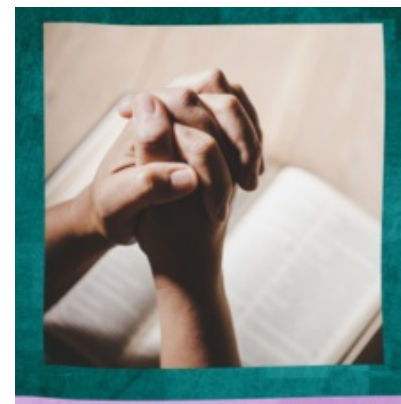
Shrove Tuesday
Tuesday, February 21st at 5:30 PM



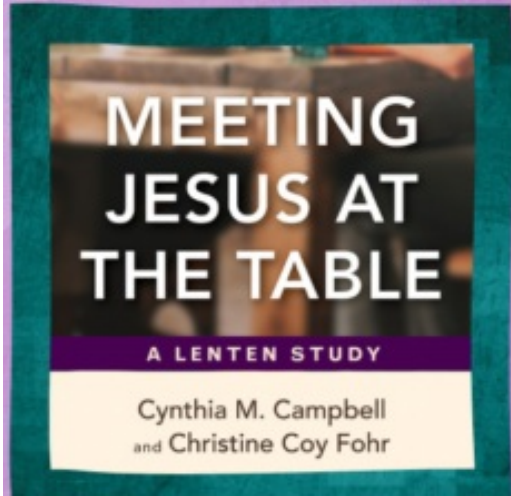
Join the Faith Formation Committee this Tuesday at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship hall for a fun evening of pancakes and games as we prepare for the season of Lent. Bring your gently used, clean clothing, to be donated to a local organization.

Adult Sunday School Sundays at 10:00 AM Beginning February 26th

Join our Episcopal friend, Rev. Martha MacGill for a six week study and application of various spiritual practices. Class will be held in the Dakota Room beginning at 10:00 AM on Sunday mornings and lasting about 45 minutes.



***Meeting Jesus at the Table* Bible Study Thursday at 5:45 PM Beginning March 2nd**



Lent Bible Study: Join Pastor Alison Peters on Thursday Nights at 5:45pm for a study, utilizing the book "Meeting Jesus at the Table." This study will take place from March 2nd - March 30th. Please sign up to receive a copy of the book. [Click here to RSVP to attend](#). Please sign up no later than February 28th.

Dr. Rosann Catalano Weekend Retreat Friday, March 24th & Saturday, March 25th

We are excited to welcome back Dr. Catalano for a short weekend retreat. This study will explore biblical characters and their life altering moments. A knowledgeable and thought-provoking lecturer, Dr. Catalano is sure to spark new insight into these familiar characters.

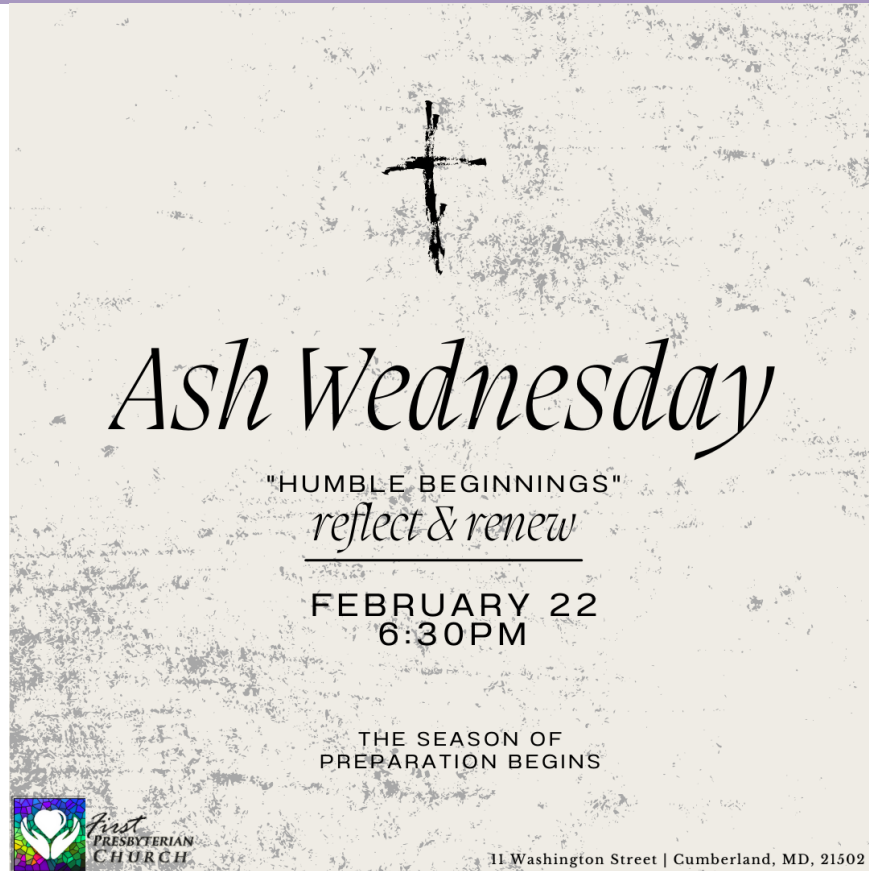


Easter Egg Blessing Saturday, April 8th 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall



Join us for our annual Easter Egg Blessing where children can celebrate and learn about the Easter story.

Worship With Us



Join us on Wednesday evening, February 22nd at 6:30 PM for our Ash Wednesday Service.

Contemplative Lenten Worship



Join us at 5:00 PM on Sunday evenings from February 26th-March 26th as we have a less structured worship service in our chapel.

This is for anyone who desires SPACE to slow down and listen for God this Lenten season. Following the service, there will be an opportunity for fellowship and conversation.

Holy Week Services



**Palm Sunday
April 2nd
Service at 11:00 AM**

**Maundy Thursday
April 6th at 6:30 PM
First Presbyterian Church**

**Sunrise Service
Sunday, April 9th at 7:00 AM**



Resurrection of the Lord/ Easter Sunday Sunday, April 9th at 11:00 AM First Presbyterian Church

Easter Musical Highlights

Palm Sunday and Easter will feature services of Passion readings and special music.

On Palm Sunday, music will include: "Arise, My Soul, Arise" by Dan Forrest and "Lux Aeterna" by Sarah Quertel from the The Sanctuary Choir, Soloists and Violinist.

Easter Sunday will include triumphant musical selections: "Easter Chorale" by Samuel Barber and "Hallelujah Chorus" by G.F. Handel from The Sanctuary Choir, Soloists, String Quartet and Timpani and Judith Brown, our Director of Music Ministries.

Churches on the Hill Lenten Worship

We will join this Lent with our friends at Emmanuel Episcopal and St. Paul's Lutheran for joint worship services:

**Ash Wednesday
February 22nd at 12:00 PM
St. Paul's**

**Palm Sunday
Palm Procession
April 2nd at 10:30 AM
the Library Steps**

**Good Friday
Walking Stations of the Cross
Friday, April 2nd at 12:00 PM
(final details to come later)**

Batter Up!



Our congregation has been invited to join a Church Softball League this summer. And we need to know if you are interested in joining our team!

Please click the button below to fill out the form if you or someone you know would like to be a part of our team.

[Click here if you would like to join our team.](#)