



# THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



*FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*  
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Friends,

It's hard to believe how different our lives were one year ago: meeting regularly on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights, sharing meals, singing, blissfully unaware of what was to come. Our last "regular" worship service was on March 8 – and I know that none of us imagined that such a long season of separation was to come. At first we thought this would be a few weeks. Then we thought "maybe by Easter..." or "maybe Pentecost..." Then it was "maybe Advent..."

Unfortunately, this virus does not follow the liturgical seasons. I continue to hold out hope that there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and that we will enjoy one another's full company again. You probably know by now that we are once again making tentative plans for in-person services, to start the first Sunday of Lent (February 21). This time, we have the experience of our January 17 service to lean on and learn from. It was a meaningful service, especially after all this time. Those who attended respected a safe distance, and we had no trouble with 100% mask compliance.

So I hope that if you have been longing for some time in the sanctuary, you will consider joining us during Lent. Please remember that reservations are required, in order for me to assign your seats. If we should exceed our "capacity," we will work on a rotation schedule so that everyone has a chance to be involved. A decision has not yet been made regarding childcare and/or nursery – so please stay tuned for more information.

As we continue to make our way through such a difficult and unpredictable season, I remain so thankful to each one of you. You have lived this year with flexibility, patience, and understanding. To my knowledge, there has been no bickering or division over how to proceed. We all know that these are impossible decisions. We were a strong family of faith before all of this – and God will see us through to the other side.

Love,

Melissa

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The MEN'S BIBLE STUDY GROUP will meet on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 PM for lesson 3 of *ILLUMINATING LENT*. They will meet again on February 16, 2021 for lesson 4 at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.

*Illuminating Lent* deepens faith and enhances knowledge through the exploration of the Lord's Prayer. Each session examines a part of the prayer, its theological understandings, and what it means for Reformed Christians in practical ways during Lent.

Any questions may be directed to Ron Walters, cell # 540-616-4503 or emailed to: [ronwalters2@yahoo.com](mailto:ronwalters2@yahoo.com)

Covid-19 safety policies regarding safe distancing and the wearing of masks will be followed.

#### Ash Wednesday Ashes-to-go

Lent is a season of humility and repentance, that prepares us to follow Jesus to the cross. We begin our Lenten journey with the sign of ashes, a reminder of our own frailty and mortality.



Ash Wednesday this year will be a drive-through service. Here is what to expect:

- **Wednesday, February 17**
- Drive up to the Columbarium entrance any time between **4:30-6:00 PM**.
- Stay in your vehicle.
- Roll down your window when I approach.
- For those who desire it, I will mark your hand (rather than forehead) with the sign of ashes.
- Receive a word of blessing and a take-home devotion.

All people, all ages, are welcome to participate. Please wear your mask.

*You are dust, and to dust you shall return.*  
Genesis 3:19

**Please Submit Items** to the church office for the March newsletter no later than Monday, February 15th.

**IF YOU HAVE** pledged for 2021, please call first and then pick up your offering envelopes in the church office.

**Prayer Teams Continue:** Thank you to the 25 people who volunteered to be on our prayer team. These members have agreed to set aside an extra moment to pray each day for a member of our church. They each received six or seven names from the church directory – everyone is included in the prayers. Know that someone is always praying for you, until we can meet in person again!

### **Stay in Touch:**

There are many ways to stay in touch with our church during these days of challenge. Please sign up for as many avenues as you like:

- **Email** (Worship materials and announcements are sent each Sunday morning, and otherwise as needed): To subscribe, visit: <http://eepurl.com/gVSnKL>
- **Text Message:** To sign up for text alerts, you can text the message: @melissamk to the number: 81010
- **Facebook:** Visit [www.facebook.com/FPCPulaski](http://www.facebook.com/FPCPulaski) and “like” our page!
- **YouTube:** Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Search for “First Presbyterian Pulaski VA” and click “Subscribe.” You will be notified any time a new video is shared on our page.
- **Snail Mail:** We have attempted to send weekly communications to anyone who may not regularly use email. If you would like to receive a paper copy of each week's sermon and worship announcements, please call the church office.

