



# THE PRESBYTERIAN NEWS



## *FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH*

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Friends,

In 1976, a Presbyterian woman in Florida found herself struggling financially. She wrestled with how to put meals on her own family's table, while also responding to Christ's command: "You give them something to eat." She saw news reports of hunger and poverty worldwide, and heard God leading her to help. When she asked God what she could do, she felt a nudge to give two cents per meal – two extra pennies every time she was blessed with enough to eat. She shared the idea with her presbytery, and the "Two Cents a Meal" offering was born. Our church has long participated in this offering, bringing our coins to worship with us on the first Sunday of each month. Our coins join with offerings throughout the presbytery, and help fund ministries that reduce hunger in our area (including our own Daily Bread).

This year, your Outreach Committee would like to take our efforts one step further. Maybe you have noticed that the Free Little Pantry that sits on our lawn is often empty over the weekends. The Outreach team is inviting you to feed our community by bringing one canned good or non-perishable item for the Free Pantry with your Two-Cents-a-Meal offering on the first Sunday of each month. Collection bins will be placed in each vestibule, and members of the outreach team will be happy to transport items and refill the Little Free Pantry as needed. You are also welcome to bring items on any Sunday!

When the Lenten tradition of "fasting" began (giving up chocolate, meat, alcohol, or other luxuries) – the point was not simply to fast for the sake of fasting. Christians understood that the money they saved by abstaining from these luxuries could be used to better serve God's Kingdom. Maybe this is an idea for your own Lenten journey – to take the extra \$5 you might spend on a latte, ice cream, or indulgent 'treat,' and instead use that money to "feed my sheep."

Thank you for all the ways that you shine God's love!

In Christ,

Melissa McNair-King

*NEWS FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN*

From Day Circle by Phyllis Vice:

Come join us for the service of *World Day of Prayer* on Friday, March 1st. We will meet at 11 a.m. in the sanctuary of The First Church of the Brethren at 1749 Newbern Road. The women of Slovenia wrote this service for use around the world. A pot luck lunch will follow. All are welcome.

March 3rd is *Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday* in the Presbyterian Church. Join us as the women of the church lead us in worship.

Day Circle will meet for Bible Study on Monday, March 11th, at 11 a.m. in the Manse. We are on lesson five, *God With Us When We're Powerless*. Scripture for this lesson is 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 and Deuteronomy 20:1-4. Bring a sack lunch and stay for fellowship after the lesson.

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From Night Circle by Dianne Wallace:

Night Circle will meet on Monday, March 11th, at 6:30 p.m. in the Manse. For our program and March service project we will work on blankets for the Cancer Center. Please bring your scissors.

Our March meal theme is *Make What is Cold Warm*. Warm up during the remaining winter chill by bringing a favorite frozen food: side dish, main dish, or dessert, hot and ready to serve.

Presbyterian Women -  
Praying, Studying, Loving, Serving



## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND HAPPENINGS

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER:** The Church Women United of Pulaski will be hosting a special worship service to honor the *World Day of Prayer* on Friday, March 1st, at 11 a.m. at First Church of the Brethren. The theme for the service is: "Come - Everything Is Ready". A pot luck luncheon will follow the service.

**COMMUNION** will be served on Sunday, March 3rd.

**ON SUNDAY,** March 3rd, we will have a special service celebrating the gifts of women during our regular worship hour. Please come and join us.

**YOUTH GROUP:** The Youth Group will meet on Sunday, March 3rd, from 5:30 - 7 p.m. in the Manse. Students in 5th grade and up are welcome to join us for dinner, Bible study, and fun as we grow together in faith.

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME** begins on Sunday, March 10th. Please remember to turn your clocks forward one hour.

**EASTER LILIES:** We will begin taking orders for lilies to be placed in the sanctuary for Easter in the end of March. Please use the order form that will be in the bulletins.

**PLEASE SUBMIT ITEMS** to the church office for the April newsletter no later than Monday, March 18th.

**CONFIRMATION RETREAT:** Our Confirmation Class will be on a presbytery-wide retreat March 29-30 at Camp Bethel (near Fincastle). Please pray for our Confirmation students as they deepen their faith and prepare for church membership: Gabe Gardner, Aubrey Vaughan and Madison Williams.



**CHECK IT OUT!**



March 6th is Ash Wednesday, designating the beginning of the season of Lent. This time is usually spent on reflection of the sacrifice of Christ ending with the glorious revelation of His resurrection. Most Sundays we, as Christians, recite the Apostles' Creed, which ends with the phrase, "life everlasting". Though we don't want to admit it, many of us struggle with the concept of life after death. It is really so? The following books may help you come to terms with your doubt. They will be on display through Lent. Check them out!

**133.9 DUR** The Hand on the Mirror, A true story of Life beyond Death by Janis Heaphy Durham - The author chronicles how - after intense paranormal activity in the wake of her husband's death - she launched into an investigative spiritual journey.

**133.9 BUR** Heaven is for Real: A little boy's astounding story of his trip to heaven and back by Todd Burpo - This true story, retold by his father but using Colton's uniquely simple words, offers a glimpse of the world that awaits us.

**133.9 DUB** Don't kiss them good-bye by Allison DuBois - In this stunning book, Allison shares fascinating stories of her encounters with people who have passed and her adventures as a profiler for various law enforcement organizations.

**231.7 BRI** Kingdom of God by John Bright

**238.11 DUB** We believe: A study of the Apostles' Creed by Henry Wade DuBose

**238.11 ROS** This we believe: Meditations on the Apostles' Creed by John A. Ross

**CH FIC YEO** Jubilee by Ellen Yeomans - Depicts a warm view of heaven as families and friends gather to celebrate the Jubilee.

### **WHAT'S HAPPENING IN PRESCHOOL**

Preschool is moving along wonderfully. We have a new full time student! We had an inspection from the Department of Social Services in December and First Presbyterian Preschool met the necessary requirements. My CPR/First Aid Certification was also renewed in December.

I would like to sincerely thank the Session for the very generous and thoughtful cash gift for Christmas. I also want to thank each of you for your thoughts, understanding, prayers, and kindness upon the passing of my precious father-in-law, Wally, in November. My family and I were so blessed with his love, and your understanding of our grief was appreciated more than you all know.

Preschool will be taking a field trip to The Ratcliffe Transportation Museum on March 1st instead of February 22nd. We wish to honor Mrs. Betty Lou Kirkner's memory this week after her passing on February 18th, and decided to change the date. Big thanks to Ron and KD Walters and Ernie and Dianne Wallace for their help in the museum endeavor.

Chapel services with Melissa have been going on in the Preschool classroom instead of the sanctuary since the cold weather set in. The children love it, and I sure appreciate Melissa's willingness to make this a special time for them.

I am so very blessed to be a part of First Presbyterian Church! I thank God each day for sending me the opportunity to direct preschool here. It has been such a joy, and I am so excited to see each student continue to flourish!

With love,  
Jessie Brockmeyer

## Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays!

6:00-7:30 PM, Fellowship Hall

Plan to make Wednesday church nights a part of your regular routine! It is a special time of learning and growing together as a church family. The suggested "offering" for dinner is \$4/person or \$15/family. This is anonymous and give-as-you-can. Everyone is welcome regardless of your ability to give.

This month, the youth and adults will continue studying Religions of the World. Children will have choir with Miss Phyllis. They will be preparing a song to share with us on Palm Sunday!

Thank you to those who are serving in March:

Date	Cooking Team	Clean-Up Team	Program
March 6	Soup Night	Mike, Bernice	Ash Wednesday Service
March 13	Chasity, Melissa, Julie	Brenda, Joe	Buddhism
March 20	Barry, Mardia, Violet, Carla	Jessie, Ernie, Larry	Judaism
March 27	Dianne, Phyllis, Anne	Mike, Joe	Judaism

### What is Ash Wednesday?



Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent (40 days leading up to Easter). The imposition of ashes is an ancient practice, with roots in the Old Testament. Ashes were a sign of repentance, and sometimes of mourning. How fitting for a season when we ask God to change our lives, and to bring us closer to God's will.

But even more so, the ashes signify God's love. When you receive the ashes on your forehead, you will hear the words "You are dust, and to dust you shall return." The words come from the beginning of Genesis, reminding us that God has created humankind from the dust of the earth – molding and breathing life into each person. To say to one another: "to dust you shall return" is to admit that we will die one day. But even in our death, God's love will keep us. As we journey toward the cross, we remember that just as Christ died and was raised, we too will die and rise to new life.

# Journey through Lent, 2019

## God's Faithfulness in the Wilderness

March 10 • When you face Temptation • Luke 4:1-13

March 17 • When you wonder, "Where is God?" • Genesis 15:1-6

March 24 • When you are being Tested • 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

March 31 • When you need Forgiveness • Luke 15:11-32

April 7 • When you have to say Goodbye • John 12:1-8

April 14 • When Celebrating turns to Mourning • Luke 19:28-40

April 18 • When you don't understand • John 13:1-35 (Maundy Thursday, 7 PM)

April 19 • When everything goes dark • John 18-19 (Good Friday, Noon)

**...Leads us to God's Promise for New Life**



**Join us for worship every Sunday at 11:00 AM  
First Presbyterian Sanctuary**

*All the blessings we enjoy are Devine deposits,  
committed to our trust on this condition,  
that they should be dispensed for the benefit of our neighbors.*

*John Calvin*

And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always  
having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8 NRSV

In Pulaski County we are blessed to have several agencies which benefit us and our neighbors. These agencies rely on us, as well as others, to share our abundant blessings so that they may continue these benevolences.

Last December a young, homeless family received assistance finding and securing affordable housing. Shortly before Christmas an elderly couple received a food box after their SNAP card had been stolen. Both of these kindnesses, as well as blessings for 105 other families in December, were provided by the Pulaski County Emergency Needs Task Force. Hundreds of low-income individuals and those without health insurance coverage receive primary medical, nursing, and mental health care along with medications and health education from the Free Clinic of Pulaski County. As we shivered through the lengthy power outage last winter, the Pulaski YMCA provided lunches and hot showers to all who needed.

These agencies provide blessings abundantly to our neighbors. The agencies are funded, in large part, by the benevolences of local individuals, churches, and organizations. First Presbyterian has included these agencies as well as other missions in our outreach program. First Presbyterian donations are distributed from the church's Benevolence Fund. This fund was established and is primarily used for outreach benevolences. The fund is maintained solely by endowments and gifts by First Presbyterian congregants. The good news, and the bad news, is that the fund has been nearly exhausted.

The Lord said ".....I will bless you .....so that you will be a blessing."

Genesis 12:2 NRSV

A few days ago, at Wonderful Wednesday, the children gave "Giving Plates" to several of the adults present. The plates were filled with cookies and printed around the rim were the directions "enjoy, refill, pass it on." We invite you to emulate the children and "pass it on." Please prayerfully consider giving a "blessing gift" to the First Presbyterian Benevolent Fund so that others will also be blessed. While each of us is blessed daily, you may wish to, in praise and thankfulness, make a "blessing gift" contribution on the occasion of significant blessings (e.g. anniversaries, births, birthdays, a new job, retirement, healing or recovery from an illness, a good neighbor, spring, etc.) Please designate your gift "blessing gift" or "Benevolent fund".

## NEWS FROM BOY SCOUT TROOP 249

This weekend (2/16 - 2/17) we participated in the Klondike Derby and took First place home!

The scouts worked on survival skills by building a lean-to shelter, hung bear bags, completed an obstacle course and sled race, worked on first aid, practiced their shooting safety and skills with a .22, participated in an iceberg challenge and much more. The boys worked together as a team to get this win.



Scouts from left to right:

Damien Ledbetter, Evan Shelton, Jake Worrell, Alex Sealander, Christian Newcomb, Daniel Umberger, Thomas McGuire

Upcoming Events:

- Troop meetings: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church on the corner of 4th and North Jefferson
- Camp card sales: Buy a card and help the troop send scouts to camp (many discounts available)



**DATE:**

**LAY READERS:**

**CHILDREN IN WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS:**

**3/3/19**

Women's Sunday

Lynn King

**3/10/19**

Barry Long

Doreen Latimer

**3/17/19**

Connie McMillan

Violet Nash

**3/24/19**

Jordan Phillips

Karen Payne

**3/31/19**

Bonnie Spivey

Barbara Roberson