

LENT

Ash Wednesday, March 1st, marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days of prayer, fasting, and preparation before Easter.

In worship, at 7:00 pm, we will observe the imposition of ashes and share the Lord's Supper. Ashes, placed on the forehead in the sign of the cross, are a powerful symbol of both our own mortality and the need for repentance and forgiveness.



Before worship, the Fellowship Committee will serve a simple soup supper at 5:45 pm, with breads, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and drinks. Cost: \$2.00 per person or \$5.00 per family.



Festival of Hymns & Potluck



Presbyterian Women invites everyone to join them for a Festival of Hymns on Sunday, March 19th from 5:00 pm—7:00 pm. Before the Festival of Hymns, there will be a potluck dinner and time for fellowship. Participants will then join together to sing some of our favorite church hymns, both old and new! Please sign up on the clipboard in the Outreach & Information area of the Narthex if you are planning on attending. Childcare will be available if needed.

Adult Mission Trip Trivia Night

The Adult Mission Trip group is holding a Trivia Night on Friday, April 28th, at the Lions' Club located on Central School Road. Doors open at 6 pm, and trivia starts at 7 pm. Participants must be 21 or older. The cost is \$160 per table, with a maximum of 8 people per table. Games between rounds include a 50-50 drawing, Scavenger Hunt, and Heads or Tails. Prizes include \$160 for First Place, \$80 for Second Place, and \$40 for Third Place. The Adult Mission Trip group will depart for Pensacola on June 4. We will be working with Habitat for Humanity. Flyers with more information are available on the Information Table. You may also contact Jennifer Everly or visit the Trivia Night's Facebook page for more information!



We need donations for the basket raffle that will be part of the Mission Trip Trivia Night on March 5. If you would like to make a donation of items or money to buy items, please contact Jane Cox (636-244-3183) as soon as possible.

A Lenten Devotional Guide for Children, Adults and Families

Many of you may be aware of a wonderful resource called Illustrated Children's Ministries. This was begun by Adam Walker Cleveland, a Presbyterian pastor and artist, who wanted to make the stories of the Bible more accessible to children and help families share these stories in more meaningful ways. New Hope has been utilizing this wonderful resource for over a year now, especially during the seasons of Advent and Lent. New Hope's children and youth have explored the meaning of these seasons as they have worked on large coloring posters depicting images of these seasons. To augment our earth-care initiative, we have also utilized the curriculum, An Illustrated Earth, as well as coloring sheets produced for scriptures read on other Sundays of the year.



For the season of Lent this year, our children and youth will get to pour over large coloring posters depicting the Stations of the Cross. To accompany this, we are making available to each New Hope family who wants one, a Stations of the Cross Devotional Guide. This devotional guide includes a depiction of the stations, along with a reflection for children, discussion questions with children, and a reflection for adults. You may pick up this devotional guide from your child's Sunday morning classroom, beginning Sunday, March 5, the First Sunday in Lent. Or, you may stop by the main office and we will be happy to share one with you from there. Those of you who have been a part of other Christian traditions may be more familiar with the Stations of the Cross.

Geoff Duffy, author of the devotional guide offers this description from the Introduction:

"There is an old legend that says, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, his mother Mary would often walk the way her son had walked on his journey to the cross, pausing here and there to recall something that had happened at that spot. From these walks grew the early Christian practice of walking the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross, in Jerusalem, a tradition that continues to this day.

"When they returned home, those early pilgrims to Jerusalem talked about their experiences, and soon many people began erecting 'stations' of the cross on the walls and grounds of their own churches so worshippers could make the journey whenever they wished. The number of stations ranged from as few as seven to as many as thirty. Over time however, the number became fixed at fourteen, including five stations depicting events that are not found in scripture (the three falls of Jesus, the meeting with Mary, and the legend of Veronica's veil). On Good Friday 1991, Pope John Paul II introduced the fourteen scriptural Stations of the Cross that many Christians now use.

"Catholic and Orthodox Christians were the first ones to use the stations in their devotional life. In recent years however, Christians of many traditions have been re-discovering this ancient devotional practice."

The stations depicted for our use have been "re-envisioned" in a way that are meant to be more accessible to children and "children at heart." May your own Lenten journey along these stations fill you richly with the wonder, mystery and awe of our faith.

Welcome, Craig Howard!

On Sunday, March 12, New Hope welcomes the Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, the new Presbytery Leader of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, to preach and lead worship alongside Pastor James. Craig began his work with our presbytery at the beginning of January.



Craig is a native of Chicago's south suburbs. He entered ministry after a 20-year career as owner and operator of a State Farm insurance agency. As the first African-American agent in the South Suburbs, Craig helped to open the door for other racial ethnic minorities in the insurance field.

Craig completed his undergraduate work at DePaul University earning a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Psychology. He earned the Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary where he was the recipient of the Arthur Hayes Fellowship for outstanding Master's Thesis. Craig went on to earn the Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick as well.

After being called to ministry, Craig went on to serve McCormick Theological Seminary as the Director of Recruitment and Admissions. During that time, he built an outstanding student body which was described as a sea change in the life of the seminary. Craig later served McCormick in fundraising as the Chief Development Officer.

Upon leaving McCormick, Craig moved to Madison, WI, to work as a Major Gifts officer at Beloit College and as the Mission Advancement Director at Bethesda Lutheran Communities in Watertown.

Craig has always served bi-vocationally, doing fundraising or admissions work while in pastoral ministry. He has served several racial-ethnic churches including Latina/o, African-American, Korean, and Euro-American.

Craig came to Giddings-Lovejoy after serving as the Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships, the chief leadership role, for the Presbytery of Milwaukee. As Executive Director, Craig implemented the "What's Next" strategic plan which includes staff reorganization, presbytery meeting restructuring, and Committee On Ministry revitalization tied with aggressive leadership training. These changes resulted in an increase of innovation, risk taking, energy, and openness to new ideas throughout the presbytery.

Craig is married to the Rev. Marilyn Gamm, who is the Transitional Executive Presbyter of Riverside Presbytery in San Bernardino, CA. Craig has two adult daughters, Jacqueline and Judith.

We are blessed by Craig's leadership and delighted to welcome him to lead worship with us at New Hope. Please be sure to welcome Craig, not only to New Hope, but also to our presbytery

One Great Hour of Sharing



Faith Endures: "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts." (Romans 5:5). Give to One Great Hour of Sharing to support these Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries as they strive to help all of God's people find resilience, hope, and faith in the face of challenging circumstances. Please give generously.

Easter Lilies



You may order a "live" lily to adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday and take it home with you after the 11:00 am service that day. You may also purchase a "virtual" lily, the cost of which will go to the Deacon's Benevolence Fund. Whichever you choose, you may still dedicate your gift in memory, honor or gratitude to someone. The list will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Please use the envelope provided on the Information Table for your order. The cost of either the live or "virtual" lily is \$10.00 each. Checks can be written to NHPC. Orders must be received by April 2nd.

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Saving 2017 (also known as Daylight Saving Time and previously known as 'Fast Time' in the United States) is the practice of setting the clocks forward one hour from standard time during the warmer parts of the year (usually summer months), and back again in the colder parts (usually fall), in order to make better use of natural daylight so that evenings have more daylight and mornings have less.

Make sure to set your clocks FORWARD one hour on Sunday, March 12th!



*Daylight Saving
Time Begins*

Female Connection

Leaping Leprechauns during Lent

The Female Connection is going to play "Bunco" for a celebration of St. Patrick's Day and the beginning of Spring on Thursday, March 16 at 7 PM in the Narthex at the Church. Please join us for an evening of fun & fellowship. All women are invited to attend; no sign-up is necessary and we'll show you how to play (it's extremely easy). Following Bunco tradition, please bring a gift in the range of \$7-10 to exchange at the end of play; an Easter or spring item would be appropriate. Wear your green!! Also, please bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided. For more information or questions, please contact Deb Mackin. We hope to see you there!



Resources for Lenten Spiritual Practices

Resources for Lenten Spiritual Practices (for individuals and for families):
Check out the links below for 2017 Lenten calendars and more ideas for spiritual practices for Lent.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)'s Environmental Ministries and Enough for Everyone office presents the "2017 Tread Lightly for Lent Daily Reflection-Action Calendar:

http://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017_LentCalendar.pdf

Spiritual Practices for Lent Repentance, Penance, and Healing, from the Presbyterian Church (USA):

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/theology-formation-and-evangelism/curriculum/ideas-magazine/spiritual-practices-lent-repentance-penance-healin/>

The above webpage can be downloaded as a PDF here:

https://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/curriculum/pdf/ideas/spiritualpractices.pdf

Daily Readings for Lent 2017:

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017dlent.pdf>

Going Flowerless for Lent

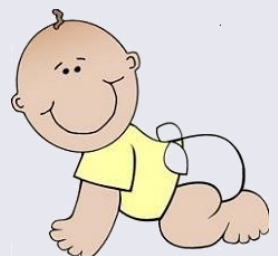


At Easter, we celebrate the ultimate triumph of life. During Lent, we prepare for that and strive to empty ourselves of everything that gets in the way of living truly as God would have us live. The undeniable Christian confession is that there is no resurrection without death. Lent is the time to come face to face with the fact of our mortality. Penitence and repentance are "churchy" words often associated with Lent. Like Jesus in the wilderness, Lent is a time for us to travel the dry, dusty road to Jerusalem and experience the barrenness of our own particular wilderness that we might, too, know the joy of resurrection life at Easter.

To that end, we will do without our customary flowers in worship during the season of Lent that we might be all the more enlivened by their return on Easter morning. Rather, our Worship, Music & the Arts Committee has other adornments planned to help us observe Lent as a season of walking with Jesus through the wilderness to Jerusalem, the cross and beyond.

Diaper Drive

Jess Adams, Executive Director of the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank, will update the congregation on April 2 about the wonderful changes the diaper bank has undergone over the last year. As you remember, New Hope has been very supportive of this organization that provides much needed diapers to lower income families in the St. Louis area. State and federal agencies do not provide diapers to families receiving assistance. That means families have to rely on organizations like the diaper bank to fulfill this basic need. The diaper bank is scheduled to provide over 500,000 diapers to over 20,000 kids. They partner with 18 different organizations to help St. Louis area children and families. April has been designated "Diaper Awareness Month" and we will be collecting diapers and checks all month long. Please help New Hope Presbyterian supply the Diaper Bank with much needed diapers and/or financial help. Questions? Contact Alyssa Murray



Recommended Lenten Readings

Learning to Walk in the Dark by Barbara Brown Taylor (New York: HarperCollins, 2014)
By venturing into caves, underground night clubs, subterranean chapels, and unlit cabins in the woods on nights with no moons, Taylor leads us on a journey of how to find God, or rather how to let God find us, even when it is dark. She leads us to learn how the darkness can allow us to learn much about God, as well as ourselves.

The Rebirthing of God by John Philip Newell (Woodstock: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2014)
As a scholar, peacemaker and spiritual leader, John Philip Newell invites us to be a part of a new holy birth of sacred living, exploring eight major features of a new birthing of Christianity for the 21st Century.

Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith and Accepting Grace by Deanna A. Thompson (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2012)
A story about one women's journey with breast cancer, from diagnosis through the fight, to emerging on the other side.

The Christian Life: A Geography of God by Michael L. Lindvall (Louisville: Gene Press, 2001)
Part of the Foundations of Christian Faith series, this volume explores the Christian life as a journey of discovery.

This We Believe: Eight Truths Presbyterian Affirm by Stephen W. Plunkett (Louisville: Geneva Press, 2002)
An introduction to the Christian faith that helps grapple with what it means to be a Christian in a world of conflicting ideologies and competing claims.

40 Days and 40 Nights by Gail Ramshaw (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006)
An insightful devotional booklet for each day of the Lenten season.

Called to Be Human: Letters to My Children on Living a Christian Life by Michael Jenkins (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009)
A wonderful compilation of letters written by a Presbyterian seminary professor to his grown children to address some of the "big questions" young adults are asking about life, love and vocation.

An Altar in the World by Barbara Brown Taylor (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2009)
A series of rich reflections on ways to discover the sacred in the ordinariness of our everyday lives.

Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief by Rowan Williams (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007)
An exploration of the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds that guides readers through the central elements of the Christian faith.

The Worshiping Life by Lisa Nichols Hickman (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005)
A series of short essays on the order of worship which offer insight and reflection on what exactly we Christians do when we gather on the Lord's Day.

Speaking of Sin: The Lost Language of Salvation by Barbara Brown Taylor (Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 2000)
A good look at some of the most basic words of our faith—sin, repentance, forgiveness, salvation—and how they still have real meaning for us today.



Music Notes

Since I was asked to help with the upcoming Presbyterian Women potluck and hymn singing event, I began to refresh my memory about the history of hymn singing in Christian worship. If you attend this PW event, you'll not only enjoy singing several favorite hymns, you will also know the answers to the following questions and many others. What hymn dating from the 3rd century appears in the current hymnal? When did members of the congregation become actively involved in singing in worship, as opposed to only clergy? What famous author wrote over 6000 hymns? What hymn tune is likely based upon a much older English ballad about a pirate? What's the connection between psalm paraphrases and a character from Star Wars?

Do you have a special memory about a congregational song? One of my early memories is of my mother holding the hymnal for me during worship. As the hymn was sung, she moved her finger along underneath the words so I could follow them. I had not yet learned to read music, but I liked hearing singing, and I liked reading the words in such a grown-up book.

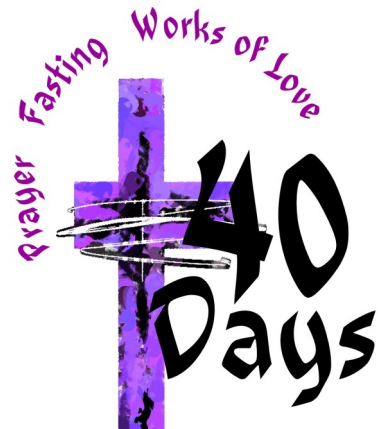
During March, the choir will sing some beautiful Lenten anthems. We are planning to enjoy the talents of several instrumentalists, including Tracy Grundy and Terry Martinez. We are also planning to host a guest oboist, and the handbells will ring. I hope to see you in worship during this special season.

Peace,

Gay

March Birthdays

Ben Kuehnl	03/01	Peggy Black	03/21
Sara Martin	03/03	Lynn Harmon	03/22
Linda Grissette	03/04	Sue Dittmar	03/23
Kathy Freeman	03/05	Mike Dame	03/24
Kurt Romkey	03/07	Jane Dame	03/25
Jeanna Groat	03/12	Daniel Salter	03/27
Bob Mudrovic	03/12	Kim Mocca	03/28
Alyssa Murray	03/12	Bryan Eikmann	03/31
Margaret Lippert	03/15		
Barbara Lynn	03/16		



March Anniversaries

Bryan and Laura Eikmann	03/11/1989
Chris and Laurie Meinert	03/13/2015
Pat and Robin Murphy	03/25/1973
Mark and Cindy Martin	03/26/1988

MARCH 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 5:45 pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Worship Service	2 1:00pm Agape Circle 7:00pm Joy Circle	3	4
5 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Harmony Faith Family	6 7:00pm Deacons' Meeting	7	8 6:15pm Handbells 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	9 6:00pm Boy Scouts	10	11 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry
12 <i>Daylight Savings Time</i> 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship	13 7:00pm Session Meeting	14	15 6:15pm Handbells 6:30pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir	16 5:50pm Employment Ministry Committee 7:00pm Employment Ministry 7:00pm Female Connection	17	18 8:30am Men's Breakfast
19 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 5:00pm PW Hymn Sing and Potluck	20 6:00pm Jubilee Circle	21 9:30am PW Coordinating Team	22 6:15pm Handbells 7:15 Choir	23 6:30pm Boy Scouts	24	25
26 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship	27 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship Committee	28	29 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Choir Practice	30	31	<i>Coming in April</i> 9th — <i>Pal m</i> Sunday 13th — <i>Maundy</i> Thursday 14th — <i>Good</i> Friday 15th — <i>Easter</i> Vigil 16th — <i>Easter</i> Sunday

FINANCIAL CORNER

CONTRIBUTIONS
Budget
To-date Actual

February 2017
35,145.00
28,962.00

Year To Date 2017
70,290.00
70,533.00

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