

## *Ash Wednesday*

Ash Wednesday, March 6th, 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 Hospitality Committee will serve a soup supper at 5:45 pm, with breads, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and drinks. We'll be accepting a free-will offering.

If you are interested in bringing a soup, there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex.



## *Daylight Savings Time*



*Daylight Saving  
Time Begins*

Daylight Saving 2019 (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 11th!

## A Note From Our Pastor



I used to listen closely and curiously to what people “give up” for the season of Lent... chocolate, caffeine, television. I don’t do that anymore. I don’t know why. I don’t plan to give anything up for Lent this year. Nor in my conversations with others have I been aware of what they’re striving to go without this Lenten season. Giving something up for Lent is not a bad discipline, if by it one means to make more room for God to fill the void left over. I’ve done it before, but over time I have come to experience giving something up for Lent as a mild inconvenience that, in the end, takes my off the spiritual ball, so to speak. I simply haven’t focused on that this year. More than anything, I am keeping Lent by focusing on the story of God’s covenant with humanity through the life, death and resurrection of Christ. I am doing this specifically through the scriptures we are given to share together in our Sunday morning worship.

Keeping Lent. It’s a way of remembering by doing. We usually don’t talk like this, but I have been reminded of this practice in a book I read every year at this time by Gail Ramshaw called *The Three-Day Feast* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2004). It’s a book about the Church’s “keeping” of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. In the book, Ramshaw notes how “we mark the solstice, we celebrate Thanksgiving, we remember the date of our baptism, we observe the anniversary of a death, we hold a birthday party. But also we can say that we keep holidays, anniversaries, and birthdays.”

Ramshaw goes on to explain the deep truth in the use of “keep.” To keep something is to retain it, hold it close and protect it. In my reading this time, I recall how I invite you to the Lord’s Table every week. After the Prayer of Great Thanksgiving (the Eucharistic Prayer), I break the bread and pour the cup. I come around the Table and the servers take their places. Then I extend my arms in welcome and announce, “Let us keep the feast.” I don’t remember where I got that line or when I started saying it. I know I didn’t make it up, but rather absorbed the invitation from someone, somewhere. To keep the feast is a way of remembering by doing. We remember the story of our faith, the life, death and resurrection of

Jesus the Christ, not just by reading and hearing it, but by doing it. We do it by coming to the Table where Jesus invites us to feed on him. We do it by receiving the bread and cup he gave us as God’s very self, enfleshed in the stuff of earth, the matter of creation, the bread of life for the life of the world. “If we keep the feast,” Ramshaw reminds us, “the feast will keep us.” And so it does.

So this year, I am keeping the season of Lent by striving to be more aware of my prayers and the people with whom I come into contact everyday as fellow pilgrims on the journey of life with God, regardless of whether that is how they would characterize themselves and their lives. My keeping of Lent this year involves contemplating more deeply what it means to be a child of God, called to a way of life that is different because of God’s calling, ordained by the Church as a pastor, of course, but even more importantly, ordained by baptism as a follower, a Christian. It’s a road we all of us walk and I have been particularly blessed by encounters with many of you these past few weeks, encounters through which I have felt God’s presence in ways I cannot articulate any other way, except to say that God is here with us and among us.

For that I give thanks, even and especially during this wilderness season of Lent, and I hope your own keeping of Lent finds it keeping you as well.

Faithfully,

*Chris*

## *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.

## *Session Notes*

1. The Session approved a set of guidelines for the use and care of the Narthex. Please check with any Elder, Deacon, or the office staff for your copy of the guidelines.
2. The Ministry, Mission and Evangelism committee's focus for the year will be to address the needs of fragile families and social justice issues. One activity that you have been reading about is the Emergency Warming Centers. About 11 people are involved with this endeavor and they've been able to help three churches get the needed staffing in order to have warming shelters when the weather gets below 20 degrees.
3. The position description for a child care coordinator was approved and marketing for such a person will begin soon.
4. The Formation for Discipleship committee reported that Vacation Bible School will be on June 24-28, 2019.
5. Jim Finks has volunteered once again to review the annual financial records of the church. The Session approved this appointment with much appreciation.
6. Marion Hamilton will be the new liaison between the church and our Boy Scout Troop #30. Kathy Gibbs had filled that position for many years. Thank you to both ladies.
7. The Session has been in the process of looking at our insurance coverage and are nearing completion of this activity. If there is a church member who has understanding of insurance "lingo", please contact Ruth Irvine for interpretation!
8. Dr. James reported that the youth will be going to Raleigh, North Carolina for their mission trip on June 22-29. They will be working in conjunction with the Youth Mission Company in urban mission.
9. Six Elders and Deacons, as well as Dr. James, attended the last Presbytery meeting for various leadership training sessions and the Rev. Dr. Craig Howard's installation as our permanent Presbytery Leader.

## *Blood Drive*

The Deacons are hosting a Blood Drive on Sunday, March 17th from 9:30 am until 12:30 pm. You can sign up on the clipboard in the Outreach and Information area of the Narthex or by going online to [www.bloodcenterIMPACT.org](http://www.bloodcenterIMPACT.org) and using sponsor code 9166 to schedule online.



## *Presbyterian Women*

Women of New Hope! The PWGL Midwest/South Metro Winter Cluster Gathering will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 from 11 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the Egg and I Restaurant in Des Peres. Cost of lunch is \$11. Guest presenters will be from the Presbytery and Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Registration forms are available in the Information and Outreach area in the Narthex. Contact Ann Schmid for additional information.

Join others on Sunday, March 24, 2019 immediately after church on the lower level for our second Family Crafts Sunday! Craft Activities will be available for adults and children. PW will be serving a lunch of pizza, salads and cookies. Samples of the crafts and sign-up sheets are on display in the Information and Outreach area in the Narthex. Don't miss out on this opportunity for meaningful fellowship. Contact Katie Ward for more information (636-447-5188).



In coordination with PWGL and PW New Hope, a mission donation is being collected for the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Donations will be collected between February 17th through March 17th. Please prayerfully consider this mission and place donations in the labeled basket in the Narthex. Make checks payable to New Hope Presbyterian Church with Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services on the memo line. The mission of PCHAS is to provide Christ-centered support to children and families in need. Programs support and heal children as they grow into healthy, productive members of society. Please contact Ann Schmid with any questions.

## *New Hope Earth Care Team*

Happy March from your New Hope Earth Care team. March— a month that's in-between. In between winter and spring months, as well as winter and spring holidays. Maybe you're starting some early spring cleaning or digging through the garage for planting supplies. If you're like a lot of Americans, you might find old, unused, or outdated electronics gathering dust. Due to the great success and large amount of electronics collected last year at New Hope, this year we are directing our congregation to recycling opportunities in the area, many where you might already shop.



Best Buy will take some items for recycling in their door, everyday. Visit Best-Buy.com and search recycle for details on what they accept.

Lowe's and Home Depot both accept rechargeable batteries and CFL (florescent bulbs) right inside their doors. Look for convenient orange receptacles at Home Depot.

To recycle just about any small appliance, Recycle Works is right around the corner from NHPC at 60 Triad South Drive. They take rechargeable batteries, CFL light bulbs, game systems, stereos, DVD players — just about anything with a cord. Some items are accepted for a fee (TVs, microwaves, copiers) For more information visit [Sccmo.org](http://Sccmo.org) and search for Recycle Works Central.

Target also has several bins right inside their store. Look for bins labeled for MP3 players, ink cartridges and cell phones, as well as cans, glass, plastic bottles and plastic bags.

Gather up those dusty electronics and drop them off during your next shopping or errand run. Stay warm!

## *Music Notes*

The hymn “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” was written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748). He wrote over 600 hymns and is known as the founding father of English hymnody. This hymn, a deeply moving and personal expression of gratitude for the amazing love of Christ, was written in 1707.

In Watts’ day, almost all congregational singing consisted of paraphrases of the Psalms. Watts became less and less inspired by the Psalm-singing. He commented, “The singing of God’s praise is the part of worship most closely related to heaven; but its performance among us is the worst on earth.” Thus he began to write texts, some of “human composure” such as this hymn. He also wrote texts which were loosely based upon the Psalms. One such is “Joy to the World.”

The tune HAMBURG was written by Lowell Mason (1792-1872), and it was first sung at the Independent Presbyterian Church in Savannah, Georgia, where he was organist. The tune was first published in 1825 in Boston.

(Sources: Amazing Grace:366 Inspiring Hymn Stories for Daily Devotions by Kenneth W. Osbeck ; and The Presbyterian Hymnal Companion by LindaJo H. McKim).

## *Going Flowerless for Lent: Reflections on the Season*

The Worship, Music & the Arts Committee has been exploring ways to help our worship lift up the meanings of Lent as a season of the liturgical year. The season of Lent is 40 days, a significant number in the Bible and in our liturgy. It rained for 40 days and nights while Noah was on the ark and God was wiping all wickedness from the face of the earth; the children of Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness on their way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the land of Canaan; the Israelites were under the oppression of the Philistines for 40 years before Samson was born; Elijah prepared for ministry for 40 days and nights; Jonah warned the people of Nineveh that they had 40 days in which to repent; Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days before he began his public ministry; there are 40 days from Jesus’ Resurrection to his Ascension.



Not only does the number 40 have biblical and liturgical significance, but it has biological significance, as well. In weeks, 40 is the length of human fetal development from conception to birth. So, this number is a part of the development of human life.

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.

## *Narthex Guidelines*

We are all guests in God's house, and as guests we share responsibility for the care and upkeep of New Hope.

The following GUIDELINES are established to keep the Narthex and adjoining hallways welcoming and tidy, and to prevent damage to floors, walls, windows and furniture. The Session is charged with monitoring and, if necessary, enforcing the guidelines, and any suggested changes must be submitted to Session for consideration.

### DOs

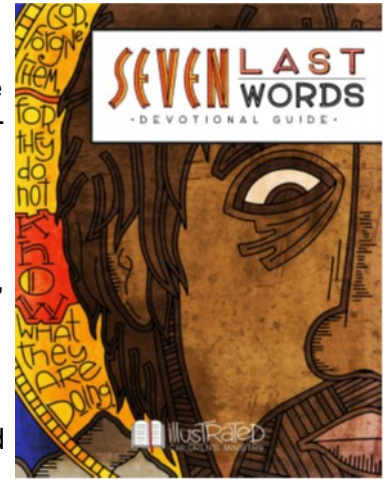
- Use the Narthex to prepare for worship and to visit with members and visitors
- Encourage children to visit at the special small tables and chairs designed for them
- Utilize the following opportunities to announce events and ministries, working with the church office
  - Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
  - TV Monitors
  - Church Bulletin
  - New Hope Press
  - Email
  - Pamphlets/Flyers/Attendance Pad Inserts
  - Electronic church road signs
- Use the Gallery to post artwork and photos of recent events
- Use the Outreach and Information area's bins for mission collections, and display pamphlets and flyers in the holders provided. The task table is for event sign-up and RSVP sheets
- Remove excess collected items from the Outreach and Information area promptly (check each week and remove after worship), allowing just enough to remain to show where to place donations
- Use easels provided to announce events no more than two weeks prior to the date
- Decorate the Narthex for these special events (or as approved by Session): Christmas, Easter, Youth Sunday, Mission Trip(s), and Vacation Bible School
- Utilize the Hospitality Bar for snacks/cakes and beverages, and become familiar with the items stored within the cabinets

### DON'TS

- Move the furniture or bring in additional tables or chairs
- Place displays/announcements, or collections on children's tables
- Place/hang/attach posters, papers, decorations on walls, windows or ceilings anywhere within the Narthex or hallways
- Place collections or other items in the Gallery
- Allow excess items to remain, clearing them out weekly or move the task table to another location
- Allow collected items to create trip hazards or to become unsightly
- Post announcements more than two weeks in advance or allow them to remain after the event has occurred
- Use nails, hooks, tape (even teacher's tape) or glue on ANY surface in the Narthex or hallways
- Add side table(s) for cakes or other items

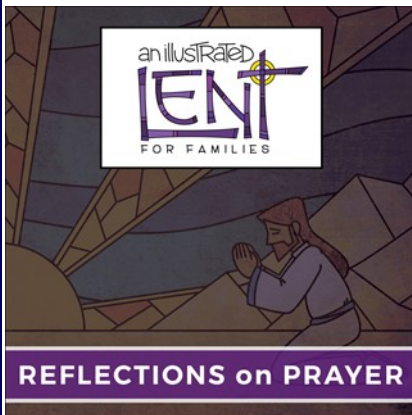
## Resources for Lent

You are certainly 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 a few years 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.



This year's Lenten coloring posters center on the Seven Last Words of Christ, also known as the sayings of Jesus on the cross. Each poster focuses on one word from the sayings, and we are inviting not only our children and youth to color the posters, but the whole of the congregation to help with the coloring. Specifically, different ministries and committees of the church will be invited to complete a poster together and we will then display them toward the end of the season of Lent.

Along with the coloring posters, we are making available to all families the Seven Last Words Devotional Guide that is meant to help you understand more about each of the sayings. This devotional guide is a wonderful resource for growing in grace and faith during the season of Lent. The devotional guide will be distributed to the oldest child in a family in his or her Sunday School class. If you don't have a child in Sunday School, but would still like a devotional guide, just come to the main office and we'll be happy to get you one.



Likewise, we are also making available An Illustrated Lent for Families, which contains a variety of activities and coloring pages to help children understand the movement of Lent toward the cross and Easter Day. These are interactive activities that lead us through each of the six weeks of Lent. These will also be distributed through the Sunday School classes and, like the Seven Last Words Devotional Guide, if you don't have a child in Sunday School but would still like one, just come to the main office and we'll have one for you.

We are excited about all the ways these wonderful resources help our children, youth, and adults observe the disciplines of Lent so that the richness of the season may be a source of both learning and growth.

### Tread Lightly for Lent-2019 Lenten Calendar

"In Lent, we reflect on Christ's ministry, death, and resurrection. We slow down, take time, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around us. The Presbyterian Hunger Program strives to walk with people in moving towards sustainable choices that restore and protect all of God's children and creation. As people of faith, we seek to "serve and preserve" God's world. However, some of our collective choices have led to a changing global climate, which translates to warmer temperatures, rising sea-levels, and severe storms, just to name a few. To turn this tide, we must tread lightly on the face of God's Earth." Add care of the earth as a part of your Lenten discipline this year and access the Lenten Calendar, Tread Lightly for Lent, by clicking the link below.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/resource/tread-lightly-for-lent-lenten-calendar/>

## *Recommended Lenten Readings*

***Holy Solitude: Lenten Reflections with Saints, Hermits, Prophets, and Rebels*** by Heidi Haverkamp (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017)

*This small book is full of devotions and reflections for each day of the season of Lent.*

***Station to Station: An Ignatian Journey through the Stations of the Cross*** by Gary Jansen (Chicago: Loyola Press, 2017)

*Most Protestants are unaccustomed to journeying through the Stations of the Cross, seeing it as something “those Catholics” do. However, this small devotional book leads us through the scriptural Stations of the Cross, focusing exclusively on events that are found in the Bible, which ought to be enough to soothe one’s Presbyterian sensibilities. Walking with Jesus the road to his death, we see the unique ways in which Jesus responded to suffering, and so are challenged to react similarly in our own struggles.*

***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 21<sup>st</sup> Century.*

***Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith, and Accepting Grace*** by Deanna A. Thompson (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2012)

*A story about one woman’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: Geneva 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 Presbyterians 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*



## *Recommended Lenten Readings*

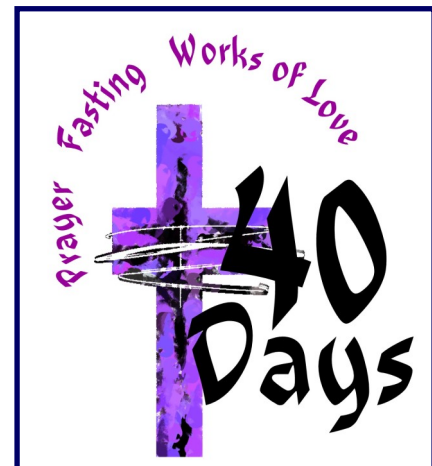
*Christian faith.*

***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.*

### *March Birthdays*

Ben Kuehnle	03/01	Mike Dame	03/24
Henry Gonterman	03/06	Jane Dame	03/25
Jeanna Groat	03/12	Daniel Salter	03/27
Bob Mudrovic	03/12	Bryan Eikmann	03/31
Margaret Lippert	03/15		
Barbara Lynn	03/16		
Todd Rasche	03/20		
Peggy Black	03/21		
Lynn Harmon	03/22		
Sue Dittmar	03/23		



### *March Anniversaries*

Todd & Elizabeth Rasche	03/04/1989
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 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
9:15am Christian Formation 10:15am Worship 11:30am Harmony Faith Family 11:30am <i>The Journey</i>	<b>4</b> 7:00pm Deacons' Meeting	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Cub Scouts	<b>6</b> <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 10:00am Ruth Bible Study 5:45pm Soup Supper 7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Worship Service	<b>7</b> 1:00pm Agape Circle 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Joy Circle	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry 12:00pm Bridal Shower
<b>10</b> <i>Daylight Savings Time</i> <i>First Sunday of Lent</i> 9:15am Christian Formation 10:15am Worship 11:30am <i>The Journey</i> 11:30am ABC Committee	<b>11</b> 6:15pm MME Committee 7:00pm Session Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00am Ruth Bible Study 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Covenant Class 6:15pm Handbell Practice 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 3:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast 5:00pm Girl Scouts
<b>17</b> <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 9:15am Christian Formation 9:30am Deacon Blood Drive 10:15am Worship	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Cub Scouts	<b>20</b> 10:00am Ruth Bible Study 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Covenant Class 6:15pm Handbell Practice 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Girl Scouts 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Employment Ministry	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> 9:15am Christian Formation 10:15am Worship 11:30am PW Family Craft Day	<b>25</b> 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship Committee	<b>26</b> 7:00pm Metropolitan Congregations United	<b>27</b> 10:00am Ruth Bible Study 5:30pm Dinner 6:00pm Covenant Class 6:15pm Handbell Practice 7:00pm Boy Scouts 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b> 6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>29</b> 5:00pm Boy Scout Training	<b>30</b> 8:00am Boy Scout Training
<b>31</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i> 9:15am Christian Formation 10:15am Worship						

### *FINANCIAL CORNER*

**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
Budget  
To-date Actual

**February 2019**  
**34,227.59**  
**31,496.33**

**Year To Date 2019**  
**68,455.18**  
**64,350.66**

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