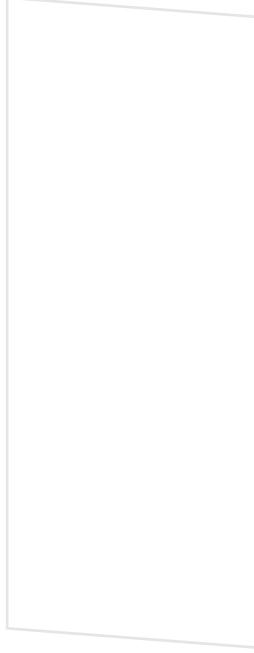


Feb. 2024



Article Deadline: 15th of each month

If you would like to be added to either our email or postal mailing list, please contact the church office to leave your name and preferred contact information: 304-422-5426 or office@fpcpburgwv.org.



First Presbyterian Church of Parkersburg
GATHERING, GROWING, CARING, GOING

1341 JULIANA STREET
 PARKERSBURG, WV 26101

Phone: 304-422-5426
 Fax: 304-428-0372
 E-mail: office@fpcpburgwv.org

Visit us at:
www.fpcpburgwv.org
[facebook.com/fpcpburg](https://www.facebook.com/fpcpburg)

WE ARE A NURTURING, VIBRANT CONGREGATION, REACHING OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND STANDING AS A BEACON OF CHRIST'S LOVE AND PROMISE.

Sunday Worship:
 8:30 a.m. in person
 & 10:30 a.m. in person
 or livestream on Facebook

first things
FIRST

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 2024

GRACE, *mercy* and
 PEACE from *God* the Father
 and from
 Jesus Christ, the Father's Son,
 will be with us in
truth and love.

2 John 1:3, NIV



In the early church, Lent became the name for the period of forty days (excluding Sundays) before Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday. Throughout scripture, people wear ashes as part of mourning and repentance. Thus we will begin the season of Lent with ashes as we recognize all of the ways that we do not live up to God's call in our lives. Since the early church, Lent has been a special time of penitence, a time when Christians examined their lives to see what God was saying and what they should be doing.

Through the early centuries, Lent was a time that included penitence, self-examination, and spiritual practices to bring one closer to God. The point of all activities and practices was to focus one's life and experience on loving and serving God.

Lent continues to be a time of reflection and to grow closer to God. For some it means giving up something. For a long time, fasting has been a huge part of Lent, with some churches encouraging eating smaller meals or cutting out meat

and then giving any money saved to the church or to otherwise help the poor. Others give up certain attitudes and views: fear of failure, or over commitment, or hatred.

Lent can also be a time to take on something. This can mean rededicating ourselves to a regular spiritual practice of prayer or scripture. For others, Lent is a time to ask "What is God calling me to do as something new or different or as a way of expressing my commitment to Jesus Christ in a new or fuller way?" It's a

prayerful effort to ask God to show us a new form or direction for our ministries as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In the Judaism of Jesus' day, prayer was regularly experienced in many forms. The family gathered every Friday night for Sabbath prayers. Men gathered in the synagogue nightly for Evening Prayers. There were family prayers of blessing offered at meals and other times of the day. Sabbath worship was corporate prayer and corporate reading of scripture, which functioned as prayer as well. Then, if you got to Jerusalem, you could also experience the regular cycles of sacrifice and prayer throughout the day.

LENT

The teachings of Jesus make little sense and lack power when cut off from the practices of prayer and community life in which they were articulated. Attempting to follow Jesus today likewise becomes almost incoherent without a lively, rich set of practices of prayer in many forms and formats of community.



So this Lenten season, we are focusing on prayer during worship.

We will begin on our knees and will continue as we dive into the Lord's Prayer and other practices, grounding our Lenten journey in prayer. I will also be leading a class on different Spiritual Practices, including Household Worship, Lectio Divina, and walking the Labyrinth. Join us as we seek to walk more closely with God this Lenten season.

Blessings and Peace!

Pastor Annie

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

February 14, at 6:30 p.m.

in the Sanctuary -will include the imposition of ashes and Communion.



On Ash Wednesday and each Sunday in Lent our focus will be *Watch and Pray.*

Those who are unable to attend evening worship may receive the imposition of ashes at the front door from 12 - 1 p.m.



February Liturgists



- ◆ 4 Katelyn Hickman
- ◆ 11 Jess Linville
- ◆ 14 Kelly Beckett
(Ash Wednesday)
- ◆ 18 Becky McGinnis
- ◆ 25 Greg Boso

The Session, in its effort to better communicate with the congregation, is now including highlights from their meetings in the newsletter each month. Here are the highlights from their last two meetings:

Session HIGHLIGHTS



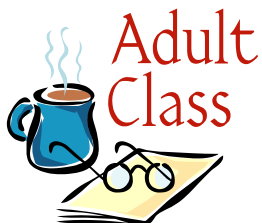
DECEMBER:

- ◆ Discussed long-term mission planning.
- ◆ Reviewed and approved the budget, with thanks to Chris Alfred and the Finance Committee. Session expressed thanks to the congregation for their support of the church.
- ◆ Approved re-homing five extra pews from around the church.
- ◆ The Facilities Management Committee reported that rental income will be able to cover more costs in 2024 with plans to increase usage and the changes to the lease with Bright Beginnings.

JANUARY:

- ◆ Elected Session officers for 2024: Clerk - Senta Goudy, and Treasurer - Chris Alfred.
- ◆ Looked at the strategic planning from Facilities Management and heard committee reports.
- ◆ Changed its meeting date to the third Monday of the month to better accommodate those who found the previous meeting time difficult to make.

Join Us for Sunday School!



Adult Class

The Adult Sunday School class, led by David Hickman, will resume on **Sunday, February 18, at 9:15 a.m.** in Room 204 downstairs. All are welcome!



FEBRUARY

BIRTHDAYS

Kelly Beckett	5th
Nancy Pillichody	6th
Jamie Meckley	7th
Brad Carter	9th
Bob O'Dell	12th
Kristy Holliday	14th
Donna Marcinko	14th
David Kaufman	27th
Wayne Sanders	28th

In Christian Sympathy

Doris "Dode" R. Thornburg
November 29

Special Dates in February

Black History Month

- Groundhog Day - 2nd
- Transfiguration Sunday - 11th
- Valentine's Day - 14th
- Ash Wednesday - 14th
- Presidents' Day - 19th

LENTEN Study with Pastor Annie

Spiritual Practices

Beginning February 15

****Thursdays @6:00 p.m.**

(Except Week 2, which will be Wednesday, February 21 @5:30)

Sign up in the foyer to attend.
No books or materials are needed.



SCHEDULE OF TOPICS

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Wk. 1 - Feb. 15: | Household Worship |
| **Wk. 2 - Feb. 21: | Lectio Divina |
| Wk. 3 - Feb. 29: | Fasting |
| Wk. 4 - Mar. 7: | Contemplative Prayer |
| Wk. 5 - Mar. 14: | Ignatian Examen |
| Wk. 6 - Mar. 21: | Labyrinth |



Below and on the next page is the latest update on church finances from Treasurer Chris Alfred. Keep in mind, reports are a month behind due to the publishing date of the newsletter. If you have any questions you may contact Chris at finance@fpcburgwv.org.

Financial Statement as of December 31, 2023

	Budget	Actual
2023 Budget		
Income		
Sunday Offering		
<i>Pledges</i>	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 112,825.61
<i>Contributions</i>	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 54,551.18
<i>Per Capita</i>	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 884.20
Sunday Offering	\$ 186,500.00	\$ 168,260.99
<i>Facility Rentals</i>	\$ 31,001.00	\$ 33,670.28
<i>Other Income</i>	\$ 35,749.00	\$ 673.85
<i>Misc. Income</i>	\$ -	\$ 30,900.00
<i>Founders Trust Grant</i>	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Total Income	\$ 263,250.00	\$ 243,505.12
Expenses		
<i>Discipleship</i>	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 1,172.37
<i>Mission</i>	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 267.97
<i>Worship & Music</i>	\$ 7,775.00	\$ 6,576.10
<i>Salaries</i>	\$ 157,201.00	\$ 135,899.89
<i>Facilities</i>	\$ 86,600.60	\$ 94,693.72
<i>Communications</i>	\$ 1,625.00	\$ 1,407.41
<i>Office Expenses</i>	\$ 18,923.90	\$ 22,990.89
Total Expenses	\$ 274,276.00	\$ 263,008.35
Difference	\$ (11,026.00)	\$ (19,503.23)

ASSETS

CHECKING

Operating Fund	\$ 1,186.97
Restricted Funds	\$ 106,946.24
Deacons Fund	\$ 3,648.55
Total Checking	\$ 111,781.76

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FUNDS

Checking	\$ 586.85
Savings	\$ 3,127.84
Total PW Funds	\$ 3,714.69

INVESTMENTS

Deacons CD	\$ 6,058.01
Morgan Stanley Stocks	\$ 4,076.45
United Bank Founders Trust	\$ 66,889.79
Wesbanco Founders Trust	\$ 1,343,834.76
Presbyterian Women Investments	\$ 150,929.29
Total Investments	\$ 1,571,788.30

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 1,571,788.30





FEBRUARY

- 11th: **Transfiguration of the Lord** / Baptism of Charlotte James
"Souper" Bowl collection (donate cans of soup)
- 14th: **Ash Wednesday** - Drive-up ashes - 12:00-1:00 p.m. /
 Worship Service (ashes & Communion) - 6:30 p.m.
Valentines Day
- 15th: **Lenten Study** "Spiritual Practices" begins - 6:00 p.m.
- 18th: **First Sunday in Lent: Worship Series, Watch and Pray**
 Adult Sunday School resumes - 9:15 a.m., in Room 204

MARCH

- 10th: *Daylight-Saving Time begins*
- 24th: **Palm Sunday**
- 28th: **Maundy Thursday** - Worship: 7:00 p.m.
- 31st: **Easter Sunday** - Sunrise Worship - 6:30 a.m.
 NO 8:30 Worship / PW Easter Open House -10 a.m.
 Worship - 10:30 a.m. / Kids' Egg Hunt following worship

***The Annual Congregational Meeting** will be held on a Sunday in March; the exact date will be announced.



VOLUNTEERS OF THE QUARTER!

Your votes have been counted, and you have selected **two** special folks as our volunteers for the quarter ending December 31, 2023.

Hats off to **Mike and Mikki Bosley** for their numerous and invaluable behind-the-scenes contributions to First Presby. This husband and wife team work mostly silently, but not unnoticed, to improve our church's buildings and grounds. Mikki works with an unsung group of others to decorate the Sanctuary and front entrance during Advent (no small task), Lent and other special seasons. She also serves as a Liturgist, rings handbells and serves on Session.

Her hubby Mike is very generous with the heavy equipment and personnel at the family business whenever we need a lift to reach indoor/outdoor lighting and hang the outdoor Christmas wreath, or to fill potholes in our parking lot, and so many other projects. They can always be counted on to lend a hand when a need arises, and for this we are truly grateful! **Thank you, Mike and Mikki!!**



NEW OFFICERS

SESSION
 Mike Beckett
 Mikki Bosley
 Greg Boso
 Katie Buchanan
 Kristin Holliday
 Morgan James
 Amy Leach
 Jess Linville
 Bill Niday

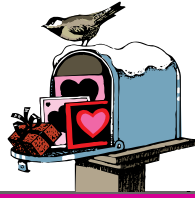
Senta Goudy,
Clerk
Chris Alfred,
Treasurer

DEACONS
 Joyce Boso
 Elizabeth Ellis
 Ann Emrick
 Joe Foley
 Kathy Hinkley
 Debby Karr
 Becky McGinnis
 Susan Niday
 Lori Rings
 Melanie Thompson
 Sarah Townsend

TRUST FUND
 Sarah Townsend
 Becky McGinnis
 Bob Fish
 Justin Bosley
 Randall Siers

COLUMBARIUM BOARD
 Greg Boso
 Mike Beckett
 Carl Gheen

february 2024



Lent
BEGINS



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																								
<p>“Knowing what must be done does away with fear.” —Rosa Parks</p> <p>“I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear.” —Martin Luther King Jr.</p>				<p>1 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>2 OFFICE CLOSED</p> <p>GROUNDHOG DAY</p>	<p>3 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																																								
<p>4 Communion 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>5 6:00 PM Deacons Mtg. 6:00 PM KOM Knitters</p>	<p>6 5:30 PM PW Board</p>	<p>7 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Juliana Ringers</p>	<p>8 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>10 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																																								
<p>11 Transfiguration Sunday “Souper” Bowl Collection 8:30 AM Worship 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship Baptism of Charlotte James</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 - 1:00 PM Drive-up imposition of ashes 6:30 PM Worship / with Communion</p>	<p>15 6:00 PM Lenten Study: Spiritual Practices 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>16 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>17 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																																								
<p>18 1st Sunday in Lent Cents-Ability Offering Lenten Worship Series: Watch and Pray 8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>19 Presidents Day No School 6:00 PM Session</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 3:00 PM Staff Meeting 5:30 PM The Gathering 5:30 PM Lenten Study: Spiritual Practices 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Juliana Ringers</p>	<p>22 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>	<p>23 OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>24 8:30 AM Saturday Stewards 12:00 PM HA Mtg.</p>																																																								
<p>25 8:30 AM Worship 9:15 AM Adult Sunday School 10:00 AM Coffee Hour 10:30 AM Worship</p>	<p>26 5:00 PM Financial Mgmt. 7:00 PM Parkersburg Pride Mtg.</p>	<p>27 6:00 PM Worship/ Discipleship Comm.</p>	<p>28 5:30 PM The Gathering 6:30 PM Festival Choir 7:30 PM Juliana Ringers</p>	<p>29 6:00 PM Lenten Study: Spiritual Practices 6:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:15 PM Boy Scouts</p>		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">March 2024</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	March 2024							S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2		3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
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