UNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

Serving God, Loving All.

March 2017

Lenten Season





Lenten Worship Season

The 2017 Lenten Season begins on Wednesday, March 1st and will unfold through Easter Sunday, on April 16th. This year our focus for worship will be on Our Identity in Jesus Christ as a result of the mighty acts of God through the Cross. Each week will acknowledge the formation of our identity and discipleship through what Jesus did on the cross for our salvation and the redemption of all creation. There will be some new liturgy offerings including a weekly children's bulletin to mark the 40 Days & 40 Nights to highlight the way God has always sought to love his created ones. We will also begin making regular use of the sanctuary video monitors and using some spiritual practices to enhance our worship services.

Lent Worship Schedule





Lenten Worship Schedule

March 5th, First Sunday of Lent

Sacrament of Communion

Scripture Reading: Matthew 4: 1-11 - The Temptation in the Wilderness

Scripture Lesson: Romans 5: 12-19 - The New Adam Morning Message: "The New Ones in Christ"

Spiritual Practice: "Listening"
Young Disciple Time: "Noah's Ark"

Music Features: "There in God's Garden", "Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word"

March 12th, Second Sunday of Lent

Scripture Reading: Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17- Our Connection to Abraham

Scripture Lesson: John 3: 1-17 - Jesus & Nicodemus

Morning Message: "The Embrace of Us" Spiritual Practice: "Focus on the Cross"

Young Disciple Time: "The Ten Commandments"

Music Feature: "We Are Redeemed"

March 19th, Third Sunday of Lent

Sacrament of Communion

Scripture Reading: Romans 5: 1-11 - Justification by Faith

Scripture Lesson: John 4: 5-42 - The Samaritan Woman at the Well

Morning Message: "A Re-Formed Identity" Spiritual Practice: "Molding Prayer"

Young Disciple Time: "40 Wandering Years"

Music Feature: "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

March 26th, Fourth Sunday of Lent Sacrament of Baptism

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-20 - Good Roots for Healthy Fruit

Scripture Lesson: John 9: 1-41 - The Man Born Blind

Morning Message: "Seeing With New Eyes"



March Saturday Evening Services

The Way Worship Service

The Way Worship Service is held every other Saturday at 5:00 p.m. It is an interactive worship service that includes several songs, a key scripture verse, an evening message presented through, video, drama, or reflective message, and spiritual activities to respond to the evening message. We hope you will try this new service that is intended to be casual, experimental, and spiritually invigorating.

The Way Worship Services @ 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel

The Way Worship Service is on the move! We will now gather in the Chapel for our innovative and interactive worship service. "Pop in" and bring a friend before you go out for a Saturday evening.

Saturday, March 11th
"Self-Examination"
Led by Becka Abbott

Saturday, March 25th "Prayer Practices" Led by John Connolly Focus: Lakota Sioux Mission Trip

Visit The Way Facebook group for more info: facebook.com/groups/thewayworshipservice

Lent Worship Schedule



Spiritual Practice: "Reflective Prayer" Young Disciple Time: "David & Goliath" Music Feature: "The Lord is My Shepherd"

April 2nd, Fifth Sunday of Lent Sacrament of Communion

Scripture Reading: Romans 8: 6-11 - Life in the Spirit **Scripture Lesson:** John 11: 1-45 - The Raising of Lazarus

Morning Message: "Resurrecting Our Identity"

Spiritual Practice: "Meditation" Young Disciple Time: "Jonah"

Music Features: "Out of the Depths", "The Lord Will Bring Mercy"

April 9th, Palm Sunday Sacrament of Baptism

Scripture Scene: Matthew 21: 1-11 - The Entrance into Jerusalem Scripture Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-9a - The Servants Humility

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 26: 14-75 - The Unfolding of the Passion

Morning Message: "A Discipleship Fail" Spiritual Practice: "Remembering Our Baptism" Young Disciple Time: "Jesus is Tempted" Music Feature: "Draw Nigh to Thy Jerusalem"

April 13th, Maundy Thursday @ 7:30 p.m.

Sacrament of Communion

Scripture Reading: John 13: 1-17- Foot Washing

Scripture Lesson: John 13: 31-35 The New Commandment

Evening Message: "A Command Peformance" Spiritual Practice: "Receiving & Giving" Music Feature: "So You Must Do"

April 14th, Good Friday @ 7:30 p.m.

Scripture Scene: John 18: 1 – 19: 42 - The Journey to the Cross

Scripture Lesson: Isaiah 52: 3-15 - The Suffering Servant

Evening Message: "Cross Contemplation"

Spiritual Practice: "Tenebrae" Music Feature: "Were You There?"

April 16th, Easter Sunday **Sacrament of Communion**

Scripture Reading: John 20: 1-18 - The Day of the Week Scripture Lesson: Acts 10: 34-43 - The Good News Spreads Morning Message: "The Expansion of the Good News"

Spiritual Practice: "Praise Gestures"

Young Disciple Time: "Three Glorious Days"

Music Feature: Brass Roots, "Christ Victorious", "Day of Resurrection", "Day of Delight

and Beauty"

March Events

Every Wednesday Dinner for a Dollar 6:00 - 7:30pm Fellowship Hall (See schedule page 5.)

Sunday, March 5th **Nursery School Open House** 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Friday, March 10th **Unity Recital Series** Jami Bale, violinist and flautist 12:30pm **Unity Sanctuary**

Sunday, March 12th **Annual Hockey Game** Carpool from Unity Parking Lot

Friday, March 17th Movie Night 7:00pm - 9:30pm Transept and Lounge

Friday, March 31st Fish Fry and Stations of the Cross 6:00pm - 9:00pm SS Simon & Jude Depart Unity Parking lot at 5:45pm for round trip shuttle service.

It's time for our annual Unity hockey game. On Sunday, March 12, the Wheeling Nailers (farm team of the Penguins) will host the Toledo Walleye (farm team of the Detroit Red Wings). Tickets are \$11.00, and game time is 5:00 p.m. We will meet at the church at 3:15 p.m., and carpool to the arena. See Roy Humphrey after the worship service.

Pastor's Corner





Tomorrow's Door

I run as a child, seeing an open door,

laughing, arms open to whatever waits,

wildly embracing this new day, spreading wings, no fear, no question,

dancing in the rain, splashing in puddles,

jumping exuberantly into whatever lies beyond the door.

Grab my hand, Jesus! We'll dance and sing! Together, you and I, We'll paint the sky with rainbows

- Eleanor Cowles

Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, ..."

he structure of the manse is such that there is a wide space between the storm door and the front entry doors to the house. It is wide enough that a person could stand between the doors. In fact, many of our grandchildren have played between this space looking out through the glass of the storm door window and wanting to close

"The In Between Time"

the entry door. Our grandson Logan delights with glee, as he looks at you while trying to close the entry door, as if it is some kind of "peek a boo" game. He stands between what is outside and what is inside, much like many of us in the church.

We are at an "in between" time in the life of our congregation. Between what we have been and what we are yet to be for the Lord in the region assigned to us. In many ways we are at the threshold of our future. We stand between the familiar of what we know, and exploring what is unknown. Are we excited about the new and letting go of the old or do we long for what was and hesitate to step forward toward what the Lord is calling us to next in our journey of faith?

Though we now think of a threshold as an opening or doorway, it was originally the lip of wood or stone at the bottom of a doorway that would keep grain from leaking out of a full storehouse. The word threshold came from the practices of threshing grain (a frequent expression of Jesus in sorting out the grain from the stalk) and the word literally meant the "thresh hold", as a place to store the grain separated from the stalks. So a threshold, doesn't just mark an entrance or an opening, but might be something you could stub your toe on if you do not cross it with a careful step. I know I've "stubbed my toe" on a few thresholds when I've tried to preserve something essential while trying to make progress forward.

Melissa Tidwell writes, "Imagine the church as a storehouse for the harvest of God's loving kindness. How do we act as a threshold for others then? Do we hoard our gifts, concerned there is not enough? Do we hide the delights within by holding tightly to

what is perceived to be ours? Or are we willing to rejoice in the opportunity we have been given to offer nurture, bread for the journey, with the reassurance that there is enough grain, enough grace, and that life in Christ offers inexhaustible resources beyond measure?"

It is interesting to note the threshold on the storehouse would be built to allow the door to open outward, because you might not be able to open it inward because of the abundance of grain. Please note the church doors open outward, inviting us to enter the mission field for the Lord, even while preserving the goodness within. In fact, a threshold might be a good place to pause and offer prayers of gratitude for what has been harvested and preserved inside, but the labor in the fields must continue. "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few, pray for the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers." We are used to welcoming people in to the storehouse of the Lord, but we hesitate to walk out and bring in new sheaves to be threshed for the purpose of the Lord's harvest. It is important that we see Jesus provision not just inside the storehouse but look to where the Lord is at work outside to bring in the next harvest for Kingdom. Perhaps, we can embrace the view of the child in between the comfort of the inside and the excitement of looking outward to the possibilities.

Peace and Blessed Be,

Pastor Dennis

Events and Announcements





Family Lenten Dinners & Program
Dinner for \$1.00
Wednesdays @ 6:00 p.m.
"Spiritual Disciplines"

The Dinner for \$1.00 program will meet weekly during the Lenten Season. The simple meal and program are for all ages of the congregation and are intended for us to connect more often as a family of faith by eating together. During the Season of Lent, we will gather in Fellowship Hall on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. for a simple meal and some simple practices to help us listen for the voice of God all around us.

March 8th

Theme: Focused Prayer

Meal: Pancakes

March 15th

Theme: Prayer Walking

Meal: Ham & Cheese Sliders & Vegetable Soup

March 22nd

Theme: The Art of Prayer Meal: Macaroni & Cheese

March 29th

Theme: Service Prayer

Meal: Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup

April 5th

Theme: Hearing God from Scripture

Meal: Pasta Bar



Fish Dinner and Stations of the Cross

On Friday, March 31st we will journey to S.S. Simon & Jude Parish to participate in a Fish Dinner and journey through the Stations of the Cross. The Stations of the Cross depict the journey that Jesus took from the garden of Gethsemane to the cross, the idea being that the pilgrim, or the person visiting each station, joins Christ on the journey through contemplation. We will be uniting with not only the members of Unity and S.S. Simon & Jude, but are extending the invitation to the members of Mt. Pisgah and Covenant Community Presbyterian Church. We will carpool or meet at S.S. & Jude Fellowship Hall (In the School Building) at 6:00 p.m. to enjoy the Fish Dinner (A variety of options, including baked or fried, will be available). We will then gather in the sanctuary for the Service of the Stations of the Cross led by Father Jay Donahue and Pastor Dennis, using a variety of song and scripture.

Please register by going to the website Unitypresbyterian.org to reserve your participation so we can inform the meal preparers for how many may come. PLEASE REGISTER BY THURSDAY, MARCH 23RD AS WE NEED A TO PROVIDE S.S. & JUDE WITH A HEAD COUNT BY THE 24TH.

Events & Announcements





Friday Family Movie Nights: A series of movies for children, families, and adults will be shared every third Friday evening. The movie series will run through May of 2017. We will hold two separate screenings - one for children and one for adults. PARENTS this is an excellent "date night" opportunity, whether you decide to join us for the mature-minded film, or venture out on the town!

Either way, we will entertain the kids for free. Each film selected will be faith-based and inspirational. Activities, snacks and refreshments during and after the movies will be provided. We encourage the entire family to participate, but as stated, parents or guardians can also drop off children for the few hours, and spend some time outside of the church.

The March / April dates are as follows:

SHOWING IN THE TRANSEPT:

"Risen" starring Joseph Finnes

Friday, March 17, 2017 - 7:00pm - 9:30pm

A faith-based inspirational movie centered on the mystery of the Resurrection as seen through the eyes of a Roman Tribune.

SHOWING IN THE TRANSEPT:

"Miracles from Heaven" starring Jennifer Garner

Friday, March 17, 2017 - 7:00pm - 9:30pm

A child with an incurable disorder falls inside of a hollowed tree. While she is trapped and unconscious she visits Heaven. This movie is based on the real events that were lived by Anna.



A child-appropriate movie will be shown in the Lounge. After the movies, all are encouraged to participate on a discussion of the theme and content. If you or a friend would like to participate, please RSVP by calling or leaving a voice message for Fred

Frost, Director of Christian Education, (412) 561-2431 ext. 20





Thanks to all who helped to make Souper Bowl 2017 a great success! The teens raised \$655.00 that will go to hunger programs, thanks to you! The Intermediate Class raised \$190.00 from the bake sale for Heifer International.

Events & Announcements







Pittsburgh Music Academy Coming to Unity Presbyterian Church

We are pleased to announce that the Pittsburgh Music Academy has taken up permanent residence in our facilities. This will not only provide a new source of revenue for our facility, but also an influx of developing musicians and their families who will experience the hospitality of our congregation. We are already looking forward to new recital opportunities and the music enhancement possibilities. The community will continue to discover what a wonderful venue our facility offers, how our music program is expanding, and how important faith and music are to the congregation. Please welcome the students and teachers of the Pittsburgh Music Academy as you see them coming and moving throughout the facility in the weeks ahead.



Don't miss the next recital in Unity Presbyterian Church's exceptional concert series! The talented Jami Bale, who has mastered both the flute and violin, will be joining us on Friday, March 10th, at 12:30pm in the Unity Sanctuary.

Jami has extensive musical resume, belonging both to the Pittsburgh Opera Orchestra and the Wheeling Symphony of West Virginia. Originally a native of Kansas, she still has ties to her mid-western roots, and often performs at the Sunflower Music Festival of Topeka. Impressively, Jami holds a Bachelor's and two Masters' Degrees from the Conservatory at the University of Missouri – Kansas City, and an Artist's Diploma from Duquesne University. She is currently a faculty member at the Lydia Music Center, a local music school in McCandless.

Jami will be accompanied by our Music Director, Sandy Rubright, and together they will perform works by Bach, Kreisler, Doppler and Mozart.

Stewardship Snapshot



Why Per Capita???

Like many Presbyterians, you may have wondered, "Exactly what does per capita do?"

Per capita is the amount of support, per member, that our congregation remits to our Presbytery that is then sent onto our Synod and the General Assembly. This money is part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. It is the money that enables us to work with other Presbyterian churches in our Presbytery and across the country. It is also money that allows us to work with other churches to further the mission of Jesus Christ around the world.

How important is per capita? Here are some examples:

- Your per capita pays for the General Assembly meeting every two years where Presbyterians gather together to worship and discern the mind of Christ for the church.
- In many places in our world, it is difficult to "do mission" except by working ecumenically with other churches. Your per capita helps to pay for meetings of Presbyterians with people of other Christian churches, allowing us to maintain those ties for mission.
- Your per capita pays for producing the Book of Order and The Book of Confessions, including in Spanish, Korean, and Braille.
- Your per capita helps to fund the Presbyterian Historical Society preserving and sharing the Presbyterian experience.
- Your per capita funds the preparation, administration, and grading of standard ordination examinations for seminary students.
- Your per capita pays for annual training events for presbytery executives, stated clerks, and others who help lead our work and mission.
- Your per capita pays for the travel expenses of the Moderator and Vice Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as they make their way across the church to share with and listen to folks like you about the exciting things God is doing in our midst.

We do not believe in being lone rangers in the PC(USA). We need each other as we work together to share the good news of Jesus Christ. As we benefit from the gifts, skills, vision, and ministry of each other in this place, so, too, do we benefit from an even wider array of gifts and ministry of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters across the church. Your per capita pays for the programs, training, and resources that help us work together and discern the mind of Christ for the PC(USA).

This year's capita request is \$35 per member. Thank you to all of you who have already paid your share. By contributing your portion of per capita, you have freed up dollars in our regular budget for the work of our congregation in this community.

Stewardship Snapshot

From the annual meeting and previous financial reports over the last year, we should all understand that for our new church to be successful, we must meet our financial goals. The following table summarizes envelope giving for the first four weeks of the year.

Giving has picked up during the first two weeks of February, but dropped off significantly for the third week. The income budget for envelope giving represents a value based upon past giving. It does not represent all of the funds needed to pay our operating expenses. The goal is for envelope giving to be able to cover all of our operating expenses. We have a long way to go.

DATE	ENVELOPE GIVING	EXPECTED GIVING	% OF EXPECTED GIVING	% OF EXPENSE BUDGET
2/5/2017	\$5,677	\$5192	109	67
2/12/2017	\$5,679	\$5192	109	67
2/19/2017	\$3314	\$5192	64	39
2/26/201	\$2085	\$5192	40	25
Year-to-Date	\$45,245	\$46,728	97	60

Youth Ministry



Mark Your Calendar!!

Announcing 2017 Vacation Bible School!
(aka Summer Kids Week)
June 26-30
More info to come!



Announcing...



Rotation Stations

Starting Sunday, March 5 --the 1st Sunday of Lent through April 9th. Children will rotate to 3 different stations each week. There will be a different teacher at each station. So children will not spend the entire class time with the same teacher. There will be some surprise guest teachers too! The theme is *Holy Week*. Stations include:

Art • Cooking • Science
Games • Missions
Spiritual Practices
Storytelling/Drama



Winter / Spring Calender Disciple Zone and Youth Classes

Wednesday March 1: Ash Wednesday; Evening Service

<u>Every Wednesday in March</u>: Dollar Dinner Night- "Spiritual Practices"

Friday March 17: Movie Night

<u>Sunday March 19: High School class only</u>: Ronald Mc-Donald House

Wednesday April 5: Dollar Dinner Night

Sunday April 9: Palm Sunday; Children's Processional

<u>Sunday April 16</u>: Easter Sunday! Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, H.S. & Confirmation class helps with children's festivities

Friday April 21: Movie Night

Saturday April 22: Sleep Out for Homeless Teens through Covenant House (H.S. & Confirmation Class)

Music Ministry



March / Lent Hymns for Focus and Reflection

Each monthly hymnody article is based on the offerings of the new Presbyterian Hymnal called "Glory to God". Obviously, we have been singing many hymns from the new book over the past few months, due to our inserts in the bulletins. If you take advantage of the info I am providing and the clips cited, you will be more well-rounded and more prepared as we embark upon the new words. When we hear words, we pray them once but when we sing the words, we pray them twice and it lives in your heart. May you be blessed richly by the words of these contemporary authors of our hymnody from "Glory to God!"

March 5

The hymn: "Today We are Called to Be Disciples" text was created to be part of the 1986 Stewardship campaign of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Much of the strength of this text is from the poetic use of words that helps to describe the many images that Jesus portrays as being a disciple. The quotes come from Luke, Isaiah, Matthew, Micah, Amos and Genesis! The tune "KINGSFOLD" is one that we are very familiar with from other seasons in the church year. We oft times will sing this tune with "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say". Enjoy this clip of a hammered dulcimer playing the tune KINGSFOLD! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgVbpitlVhw

March 12

The hymn, "Take Us to the Mountain" is another familiar melody set to words that help us to recall the experience that Peter, James and John had as Christ reached the mountain top for the Transfiguration. This hymn reminds me of the power and glory of Jesus and how amazing it would be to see Him in dazzling white, arrayed in light.....especially through times of difficulty. Beloved, we are God's Children Now....it does not yet appear what we shall be but we know that when He comes, we will be like Him...forever, we are God's Children.....and He is God's beloved Son!

The familiar tune UNSER HERRSCHER is one setting of Open Now the Gates of Beauty. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDBImsDKI30

March 19

The Welsh tune of 1784 was harmonized by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1906. "Go My Children with My Blessing" is a beautiful benediction hymn; one perfect for singing to your grandchildren as they go to sleep and a perfect hymn to learn to play for the grandchildren. The author of this text is the same author as last week: Jaroslav J. Vajda. He has written many leading hymns since the 70's. These words were set in 1983! He placed the words of the hymn into the mouth of the blessing triune God dismissing the congregation after worship.

The tune, AR HYD Y NOS, is gentle and soothing and usually is set to texts associated with evening. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wjM18fEzD60 This tempo is too fast; however is still useful.

March 26

As we review the story of "Doubting Thomas" and our individual selves, "We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight" rings loud and clear. The words to this hymn are powerful and serve as a model for the ongoing mission of the church and for the faith journey of each of us as believers. This tune is different from most, because we usually repeat as least 2 lines in a hymn with the same notes. This music is considered "through-composed" meaning it melody is constantly different and changing. Listen to this clip so the singing is more of a joy for you. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUp3PERsMwl



Birthday Fund 2017:





he Birthday Fund is an opportunity to give back for the blessing of life, and to help us save for a rainy day! This year again the focus of the birthday fund will be "Raising the Roof!" During your birthday month, we ask that you consider giving one dollar for each year of your age in celebration of your years. But it is not limited to those celebrating a birthday during any given month - not at all! Do you see a name of a dear friend on the list below, or someone who has inspired you in your faith journey? Make a gift in honor of his or her birthday.

Gifts can be submitted on Sundays, using the blue envelopes located in the sanctuary pews (please indicate "Birthday Fund" on your check or envelope), or submitted at any time in person or through the mail - simply complete the form below with your info, and return it to the church office.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF THOSE BORN IN MARCH!

2/11 Con Cinnelina

3/1	Jean Addleman	3/11	Sue Giardina	3/18	Lillian Laurin
	Katie Culp		Roy Lundgren		Ryan Badzgon
3/2	William Kuehn	3/12	George Ewing	3/20	Jacqueline Bushman
	Marsha Lash		Ryan Kunz	3/21	Jennifer Nolte
3/3	Kay Heidkamp	3/13	Ashley Antonucci		James Speros
3/5	Leslie Herock		Chris Volk	3/23	Dale Lutton
3/7	Michele Clay		Mike Kluczan	3/24	Sydney Slater
	Austin Oleksak	3/14	Tiffany Ennis	3/25	Barbara Johnston
3/8	Scott Conboy		Kiera Halley-Reihl		Nancy Schultz
	Jamie Wallis	3/15	David Gardy	3/27	Evelyn Bartlett
3/10	Janet Fraer	3/17	Pamela Duffley	3/28	Matt Ehrhart
		I	Carrie Kaplack		Nancy Osmianski
					Charlotte Collman
Yes, I am grateful for the blessing of life, and am happy to be a					Marcus Franceschina
	of the Birthday Fund!		•		
Nam	ne:		•		



Gift Amount: _____

____Gift for my birthday month

Gift in honor of the birthday of:

This is a:

Unity Newsletter "Serving God, loving all."

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