

# First Presbyterian News

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Hello First Folks,

Your Session has some good news for you all concerning our search for a new Pastor. The Presbytery of the Peaks Committee on Ministry granted us permission to hold a congregational meeting to elect our Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). This meeting will be held on March 1st immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. The PNC will consist of 5-7 church members representing male, female and younger and older members.

After the PNC is elected, they will be trained by the Presbytery staff and then their work will begin. The Session has also decided to look into possibly hiring an interim Pastor to serve our church until a new full-time Pastor is in place. A transition team consisting of Don Cherry, Carter Henderson, Sandi Hughes, and Mike Rand will explore this possibility. Things are starting to move along now. We have been told by Presbytery staff the time it usually takes to locate and have a new Pastor in place is about 8 to 12 months at best. I have always believe things happen for a reason and our reason for being patient with this process is to give God time to help us find the best fit for our Church.

Thank You and God Bless,

Carter Henderson



## March 1

Sermon by Rich Henderson - We welcome back Rich Henderson, a resident of Buffalo Junction. Rich is a Missional Commissioned Pastor with the Presbytery. He fills a once a month at a variety of churches. Come and welcome him back. His wife, Carol, is unable to attend as she works as the Minister of music.

## March 8

Sermon by Ed Lyons - A Director of Ministry Advancement & Field Reporting Services for Persecution Project Foundation, a ministry to the persecuted Christians in Sudan and headquartered in Culpepper, VA; a new FPC ministry. Ed and his wife, Lisa, have one natural born son, and two adopted daughters. Ed will present a special Sunday School this morning as well at 9:30 am.

## March 15

Sermon by Jim Luedtke - moved here in 2001, has been a pastor in 2 Lutheran churches in South Dakota and Indiana. Father of 6, grandpa to 22 and one great-grand daughter. Wife Susie, has been actively involved at FPC since moving to South Boston in 2001.

## March 22

Sermon by Mike Rand - He and his wife, Kak, have been members of FPC for 9 years. Mike is currently serving as a Ruling Elder responsible for Personnel and Finance. We enjoyed his past several messages. We are honored to hear from him again. Come out and enjoy his thoughts.

## March 29

Service provided by Tom Gillespie - an elder at First Presbyterian Church-Danville. He currently serves on the Committee on Ministry for the Presbytery of the Peaks and has previously served in as a Moderator. Tom and wife, Kay, have two children and two grandchildren. A graduate of Washington and Lee University, Tom worked in public accounting and hospital financial management and is planning to retire soon.

## April 5

Sermon by Rich Henderson - We welcome back Rich Henderson, a resident of Buffalo Junction. Rich is a Missional Commissioned Pastor with the Presbytery. He fills a once a month at a variety of churches.



**Art and Andrea Carter, OMF**

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(A First Presbyterian Ministry)

Dear Don,

Thank you for your email and a big thank you to 1<sup>st</sup> Pres. This is a big help to us as our expenses continue to creep up (basically as our kids get older). We are doing pretty well but have been quite busy. Andrea continues to home school the children (7<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and kindergarten) and the year is going well. Generally, the month of December is the busiest for us as it is the one time each year that people are generally more open to hear some of the good news as they are curious about what Christmas is. Please pray for our time with people that month.

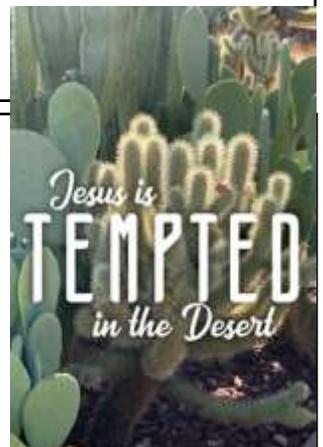
Ministry wise, I continue to work with locals to share the good news and try and help them with some fledgling groups of new believers in the countryside. This poses quite a challenge (getting there, sometimes interference from authorities or family / neighbors opposed to the good news, and often people have varying abilities to read the word), but the Lord continues to bring increase. A big prayer is for Him to give confidence and a clear calling to those who are leading these groups. Often, they are just gathering people (which is good), but we are really praying that the Lord would give them a passion for His word themselves and for them to grow in their ability to teach it to others.

Additionally, Andrea and I are leading a marriage course with our team for 2 months at a time. We are on our 2<sup>nd</sup> group so far and this group is entirely made up of non-believers who are business owners. There is a lot of brokenness in their relationships, but we have been able to get to know them as time has gone on and are getting opportunities to speak into their lives. Please pray that they would be willing to deeply work on their marriages together as we share Biblical marriage principles with them and please pray that through this, they would desire to know the Father who restores all things.

Blessings brother, and please greet everyone at 1<sup>st</sup> pres. You can share this email with them if you like.

In Him,

Art Carter Jr.

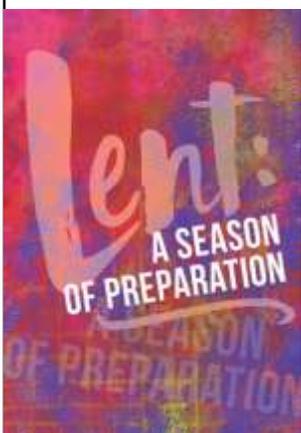


**Shrove Tuesday and Lent background** - As we recognize various liturgical calendar events we may want to ponder the origin, meaning, and our role as Christians with those events.

It is believed that Christians celebrated the first Ash Wednesday in the Early Middle Ages. This marks the beginning of the Lent season, a time they fasted. Though "Lent" is not taught in scripture, the 40-day period seems to be based on 2 episodes of spiritual testing in the Bible: the 40 years of wanderings by the Israelites after their exodus from Egypt and the temptations of Jesus after spending 40 days fasting in the wilderness.

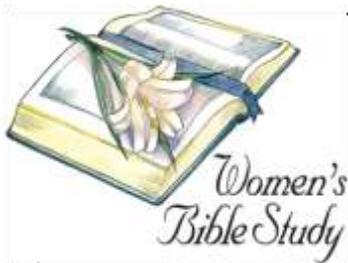
According to Presbytery USA, Lent is viewed as time to add a spiritual discipline to our lives for a deeper relationship with Christ rather than a time to give up something in our lives.

Because early Christians began fasting on Ash Wednesday, Tuesday was the day to consume the perishable foods that would not last so as not to waste it. It was also the day before they began their fast to obtain absolution of sins by confession and repentance, which is the meaning of the word, "shrive". They were then "shriven", that is, became "shrove". That Tuesday is known as "Shrove Tuesday" and with the gluttony of the day became known in modern times as "Fat Tuesday". As the common perishable foods were fats, milk, and eggs (among others), pancakes were prepared and consumed.



(various resources including Presbytery USA)

~ Linda Lumsden



**Women's Bible Study** - We meet every Thursday at 10:30 am. We are studying Genesis, and are excited to have many who have volunteered to lead the classes. We have had some great discussions. We have had a good group so far. If you haven't come out, feel free to start.

**Women's Circle** - March 3 at 10:30 am in the Philathea Room. Mark your calendars now. The date will get here quickly. We want to welcome all the women of the church and their friends and family. Refreshments will be provided.



**Souper Bowl of Caring 2020** –We collected \$324 in our Souper Bowl of Caring campaign. Thanks to all who supported this cause.

We sent the funds to The Good Samaritan to help them as they provide services and help for the needy in our community.



**Lenten Luncheons** - First Presbyterian is again hosting this annual event of Lenten Luncheons. It has grown each year, and we are grateful for those who come and enjoy fellowship together during lunch and for the area Pastors and leaders that provide the devotionals. Mark your calendars now for the season of Lent and plan to bring a bagged lunch at 12:00 noon. Dessert and drinks will be

provided. Luncheons will take place each Wednesday through Easter. Devotionals will begin at 12:30 and end promptly at 12:45 to fit in the lunch hour. The schedule this year is as follows:

February 26 - Rev. Susan Grimm from Trinity Episcopal Church provided our first devotional as well as marked everyone who wished with ashes as they exit.

March 4 - Rev. Ridge Cullum from Beth Car Baptist Church

March 11 - Rev. Tim Mull from Ash Avenue Baptist Church

March 18 - Rev. Bill Wilkins from Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

March 25 - Rev. Garrett Bowman from First Baptist Church

April 1 - Rev. Wayne Rickman from Main Street Methodist Church

April 8 - Bob Hughes from First Presbyterian Church



**Steven Ministry** – Please pray for our Stephen Ministers. We can use more Stephen Ministers. What is a Stephen Minister? A Christian friend who listens, cares, prays supports and encourages those in need. "Christ caring for people through people." We have openings for more care receivers, as well. If you would like to help others, or know someone who is in need of care, please reach out to the church office, any Stephen leader, or any Elder.

**Daylight Savings Time Begins**—March 8— Don't forget to mark you calendar and set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday, March 7 before bed in order to be at church on time.



**Congregational Meeting** - Sunday, March 1 directly after service in order to elect the Pastoral Nominating Committee



## “Search My Heart”

As Easter is approaching, I often think of the sacrifice Christ made for me. I heard a story that touched my heart: Several students were taking a religious class which concentrated on the parables. As they went in to class for their final they found a note that the final had been moved to another building across campus. There was also a caution

that the final must be completed within a two-hour period from that moment. The students all rushed across campus as quickly as they could. As they hurried they came upon a little girl crying because of a flat tire on her bicycle. They saw an old man with a cane, struggling with a load of books heading toward the library. They also saw a homeless man, who was clearly upset and in distress. They continued and rushed into the other classroom where they were met by the teacher who informed them that they had all failed the final. Though they had learned, over several weeks, all about the Savior’s life, they failed to recognize the application of what they had learned from Christ’s example. Jeremiah 31:33 “saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts.” In Romans 2:15 we learn “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ”. We should be following His example as we are His.

We are all tested through life, and if we truly understand the scriptures and the example Christ has set for us, we would reach out and help those in need, when we see others’ struggling. This is a sure sign of our character. Character has been defined as “one’s actions when no one is around”. Our true character shines through our actions and cannot be hidden. As Psalm 139:23 states: “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts. This is where our character will shine or give us away.



The Lord has provided so many blessings, and the best way for me to repay Him is by helping others. This story gave me pause. Perhaps I should search my heart and see if I am recognizing what is right before me. The Lord helps us often through others, and perhaps I am to be the one to help another. When we love and show compassion for others, we show charity. The scriptures tell us “charity is everlasting love” and “charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it will be well with him.” What powerful thoughts. I pray that when the Lord looks upon my heart, He finds it full of charity and love for my neighbor, and that I will be found serving those around me. ~ *Sherolyn*



### 5 cents-a-meal - (Our version of the 2 cents-a-meal) Presbytery of the Peaks program

Two Cents-a-Meal invites every member of your congregation to prayerfully contribute a few cents at each meal to help alleviate hunger and poverty. Ideally, contributions come from “living more simply so that others may simply live.” Participation in is also a commitment to share with others in response to Jesus’ command, “You give them something to eat.”

The two Cents-a-Meal concept originated with Presbyterian women to provide an opportunity for individuals and families to participate in a corporate response to world hunger. The Presbyterian Women’s Birthday Offering funded a hunger program that started the Hunger Action Enabler network in 1973. In November 1975, Florida resident Rosellyn Calvert, whose own family was struggling financially, asked God what she could do to help those suffering from hunger and poverty around the world. She was led to give just two cents a meal. The Calvert family committed to each give two cents, and in April of 1976 Rosellyn shared the concept with her presbytery. Today, most presbyteries encourage the contribution of two cents (or more) per person at each meal, reminding individuals, families and groups each time they eat of the needs of others and our call to respond as Christians to their hunger. Daily participation is a reminder of the reality of hunger for millions of our sisters and brothers in the world. As the money accumulates, those participating become aware that small, regular acts can result in significant responses to hunger and that there is great strength in working together with other Christians.

We at First Presbyterian have traditionally given to this fund on the last Sunday of each month. This collection will change in March to be on the Third (3rd) Sunday of each month. This will enable us to send the Presbytery the funds collected inside the same month it is collected.

# MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 March <b>9:30 Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> 6 pm NA	2 6pm NA	3 <b>10:30 am Ladies Circle</b> 12 noon NA	4 12 Lenten Luncheon 6 pm NA <b>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</b>	5 <b>10:30—Women's Bible Study</b> 12 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	6 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA 6 pm Girl Scouts	7 NA12—1
8 - Daylight Savings Begins <b>9:30 Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> 6 pm NA	9 6pm NA	10 12 noon NA	11 12 Lenten Luncheon 6 pm NA <b>7:00pm Choir Rehearsal</b>	12 <b>10:30—Women's Bible Study</b> 12 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	13 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	NA 12-1
15 <b>5 cents a Meal (New collection date)</b> <b>9:30 Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> 3 pm - Girl Scouts 6 pm NA	16 6pm NA <b>7:00 pm Deacons</b> <b>7:30 pm Elders</b>	17 12 noon NA 	18 12 Lenten Luncheon 6 pm NA <b>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</b>	19 <b>10:30—Women's Bible Study</b> 12 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	20 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	21 NA 12—1
22 <b>9:30 Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> 6 pm NA	23 6pm NA	24 12 noon NA <b>Newsletter DEADLINE</b>	25 12 Lenten Luncheon 6 pm NA <b>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</b>	26 <b>10:30—Women's Bible Study</b> 12 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	27 <b>9 am Bulletins &amp; Newsletters</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	28 NA 12—1
29 I <b>9:30 Sunday School</b> <b>10:30 Worship</b> 6 pm NA	30 6pm NA	31 12 noon NA	April 1 12 Lenten Luncheon 6 pm NA <b>7:00 Choir Rehearsal</b>	April 2 <b>10:30—Women's Bible Study</b> 12 Moms in Prayer <b>7 pm Men of the Church</b> 7 pm Al-Anon 8 pm AA	April 3 <b>9 am Bulletins</b> 12 noon AA 6 pm NA	April 4 NA12—1



## MARCH Birthdays

- 2 Frank Berry
- 3 Don Cherry
- 6 Shannon Cherry Villia
- 10 Carrington Thackston
- 10 Jack Watkins
- 11 David Harrell
- 11 Eloise Marable
- 12 Joanna Blackstock
- 14 Stewart Nelson
- 15 Bettie Barksdale\*

If we don't have your birthday listed, please call the office and let us know.



- 20 Frances Anne Thackston
- 20 Amanda Morgan
- 23 Julia Baskervill
- 24 Caroline Edmunds
- 26 Jim Sizemore
- 27 Payton Wickemeyer
- 27 Ray Shields
- 30 Chris Lumsden
- 31 Abby Adams

\* In Memory



Session Notes: **Since our last Newsletter:**

1. Annette Goard served as Moderator for the February 17th Session Meeting.
2. Discussed adding the quarterly financials in the newsletter and bulletins beginning in April.
3. Collections for "Souper Bowl of Caring" totaled \$324.
4. Facebook page to include Lenten Luncheon schedule and Pulpit Supply speakers.
5. "Shrove Tuesday" pancake luncheon will be held Sunday, February 23 after service.
6. Currently we have (4) Stephen Ministers and (2) Care Receivers.
7. Remind members to sign up to provide flowers for Sunday worship.
8. Repairs continue to be made to the church with guidance from Mike Koch, Property Chair.

**Ladies Circle** - Tuesday,  
March 3, at 10:30 am.

**March 16**

**Deacons at 7:00 pm**

**Elders at 7:30 pm**



**Weekly Happenings**

**Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

**Women's Bible Study:** Thursdays at 10:30 am

**Men of the Church:** Thursdays at 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church  
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**Here is your March 2020 Newsletter**