

# First Presbyterian News

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Sue Wilkins - Treasurer



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First Pres. Family,

January has been a tough month for our church. The fire in the manse caused significant damage early in the month. The cold snowy weather has caused us to cancel a Sunday worship service and kept many of us at home on other Sundays. These events, along with ongoing COVID19 concerns and the continuous political tensions in our country tend to drag us down. As people of faith, we know that God is in control and better days are coming, but still, all of these things can get us down. Even pastors.

This week I have been planning worship services for the Lenten season and the six weeks leading up to Easter. As I worked, I found myself remembering the Palm Sunday Procession that we participated in last year and I found myself uplifted by the memory and the thought of spring coming. It was a joyous celebration. That memory made me realize that January had dampened my spirits. But just the thought of entering the road toward Easter lifted my spirits and reminded me of our precious hope in Christ. The Apostle Paul spoke of it in his letter to the Romans Chapter 5:

*Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

Many people take issue with Paul's assertion that suffering produces perseverance, and perseverance produces character which in turn, inspires hope. As I consider the current situation, I indeed can take a great deal of comfort in the fact that through faith, Christ has brought me to a peace with God. I/we stand in and live in God's grace and favor every day and joy in the hope of the glory of God. As a result, even though this life may bring suffering, sorrows, and difficulties, these become occasions for us to lean on God's love to power us through and help us persevere in spite of our suffering. When we look back on the experience, we realize that our faith has grown, and our character is stronger for the experience. We have been drawn closer to God and therefore our hope is expanded and stronger. That hope will not shame us or disappoint us, for we are both humbled and uplifted by the great love that God has for us. Easter is coming!

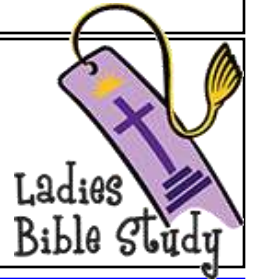


~ Rev. Glenn Coleman



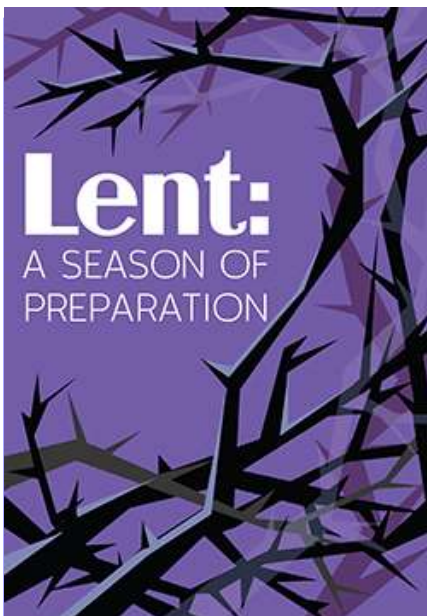
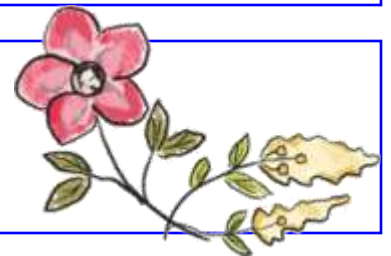
**Ladies' Circle** – Our next meeting for the Ladies' Circle will be <sup>2</sup> Tuesday, February 1 at 10:30 am - in the Philathea Room, Sherolyn Barnett will be our guest speaker. All women are invited to attend.

**Women's Bible study** - Bible study is each Thursday at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The study of C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters* has been eye opening and all that have attended have enjoyed the learning and discussions. Satan is cunning, and recognizing his ways helps us to discern promptings and make better decisions.



**Prayer List** - Mark and Carol Foster's grandson; Sam Torian heart surgery sometime this month; Lorene and Dabney Gilliam; Robert Bates was in the hospital with kidney issues, is now on dialysis; Kim Wickemeyer - COVID; Jim Luedtke's son-in-law, Eric had a heart attack and is having breathing issues; Kim Albert's brother, Dan, fell on ice, luckily nothing broke, had COVID; Ben Fincher had a heart attack and then bypass surgery; Joe Barkley diagnosed with encephalitis, prayers also for his wife, Faye; Storm victims in Kentucky; Fire victims of Colorado; Clarence Morris - stage 4 brain cancer; Carol Foster's surgery has been cancelled/postponed.

**Flower Calendar** - Very few dates have been reserved. Take time to visit the flower calendar and/or call to reserve your favorite dates to help beautify the sanctuary during worship.



**Lenten Luncheons** - First Presbyterian is excited to again host Lenten Luncheons each Wednesday from Ash Wednesday, March 2 through Wednesday, April 13. We will plan to have a lunch, brought by each person, as we fellowship and enjoy one another's company at noon. At 12:30 we will start the devotional, which will be prepared by a variety of ministers in the community. We are grateful for them and the time they have dedicated to preparing and sharing their thoughts. Mark your calendars and help us make this a great year, and show our support and gratitude for each of the ministers.

Here is the Lenten Lunch Schedule:

March 2 - Rev. Jack Stewart from Grace Baptist Church

March 9 - Pastor Larry Davis from Arbor Baptist Church

March 16 - Rev. Bill Wilkins from Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

March 23 - Rev. Garrett Bowman from First Baptist Church

March 30 - Rev. Thad Decker from Main Street Methodist

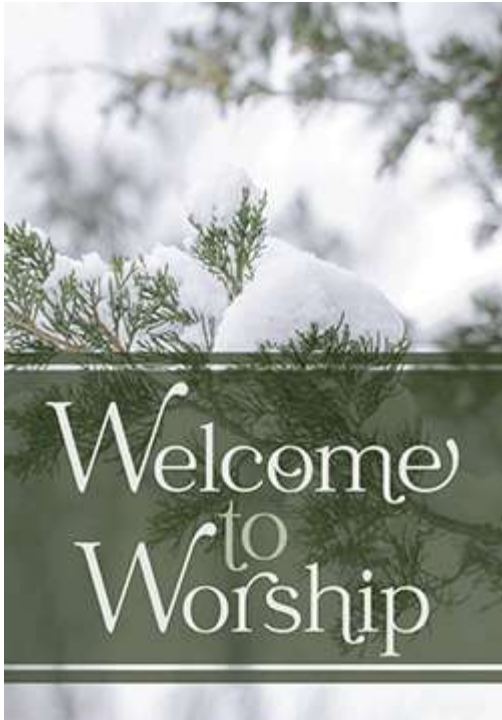
April 6 - Pastor Dave Webb from South Boston Church of God

April 13 - Rev. Glenn Coleman from First Presbyterian

On Ash Wednesday we will have ashes available to those who wish to receive them.

Pack your lunch and plan to fellowship with us at noon and enjoy the spirit of the season as we receive a variety of devotionals from the community ministers.





**February 6 - Fifth Sunday of Epiphany**

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**Sermon Title: "Woe, Whoa, Whew!"**

**Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11**

**February 13 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

**Sermon Title: "Fully Protected"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 91; Ephesians 6:10-20**

**February 20 - Seventh Sunday after Epiphany**

**Sermon Title: "My Enemy?"**

**Scriptures: Genesis 45:3-11; Luke 6:27-38**

**February 27- Transfiguration of the Lord**

**Sermon Title: "Shine, Jesus, Shine!"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 99; Luke 9:28-43**

**March 6 - First Sunday of Lent**

**Sermon Title: "The Power of Jesus"**

**Scriptures: Psalm 91; Luke 4:1-13**

**Searching  
for a New  
Pastor**



**What is taking so long? How much longer?**

**The PNC Update** - While no one has asked me this question, I know that it cannot help but be on everyone's mind.

I'm sure that we have observed the real estate market over the years. There are times when there is a limited number of properties available for sale and buyers must compete against each other. This is called a "seller's market" where often sell for prices higher than the asking price. At other times, the

inventory of properties is large. Sellers find themselves in competition with other property owners. Sellers must negotiate and grant concessions to buyers to sell. This is called a "buyer's market".

The environment in today's world of church ministry has not been good. Pastors are reaching "burn out" and choosing to leave the ministry in increasing numbers. This coupled with the added stress of a global pandemic has accelerated this alarming trend. Our denomination, the PC(USA), is no exception. The result of this trend is that many churches seeking a pastor must look at a limited pool of potential candidates. You might say that it is "buyer's (pastors) market".

Given these circumstances, the quick solution would be to attempt to call the first available candidate found. There is danger in that approach. We not only need to find a pastor, but the right candidate needs to be a "good fit" for our church. This is where we must rely on God to reveal to us to the next pastor that He has chosen to lead our congregation. We are using all the resources available to achieve that goal.

*<sup>5</sup>Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; <sup>6</sup>in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6*

Pray for us as we continue the task that you have entrusted to us.

Grace and peace,

*Don Cherry.*

PNC Chairman



*We love our church!*



February is typically thought of as the month of Love. I love looking at scriptures and seeing all the examples of Christ's love for us. And of course, we read in scripture that "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." (John 3:16) So, we know that God and Jesus love us tremendously. Jesus loves us enough to suffer and die for each and every one of us. I heard a quote, which really touched my heart; "The first great commandment is to love the Lord with all our hearts, but the great truth is that He loves us with all His heart, with all His mind, with all His strength." What a beautiful message. How comforting!

We read in Luke 7 the story of Christ went in Simon the Pharisee's home, a woman entered and went to Christ, weeping and began to wash His feet. Simon was troubled by the fact that Jesus was accepting of the woman, who "is a sinner." The Savior said "her sins are forgiven, because she loved much." (vs 47) She

wasn't ashamed or afraid of who she was, but instead knew if she went to Christ, she could be healed. She gave several acts of service along with her heartbroken tears. In Deuteronomy 7:8 we read, "... because the Lord loved you, ...hath [He] brought you out with a might hand, and redeemed you ...."

With the knowledge of that great love, we have no need to hesitate to call upon God even when we feel unworthy. There is nothing we can do to make the Lord stop loving us. He will always love us, just as we love our children. No matter what they do, we still love them. So it is with our Father in Heaven.

Often, we may want to hide our sins. But because we are loved by our Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ, we do not have to worry about being honest with who we are. We can and will be forgiven if we will humbly go to them with a repentant heart. And the beauty is that in these times we can feel an increased warmth of Their love for us.

We are His, and He will help us to return home as we continue to return love by trying each day to improve and keep the commandments more carefully. ~ *Sherolyn*






**Souper Bowl of Caring** - What if everyone watching a football game this year gave one dollar or one can of food to local food charities? The 2021 Super Bowl attracted 96.4 million viewers - that would mean a lot of cash and food to help feed hungry families in need that live right here in our community!

We will collect a special Souper Bowl offering on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 13. Our offering will go right across the street to The Good Samaritan. To have a record of your giving, use a pew envelope and mark it "Souper Bowl". Drop your offering in the soup pots located at each entrance. If you wish to give prior to Feb. 13, use a pew envelope and mark it "Souper Bowl" and place it in the offering plate or take it by the church office.

As an additional challenge, let's make it a real Souper Bowl by bringing in cans of soup in addition to your monetary offerings. Add your cans to the stack on the altar. ~ Kim Albert

# FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	31	February 1 10:30 am - Ladies' Circle	2  GROUNDHOG DAY	3 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm - AA	4 12:00 PM AA	5
6 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	7	8 10:30 am - Ladies' Circle	9 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	10 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm - AA	11 12:00 PM AA	12
13 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	14  Happy Valentine's Day	15	16 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	17 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm - AA	18 12:00 PM AA	19
20 - 5 Cents a Meal collection 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	21	22 6:00pm Deacons 7:00pm Elders	23 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	24 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 - AA	25 12:00 PM AA	26
27 10:00 - Sunday School 11:00 am—Worship	28	March 1  Newsletter DEADLINE	March 2 12:00 PM AA 6:00 pm NA 6:00 pm—Choir	March 3 10:30 am - Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm - AA	March 4 12:00 PM AA	March 5



- 1 Ann Ferguson
- 6 Anne Butler
- 6 Bob Seat
- 9 John Hall Greenbacker
- 10 Abbey Bales
- 13 Connie Crews Holder
- 14 Kitty Lawson\*
- 15 Diane Newberry
- 16 Kylie Berry
- 18 Amanda Albert Bennett
- 18 Deborah Sizemore
- 19 Ashley Slaff
- 21 Sue Wilkins
- 22 Robert Carter
- 23 Charles Ware\*
- 23 Teresa McCollum
- 24 Skyler Smith
- 24 Melissa Fraser
- 25 Ann Egloff
- 28 Dargan Cherry
- 28 Madeline Ruth Fraser Freshour
- 29 Bob Egloff

\* In Memory

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



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

The Session met on Tuesday, January 18, 2021.

1. Rev. Coleman opened the meeting with prayer.
2. Rev. Coleman shared news of the congregation.
3. Officer Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>.
4. Rev. Coleman attended a Presbytery webinar presented on Racial Justice.
5. The 2021 Statistical Report was reviewed and approved by the Session
6. Membership Roll – Donnell Corelle went to be with the Lord on December 21, 2021
7. PNC Report – The committee continues in discussion with candidates.
8. Finance Committee – The December and 2021 financial reports were reviewed. Giving is down, we are over \$46,000 behind year-to-date vs the 2021 budget. Actual expenses are over \$36,000 more than the income received.
9. Mike Rand gave an update on the manse fire and progress with the insurance company. Once the report is received, primary responsibility will be passed on to Jim Debiec (Property Elder).
10. Carter Henderson was able to sell the church bus for \$12,000
11. Worship Committee - Next communion will be Sunday, February 6, 2022.
12. Work continues developing the Church Operations & Policy Manual.
13. In local missions Kim Albert reported:
  - a. We will conduct the Souper Bowl of Caring again this year on Sunday, February 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - b. Kim has contacted Presbyterian Disaster Relief (PDR) to inquire about mission possibilities.
13. Rev. Coleman closed the meeting with prayer.



**Upcoming :**

**Ladies' Circle** - Tuesday, February 1 at 10:30 am.

**Choir** - Each Wednesday at 6 pm.

**Women's Bible Study** - Each Thursday at 10:30 am

**Deacons and Session** - Tuesday, February 15 at 6pm & 7pm

First Presbyterian Church  
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