

In Touch

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ROANOKE RAPIDS NC
First Presbyterian Church seeks to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ by expressing our love for Him and our neighbors through worship, discipleship, stewardship, fellowship, congregational care, and mission.



Sharing Our Gifts

Table of Contents:

Pastor's Note	Page 2, 3
Clean Water Project/Love Offering	Page 4
Live and Learn	Page 5
Concerns of the Church	Page 6, 7
Lunch Bunch/Daylight Saving Time	Page 7
Donald Marsden/Servv Sale	Page 8
Lenten Lunch Services	Page 9
Celebrate the Gifts of Women	Page 10, 11
March Calendar	Page 12, 13
March Birthdays	Page 14
Movie Nights	Page 15

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

News of the coronavirus spread through the world is starting to dominate the news. At the time I am writing this the United States has 60 cases within its borders. There are tests being developed to accurately determine who has the virus. This will be helpful in determining the vectors, or the way the virus is transmitted. Currently one of the sixty cases in the U.S. has none of the known risk factors for contracting the virus. This could mean that the known methods of preventing the virus from spreading are not completely effective. Because of this the possibility of an outbreak still looms here in the U.S.

If such an event occurs we as a nation will potentially have to do things I have heard about but never done before. People who are known to have the virus will have to sequester themselves. Public meeting spaces will have to be avoided. Schools and other activities where people gather will be closed for an extended period. Education programs will be put in place expressly for the purpose of containing the virus.

As with HIV/AIDS, we shall have to learn that the name of the virus, which is now called the “novel coronavirus” is different from the disease it causes, which is “covid-19.” Because much still needs to be learned about the virus and the disease it causes, prevention measures are qualified with the word “interim” meaning that they are not yet the final set of measures. A final set of measures will guarantee prevention of spread of the virus, if executed correctly.

The CDC (Center for Disease Control) has a web page devoted to the measures it knows so far that should help prevent the spread of the virus. The link is <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>. I am sure that this will be updated as scientists learn more about the virus.

Some of you will remember that polio was once an epidemic in our nation. At its peak in 1952 the disease infected over 57,000 people and killed 3,145. A vaccine was developed by Jonas Salk in 1955. By 1962 the average number of cases dropped to 910. The United

A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

States has been polio free since 1979. It is very important for people to be vaccinated for polio, because once you have the disease there is no cure.

Some of you will remember children being quarantined because of having scarlet fever. Perhaps you were quarantined yourself. Scarlet fever affects a small number of people who have strep throat or streptococcal skin infections. The treatment is antibiotics. There is no vaccine. Complications from Scarlet fever are kidney disease, rheumatic heart disease, and arthritis. Scarlet fever was the leading cause of death in children in the early 20th century.

Because widespread infectious disease is something that is in the history of this nation and not part of contemporary experience (yet), some of the emotional coping mechanisms for dealing with such phenomena have been forgotten. Let me offer a few.

First, panic is not helpful. The old British adage “Keep Calm and Carry On” comes to mind. Second, gathering as much knowledge as you can is helpful. Taking precautions like washing your hands and using hand sanitizer regularly (the church has some in the pews and in the narthex) is a known defense against all kinds of infectious disease. Third, some gain a sense of comfort or control from doing something that may help in some small way. After you have learned about the novel coronavirus and the disease covid-19, you can share what you have learned with friends and anyone who will listen. You can keep up to date by going on the CDC website. And of course you can pray. Let us all pray for recoveries for those infected, health for those who aren’t infected, and a quick end to this health threat for all the people of the world.

Grace and peace, Joe



CLEAN WATER PROJECT



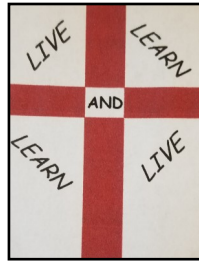
Our church has always had a special place in our hearts and history for clean water for everyone. Due to this fact the Witness Committee has placed an empty water jug in the Narthex in which to place your spare change. The money will be collected and used for purchasing water filters, helping with a well or purification systems for those not as fortunate as us.

**Your “change” can change the world.
You’ll be amazed at how much your spare change can add up to be!**

Help us help others with clean water! Let’s make our water jug look like this one!



A Love Offering will be taken on Sunday, March 1st for the Mincey’s to help with needs as a result of a house fire. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with “love offering” on the memo line.



LIVE AND LEARN, LEARN AND LIVE FOR 2020

To register mail or bring registration form & payment to First Presbyterian Church or call the church office, 252-537-4018, and leave a voicemail indicating your class choices. Send or bring your payment to the church. Payment must arrive within 48 hours to guarantee your class selections.

February 27 - Chair Yoga—7:00 pm Total Cost \$10

Join local instructor **Angie Merritt** as she guides us through techniques to improve flexibility and strength. The experience is both calming and healing. The class is appropriate for all ages and genders, and no previous experience is required.

March 2 & 3 - Beginning Knitting—7:00 pm Total Cost \$15

Diana Lane, owner of the Yarn Parlour in Rocky Mount, will give the basics of knitting to participants who will making a dish cloth. Participants should bring their own size 8 knitting needles.

March 5 - Decorating Gourds—7:00 pm Total Cost \$10

Master crafter **Diana Dillard** will start with the basics of gourd design, and participants will make their own ladybug refrigerator magnet to take away. You'll be amazed at the many gourd creations.



March 12 - Beautiful Blessings—7:00 pm Total Cost \$15

In time for Easter, **April McKee** of Mill City Market will guide us to make a Beautiful Blessings floral cross on wood. Techniques include whitewashing, painting leaves and flowers, and distressing wood.

All proceeds go to Bethlehem Pantry and the Boys & Girls Club of RR

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

Worldwide Concerns



- SYRIA and YEMEN
- SOMALIA, drought, famine, anarchy
- EGYPT and LIBYA with political unrest
- ISRAEL, PALESTINE, GAZA for peaceful coexistence
- IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, security
- USA, war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan
- NIGERIA, the approximately 100 abducted Chibok school girls
- Ukrainian people victimized by foreign aggression
- The people of the Democratic Republic of Congo as they struggle with an Ebola outbreak, Government instability and famine
- Families separated at the Southern Border
- People of Venezuela
- Victims of violence in Sri Lanka
- People of Sudan
- Victims of gun violence in our country

On-Going Care

Sandy Sandoval
Charles Harris
Vintage Inn
826 East Boulevard
Villa #5
Williamston, NC
27892

**All people who
provide on-going
care**

Special Prayers

- We pray for the children of Aurelian Springs Elementary and Clara Hearne Preschool and our ministry to them.
- Stanley White and Littleton Churches
- Pray for our congregation, that God will lead people into our company to experience the love of Christ
- Our Christian sympathy is extended to the family of Rev. Claude Godwin , who passed away in February. He was the first pastor of Stanley White Presbyterian Church .

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Healing Friends & Families of the Church

Priscilla Ricks
Bill Howell
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sally Ray Warren
Sheryl and Wayne O'Neil
Ken and Holly Phipps & family
Kevin and Michael
Doug Hayes
David and LaNae Grimes
Sandra Stephenson
Mary Francis Fisher
Harrison West
Ellen Burnett
Susan Horrell
Delbra Davis
Betsy Medlin
B.T. Brown
Billy Green
Joyce Thomas
Jason Mitcham
Marie Anderson
Chris Fitts
Diane Bone
Amy Browder Heybrock
Yvonne Joyner
Eula Cutler
Bill Davis
Susan Lloyd
Al Hayes
Benjamin Hayes
Larry Spears
Tim Hardy
Frank Lonesky
Jeff Peedin
Roger Fuester
Linda Ray
Beth Bierbauer



LUNCH BUNCH
will NOT meet in March
due to the
Lenten Lunch Services.
Be sure to join us
next month!



Daylight Savings Time begins
Sunday, March 8th!

Don't forget to turn your clocks
ahead one hour before bed on
Saturday night!

WITNESS NEWS

Join us for Donald Marsden's visit on March 22nd!

He will lead us in worship, join us for lunch and share his experiences with Frontier Fellowship.

Lunch will be provided which will consist of fried chicken, sides and desserts.

Please sign-up if you plan to attend. Fill out the registration card which will be in the bulletin on March 8th and 15th and place in the offering plate or call the church office (537-4018) by March 18th.

Mark your calendars and plan to join us!



The Witness Committee is looking into the possibility of hosting a Serrv Sale with Serrv International. Presbyterian Women did this years ago. One of the first fair trade organizations in the world, Serrv International began its mission by helping displaced European refugees trade their handcrafts for income after the Second World War. Since then, we've extended our reach to 25 countries worldwide, working to empower over 8,000 artisans and farmers every year by selling their beautiful handcrafts.

If you would be interested in helping with this project contact Ellen Burnett or Noreen Knudson.

***fair trade *handmade *nonprofit**



serrv



MARCH LENTEN LUNCHEON SERVICES

March 4

HOST—Rosemary United Methodist

PREACHER—Rev. Joe Casteel

March 11

HOST—Rosemary Baptist Church

PREACHER—Rev. Joe Sandoval

March 18

HOST—First United Methodist Church

PREACHER—Dr. Layne Wallace

March 25

HOST—First Presbyterian Church

PREACHER—Rev. Steve McElroy

Celebrate the Gifts of Women

On March 8, 2020 FPC will honor the annual Celebrate the Gifts of Women tradition in the Presbyterian Church USA. We join many other denominations in acknowledging and honoring and learning from the past that we all have vital roles in the spiritual growth of our church and communities. The Presbyterian churches typically have celebrated on the Sunday nearest March 9th, but some have opted to and celebrated at other times throughout the year. Recent themes for our celebration have been, “Grace that Knows No Boundaries”, “Honoring Women’s Spirituality, Struggle and Survival”, and “The God of Us All” and “Faith Like a Mustard Seed (2020). Lutheran brethren celebrate the fourth Sunday in February with a theme of “acting boldly in your faith” and some Methodist sisters and brothers celebrate in July “achieving change one person at a time”. The origins of Women’s Sunday date back to London in June of 1908 and the leadership of two women Emmaline Pankurst and Elizabeth Wolstenholm and a suffragette march in Hyde Park where over half a million people marched to promote equality and justice for women. With Scripture admonishing us to “walk humbly with God”, “...be the hands and feet ...”, “love one another”, and “not hide your light under a bushel basket” many enhanced faith movements began putting into action acceptance of women in the mission field and in church worship and governance. In America at the beginning of the twentieth century Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote “Declaration of Sentiments” which articulated the plight of women and resolved how women’s equality could be achieved. This document drew inspiration from the Declaration of Independence. She had a close working relationship with Susan B. Anthony for over 50 years of promoting the role of and gifts of women in society. The Salvation Army “reimagined women’s ministries” and their role in the organization. Regardless of gender, creed, color, status the focus is on healthy communities of faith filled with people who care about sharing resources, developing leadership in all people, to inspire and incubate mission opportunities in every community, encourage BIBLE Study, promote justice and righteous living, and daily enhance and nurture our respective faith journeys.

(continued on next page)

Women in the Presbyterian Church have been progressive in women in ministry, governance and in the mission field both domestically and internationally. The Presbyterian Women's Purpose states that the women support the mission of the church worldwide, work for justice and peace, and "...to build an inclusive caring community of women and witness the promise of God's Kingdom. We participate in acknowledging the Gifts of Women in our church not just to celebrate the blessings of the women in our church governance, music/drama program, ministry, PreSchool and Sunday School Teachers, Bible Study Leaders, Hostesses for church events, Pastors' assistants, but the families they literally and figuratively represent. The men and children they carry in their hearts who stand alongside the women are blessings we celebrate! It takes a village and God's grace that knows no boundaries as we walk together in faith to witness and promote the promise of God's kingdom.



**PLAN TO JOIN US FOR THE GIFTS OF WOMEN
SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH,
AT THE 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE.**

**THE WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE LED BY THE
WOMEN OF OUR CIRCLES AND ELLEN BURNETT
WILL DELIVER THE MESSAGE .
THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER WILL BE
CELEBRATED BY INTINCTION AND SERVED BY OUR
WOMEN ELDERS.**

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

MONDAY, MARCH 2

7:00 pm, Beginning Knitting, Loy Bldg.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

9:30 am Morning Circle

Lesson #7 Leader: Grace Fishel

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

12:00 Noon Lenten Lunch Service @ Rosemary Methodist

6:30 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

4:00 pm Evening Circle @ Loy Bldg.

Lesson #7 Leader: Nancy Sandoval

7:00 pm Decorating Gourds, Loy Bldg.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

7:00 pm Movie Night—*Bridge of Spies*

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Communion)

MONDAY, MARCH 9

6:00 pm Worship Committee

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

12 Noon Lenten Lunch Service @ Rosemary Baptist

3:30 pm Witness Committee

6:30 pm Choir

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, MARCH 12

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel

7:00 pm Beautiful Blessings, Loy Bldg.

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

10:00 am Presbyterian Women's Project Time
(Bless You! Tissue jars)

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Pennies for Hunger)

6:00 pm Session

TUESDAY, MARCH 17
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

12:00 Noon Lenten Lunch Service @ First United Methodist

6:30 pm Choir

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

7:00 pm Movie Night—*Secretariat*

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship (Donald Marsden)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

12:00 Noon Lenten Lunch Service @ First Presbyterian

6:30 pm Choir

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

9:45 am Sunday School

11:00 am Worship

HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAY

Jim Allen	March 2
Betty Keyes	March 5
Mary Shelby	March 6
Tracy Snowbarger	March 7
Brooke Zirkle	March 8
Susan Barner	March 9
Beth Brewer	March 9
William Brewer	March 10
Greg Batchelor	March 12
Bev Hummel	March 29
Peggy Howard	March 31



JOIN US FOR A



ON

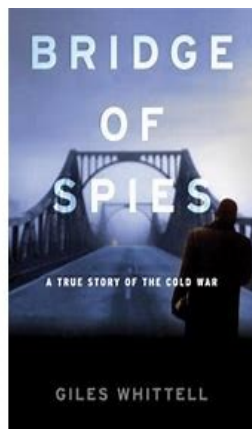
FRIDAY

At 7:00 pm

In the Loy Building

MOVIE SHOWING IS....

March 6th



March 20th



Drinks and popcorn will be provided!

Hope to see you at the movies!

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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16 EAST 5TH STREET

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MARCH 2020

IN TOUCH

