

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

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A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear brother and sisters in Christ,

I have some updates to share with you concerning the church buildings. The Facilities Committee, with the session in accord, has decided to put a new roof on the Loy Building in addition to the sanctuary and the Walker Building. This decision came as the Loy Building Roof was showing the same wear as the Walker Building. Our contractor, Hernandez Roofing Company, is able to continue their presence with us and will start work on the Loy Building soon. The money we received from our insurance company should pay for this additional project.

Currently, the sanctuary roof lacks two things before it can be considered complete. There is a metal cover being fabricated to cover the short flue pipe sticking out of the roof where the tall chimney used to be. When that is complete there will be some cleanup done on the interior of the church in an organ pipe chamber and then the pipes that had been taken out will be replaced.

The other thing that the sanctuary needs is a thing called a cricket. A cricket is a sloped area that will fill in the space behind the tower so the rainwater will go around the tower rather than pool behind it and leak. I have made a rough drawing of it below to help you visualize it. The cricket's outline is in red. It should barely be visible from the street. The Walker Building and the Loy Building by comparison don't have the same complex architecture and are much more straightforward to roof.

It is Tuesday, February 27 as I write this. In three days we will be entering the month of March and by the end of that month we will have already celebrated Easter. I don't say this to scare you, just to tell you to be prepared. Easter is of course a pivotal holiday, or Holy Day, for Christians. We can enter into Lent with the impression that Easter is still a ways off, but this year Easter is early. But why does the day that Easter is celebrated fluctuate?

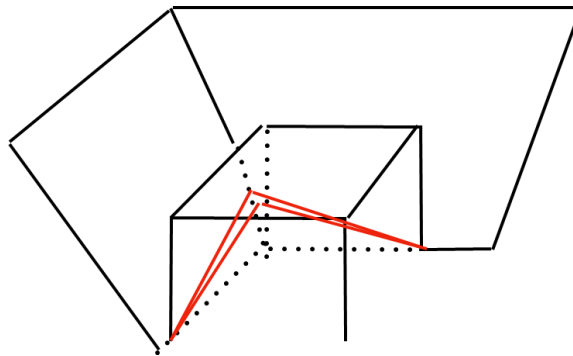
Easter is scheduled as the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. An equinox is an event that occurs two times a year where the number of minutes of daylight equal the number of minutes of nighttime. The spring equinox is when the number of minutes of daylight is poised to become greater than the number of minutes of nighttime.

Now you may be thinking, why didn't the church choose to celebrate Easter on a set date like it did for Christmas? The reason is that the church wanted to celebrate Easter three days after the beginning of the Jewish feast of Passover which is when scripture tells us that Jesus was crucified.

Passover is an old holy day that long predates the calendar that we use today. Hebrews used a lunisolar calendar which takes into account both the lunar and solar calendars. Scripture tells us that Passover is to be celebrated on the 14th day of Nisan. Nisan is the first month of spring in the northern hemisphere. The 14th day corresponds to a full moon. Full moons can happen on any day of the week. The church decided to celebrate Easter only on Sunday. So the calculation of when Easter is celebrated doesn't adhere to the Hebrew calendar or satisfy our desire to celebrate holy days on the same date each year. Celebrating Easter means being ready - a theme we hear from Jesus quite often.

Take care and God bless you all this Lenten/Easter season,

Joe



Our Rev. Dr. Joe Sandoval was commissioned on February 24th to represent the New Hope Presbytery at the General Assembly Gathering this summer



HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Jim Allen—2nd

Betty Keyes—5th

Mary Shelby—6th

Brooke Zirkle—8th

Susan Barner—9th

Beth Brewer—9th

William Brewer—10th

Bev Hummel—29th

Peggy Howard—31st



**Prayers for Healing of Friends &
Families of the Church**

Cindy Sherrel
Glenn & Gayle Garner, @ Meals on Wheels
Sandy Sandoval
G.C. Warren
B.T. Brown
Nancy Elias
Grace Fishel
Sheryl O'Neil
Rev. Mitzi Leshner-Thomas

Debbie Allen

Bill Graham

Doug Hayes

Linda Ray

Ellie Parker

Margaret Biggs

Tony Martin, Jr.

Roger Fuester

Lee Cranford

Frank Lonesky

Bev Hummel

Kenny Phipps, Jr.

Matt Savage

Michael Shelby

Kim Owens (Noreen's sister)

Carolyn Crawford

Carol Crawford

James Spragins

Bob and Lisa Patterson

Jeanie White

Ken and Carol Whetzel

Matt Savage

Stephanie Rivers

Robin Gupton Clay

Janet & Simmie Isles

Maddie Stauffer

Marie Anderson

Vickie Small Villani

Billy Small

WORLD CONCERNS

Victims of the war in Ukraine/Israel/Palestine

The Homeless

Victims of senseless gun violence

Those effected by natural disasters

**If you have someone that needs to be on the prayer list or someone
that needs to come off, please contact Susan Gaylor
at sdgaylor@outlook.com or call 678-4228.**

JOIN US FOR LUNCH BUNCH!!!

Join us each month at 12:30 pm (on a Wednesday) at a different restaurant in town to dine and have fellowship together. Everyone is welcome to join us for this “Dutch” affair.

We will meet at 2ND STREET LUNCH on Wednesday, March 13, 12:30 pm.



MOVIE NIGHTS ARE HERE!



Join us for Movie Night on Friday, March 15 at 7:00 pm in the Loy Building with popcorn and drinks provided!

The movie this month is:

Out of Africa



FLOWERS

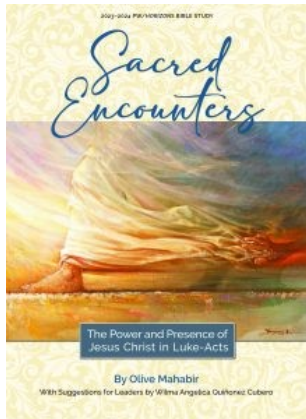
Flowers arrangements are needed for the Sanctuary on Sundays. These are the dates available for anyone interested:

April 7, 14, 21, 28; May 5, 12, 19, 26 and June 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Please contact Mary Small at movingmom@charter.net or 541-1265.



Please include your name, date of placing flowers and your phone number. Thanks! If you would like them in honor or memory of someone, please let Tammy know at firstpresbyterian-churchrr@gmail.com or 537-4018 by the Tuesday before your Sunday.



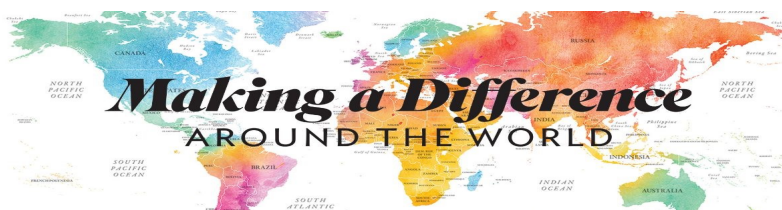
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PW will meet on Tuesday, March 5th in the Loy Building.

Morning Circle meets at 9:30 am with Bev Hummel leading lesson #7.

Afternoon Circle meets at 1:30 pm with Susan Barner leading lesson #7.

All women are invited to join either circle!



For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has connected us in God's healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met. Please give to the **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING** on Easter Sunday, March 31st.

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 1—World Day of Prayer

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee Fellowship

11:00 am Worship—Communion

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

9:30 am PW Morning Circle

12:30 pm Prayer Meeting

1:30 pm PW Afternoon Circle

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

7:00 pm Choir

FRIDAY, MARCH 8—International Women's Day

**(Daylight Savings Time begins—turn clocks ahead 1 hour
before bed on Saturday night, March 9th)**

SUNDAY, MARCH 10—GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee Fellowship

11:00 am Worship

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

12:30 pm Lunch Bunch @ 2nd Street

3:30 pm Witness Committee

7:00 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 14

6:00 pm Finance & Personnel Committee

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 15

7:00 pm Movie Night

SUNDAY, MARCH 17—FORGIVENESS SUNDAY &
MATTHEW 25: Build Congregational Vitality Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee

11:00 am Worship

6:00 pm Session

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20

7:00 pm Choir

SUNDAY, MARCH 24—PALM SUNDAY

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee

11:00 Worship

12:30 pm Baby Shower Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27

7:00 pm Choir

THURSDAY, MARCH 28

7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service

SUNDAY, MARCH 31—EASTER

9:30 am Sunday School

10:30 am Coffee

11:00 am Worship—Communion

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

5th Sunday Gift Card Offering



International Women's Day

March 8 is International Women's Day as declared by the United Nations. In an ongoing effort to : 1) acknowledge the myriad of contributions and accomplishments of women locally, women beside you in the pew, and around the world,; 2) as well as consciousness raising of the ongoing discrimination and devaluation of women in the world the Presbyterian church has dedicated the Sunday closest to March 8 as "CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN " Sunday.

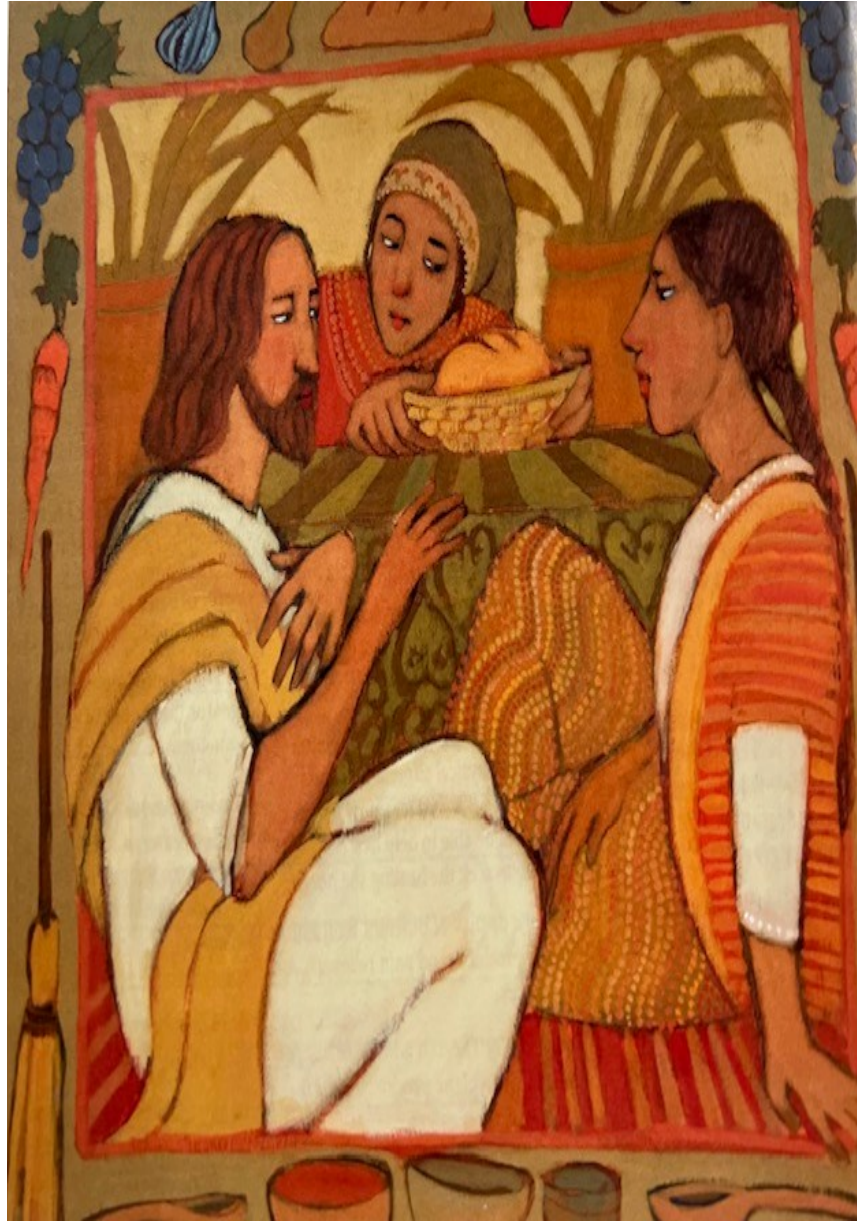
As we are examining our appreciation for the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made for us this Lenten season please pause and remember prayerfully, the many acts of love and kindness as well as sacrifices our mothers sisters, daughters and women have made for us. Remember that Jesus calls each of us to value the role of EACH person (regardless of gender or station in life) in the community of faith.

Presbyterian Women are studying women's encounters with Jesus. In the first four gospels let us look at the differing responses of Martha and Mary to Jesus' visit. One thing is at least implied that they both loved Jesus and were choosing to serve him in any way a woman of that time and culture was allowed. Mary sat at Jesus' feet and absorbed Jesus' teaching (a position culturally at the time only for men) and Martha focused on chores and hospitality at this time. While they both had differing responses to Jesus' visit they celebrated God's gift of Jesus sent for our salvation.

In John 11:27 after her brother Lazarus died Martha is said to have made a profession of faith to Jesus, "Yes Lord I believe you are the Messiah, the son of God, the one coming into the world. "Like in today's time of looking at the varying contributions of not only women, but every person, the four gospels treat Mary and Martha with different perspectives.

As Dr. Olive Mahabir writes in summary, "Re-imagining Martha's role in the Jesus movement and acknowledging Mary's role as Christ-given allows us to reaffirm the doctrine of the priesthood of all believers for our reformed churches today. The priesthood of all believers dismantles the notion of hierarchy and selectivity in the church, and affirms that each person has access to God and God's word. ... a church to one which everyone feels valued and everyone has a part in mission of Christ."

...and let all the people say BLESSINGS and Amen!



Artist: Kathleen Peterson

Title: Parting Bread

Topic: Jesus' visit with the family and friends of Mary and Martha

Scripture: Luke 10: 38-42



Witness Committee News

Like the early postal service “not rain , snow (some of us wish), extreme cold or dead of night shall keep us from our appointed mission. The FPC Book Bag Buddies were on time to help feed hungry children over the weekends in January and February. Dedicated church members continue to shop, pack and deliver bags of food every week to Aurelian Springs Elementary school. After a particularly cold week two staff members rushed out to greet and assist in the delivery of the containers of bags of food. They wanted to assure and commend our church for our commitment to improving the quality of life for and reduce hunger for over 72 children in poverty. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Another domestic hunger initiative is our church Food Pantry. It has been witnessed by many church members that non members have been observed to put food items in the pantry. It continues to endear us to the community as we take steps to feed the hungry. The overwhelming generosity of the First Presbyterian congregation on Souper Bowl Sunday will help keep the pantry filled for at least a couple of months. We collected 190+ items of canned goods, boxed food, and items needed for personal hygiene. The witness committee would like to thank everyone who has contributed to this worthy project.

In the future, the Witness Committee hopes to partner with the community action inter-denominational group, Feeding Families First, and numerous special projects to help needy children and families in our area. Specifically, a clothing initiative has been requested by several school counselors and this group. More information to follow.

As we ponder, the sacrifices that Jesus has made for us in these 40 days of Lent, please remember that there are many people who are hungry, in need of shelter, in need of clothing, and other necessary items to have a minimal quality of life. Remember, Jesus said, “...as you do to the least of these, you do to me” .

The Witness Committee has been discussing ways to witness the discernment of the Session to be a Matthew 25 Congregation. Building congregational vitality is one of the focal points of the Matthew 25 invitation according to our Presbyterian Planning Calendar. Recall that the church declared in the Confession of 1967 “...the church is gathered in corporate life and dispersed in society for the sake of Mission in the world.” On March 17, Presbyterians worldwide will advocate for social justice and look at ways we can focus on... “Love kindness do justice, and walk humbly with our God.” Shalom.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER—MARCH 1ST

Our Presbyterian calendar indicates the theme for this year's World Day of Prayer, coming from scripture, is:

"I beg you ... bear with one another in love."

Over the years our choir has sung several anthems with this prayerful message that Christ is in all of us. As we prayerfully ponder Christ's sacrifice for us this Lenten season let us pray this ancient prayer.

Christ with me, Christ before me,
Christ behind me, Christ in me,
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,
Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit,
Christ where I arise, Christ in the
heart of everyone who thinks of me,
Christ in the mouth of everyone who
speaks to me, Christ in every eye
that sees me, Christ in every ear that
hears me. Salvation is of the Lord.
Salvation is of the Christ. May your
salvation, Lord, be ever with us.
Amen.

*From Saint Patrick's Breastplate,
Patrick of Ireland (c. 389-461).*

EVERYONE (INCLUDING MEN)
ARE INVITED TO A
BABY SHOWER LUNCHEON
FOR
REBECCA WHITE FRIES



SUNDAY, MARCH 24TH, 12:30 PM
LOY BUILDING
HOSTED BY PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
REBECCA IS REGISTERED
AT BABYLIST.COM

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MARCH 2024

IN TOUCH

