

*The Network... a Publication of
University Presbyterian Church
February 2023*

Message from our Pastor

I've been thinking about meals. Those of us who are fortunate are able to eat three meals a day—and usually some snacks between meals! Meals nourish the body but, as we know, they also nourish the soul. There is much to cherish when we are able to share meals and prepare meals with others.

Jesus spent a lot of time around the table, eating with people and sharing one another's company. The Adult Education class for Lent will explore what Jesus' eating habits might teach us. You can find information about that class in this newsletter.

During the month of February, UPC members have two opportunities to share a meal with one another. The Annual Meeting on February 5 will be followed by a hearty meal in the Fellowship Room—not simply sandwiches this year!

And then on Ash Wednesday, February 22, members are invited to a light soup supper before we have the Ash Wednesday service. Both occasions aim to nourish the body while strengthening our bonds with one another.

Howard Henry and Lee Ann Grace's reports in this newsletter about their work with migrants on the US/Mexican border offer another glimpse into the power found in a meal, however simple. Whether a bean sandwich, a chicken sandwich, a cheese sandwich, or a rice sandwich, something is always waiting to offer the migrants who arrive at the Migrant Resource Center hungry in body but also hungry for kindness, and help, and hope.

That is what we all seek every time we come to the Communion Table for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. We come for kindness, and help, and hope. And having eaten this good food, Jesus sends us forth telling us, "Feed my sheep."

Blessings,

Tracy



Call to the Annual Congregational Meeting

University Presbyterian Church will hold its annual meeting in-person on Sunday, February 5, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. Formal members of the congregation are expected to attend.

Hard copies of the Annual Report will be available at the church on the date of the meeting.

The agenda includes:

- receiving the annual reports from the committees and ministries of UPC
- reviewing the budget report for 2023
- voting on the Pastor's compensation
- election of church officers

Following the meeting a hearty lunch will be served in the Fellowship Room. All are welcome to come!

Worship Column

Sunday, February 5

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12); Psalm 112:1-9 (10);
1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16);
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, February 12

6th Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8;
1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday, February 19

Transfiguration of the Lord

Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2 or Psalm 99;
2 Peter 1:16-21; Matthew 17:1-9



Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12, Psalm 51:1-17;
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Sunday, February 26

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32;
Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11

*God, we celebrate
Your ongoing presence
In our community of believers.
Help us to know you more fully
And move forward as faithful witnesses
In word and deed. Amen*

February birthday wishes go out to...



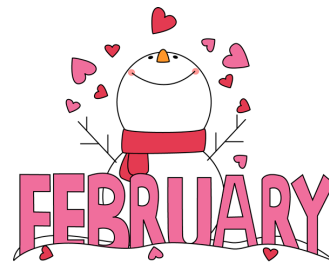
- 1 Connie Michael
- 1 Derek Fisher
- 2 Andrew Safulko
- 6 Linda Moorhouse
- 8 Jim Smyton
- 12 Grace Agbemenu
- 17 Barbara Lyons
- 24 John Schimminger

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIFT CAMPAIGN

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated to the 2022 Alternative Christmas Gift Campaign! Members and friends of UPC raised \$1,625 for the Education and Empowerment of Women and Girls, as offered in the Presbyterian Giving Catalog. Thank you all for your generosity and compassion.



What's Happening in February



Thursday, Feb. 2	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Saturday, Feb. 4	10:00 am	Breakfast with Friends
Sunday, Feb. 5	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm	Choir Worship Service Annual Meeting & Lunch Youth Group at Deerhurst Presbyterian
Monday, Feb. 6	7:00 pm	Zoom Deacons' Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 7	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, Feb. 9	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Sunday, Feb. 12	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Choir Worship Service Fellowship Hour
Monday, Feb. 13	9:30 am	Zoom Adult Ed.
Tuesday, Feb. 14	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, Feb. 15	7:00 pm	Session
Thursday, Feb. 17	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir
Sunday, Feb. 19	9:30 am 10:30 am 11:30 am	Choir Worship Service Fellowship Hour
Monday, Feb. 20	<i>President's Day Holiday</i> 9:30 am	<i>Church Office Closed</i> Zoom Adult Ed.
Tuesday, Feb. 21	10:00 am 12:00 pm	Zoom Shared Youth Team Food Pantry Open
Wednesday, Feb. 22	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Light Soup Supper Ash Wednesday Worship Service
Thursday, Feb. 23	12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Open Choir

What's Happening cont.....

Sunday, Feb. 26	9:30 am	Choir
	10:30 am	Worship Service
	11:30 am	Fellowship Hour
Monday, Feb. 27	9:30 am	Lenten Adult Ed
	1:30 pm	Mobile Food Pantry @ Trinity Methodist Church
Tuesday, Feb. 28	12:00 pm	Food Pantry Open

A Valentine Prayer

I said a Valentine prayer for you
And asked the Lord above
To fill your hear and bless your soul
With the precious gift of love

I asked Him for sincere love
The kind that's meant to stay
Just like the generous love
You give to those you touch each day.

I prayed for love from family
And from every cherished friend
Then I asked the Lord to give you
His love that knows no end.

A Report from Howard Henry and Lee Ann Grace From Their Border Ministry with Frontera de Cristo 2023



Report #1:

Friday, January 13, 2023 – Our casita has three rooms (kitchen with small dining table, living room, bedroom) and a bathroom. A small bakelite wall element heated by gas is our source of warmth. It works well. We have access to a washer and drier located in the house immediately in front of us that gives onto 12th Street.

We have (thankfully) a lighter schedule than in 2022, teaching ESL every day but starting at noon on Monday and finishing by noon on Thursday and Friday. We have a Monday 4 to 8 p.m. shift at the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) and get up at 4:15 a.m. on Thursday to assist there from 6 to 8.

Mechanical problems with two vehicles have us again using the 14-passenger bus to go to the border, whereupon we walk across the line to the MRC and get picked up and taken to the Café Justo y Más coffeehouse, where we offer the ESL lessons.

We have been tired, adjusting to the thinner air (4,032 feet elevation), the two-hour time difference, and recuperating from travel, setting up house, and figuring out lesson plans for 10 people (and an 11th to come, and even adding the woman we work with on Thursday morning at the MRC).

Our friends are warm and inviting. Our student David (he and his family are from Colombia but are vital members of the Frontera team) picked us up in Phoenix on Saturday and drove us to Douglas. He has been our primary chauffeur. Jack (retired Mennonite minister) and Linda started us off with some food and JUST COFFEE at their casita. We celebrated a *rosca de Reyes* {Three Kings bread} gathering with Joca.

We went to First Presbyterian Church Douglas on Sunday and swelled the attendance by 20% just by walking in the door. We were unsure of the time and thus showed up a half-hour late. The minister welcomed us. Later, at coffee, one of the church members said to us, "I didn't turn around to see who had come in, but once we started singing, I knew who it was."

Thank you for your prayers for us and for the migrants and for all who are working to care for them and to make them safe. Thank you to Jerilyn, who year after year looks after the house and the mail for us and gives us a sense of ease about being away.

Paz y bendiciones / Peace and blessings

Howard and Lee Ann

Frontera de Cristo 2023

Report #2

Friday, January 20, 2023 - We have to be fluid. We didn't have our accommodation in the casita finalized until just the last week or so before we arrived. The Frontera van is not working. They don't know what is the problem. We can use the bus to get us here and there in town (Douglas) and even took it to Bisbee for some computer repair shopping. Joca's pickup truck, our anticipated transport in Agua Prieta, is not starting. It could be the battery but David has been so busy he hasn't had time to take it into the shop.

Mondays we go in late because we work until 8 pm at the Migrant Resource Center (MRC). Sam Pendergast, a PCUSA minister from the Utica area, and his wife, Cynthia, have just retired and have come to Frontera to live in Agua Prieta and serve for a year with Frontera. They have their car. Sam picks us up mid-morning on Mondays at the MRC and drives us to the coffee shop (Café Justo y Mas) so we can give our ESL classes.

Tuesday, David picks us up at 8 at the MRC and begins his 8 o'clock lesson in the car as he takes us to the coffee house. On Wednesday we are driven to the coffee shop by Catherine May and Dan Abbott, from Tempe, a couple filling in part-time for Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado, the US co-missionary husband and wife team who are on mission interpretation for the year.

We do an MRC shift on Thursday morning from 6 to 8 a.m. and then Monica, who serves with us, drives us to the coffee shop in her car. We have added her as a student when we are not occupied otherwise with serving migrants. On Thursday mornings there are usually a number of migrants who have stayed overnight in the MRC and we feed them coffee and tortas (sandwiches) for breakfast. Or maybe it will be chicken. Or maybe rice and some form of protein. Sometimes food donations are dropped off. If not, it will be tortas. Bean tortas. Cheese tortas. Other fillings. We keep 80 ready to go, and always a full coffee pot.

David picks us up at 7:50 or so on Fridays (from the MRC). Class begins when we get in the car. We get to the coffee shop by 8 and Lee Ann meets with a new student while I talk with David.

It's takes the whole team to get us back to the garita (sentry box) / gate to re-enter the US. Most frequently it is David, but Alex has driven us, and Adrian, and today Joca, and Sam, and....

Last minute responsibilities can interrupt our class schedule and send our students off to other meetings or other needs that require fixing. We take a book or other paperwork to keep us occupied when such occurs.

Fluid, fluid, fluid. But we are grateful that we have friends to help in such matters and we have a warm place to stay and enough food to eat and adequate layers to fend off the cold or adapt to the warming of the day, and we can take a shower, and a couple of years back we bought ourselves bedroom slippers. Now THAT is luxury!

Peace and blessings to all / Paz y bendiciones a tod@s.

Howard and Lee Ann

Report 3– Friday, January 27, 2023

We are kind of tired. We had an extra meeting last night at the Migrant Resource Center—a monthly event—that made our day at least 11 hours, from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. and beyond. We get up at 4:30. Usually we wind up around noon on a Thursday. The two-hour 6 to 8 morning shift is at the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) which has cold floors and not much heat. Yesterday our toes got very cold; today it was our fingers.

It has been cold this week. It was 18 degrees in the morning on Wednesday, 21 on Thursday and 24 today. Our heater is a gas space heater, not electric as I may have earlier reported, and to safeguard against CO we keep a window open in the kitchen. If the heater is off at night it makes for quite a cold morning. This morning we put on our winter jackets while starting the coffee and making breakfast.

Thankfully, we have hot water, so sponge baths and shaving are manageable. Once the weather warms up we can again take showers during the week as well as on the weekends.

My (Howard's) daily attire for those extra cold days is now a long-sleeved t-shirt, a heavy flannel shirt, a zip up sweater, a second zip up sweater, a winter jacket, two knit hats, jeans, hiking boots, cotton gloves. Hands get cold with cotton gloves but they are more practical, more easily removable and stowable. Lee Ann does not layer up as much as Howard but takes a heavy knit ruana to put on when she takes off her winter jacket in the coffeehouse. Large mugs of cappuccino or café con leche help warm us up before classes begin.

Classes are going well. We are committed to keeping our Thursday and Friday afternoons free so as not to tire ourselves out. The monthly MRC meeting will be our only exception. We will only have one more of those, on the last Thursday of February.

I am writing this at the Frontera de Cristo office where we have come for wi-fi access. Lee Ann has a report to complete for opera funding. Additionally, she has a Zoom meeting with a friend each Friday afternoon and the office is really the only place where she can do it.

With our limited shifts, we haven't seen the numbers of migrants that we saw last year. The numbers seem down overall, but overnight on Thursday they received 86 people. We had six women come during our 6-8 "turno." They asked for gloves, which we did not have, so Lee Ann gave them some "footie"-socks to put on their hands which were at least better than nothing. Small socks fit small hands.

We are seeing single folks, mostly from Mexico and/or Guatemala. They are mostly small in stature and to us seem unthreatening. They need a respite, short-term shelter, a toilet, food, something warm to drink, a kindly reception. They thank us for the little we are able to do for them and offer "Que Dios les bendiga" (May God bless you) on their way out.

This winter weather is draining on body and soul. I think to myself, you have to be very crazy or very desperate to expose yourself to this weather with so little clothing, so little food, and with so much rejection of your efforts to make your and your family's lives safe and better. We do not see craziness in these migrants.

Adult Education Zoom Class

Lenten Series

February 27— April 3

Mondays at 9:30 a.m.

“Meeting Jesus at the Table”

Tracy will lead a 6 week Adult Education class during the season of Lent using the book, *Meeting Jesus at the Table* by Cynthia Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. You are welcome to purchase the book but it is not essential for joining the class.

Time and time again, Jesus met people at the table, made this ordinary act of eating and sharing a meal a sacred moment, and extended the table to include everyone. The class will explore the implications of Jesus' table habits and expansive table welcome on our lives and our journey of faith.

What are you hungry for this Lenten season? Come join us as we seek nourishment for the journey!

The Zoom link is sent out each week.



Ash Wednesday Service and Soup Supper

February 22

6 p.m. Light Soup Supper in the Fellowship Room

6:30 p.m. Informal Service with Imposition of Ashes around tables