



Presbyterian Press



A Publication of the First Presbyterian Church

February 2021



Groundhog Day

What's Coming Up?

- February 1- World Interfaith Harmony Week Begins
- February 2- Groundhog day
- February 14- Transfiguration of the Lord, **Valentine's Day**
- February 15- Presidents' Day
- February 17- Ash Wednesday
- February 21- First Sunday of Lent
- February 28- Congregational Meeting after Worship



"I would permit no man, no matter what his color might be, to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."

—Booker T. Washington

Prayer group is on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 AM by Zoom
Join us!



Bible study is still on
Wednesdays at 3:30 PM
by Zoom and in person.



Lent begins on February 17th. Wow! We just had Christmas. Be on the lookout for information about lenten services and lily orders. Let us hope we can have the lenten activities this year.

Hands folded!



Pastor John's Jottings

Once again we are approaching the season of Lent. The season of Lent is a time for repentance and reflection as we walk with Jesus on the way to the cross. It reminds us that while the grace offered to us in Jesus Christ is free, it is not cheap. Jesus had to die a suffering death on the cross to purchase our forgiveness; there is nothing cheap or easy about that.



It is always tempting for us to forget and to slide into a cheap grace attitude. A cheap grace attitude says, “I sin. God forgives. It is no big deal.” Lent helps us remember that it is a very big deal indeed. Some have asked why God didn’t just wave his hand at all our sin and forgive us? Why did he need to go to all the effort of sending Jesus to live among us and to die on the cross for us?

So let’s pause and reflect for a moment on what Jesus’ death on the cross means. First of all it means that God takes sin very seriously. God knows that sin is a destroyer. Sin breaks our relationship with God. Sin brings us hurt and heartache and grief. Sin moves us to hurt those we love the most. In dying on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins, Jesus says, “This is a big deal. Sin must be cast out so that you can truly live the abundant life.”

The second thing that Jesus’ death on the cross means is that God loves us so much he would go to any lengths to save us. If God merely waved his hand and forgave sin, how would we know the true dangers of sin and the depths of God’s love for us?

Here at First Presbyterian Church we have a tradition going back more than 50 years of worshiping together in an ecumenical setting with our brothers and sisters in Christ each Wednesday in Lent. The tradition was started back in 1970 by Rev. Bill Arthur, who was pastor here at the time. Last year we were able to get only a couple of the services in before the Covid-19 lockdown went into effect. This year we are hoping to do much better.

At this point it does not look like it will be safe for us to offer the Lenten Lunches. However, we do plan to offer the services each Wednesday in Lent from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Much like we are currently doing on Sunday morning, people will be able to participate in person or through our live-stream on Facebook and Zoom.

For the imposition of Ashes on Ash Wednesday (February 17), we are planning to use a fresh q-tip for each person. That way there is no chance of passing the virus on through physical touch.

It is a Christian tradition in many churches for people to either give up something for Lent or to take on something new for Lent. This year I invite you to consider giving up some of your time each week to take on participating in the Lenten services. One advantage of the live-stream is that these are recorded and you will be able to access that recording later, even if you are not able to attend at the time the service is offered.

Because of the uncertainty, we are a little behind on the schedule. But Jeanne Harris is working on the special music (if you would like to sing or play for one of the service, please let her know) and I am working on getting the preachers lined up. Below is what we have so far.

(Last page)

Hope and Confidence and Peace,
Pastor John

February Scriptures and Sermons



February 7 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Communion)

Reception of New Members and Ordination/Installation of Deacon

Scriptures: Isaiah 40:21-31 *1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Sermon Title: "What Motivates You?"

Theme: Many people are motivated by money. Some are motivated by prestige or the admiration of their peers. Still others do what they do out of fear. The Apostle Paul did what he did out of love. Love is the greatest of all motivators.

February 14 Transfiguration of the Lord

Scriptures: 2 Kings 2:1-12 *Mark 9:2-9

Sermon Title: "Kneeling in His Presence"

Theme: When Jesus is revealed in all his glory on top of the mountain, the disciples are driven to their knees. There can no longer be any doubt about who Jesus is. In much of our world, people claim that they are not sure they can believe in Jesus because they are still waiting for more evidence, more proof. The good news is that we don't have to find the evidence on our own. God has a way of revealing himself to those who seek him. God reveals himself in ways that leave no doubts.

February 17 Ash Wednesday

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10

Sermon Title: "Post Haste"

Theme: The Apostle Paul urges us to take action without delay. Now is the acceptable time for salvation. Now is the time for us to be ambassadors for Christ, leading others to him.

February 21 1st Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: *Genesis 9:8-17 Mark 19:9-15

Sermon Title: "Anticipointment"

Theme: Former Beatle Paul McCartney coined the term "anticipointment" to refer to the feeling of disappointment you get when you're expecting something great, but you get something entirely different. I wonder if God ever felt that way about human beings? In the story of Noah and the great flood, God wipes out all life on earth. But he decides to save a remnant, in this case, Noah's family. God makes a special covenant with Noah never to destroy all life again. You and I are the inheritors of that covenant. We are the children of the covenant.

February 28 2nd Sunday in Lent

Scriptures: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Exodus 24:12-18 *Mark 8:31-38

Sermon Title: "The Road Less Traveled"

Theme: Great crowds are following Jesus and the disciples are starting to get the wrong idea. Jesus stops and teaches them about the suffering and death that awaits him. He tells them about the difficult way that he has to go and invites them to walk that way with him. Popular Christianity would have us believe that Jesus came to make our lives easier and more comfortable. In the midst of our comfort, Jesus stops and takes a moment to teach us. The way of the Christian is the way of ultimate glory, but it is not the way of ease and comfort.

First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, January 20, 2021 5:30 p.m.

Session Highlights

Class of 2021

Jenna Bennett
Dick Ogden
Jeff Strange

Class of 2022

Bonnie Coleman
Beth Allen
Ginger Delawder

Class of 2023

Jeff Mitchell
David Nuzum
Harriett Northey

- The treasurer's report shows that we finished the year \$27,747 in the black. Well done, church! Thank you for your generosity!
- We will do the Lenten services this year in the same way that we are doing Sunday morning worship, both in person and live-streamed. We will invite other pastors to preach as in the past.
- The session adopted the following 2021 Communion dates:

Jan. 3	July 4
Feb.7	Aug.1
Mar.7	Sept.5
April 1 Maundy Thursday	Oct. 3
April 4 Easter	Nov. 7
May 9	Dec. 5
May 23 Pentecost	Dec. 24 both services
June 6	
- It has been suggested that we have a Sunday with the screen up front showing the people on Zoom so that can feel more like we are worshiping together.
- We are still working on a proposal to update our video and sound equipment.
- The Laundromat ministry is up and running. We have our first client for the ministry this week.
- In Memoriam: Roberta Davis (September 28th, 1957 - January 5th, 2021) Our prayers are with her family.
- Received Report on Called Presbytery Meeting January 6th, from Jeep Wilson.

On January 6, 2021, the Presbytery of West Virginia held a virtual meeting for the purpose of examining for ordination and membership in the Presbytery the Rev. Samantha Coggins, who has been called by the Westminster Foundation to serve as campus pastor at WVU. A worship service was lead by Rev. Coggins. Thereupon, Rev. Coggins discussed her Statement of Faith and was examined by members of the Presbytery. Upon unanimous vote, she was found to be

ready to be ordained and was granted membership in the Presbytery. The meeting closed with prayer.

- Elected Jenna Bennett and Denver Atkinson do financial review of church books.
- Elected Jenna Bennett as our commissioner for the Sat., February 20, 2021 Presbytery meeting (by Zoom).
- Approved the session annual statistical report. A big thank you to Wayne for gathering the information and filling out this report for us!
- Decided to apply for the payroll protection loan offered by the government for relief of small businesses and non-profits during the pandemic. This loan is forgivable as long as we continue in business and continue to retain all our employees for at least 8 weeks following disbursement of funds. The amount of the loan will be 2 ½ times our monthly payroll. **Pastor's Report:**

**hospital visits: 9 Other significant Pastoral visits: 24 almost all by phone
No Funerals, Weddings or Baptisms to report**

Sacrament of Communion: Was celebrated on January 3 serving 21
Home communion was not served because of the pandemic.

Pastor's Discretionary Fund 2020 -

MONTH	REQUESTS	COMPLETED	AMT PLEDGED	AMT DISBURSED
January	20	20	\$1,654.65	\$1,654.65
February	16	16	\$1,356.78	\$1,356.78
March	11	11	\$1,150.00	\$1,150.00
April	4	4	\$427.23	\$427.23
May	0	0	0	0
June	3	3	\$297.29	\$297.29
July	4	4	\$400.00	\$400.00
August	7	7	\$684.00	\$684.00
Sept	17	15	\$1,685.00	\$1,485.00
October	12	12	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
November	10	10	\$1,000.00	\$993.94
December	8	8	\$800.00	\$800.00
Total				\$10448.89

“Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.”

—Dale Carnegie

Think Spring!





FEBRUARY



Children's Moments

February 7-Dick Ogden
 February 14-James Harris
 February 21-Jeanne Harris
 February 28-Beckie Alvaro

Worship Leaders

February 7-Rev. James A. Harris
 February 14-Hannah Burnett
 February 21-Bryon Delawder
 February 28-Terra Burnett

Deacon Greeters

February 7-Jeanne Harris
 February 14-Jeanne Lynch
 February 21-Loria Cavallo
 February 28-Megan Strange

Acolytes

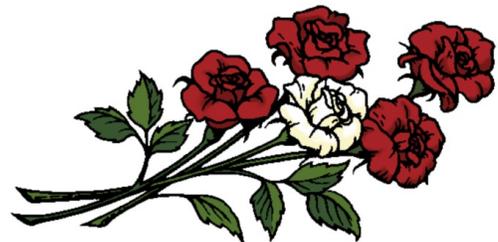
February 7-Bradley & Hannah Burnett
 February 14-Amelia & Kierra Harris
 February 21-Hannah Burnett & Gia Corsini
 February 28-Bradley Burnett & Anthony Corsini

Sunday Worship
 Church School 9:30 AM
 Worship 10:45

Live on WPDX Radio, 109.4 FM or 750 AM
 Live stream at facebook.com/fpcclarksborg

February 3	Dottie Rinehart
February 5	Anne Wadsworth
February 6	Wilson Leiberling
February 6	SusanMcElroy
February 8	Susan Hollandsworth
February 10	Harmony Compton
February 13	Sally Gray
February 13	Micah Plants
February 14	Kristine Pulling
February 15	Megan Strange
February 17	Bradley Burnett
February 17	Linda Lonsinger
February 22	Elisabeth Moore
February 22	Karen Tyson
February 24	Carter Morrison
February 24	Victoria Morrison
February 24	Jeanne Harris
February 24	Sarah Weese
February 26	Genie Koerner
February 26	Nancy Jarrett
February 26	Brad Nickerson
February 27	Abigail Northey

Happy Anniversary to Bill and Kris Pulling on February 16



I have openings for flowers in the reredos for the month of February. If you would like to order some, please call the office at 304-622-6831. Or you can email me at CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com



Charles Adkins
Sarah Arnold
Eddie Cox
Jeremy Cox
Debbie Cunningham
Mark Freeman
Carol Lee Griffin
Yvonne Gump
Derek Hardman
Bob & Janice Hardman
Robbie Hood
Doug Linton
Nora McLean
John Michome
Lillian Mick
Gary Mitchell
Arvelia Moore
Bob & Mary Moore
(aunt of Sandi Nuzum)
Robin Morris
Nickolas Nardone
Kenneth Oldaker
Wilma Oldaker
Susan Orr (Carole's Sister)
Amy Pack
Donna Pitzer
Jo Plybon
Joey Rogers
Susie Saunders
Everett Schiffr
Melanie Simmons
Bonnie Smith
Chuck Smith
Donna Swann
John Wamsley

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Phone: 304-622-6831
Fax: 304-622-6831
www.clarksburfpc.org



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. John F. Koerner
209 Ohio Ave
Nutter Fort, WV 26301
Phone: 304-534-2324
johnkoerner75@yahoo.com

Parish Associates

Rev. Charla Waters Koerner
Rev. James A. Harris

Session

Jenna Bennett, Clerk
Ginger Delawder, Asst. Clerk

Office Volunteer

Elsa Davis
Elsadavis59@gmail.com

Education Coordinator

Terra M. Burnett
angeleyes1177@hotmail.com

Choir Director

Jeanne Harris
Phone: 304-669-9191
Jagapelove50@gmail.com

Organist

Dr. Mary Kay Devono

Church Treasurers

Wayne Northey Jenna Bennett
Chuck Leuliette Dave Allman

Nursery Attendant

Ashleigh Burnett

Church Secretary

Cathy Libert
CburgFPCSecretary@yahoo.com





Food for the Soul
First Presbyterian Church
175 W. Main St. Clarksburg, WV
2021 Community Lenten Lunches & Services
304-622-6831

Worship Service 12:30 p.m. to 1 p.m.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Speaker</i>	<i>Special Music</i>
February 17	Rev. John F. Koerner Rev. Charla Waters Koerner - worship leader First Presbyterian, Clarksburg	
February 24	Rev. Linda Muhly St. Marks Lutheran Church	
March 3	Rev. Nora Becker Christ Episcopal Church & St. Barnabas Chapel	
March 10	Rev. Robin Ray Bridgeport Presbyterian Church	
March 17	Rev. James A. Harris Retired A.M.E.	
March 24	Rev. Michael Atkinson First United Methodist Church of Clarksburg	
March 31	Rev. Jeff Hanlin Central Christian Church	