



Community Presbyterian Church

February 2020

Dear Members and Friends of Community Presbyterian Church,

The New Year is behind us, the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is continuing their work, the Israel trip is completed and we are soon to be in the Lenten season of the church year! During January and February, we have been considering the early life of Jesus and the beginning of His public ministry. Lent will draw us to the Beatitudes of Jesus as part of His sermon on the mount given overlooking the Sea of Galilee.

Lent is usually associated with 'giving up something' as a form of penance or sacrifice to remind us of Christ's sacrifice for us. However, as a kid, I don't think giving up brusell sprouts did much for my spiritual development! Traditionally, Lent is a time of self-examination and noticing where our spiritual lives need more development. Along these lines, this morning at Sonraisers we discussed the need for (and lack of) silence in our lives. We realized there are very few places in this world where we don't hear the sound of some man-made device. We fill our days with radios and televisions and other distractions so we don't have to experience silence. Thus some folks try to avoid silence while others who are alone, experience too much silence. It is a strange dilemma we face. Not enough silence and we can't examine our lives and face up to our short-comings, too much silence and we face the possibility of loneliness.

I would encourage you to allow enough silence to discern God's quiet voice, but not forget those who may be overwhelmed by the silence. Certainly this is a balancing act for life, but a necessary one to explore during the upcoming Lenten time.

May God's Spirit touch your life during this season of preparation and 'inward looking'.

Grace and Peace,
Bob

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The “ROADMAP” TO A NEW INSTALLED PASTOR

The ‘Roadmap’ To A New Installed Pastor: Don’t forget to **continue praying** for your Pastor Nominating Committee. Just as a reminder, below is the ‘roadmap’ to securing a new installed pastor:

February ~ May 2019 - - Spend time getting to know congregation **(Completed)**

June ~ July 2019 - - Complete congregational mission study **(Completed)**

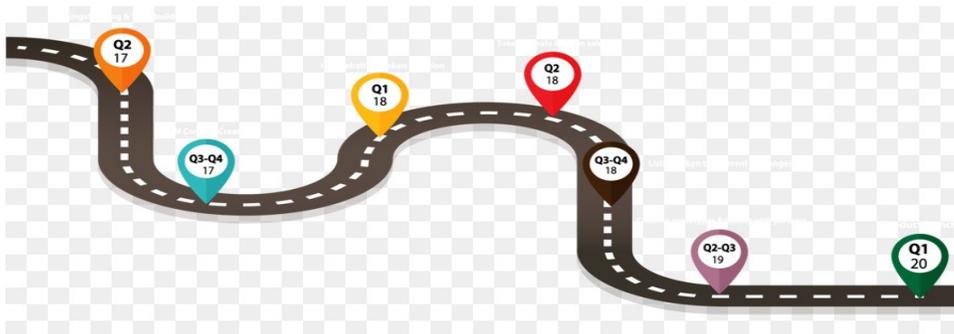
October 2019 - - Elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) **(Completed)**

Oct ~ Nov 2019 - - Complete Ministry Information Form (MIF)(resume of the church) **(Completed)**

December 2019 - - Submit MIF for circulation **(Completed)**

January ~ August 2020 - - Review Personal Information Forms (PIF) - Interviews - Neutral

Pulpit presenta-



Did You Know That You Can Donate To The Church By Using Your IRA?

*Because of changes in the tax laws there is now a tax-friendly way to contribute to qualifying charities (like a church). In general, distributions from a traditional IRA are taxable in the year you receive them. But one exception to this rule is the **Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)**. A QCD generally is a nontaxable distribution made directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. You must be at least age 70½ when the distribution is made. Also, you must have the same type of acknowledgment of your contribution as you would need to claim a deduction for a charitable contribution. (You can't claim a charitable contribution deduction for an QCD not included in your income.)*

This provision of the tax code may be of interest to taxpayers who are at least age 70½ and have a traditional IRA. These individuals must take required minimum distributions from their IRA each year. Seniors in this position can now make charitable contributions while at the same time reducing their taxable income by directing the trustee of their IRA to make qualified charitable distributions (QCD), which count towards their minimum distribution.

For more information please call the church office or see IRS Publication 590-B.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

A Change In The Sunday School Schedule...



We have been holding Sunday School for the middle grades on the Third Sunday of the month. However, it turns out that many of the Third Sundays are holiday weekends. Therefore, we are moving the middle school Sunday School Classes to the Second Sunday of each month. Soooo, next week will be our first class on the new schedule (February 9th). Please help us get the word out to our families with children ~ Thanks!

Pulpit Exchange

On February 9th, Pastor Bob and Rev. Paul Elgin of First Presbyterian Church of Casa Grande will participate in a pulpit exchange. As you may recall, Paul served CPC as our music director and is well known to the congregation. Bob and Paul discussed the exchange during Paul's visit to the White Mountains this past summer as a way of reminding the two congregations of our connections through the presbytery.



New Members Class Planned

Pastor Bob will be hosting a new members class during the month of February. The exact date is still in the works. However, if you are considering membership at CPC, please contact Bob so you can be notified of the class date.



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MINISTRY NOTES



Oh No! I Missed The “Souper Bowl”!!!

Not to worry! The ‘Souper Bowl’ event came upon us quickly and you may have missed it. However you can still bring cans of soup next week as well. Remember all the soup collected (or money donated to ‘Souper Bowl’) will be given directly to **Love Kitchen**. Thanks for your great support!!

Updates on Website: *If you haven’t checked out our website (www.cpcpinetop.org) recently, please do. You will see many updates containing different types of material. Some of the information is directed toward folks seeking a church to attend, others is information that you as a member/attender may need to know. The biggest change you will see is the addition of videos of the anthem and sermon from our Sunday services. So if you miss a Sunday and wanted to hear the message, no worries, you can watch it wherever you are!*



Get It On The Calendar: If your group has an event/meeting planned at the church, please call the church office and have Tammy put it on the master calendar. Without this information, ‘double-booking’ could easily happen. Thanks for your help!

The CHURCH MOUSE



One night I had a dream. I dreamed that I had an interview with God. "Come in," God said. "So, you would like to interview me?"

"Yes, if you have the time," I said.

God smiled and said, "My time is eternity and is enough to do everything. What questions do you have in mind to ask me?"

"What surprises you most about mankind?" I asked.

God answered, "That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again. That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health. That by thinking anxiously about the future they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future. That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived."

God's hands took mine and we were silent for a while and then I asked "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

God replied with a smile, "To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is to let themselves be loved. To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives. To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. All will be judged individually on their own merits, not as a group on a comparison basis. To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most, but is the one who needs the least. To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and it takes many years to heal them. To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness. To learn that there are persons that love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings. To learn that money can buy everything but happiness. To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it totally differently. To learn that a true friend is someone who knows everything about them and likes them anyway. To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they have to forgive themselves.

I sat there for a while enjoying the moment. I thanked Him for His time and for all that He has done for me and my family, and He replied, "Anytime. I am here 24 hours a day. All you have to do is ask for me and I will answer."

Don't be afraid to dream dreams. You never know where they will take you.

Until next time – be happy, do good deeds, and keep love in your heart.

Love To You All,
Webster

Submitted on behalf of Webster
By Lynda Marble