



Community Presbyterian Church

February 2021 Newsletter

Greetings:

On Sunday, February 14, 2021, we will be wrapping up our series on the Book of Habakkuk. It is my prayer that you have enjoyed the series and have learned from the Prophet Habakkuk. I have found the Book to be both comforting and unsettling. It is comforting to know that God is indeed in control, even when I don't see how He is working. However, it is not easy for me to look at God as the Lion of Judah who will exact justice upon all of humankind when His son returns to this earth. Even as New Testament people, we are to live lives which have a standard we can never obtain – God sets the bar extremely high. But, through God's great mercy and love seen through the death of His son, God sees us as perfect.

We will be embarking on the Lenten Season within a few short days. Beginning February 21st, I will begin a Lenten Sermon Series entitled "*The Journey of Stones.*" This is a series based upon a book by Steven Molin. Each Sunday we will look at an area in our lives that God is calling us to lay at the foot of the cross. As you may know, the Lent Season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th.

Ash Wednesday is the day where Christians receive ashes in the form of a cross on their forehead. Although the imposition of ashes was originally only a Roman Catholic practice, today the majority of Protestant churches have adapted the practice. Why?

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

§Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).



§Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.

§ Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium, “We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust”

§Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.

From 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17th, persons will have the opportunity to come to the church to receive the imposition of ashes in their cars. Each person in the car must wear a mask. I will, while wearing a mask and gloves, impart ashes through the use of a Q-Tip for safety. As I make the form of a cross on forehead, I will say, “From dust you came and to dust you shall return.” This ritual reminds us of our own mortality and the need to improve our relationship with our fellow human beings.

At the drive-thru each person will receive a Lenten Devotional Package that will include a daily devotional which follows the sermon series, a wooden cross, a small box and 6 stones. There will also be instructions on what to do with the cross, box and stones.

If you are unable to come to the church on Ash Wednesday, but would like to receive a Lenten Devotional Package, please send an email to office@cpccpinetop.org and we will ensure that you receive one.

I pray that this Lenten Season will be time of reflection on our sinfulness as well as a time of a reminder of God’s great love, grace and mercy.

Your Fellow Servant in Christ.

Diane



From

The

Desk Of:



Pastor Diane

On January 31, 2021, we held our Annual Congregational Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will be approved by Session at our February 28th meeting; they will be included in March's Newsletter. I did want to give you an update as to the election of Officers prior to March.

The 2020 Nominating Committee presented to congregation the names of Becky Willis-Zaremba to serve as an Personnel & Nominating Committee Elder, Class of 2023, and Becky Lopez to serve as Deacon for Class of 2023. Both Beckys were approved by the congregation to serve in their respective roles.

Also presented to the congregation were the following names for the 2021 Nominating Committee: Becky Willis-Zaremba as Chair and Elder Representative, Becky Lopez as Deacon Representative, and Joyce Baldwin as Member-at-Large Representative. All names were approved by the congregation to serve as the Nominating Committee for the year 2021.

The Board of Trustees is composed of Elders. Currently Jim Snitzer, Class of 2021, and Laurie Yost, Class of 2022 serve on the Board. Becky Willis-Zamerba was presented by the Nominating Committee to serve on the Board of Trustees, Class of 2023. She was approved by the congregation.

I would like to thank all those who attended the meeting, and congratulate Becky and Becky. I would also like to thank Marc Traeger for serving three years as the Personnel Elder. Marc served CPC well in his position and his presence will be missed on the Board of Session.

Also, thank you to Pat Mecey, who served as a Deacon, for her faithful service. Pat, you will be missed at the Deacon's meetings.

DEACON'S CORNER

Dear CPC members:

First, I would like to THANK all of you who participated in the Deacon's annual Christmas Bear Tree mission to provide gift bags 52 foster children in Navajo and Apache Counties.. The social workers from the DCS were overwhelmed at your generosity and we were very thankful for all you were able to give.

Now, on to February and I am so looking forward to see what this new year has in store for all of us. I think we all have the same desire to see our world return to some normalacy. So many of us wanted to be able to travel last year and were unable to do so. However, I came upon a truly wonderful "travel agency" and they were able to book the following excursion; but, there are some stipulations we must abide with:



“Welcome Aboard Flight 2021” We are preparing to take off into the new year.

Please make sure your ATTITUDE and BLESSINGS are SECURED and LOCKED in an upright position.

SELF-DESTRUCTIVE DEVICES should be TURNED OFF

At this time. All NEGATIVITY, HURT and DISCOURAGEMENT should be put away.

Should we lose ALTITUDE, under pressure, during the flight, reach up and pull down a PRAYER.

PRAYERS will automatically be ACTIVATED by FAITH. Once your faith is activated, you can ASSIST other passengers

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight.

“GOD is Our Captain” (GOD) and has cleared us for takeoff. Our destination is PEACE, GRACE, MERCY. SALVATION and HEAVEN.

Be blessed and keep a warm heart,

Arlene Kerr Deacon Moderator

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

February PW Newsletter Article

As we enter the month of love, I realize that we have survived another 2 months of not being able to meet in person. This is getting really old and tiresome. In this month of love and while we wait to reach the point that we can, once again, meet face-to-face, I would like to suggest that you not only remember your spouse but, also, show the affection that you hold for your friends and neighbors. It is important to spend some time with God thanking him for the love with which we have been blessed. Each and everyone of us is so lucky to have God's love as well as the love of our spouse and family. As we fix that big dinner and get that present for that special someone, please remember to thank God for His love and gifts. Without His love and guidance nothing else would matter.

I look forward to returning to our weekly meetings and being able to support each other in developing in God's love and learning more about that love. I hope you are too. God bless each one of you, keep you safe and enfold you in love in this month.

May God bless-Wanda Gray. 623-341-4984



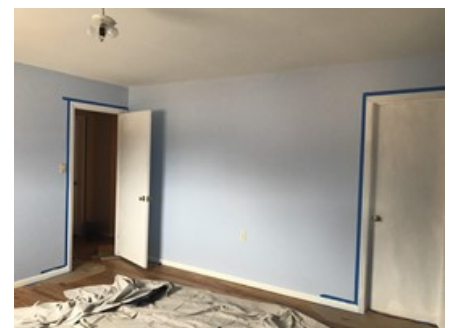
BUILDING AND GROUNDS



CPC Newsletter, January 2021

Be kind. Be light hearted. Fill your life with the energy that you wish to attract.

Building & Grounds is off to a great start this year and we are busy remodeling the cottage for the MOPS program. Repairing, modernizing and painting are the themes for this project. Special thanks to Mike Clark for helping me. If you would like to help please give me a call, 928-242-0919. Hope to see you soon.



John Marble

Building and Grounds

THE CHURCH MOUSE

The other day I was doing some cleaning in my house (believe me a mouse house can get mighty cluttered). I found several interesting things that I had forgotten about. One thing I found was a telephone book that I have had for many years. It is entitled "Emergency Phone Numbers". As I browsed through this book, I realized there are many times that these numbers could have helped me, but I had forgotten about them. I want to share some of these 'Numbers' with you. Keep them close by so you'll have them in case of an 'emergency'.

When in sorrow, call John 14

When people fail you, call Psalm 27

If you want to be fruitful, call John 15

When you have sinned, call Psalm 51

When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34

When you are in danger, call Psalm 91

When God seems far away, call Psalm 139

When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11

When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23

When you grow bitter and critical, call 1 Cor. 13

For Paul's secret to happiness, call Col. 3:12-17

For idea of Christianity, call 1 Cor. 5:15-19

When you feel down and out, call Romans 8:31-39

When you want peace and rest, call Matthew 11:25-30

When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90

When you want Christian assurance, call Romans 8:1-30

When you leave home for labor or travel, call Psalm 121

When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call Psalm 67

When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1

If you are depressed, call Psalm 27

If you find the word growing small and yourself great, call Psalm 19



I hope you will find comfort, peace and love in these 'Emergency Phone Numbers'.
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

MISSIONS



It's not too late to give to the Souper Bowl Sunday effort. As usual we are collecting cans of soup and monetary gifts for the Love Kitchen. Monetary gifts will be used to pay for their utility costs. We'll be collecting until February 14, 2021. Your gifts will be much appreciated. Many thanks to you who have already given.

Thank you, Steve Knutson