



# Community Presbyterian Church

## March 2020

### Newsletter

Dear Members and Friends of Community Presbyterian Church,

We normally think of Lent as a time to 'give up something'. Be it a special food or some activity we like (such as napping in the afternoon) or maybe a favorite TV show. This is done to be a form of penance or to make extra time to spend thinking about our relationship to God. But I would also suggest you think of Lent as a time of 'giving' of time, resources, yourself.

Members of this congregation are amazing! There is a great deal of energy and effort 'given up' to live out the righteousness of Christ in our community. Through volunteering in many different agencies/programs that assist others, the righteousness of Christ is lived out. Through praying for the families in our neighborhoods and our community leaders, the righteousness of Christ is lived out. Through financially supporting helping agencies in our towns the righteousness of Christ is lived out. We are 'giving' through our living as we are guided by the heart of Christ.

You will notice in this issue of the newsletter a number of opportunities to 'give' of our resources to assist others. I would call your attention to the 'Souper Bowl Sunday' article as well as the information about hungry school children on the mountain. Personally, I strongly believe no child should go hungry in America. I'll bet you feel the same way. Yes, we could discuss what is causing this reality (and of course that needs to be addressed as well), but in the meantime we can do something to support the children.

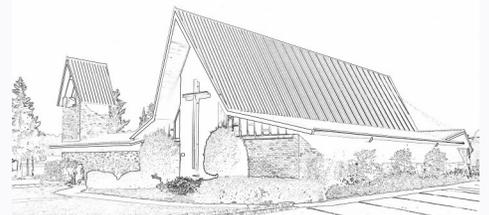
On another 'giving up something' emphasis for Lent, the Mission Committee will be making presentations about Presbyterian Relief Efforts beyond our local community. You will be hearing about the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering we will be receiving during Holy Week. The One Great Hour of Sharing concept came about after WWII and the need for rebuilding Europe. For over 70 years, this special offering has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need in our own country and around the world.

So the season of Lent presents us with many opportunities to 'give up' some of our lives for those around us. Remember, we don't 'give' to 'get' something in return. We 'give' out of our gratitude to God for the many blessings in our lives. We have been blessed to be a blessing. Thank you for who you/we are ~ God's people together.

Grace and Peace,  
Bob

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# MINISTERING TO THE COMMUNITY



## “Souper Bowl” Sunday Report

Even though we got off to a later start than usual on our ‘Souper Bowl’ collections of soups, we received 96 cans of assorted soup! Thanks so much for your great support!! The original plan to give all to the soup to **Love’s Kitchen**, however an emergency need for soup came to our attention from the **White Mountain Weekend Food Program** for school children (see article in this newsletter). Thus it was decided to split the donation of soups between the two programs. Again, thanks

### *Children In Our Community Should Not Go Hungry!*

Numerous children in our community qualify for free breakfast and lunch at our schools during the week. However, it has come to our attention many of these children go hungry during the weekends. A program has been started to help fill (pun intended) this weekend gap. Qualifying children are given backpacks on Friday afternoons with snacks/food for the weekend. The current situation is concerning and the shelves are very bare. Below are the needs for food and a collection container will be at the church. Needed items are:

- Pull top canned ravioli
- Pull top cans of soup
- Individual macaroni and cheese
- Ramen Noodles
- Pull top canned vienna sausages
- Tuna pouches
- Individual oatmeal packets
- Pop Tarts
- Granola/cereal bars
- Individual applesauce
- Individual fruit cups



Certainly it is a surprise this need exists in our community, but it does. So let’s support the effort to help our children! Thanks in advance!!



## ***Cup of Joe Returns!***

*After an amazing response in the fall we were able to gift 109 service members with a cup of coffee to brighten their day. Their “thank you” notes in response warmed our hearts. A small thing can make a big difference!*

*Each Sunday in Lent the **Cup of Joe mug** will be in Fellowship Hall. Easter Sunday will be the final Sunday to contribute.*

*This is an easy and tangible way to show our gratitude and support to those who serve our country in so many ways.*



# 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)**

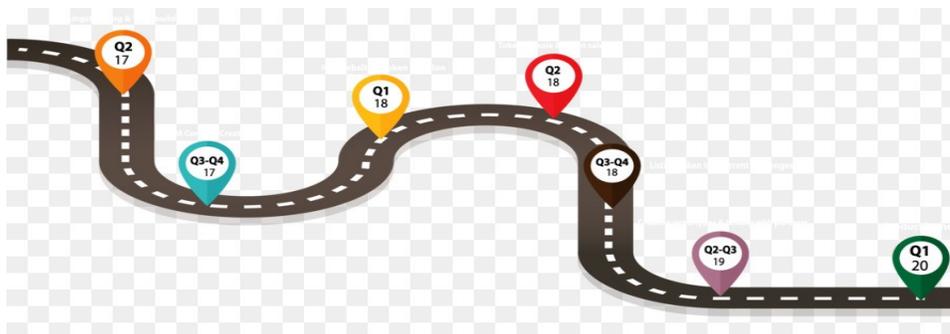
**June ~ July 2019** - - Complete congregational mission study **(Completed)**

**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 presentation - present candidate to congregation for vote



## ***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

## *New Members Class Planned*

Well, Pastor Bob was planning to hold a new members class in February, but we ran out of calendar! Therefore the new members class will be held on **Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>**, after worship in the Pastor's Study. Plan to attend if you are interested in joining or just have questions about membership you would like answered!



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## *Next Week Is Sunday School*

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. Next Sunday (March 8<sup>th</sup>) will be our day for classes. Please help us get the word out to our families with children ~ Thanks!

## *Tyler Cox Named Student of the Month*

Congratulations to *Tyler Cox* for being named *Rotary Club Student of the Month!* Not only that, but he also completed his work to earn the *Eagle Scout* ranking. He received this scouting award at a ceremony held on *February 23<sup>rd</sup>*. Nice work *Tyler*, we are very proud of you!



## MINISTRY NOTES

### Christian Passover Seder

The Sacrament of Holy Communion was instituted by Jesus when he gathered with his followers on his last night on earth. He and his followers gathered in that upper room and shared the Passover Seder, the meal that begins the Jewish Festival of Passover, the Festival of Unleavened Bread. For the Christian, it is a time of remembering the meaning of the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and how it affects us today.

#### Join Our Passover Seder



The ritual that surrounds this meal, is an ancient ritual still followed by the Jews of today. When we look at it from a Christian point of view, we can find new meaning to that simple meal of bread and wine. On Maundy Thursday, we will have a Christian Passover Seder led by Rev. Stewart and Linda Lewis. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall and a meal is part of the time.

We will gather at **5:30 P. M. on Thursday, April 9**. The cost will be \$5 per person or \$3 for children under 12. **Reservations need to be made by, Palm Sunday, April 5th!** This is so we have enough food but don't waste any.

*If you have questions you may contact the office or call Pastor Stewart at (480) 323-8400. A sign-up sheet will be placed in fellowship hall to allow you to make reservations. We will need the size of your party.*

**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!



**Updates on Website:** *If you haven't checked out our website ([www.cpcpinetop.org](http://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!*

## The CHURCH MOUSE



Having just recently come back from a trip to Israel, I wanted to share with you some inside information that you may not be aware of.

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she had been called Amazon Dot Com.

She said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why doth thou travel far from town to town with thy goods when thou can trade without ever leaving thy tent?"

And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, Dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale and they will reply telling you which hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)."

Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. The drums rang out and were an immediate success.

Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever moving from his tent. But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabi did secret himself inside Abraham's tent and was accused of insider trading. And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Siderites or NERDS for short.

And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to the drum maker, one Brother William of Gates, who bought up every drum company in the land. And indeed did insist on making drums that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others."

And as Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or as it came to be known "eBay" he said, "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied, "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham.

And that is how the Internet began.

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



## MOPS – Mothers of Preschoolers *this is motherhood*

MOPS is an organization connecting moms all over the world to a community of women, in their own cities, who meet together to laugh, cry and embrace the journey of being a mom. The Christian Education Committee at CPC is exploring starting a MOPS group in our church. We are hoping to meet on a weekday twice a month, and we need some help. Here are a few things we've thought of so far. We will need:

1. Moms and their preschoolers (do you know anyone to invite?)
2. Childcare volunteers
3. Leaders for the Moms' discussions
4. Speakers (any subject! Retirees would be welcome to tell us about ANY of your stories, experiences, vocations and avocations).
5. Craft Leaders

We would entertain any suggestions you have for bringing some young moms and their children to our church. Please prayerfully consider helping out however you think you could. We covet your prayers and suggestions.

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- Debbie Leivers 719-351-4264 [nana2bhm@gmail.com](mailto:nana2bhm@gmail.com)

