

PASTOR'S  
PONDERINGS

By  
Pastor Gordy  
Pennertz  
First Presbyterian  
Church

Verse for March: "Ecclesiastes 3:1-2: *To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die, A time to plant, and a time to harvest what is planted.*"



Dear Friends,

Lent, what is it good for? I write that as I just heard on KLFD the song "War, What is it Good For" released in 1970. Absolutely nothing is the answer. So Lent, what is it good for? If it is simply a time to give up some food or drink or habit because somebody told us that is what Lent is for, then it will probably be good for nothing. But, if we can approach this Lenten season with hearts and minds open to seeking a closer relationship to Jesus Christ, then we are talking.

I talked about Lent in my sermon on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and I share some of those thoughts with you once again here: Lent began on Ash Wednesday. It is forty days, not counting Sundays. For centuries many churches used this time for preparation to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Tradition says you give up something during this time; newer priorities include focusing on prayer and finding a way to donate to good causes; time or money.

So why forty days and why participate? Moses was up on the mountain forty days preparing to lead the Israelites through the desert for forty years. Jesus went to the desert for forty days immediately following his baptism. There he prepared for his mission to the people here on earth. So while Lent isn't found in scriptures, the idea of forty days of preparation is. We prepare to celebrate more fully the good news of the resurrection on Easter Sunday—the end of Lent. Some suggestions; Fast: give up something in your life to make more room for God. Prayer: spend extra time in prayer for your own spiritual journey and for each other. Giving: make generosity more of a focus during these forty days and it may grow into a habit that goes beyond Lent.

The point is to grow closer to Jesus. If any of these activities help, that will be a blessing. If we participate just to say we did it, then we may miss out on the blessings. It won't be worth absolutely nothing, but you will receive the blessings there when you seek God with "*all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*"

I pray you will have a blessed Lent!

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Gordy

Pastor Gordy's hours: Tuesday and Thursdays 3-5 PM  
He can be reached at 320-221-0489 (cell) 320-693-3437 (home)  
Church: 320-693-3548

# LITURGY

**MARCH:** 1<sup>st</sup>: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7      Romans 5:12-19      Matthew 4:1-11  
8<sup>th</sup>: Matthew 17:20      Matthew 5:7-10      2 Timothy 1:4-7  
15<sup>th</sup>: Exodus 17:1-7      Romans 5:1-11      John 4:5-42  
22<sup>nd</sup>: 1 Samuel 16:1-13      Ephesians 5:8-14      John 9:1-41  
29<sup>th</sup>: Ezekiel 37:1-14      Romans 8:6-11      John 11:1-45



1-Dwight Barrick  
11-Jerry Meuleners  
15-Jackie Perez  
19-Jayne Ackman  
29-Susan & Mortie Berg



## **MARCH:**

March 2: PWCT 9:00; cleaning day 10 AM -noon...Lunch provided for those who help. More cleaning after as needed

March 3: Bible Study 10:00

March 4: Lenten Service: Soup and Sandwich 6:00, Worship 7:00 Trinity Episcopal

March 8: Daylight savings time begins! Gifts of Women worship service

March 9: Holy Humor meeting 9:00 AM at church

March 10: Bible Study 10:00; Session meeting 5:00 PM

March 11: Lenten Service: Soup and Sandwich 6:00, Worship 7:00 UMC

March 16: Quilters meet ALL DAY! 9 AM-9 PM

March 17: LAMA 8:30; Bible Study 10:00, MAM 11:00-1PM here

March 18: Lenten Service: Soup and Sandwich 6:00, Worship 7:00 UMC

March 19 SASSG 7:00

March 23 150<sup>th</sup> committee meeting 9:00 at Pennertz's; Mary Martha 4:00 PM

March 24 Bible Study 10:00; CCC trip to see the Killer Vees in St. Cloud, meet at noon.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE!

March 25 Lenten Service: Soup and Sandwich 6:00, Worship 7:00 Here at FPC

March 29 Potluck and game day following worship

March 31 Bibles study 10:00

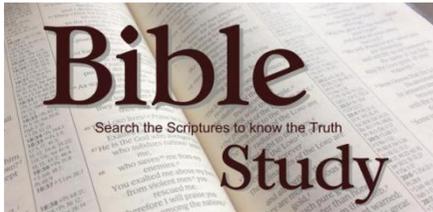
April 1 Lenten Service: Soup and Sandwich 6:00, Worship 7:00 FPC



Our Bible verse for the month comes from Don Ackman. Don said that this verse reminds him of how it connects with his life as a farmer. *Ecclesiastes 3:1-2: To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die, A time to plant, and a time to harvest what is planted.*”

## Sexual Assault Survivor Support Group

A Confidential support group for survivors of sexual assault meets the third Thursday of every month at First Presbyterian Church of Litchfield. The next meeting will be March 19th. We have business cards and posters to share with someone you may know who would benefit from this group. It is a safe place to talk with those who understand and are available for support and to just listen. Meetings are at 7:00 PM.



## Bible Study:

Our current Bible Study is on the Gospel of Luke. We are taking a chapter by chapter look at Luke's story of the Savior. We meet Tuesday mornings at 10:00 in the Bethany chapel. Please join us!

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN COORDINATING TEAM MET ON FEBRUARY 3, 2020.

--Rosie opened with a prayer. Present were: Jayne, Darlene, Julie Rae & Rosie. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved. We currently have \$987.39 in our account.

Gifts of women will be held on March 8<sup>th</sup> with Amy, Judy and Julie Rae giving the message. A sign-up sheet will be in the Memorial Room for ladies to sign-up for parts of the service.

Soup and Sandwich suppers for Lent will be starting and we will be hosting on March 25<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>. Sign-up sheets are in the Memorial Room for soups, sandwiches, bars, crackers and workers.

Julie Rae will purchase Valentines and we will have the congregation sign one each for Shirley Brooks and Ann Abramson and will send them to them.

Rosie Graphenteen chair/secretary



Lenten Activities: We are again sharing our Wednesday evening worship services with our friends from the Methodist and Episcopal churches. We will enjoy soup, sandwiches and fellowship from 6:00 to 7:00 followed by a worship service at 7:00. Our messages will be based on reflections organized by Dorothy Hunt from Iona Abbey. Offering from our Wednesday night services will go toward "Food for Kid'z", a program we have supported in the past. The funds will be used for supplies to pack food bags. We are all encouraged to help fill the bags on April 22. (Mark your calendars)

# What to Give Up...

Give up complaining ...	focus on Gratitude
Give up pessimism ...	become an Optimist
Give up worry ...	trust Divine Providence
Give up bitterness ...	turn to Forgiveness
Give up hatred ...	return Good for evil
Give up negativism ...	be Positive
Give up anger ...	be More Patient
Give up pettiness ...	become Mature
Give up gloom ...	enjoy the Beauty all around you
Give up jealousy ...	pray for Trust
Give up gossiping ...	control your Tongue
Give up sin ...	turn to Virtue
Give up giving up ...	Hang in there!



## Game Day:

Sunday afternoon, March 29 will be our next game day, a general game day will be the event that day. We have a potluck that morning, so come worship, eat, and bring your **favorite**

**game** to play. We plan on things like checkers or backgammon or Uno or "Kings in the Corner". Please come, bring your favorite game, and enjoy the fellowship, fun, and competition!

Sunday afternoon, February 23 we held a cribbage tournament for game day. We had lots of fun, and special thanks to all who participated, and especially to Jerry Mueleners who did much to organize and make the day a success! The big winner was Rosie Graphenteen who didn't lose a match! Second was Shirley Good. For all his help, Jerry Meuleners came in last!



*"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy." Pope Francis*



Christa and Jacob Joseph have moved from an apartment into a home and have a new address.

Christa & Jacob Joseph  
1210 North Tower Ave  
Chandler, AZ 85225

WINGS facility for youth is in need of the following items.

Combs brushes shampoo conditioner hair picks  
Deodorant socks (for boys and girls)  
Tampons body wash

A donation box is in the Memorial Room



**Come and join us on the 4th Monday of the month as we study the Ten Commandments, or "Ten Words". For March we meet on Monday, March 23rd at 4 PM with needs for a hostess!. We will be studying the 4th lesson.**

**April 27: Judy May 18: Jayne**



**If you or a family member is in the hospital, contact the Deacon of the month. Do you need a ride? Contact the Deacon of the Month. Here's the schedule for the year:**

**March: Darlene(320-535-0034) April: Darlene**

**Lent: Rosie Easter: ReNae (320-310-5637) May: Bev**

**(320-221-4464) June: Barb (320-693-2445) July: Rosie**

**August: Stephanie (507-317-7650) Sept: ReNae Oct: Bev Nov: Barb**

**Dec: Stephanie Christmas Eve:Stephanie January: Darlene**



Pastor Gordy & Julie Rae announce the birth of their newest grandchild, GWENDOLYN ANN, born on February 4<sup>th</sup> to David & Katie Pennertz and big brother, Theodore. She weighed in at 7 lb. 14 oz and 20" long.

## SESSION MEETING

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Litchfield Minnesota held a Stated Meeting on January 25, 2020 at 1:30 pm, in the Memorial Room.

The Moderator, Lay Pastor Gordon Pennertz opened the meeting with prayer and education had been conducted during the days training. The Agenda was presented. The minutes of the December 10, 2019 session meeting were reviewed and approved. The Treasurer's abbreviated report was presented and approved as printed. Balance on hand, for January is \$ 52,029.66 in designated funds and \$ 32,494.19 in undesignated funds.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Home Communion and visitation in the month of January were provided to: 2 members with Home Communion and Rosie G. was the attending Deacon. There were no hospital visits made. Home and nursing home visits were made to 12 people along with 6 office visits. Orville Reinke was buried in the Lake Ripley Cemetery on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2019.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** The number of people served communion for the month of January was 54 members. Communications received: There was a letter received from Pro Works thanking us for the mission donation that was given to the facility. They are going to use this for the fund raising event for a golf cart to assist the clients in being more mobile and active in the community. There was also a Thank you received from MAM for the mission donation made to this organization.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. The session needed to appoint a Commissioner for Presbytery; Susan B. has agreed but will need to have a back up for the times she is not able to attend. This was M/S/C.

2. Committee chairs were assigned as follows:

Worship/Christian Education-- Amy L. Stewardship/Finance/Personnel—Bob P.

Christian Community—Judy H. Tech –Julie P.

Buildings and Grounds—Don M. Nominating – Susan B.

3. Approve the annual Communion Schedule which will be the first Sunday of each month along with Maundy-Thursday Apr 9<sup>th</sup>, Easter Apr 12<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas Eve service.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Christian Community: Chair: --Judy Holmes—they have several things planned: 1/8 will be game day, 2/23 will be a cribbage tourney, 2/25 Shrove Tuesday, 3/24 Killer Veas concert, 3/29 game day, Red Box Project will continue. No MAM fund raiser this year.

Buildings and Grounds: Chair: Donald MacKay— trouble with the lift again and the cheapest path is to fix it (for \$2200) and not look for any replacement for the lift. Pew cushions to be redone.

Tech committee: Chair: Julie Pennertz—Rob Oster is going to come and look at the computer issues that we continue to have and hopefully this will all be in the past once he is done.

Presbyterian Women— Treasury balance is \$1798.44. The bake sale took in \$275.00. Gifts of women will be March 8<sup>th</sup> with a focus on the History of the Presbyterian Women's group. Cleaning day will be March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am with lunch served at noon. The next meeting will be held on March 10th at 5:00 pm. The meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm with the Blessing Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Susan Berg, Clerk of  
Session  
First Presbyterian Church,  
Litchfield Minnesota



May your troubles be less  
and your blessings be more  
And nothing but happiness  
come through your door



It is once again the Lenten season. This means our shared fellowship with Trinity Episcopal and United Methodist Churches! The following is the schedule for LENT.

Ash Wednesday: Trinity 7 PM worship...NO soup and sandwich.

Wednesday, March 4: Trinity Soup 6 PM Worship 7 PM

Wednesday, March 11: Methodist church Soup 6 PM Worship 7 PM

Wednesday, March 18: Methodist church Soup 6 PM Worship 7 PM

Wednesday, March 25 First Presbyterian Soup 6 PM Worship 7 PM...PLEASE sign up to help

Wednesday, April 1: First Presbyterian Soup 6 PM Worship 7 PM PLEASE sign up to help

Thursday, April 9: Maundy Thursday service: Location to be determined...no soup

Friday, April 10: Good Friday Ecumenical service at Ecumen chapel...11AM

...Pastor Gordy will be sharing in the message that day!



## MARCH PRAYER LIST

- 1-Amy Levinski
- 2-Lila Lundberg
- 3-Don MacKay
- 4-Dottie Madsen
- 5-Jerry Meuleners
- 6-Emily Morrison
- 7-Robbie Nordling
- 8-David & Katie Pennertz,  
Theodore & Gwendolyn
- 9-Pastor Gordy & Julie Rae
- 10-Tina Pennertz
- 11-Jackie, Ashley & Emily Perez
- 12-Bob Powers and Renee  
Olson
- 13-Scott & Stephanie Reeh  
Kennedy & Franklin
- 14-Tom & Ruth Townsend
- 15-Philip & Leetha Waldron
- 16-Bill & Bev Barr
- 17-Mark & Nancy  
Chamberlain
- 18-Kay Hanson & Tim Lang
- 19-Christa & Jacob Joseph &  
Colton
- 20-Heidi & Richard  
Pennertz Ariel William Viola  
Rebekah Connor & Lorlei
- 21-Presbytery
- 22-Cicily & Stephanie Savoy
- 23-Truman Stehr
- 24-Ann Abramson
- 25-Don & Jayne Ackman
- 26-Ryan Ackman
- 27-Dwight Barriek & Joel
- 28-Susan & Mortie Berg
- 29-Carol Blunt
- 30-Barbara Bremseth
- 31-Shirley Brooks

“Top O’ the mornin’ to ya!”

“St. Patrick was born in Britain of a Romanized family. At age 16 he was torn away from his family by Irish raiders and carried into [slavery](#) in Ireland. He spent six bleak years there as a herdsman, during which he turned with fervour to his faith. Because of the shortcomings of his education, he was reluctant for a long time to respond to the call to preaching.”--Life is an ongoing process, a gradual growth in grace and the talents God place within us. God will bring to the surface at the proper time the talents that lay dormant for years. As we press on in our walk with God, we realize that what he has for us is far too much to cram into the first 30, 40 or 50 years of our lives. Keep on looking for and developing new talents. God will bring them out in you, as you yield yourself to him.

-Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.-1 Peter 4:10

-Remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth--Deuteronomy 8:18