

The Messenger

March 2021



Dear friends,

I'm writing this 8 hours before we leave town to go see Christa, Jacob and Colton out in Arizona. I admit I'm not a great one for traveling. My ideal vacation is staying home and catching up on tasks. Julie, on the other hand, loves to travel, and I've certainly learned to enjoy the trips we take together. We've been to Roswell, New Mexico where Julie was born, a cruise to Alaska with Chuck Swindoll, and the highlight of all was traveling to Israel. I've certainly learned to appreciate this wonderful world and am thankful for the resources to travel and the impetus my mate gives to get me out of my comfort zone. Now that we have a daughter living in Arizona means that we go there more than anywhere else.

The Apostle Paul was a great traveler. He covered much of the known world in a time when travel was much more time consuming and physically taxing than today. He was on a mission. He was spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ as Lord. I admit that my journeys have a much less noble goal. I go in order to spend time with my spouse (and family in AZ), to see the world, and to recharge my batteries for the work I do in the church.

Paul wrote about his work for the gospel, "because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth. (Colossians 1:5-6) We are all

travelers in this world. Every day we have the opportunity to increase our understanding of God and to bear fruit in the world. We don't have to travel the world, but we can touch the lives in our part of the world with the love of Jesus and the grace of God's truth. Let's all be aware of how our lives touch others and show them the love we've been shown.

Pastor Gordy

Pastor Gordy's office hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 3-5 PM. He can be reached at (c) 320-221-0489 (h) 693-3437 or at church at 320-693-3548

MARCH

2--Bible study
10:00 AM³

Lenten devotions 9:30, Sunday School

10:00, Committee meetings:

Finance/Personal meeting 4:30, Building and Grounds 6:00, CCC 7:00

7 Gifts of Women Sunday

8--PWCT 9:00 CLEANING! Any day all week

9 Food delivery 8:00; Session 5:00

10 Lenten devotions 9:30, Sunday School 10:00

14—Turn your clocks forward 1 hour!!!

16 LAMA 8:30, Bible Study 10:00, MAM 11:00

17 Lenten devotions 9:30, Sunday School 10:00;

22 Mary Martha?

23 Bible study 10:00, Newsletter articles

24 Lenten devotions 9:30, Sunday School

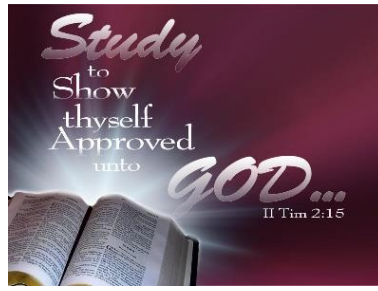
30 Bible Study 10:00

31 Lenten devotions 9:30, Sunday School 10:00





- 1-DWIGHT BARRICK
- 11-JERRY MEULENERS
- 15-JACKIE PEREZ
- 19-JAYNE ACKMAN
- 22-ANN ABRAMSON
- 29-SUSAN & MORTIE BERG



Bible Study: Our Tuesday morning bible study continues Tuesday mornings at 10:00. Our new Bible Study will be on the book of Acts. Please join us, just let

Pastor Gordy know if you need help connecting with us. Reminder, we will be taking the second Tuesday of the month off. Pastor Gordy has particularly busy days the second Tuesday and with the food delivery early that morning and the possibility of bad weather it just would make life easier.



Bible Verse of the month:

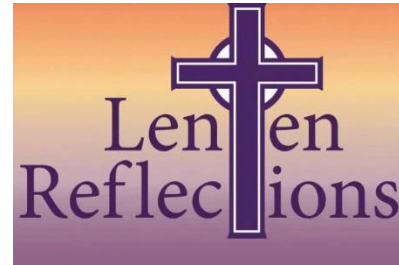
Our Bible verse for March is from Mariah Crosbie. She said that this was her confirmation verse and so it is special to her. "[John 10:11](#) "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep."



Worship

Services: We continue to meet via Zoom for most members and

guests. But the opportunity to worship in person is now ours. I am also live streaming on my Facebook page and sharing it on the church Facebook page on Sunday afternoon. We will be doing these forms of worship so all can worship together or on your own later. Again, if for some reason you do not have the Zoom link, let Pastor Gordy know and he will get it to you.



Lenten

Meditations: If you are on Facebook and have "liked" the First

Presbyterian Church site, you are invited to midweek Lenten devotions led by Pastor Gordy. He plans to post on Wednesday mornings a short reading or share thoughts about our Lenten journeys. Keep checking our Facebook site!

March Liturgy:

- 7th:** GIFTS of WOMEN Sunday
Psalm 37:1-10 James 5:7-11 &13-16
- 14th:** Numbers 21:4-9 Ephesians 2:1-10 John 3:14-21
- 21st:** Jeremiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:5-10 John 12:20-33
- 28th:** Isaiah 50:4-9 Philippians 2:5-11
Mark
15:1-39



Souper Bowl Sunday:

Kennedy would like to thank everyone who contributed to his

collection for the food shelf. He was able to collect 105 pounds of food and \$500!



LENT

Presbyterian Women

The PW Coordinating Team met on February 4, 2021. Present were Darlene, Jayne, Rosie and Julie Rae. Rosie opened with prayer. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were submitted and approved. The current balance in our treasury is \$1826.14.

The **PW Birthday Offering** will be collected from March 1-21st. If people are interested in contributing they can either get an envelope at church or merely label any envelope as birthday Offering. Any checks must be made out to Presbyterian Women and NOT to the church. Suggestions are to contribute one of something for every year that you have been alive and celebrate that! (1 penny, nickel, dime, quarter etc...per year)

Gifts of Women Sunday is Sunday, March 7th. The following will be participating:

Call to Worship: Jayne Ackman

Confession: Stephanie Rech

Assurance of Pardon: Rosie

Reading #1: Darlene

Reading #2: Amy Viehauser

Reading #3: Sue Berg

Message: Julie Rae

Cleaning Day will be March 1st (NOTE: This has been changed to March 8th and throughout that week) Please let Rosie, Julie Rae or Pastor Gordy know when you would like to go and clean. The job lists are on the table in the Memorial Room and you can just mark off the job you



completed. Thank you in advance for your help!

The Lilac Luncheon will be held on May 19th. As of now it will be a drive through. We will be serving a meat salad, a vegetable salad, fruit, potato salad, bread and a treat/dessert. More information will be coming as to what we need people to bring and do!

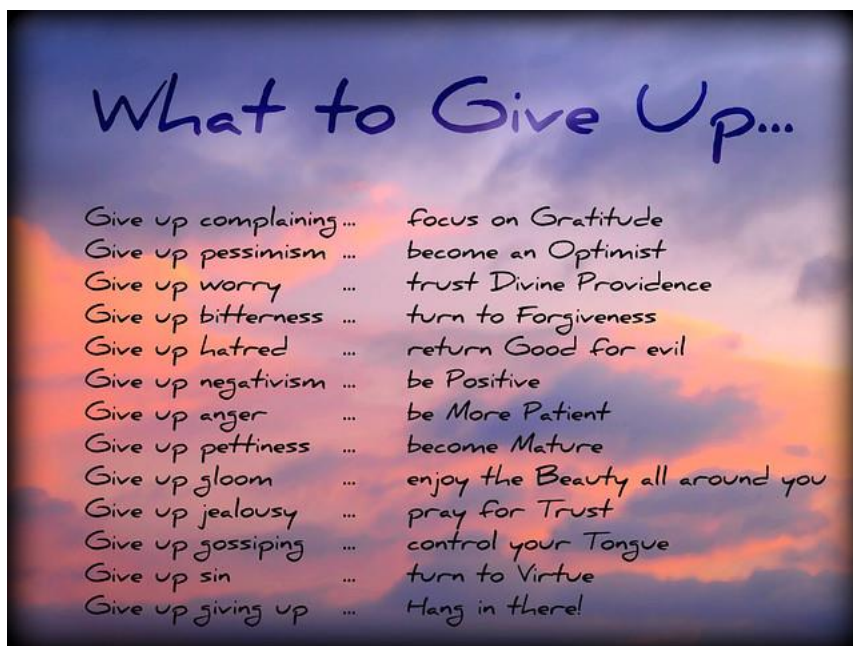
We will be continuing **coffee hour** in March. Julie Rae will furnish treats for the first Sunday. If anyone is willing to serve, please let Rosie know. We do self serve of coffee and juices and foods are individually placed on the serving counter instead of just on a tray. Masks and gloves are used.

Valentines for our shut-ins were signed and Rosie will send them out.

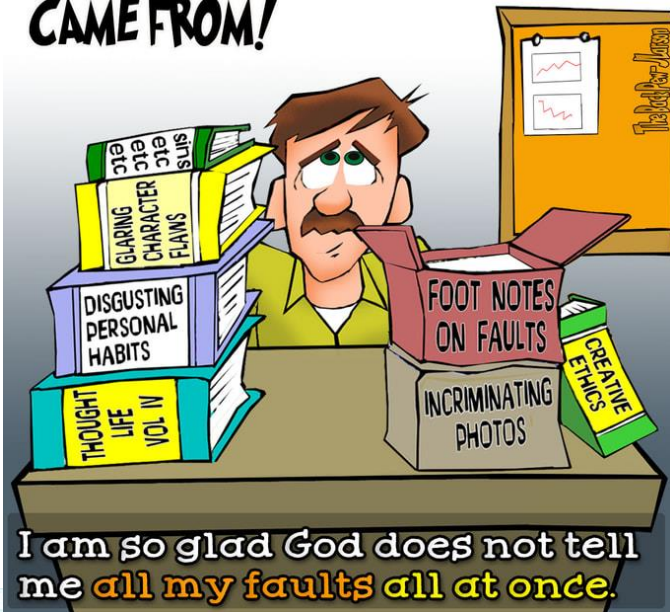
Due to COVID, our only mission service project is to help the Sunday school with their sponsorship of Amreen in India and to continue our contribution to our Presbytery PW.

Our next meeting will be March 1st (NOTE: changed to March 8th) at 9 am.

Respectfully, Julie Rae for Rosie



**AND THERE ARE PLENTY
MORE WHERE THOSE
CAME FROM!**



SESSION MEETING

The Session met
February 9, 2021 at

5 pm, in the Memorial Room. Elders present Susan Berg, Amy Levinski, Donald MacKay, and Robbie Nordling. Elders excused absence: Robert Powers. A Quorum was established.

The Moderator, Lay Pastor Gordon Pennertz opened the meeting with prayer and education. The Agenda, Clerk's and Treasurer's reports were presented and approved as printed. Balance on hand, \$ 49,554.69 in designated funds, and \$ 44,821.80 in undesignated funds.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Home Communion and visitation in the month of February were made to 3 and home communions to 2 families. Due to the COVID there were no hospital visits made. There were 15 in person visits made. Pastor also sent out 23 cards and letters.

CLERK'S REPORT: The number of people served communion for the month of February was 39. Communion servers will not be used until the Pandemic has subsided.

Commissioners Report: Pastor Gordy gave the Presbytery report due to Sue not attending due to illness. The Clerks review will be in the fall and this will cover 2 years. The General Assembly Report is on the website. We discussed the 150th meeting options. This will be placed on the agenda for next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approve the offerings for the year – OGHS and the Christmas Joy was last year and it was M/S/C to continue to contribute to these. This was M/S/C.
2. Review the committee membership lists for all committee chairs. Report next month.

PRAYER: Amy prayed for the elders and the church family

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Buildings and Grounds: Chair: Donald MacKay— the radiators have been bled and there was water added to the boiler, this has helped the heating situation Presbyterian Women—the PW is planning to have the Birthday Offering in March. Coffee Hour has been restarted with precautions in place. Valentines will be sent to the shut-ins, church cleaning in March, Lilac Luncheon will be May 19, 2021 and will be a drive through as of now, cost \$8.00. Mission- will continue to contribute \$450.00/ year. Gifts of women Sunday will be March 7, 2021.

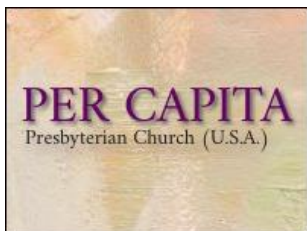
The next meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 at 5:00 pm. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm with the Blessing Prayer
Susan Berg, Clerk of Session



ONE GREAT HOUR Collection!

For over 70 years the One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need around the world. Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education and opportunity. So, let us all be thankful that we have all of these things. If possible, let’s share with others the same qualities of life we have by giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. (You may pick up an envelope in the Memorial Room at church or just mark a plain envelope with “One Great Hour” and it will be given. This collection will continue until Easter, April 4th)

Respectfully submitted, Bob Powers
Chr. Stewardship/finance



Per Capita Thank you for the response to the request for paying your per capita! If you haven't, please

consider giving your share as our church will be paying \$1978.00. This year's share for each member is \$43.00.

Forgiven Completely

I would not claim I have a great memory and I am horrible with names. I confuse and/or forget names often, embarrassingly often.

But what I do remember clearly are my past mistakes/blunders/boo-boos and/or 'sins'. These memories are clear and hard for me sometimes to let go.

This 'blooper reel' when played can spur on all sorts of regrets often accompanied with those uncomfortable feelings of shame and failure... **BUT.. this is NOT what God intends..**



for as far as the East is from the West so are our sins removed. Ps 103:12 from us once I ask forgiveness. This is good news for regret laden fellow like me.

I do need to ask forgiveness and be truly sorry and not saying sorry through clenched teeth, but once that is done.. forgiveness is full and complete.

The bible teaches us we are forgiven and God remembers our sins no more. **He will again have**

compassion on us.. you will cast our sins into the depths of the sea. **Micah 7:19**



This of course does not imply God is forgetful, but simply our sins are forgiven and we they should no longer be a weight on our hearts or minds.

Again.. If we confess our sins, God forgives us and remembers them no more.

- As far as the east is from the west **Ps 103:12**
- at the bottom of the ocean. **Mi 7:19**
- The point is they are GONE so let your mind find peace in this great truth.

My prayer today is that God bless you with the assurance of His love. He forgives and forgets your every transgression, and he answers your prayers like the perfect Heavenly Father he is. And.. He can and will restore you and I both in ways that are beyond our dreams. (From "The Back Pew" by Jeff Larsen 2-15-2021)

PRAYER LIST FOR MARCH:

1. BARBARA BREMSETH
2. SHIRLEY BROOKS
3. DENNIS & MELVA BURNETTE
4. ROGER & MARY CROSBIE
MARIAH & KATIE
5. BEVERLY DRIVER
6. BRUCE & SHIRLEY GOOD
7. ROSIE GRAPHENTEN
8. STEVE GRAPHENTEN
9. GREG & KARNE HEATH
10. DEB HOLMES & MICHAEL
11. JUDY HOLMES
12. LAURIE JOHNSON
13. HARRIET KOELLN
14. MARK KOLLE
15. ADAM & DARLENE
KOTELNICKI
16. AMY LEVINSKI
17. LILA LUNDBERG
18. DON MACKAY
19. DOTTIE MADSEN
20. KRIS MARSHALL
21. JERRY MEULENERS
22. EMILY MORRISON
23. ROBBIE NORDLING
24. DAVID & KATIE PENNERTZ
THEODORE AND GWENDOLYN
25. PASTOR GORDY & JULIE
RAE PENNERTZ
26. TINA PENNERTZ
27. JACKIE ASHLEY & EMILY
PEREZ
28. LILLIAN PETERSON
29. BOB POWERS AND ReNAE
OLSON
30. SCOTT & STEPHANIE
RECH KENNEDY & FRANKIE
31. DEAN SABACKY

