

The Presby Record

A Community Beacon of Faith, Love & Hope.

**Volume LXV, Issue 3
March 2023**

I love the season of Lent in the life of the Church, and not only because that means spring is just around the corner. The period of introspection preceding Easter is a formative time for my spirit and psyche each year. I cherish the time I get to spend focusing on what Christ is altering in my life. Lent for me is a time to examine the evolution of God's amazing grace in my life and the call to be a better human and child of God.

It is fascinating to me how the lectionary leads us into the Lenten desert. The month of March has us leaving Matthew's gospel and sojourning through John's gospel where we first examine the conversation between Nicodemus and Jesus about being born from above, and we end the month with Jesus weeping over the death of his dear friend Lazarus. On the second Sunday we see Jesus welcoming a woman at the well by embracing her challenging life as one who is worth saving. Then on the third Sunday we learn about Christ being the Light of the World in relation to the healing of the man born blind. While all these stories weave together the theology of salvation, in many ways the story of the man born blind is about all of humanity in comparison to God. It isn't our sin or our parents that has us born blindly; rather it is because of the opportunity for God to work in our lives to be evidence of God's grace to the world. We therefore are light bearers, light givers, light reflectors to a darkened world.

Far too often Christians are more connected to John the Baptizer than to Jesus the Messiah. It is often our approach to invite people to come into the light before the coming damnation sends them to eternal unrest. That was the message of John the Baptizer; and remember what people asked Jesus about the difference between their preaching styles? "Why do your followers behave so differently from those of the Baptizer, with his austere warnings to 'Flee from the wrath to come?'"

Sure Jesus preached repentance, but repentance in the fullest sense of the Hebrew Scriptures; it is a transformation of one's entire being, a turning full around (shub is the Hebrew). This is a realization and recognition that this truly is a gift of the light of the world and that everything comes from it and is in it; from the trees of the field to the rocks of the ground, from the squander of the pods of the swine to the succulence of the banquet feast, speaks and even sings to us of glory if we would only stop and look and listen. What happened to us, that so much of the Church is still hanging with John the Baptist rather than rejoicing with the risen Lord? One of the harshest critiques (harsh only because it is true) comes from Nietzsche when he said, "You Christians should look more redeemed. You'll have to look more redeemed if I'm going to believe in your Redeemer." The truth hurts. During Lent, we need to address our truths and attend to the hurts we cause by our truths.

During worship each week of Lent, you will be invited to participate in seeking Christ's light in your life. Lent should be for us a transformative experience where Christ's light is ushered into us and therefore we usher it into the world. We are called to be healed of our blindness and opened to Christ's light that penetrates and disintegrates our darkness. Let's be redeemed!! Let's be the people of the Redeemer that leads others to think about us "wow they really love God and love others! What is their story?" I invite you, dear Christians, to journey to the light of Christ and to experience a true transformation of one's being and turning full around. Let's embrace the light of Christ and the transformation it affords us.

Worship Liturgists

If you need to switch a Sunday with someone, please find your replacement and then alert Christina of the switch. If you cannot find a replacement from the folks on this list, let me know and we'll punt (or I will do it in a pinch)

March 5 th	Valerie Wade
March 12 th	Mark Curtis
March 19 th	Adam Greathouse
March 26 th	Buck Ivey

COMMUNION SERVERS

	SET UP	SERVERS	
March 5 th	Mark C.	Valerie	Holly

Prayer Concerns – Congregation Members:

George Hartman Jr.
Kathleen Jordan
Mike Clark
Mark Curtis
Carol Buck
Millie White

Prayer Concerns - In Care Facilities:

Cornelia May, 255 N. Egret Bay Blvd., apt. 4104, League City, TX 77573
Muriel Frincke, Apt. 318, 3201 Center Pointe Drive, Orlando, FL 32825
Ann McCormick, Apt. 213, Bellaire at Devonshire, 5 Bexley Drive, Scott Depot, WV 25560
Sadie Ashworth, Rolling Hills Meadow, 5 Rolling Meadows Dr., Room 118, Scott Depot, WV 25560

Concerns - Family and Friends

Janet Walker, back pain (Donna Merguc's sister)
Jon Dunlap, back pain (Kris Dunlap)
Ashley Nestman, Lymphoma (Connie Ivey)
Dana Cunningham (Abbie Burch's parent)
Cindy Melton, brain tumor (Regina Dayfield)
Catherine Moss (Caroline Reed's daughter)
Sandra Workman (Ina Armstrong)
Margaret Walker, (Donna Merguc)
Kathi Curtis' parents Richard and Shirley Ware
Ruth Duvall (Michael's mother)
Dr. Mark Moreland reoccurring illness (Denny & Patsy Denison)
Dan Burgess (Denny's brother) chemo treatment for lung cancer
Hal Turley (Holly Greathouse's father)
Terri French (Kirk King's sister multiple surgeries)
William Wallace (Traletta Wallce's son) kidney disease
Kensie McComas immediate surgery
Roger Schomburg (Kathryn Maddy's uncle) surgery
Don Layden (Kathryn Maddy's friend) cardiac rehab/ GI surgery
Judy Adkins (heart) Donna Merguc
Monica Dillon Coleman, successful heart surgery
Millie and Bud Astin, Kathy Weed's friends
Jane Loudenburg (Kim Gaines' friend) kidney surgery



3- Ian Cox

5-Sara Kell

6-Vickie Godbey, Brian Resler

7-Carol Buck, Pat Dillon

9-Sarah Hoyle, Evan Hartman,
Mark Swartz, Mila Boyd

10-LaVada Jones

11-Moria Boyd

12-Kathy Leftwich

13-Micah Dettweiler

14-Kathy Weed

17-Cel Jones

23-Mona McMillion, Miller
Boyd

24-Evelyn Otto

28-Julian Smith

29-Linda McCallister, Phillip
Morrison, Ava Truly

31-Joshua Merguc



Debbie & Michael Duvall March 29, 1980

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

An Officer Training Class was held before Stated Session Meeting on February 11, 2023. All active Elders were present.

Rev. Boyd noted he is taking a Biblical Greek Class on Monday nights in Charleston at St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

Approved Rev. Boyd's attendance at a conference May 13 – 19, 2023.

Adult Wednesday Night Bible study during Lent will be "Being Reformed, Seven Days to Glory." March 1 – March 29.

Approved First Presbyterian Church to host St. Albans Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours on March 28th.

Noted Presbytery of West Virginia's Festival of Faith on Saturday, April 1st.

Approved West Virginia Mission and Work Camp volunteers to be in the building on June 19-23, 2023, Raleigh, North Carolina and April 4-9, 2023, Holy Ghost Prep School.

Approved VBS June 5-9 in the evening with study material from Stellar by Group.

Approved Wednesday Night young people's Lenten study "God, Neighbor, Enemy."

Approved a Game Night for Friday, March 17, 2023.

WVMAW Work group will be invited to have dinner with us Wednesday, March 8th during our regular Wednesday Dinner and Bible Study.

MISSIONS

West Virginia Mission and Advocacy work groups.

- March 11-17 coming from College of Wooster, Ohio. This group will consist of 20 men and women, mostly women.
- April 4 – 9 coming from Holy Ghost Prep School in Philadelphia. They will be all males.
- June 19 – 23 coming from Western Blvd. Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, NC.
- We will supply snacks for the groups on the day they arrive. The Committee will arrange for this.
- The youth cleaned one of the dorm rooms on a Wednesday night and will work on the other when time allows.
- Jack has put together an itinerary for work to be done at Hezekiah House, Jericho House, and a single residence.
- A work group coordinator is needed for WVMAW groups. Jack will work with Hezekiah House but he can't do it all. The coordinator will be paid for their time.

The Mission Committee would like the congregation to become more hands-on with our local missions. In May, the Food Pantry will need extra volunteers to unload the postal service food drive and to sort the items later. The congregation will be made aware of this.

World Missions One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected now through Easter Sunday, April 9th. Minutes for Mission will be given during worship before that date, and we will advertise in the Presby Record and worship bulletins.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

February 22 - April 9 2023

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

You may give to the One Great Hour of Sharing by making your donation payable to First Presbyterian Church and marked for One Great Hour. Envelopes will also be available in the church pews.

A note from Christ Kitchen and Food Pantry

To: First Presbyterian Church of Saint Albans,

On behalf of Christ's Kitchen and Food Pantry Inc Board, I wish to thank you for your generous support over 2022. This past year Christ's Kitchen showed an increase of 130% and the Food Pantry was up 182% in numbers and households served. It would be impossible to feed our citizens the food so needed without your help!! God bless you as you help us serve God's people!

Sincerely,

Lillian Kelly

Secretary of CKFP Board



Attendees: Holly Greathouse, Tara Malcom, Rev. Mark Boyd

- Wednesday night programming – Going through March 29th, no break for spring break
 - Lent – Combine children/youth for Follow Me lesson “Love God, Neighbor, Enemy”
 - New Member's/confirmation class – Pastor Mark to inquire on which days would be best for a class – Sundays after church or Wednesday evenings. Will begin after Holy Week.
- VBS – June 5th – 9th, curriculum Stellar by Group. Will have Christina order starter kit.
- College Scholarships – Need to inquire with Buck if we have scholarship money available
- Graduation Sunday – tentatively for June 4th. Will inquire with Jackie and Missy if that date works for them.
- Library – Proposed renovating library to be an “education lounge” for older children/youth as a dedicated space. Will need session approval to move forward with a plan.
- Movie night – Would like to consider purchasing an outdoor projector. Mark to inquire about licensing issues to see if this would be possible.

Session Action Items:

1. Move forward with a plan to renovate library into an education lounge for children/youth.
2. TBD - Confirmation class to begin April 12th with confirmation on June 4th
3. TBD - Graduation Sunday – June 4th

Attention High School Seniors! Scholarships are available through the church. Anyone wishing to apply please contact Holly Greathouse at email. The applications are in the office for pickup or email. The deadline for applying is April 30th.

Special Reminder



There will be a reception for friends of the family of Toby McCallister on April 1, 3:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian, St. Albans. Toby, 76, of Bradenton, Florida, passed away on November 29, 2022. He was a long time member of the church, member of the choir, and Clerk of Session.

In Memory of Ned
Arthur given by
KrisDunalp



What's Happening

Laurie Turley, Chair
Kathleen Jordan, Co-Chair
Members: Jennifer Burgess
Grateful for Attendees: Sara Kell, Andi Pease, Mark Boyd

February was an exciting month here at First Presby! We had Wednesday night dinners each of the 4 Wednesdays with the last one being Ash Wednesday where we were happy to have Nitro Presbyterian join us for dinner and the service.

Souper Bowl Sunday was a big success with many cans of soup being donated for the local food pantry. We also enjoyed Potato, Cabbage, Chili, and Chicken Chili. A big thanks to our cooks, Valerie Wade, Flo Rogers, Sarah Roberts, and Laurie Turley.

Friday, February 17th was our first Bingo Night here at the church! We had a great turnout! Many thanks to Sara Kell, Kathleen Jordan, and Mark and Jamie Boyd for organizing this and putting it all together! We had yummy snacks, many made by Sara, popcorn, and Cake Pops made by RavensCravins! And what a variety of prizes there were! And who knew that Mark was such a comedian!! We are looking forward to our next game night on St. Patrick's Day, March 17! It will most likely be a Bingo night as many of you missed our first one, and it was so much fun!

March Wednesday night dinners will be provided by Laurie's Team on March 1, Valerie's Team on March 8, Laurie's Team on March 15 when we will also be cooking for the 22 volunteers from Wooster.

March 22 we plan to make pizza with the youth! If you are a youth or young at heart and want to help us make pizza from scratch, please come and join us at 4:30 p.m. or as soon as you can get there!

March 29 will be our last Wednesday dinner until fall. Connie, Buck, and Wanda will be cooking.

March 11 the team from Wooster arrives!

We also will be hosting Challenger Baseball Zumbathon from 2-4p.m.! There will be 6 fabulous instructors who will "Dance for a Difference" and raise funds to help support our local Nitro Challengers Baseball League! Come and dance with them and INVITE YOUR FRIENDS and spread the word! Cost is \$20 at the door. Water, light refreshments and PRIZES will be given away!

March 20 is the First Day of Spring! So happy for this to arrive! It's also Mr. Rogers Day! Be sure to ask your neighbor to join us for worship and all of our other activities!

March 23 and 24, Eva and Olivia Greathouse will be performing at 7:30p.m. at the Cultural Center in the performance of Second Sara. This is a production and not a recital. More details will be on the Happenings Board as we get them, or contact Holly Greathouse.

On March 28, we will be hosting the Saint Albans City Council's Business After Hours Reception from 5:30 to 7:30. Refreshments will be provided as well as prize give-aways. We look forward to decorating and showing them our

hospitality. If you would like to help in any capacity, please contact the church office or Laurie. We would love your ideas and help!

There are many March birthdays! Look for them on the new birthday month calendar on the Happenings Board in the hallway! You can also find them in the weekly bulletin!

Many thanks to RavensCravins for contributing so many goodies for our coffee hour after worship service! If anyone else would like to contribute, please see the sign-up sheet on the Happenings Board. You can also bring something spontaneously, it's just nice to know sometimes for planning purposes. Thanks everyone!

The next Happenings Meeting will be Thursday March 9 at 2 p.m. We would love to see new faces!



Saint Albans Area CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



MYSAWV.COM

First Presbyterian Church of Saint Albans will be hosting the Saint Albans Chamber of Commerce Business after Hours on Tuesday March 28th from 5:30-7:30. We will have snacks and light refreshments.

All are welcome!



SPECIAL YOUTH RETREAT!

The 2023 SPRING YOUTH RETREAT (for those in grades 6-12 and their adult advisors) April 14-16, 2023 at Jackson's Mill, Weston, WV FOCUS:

In the story of the Great Commandment and the Good Samaritan, Jesus says that we are to love God and love neighbor. This weekend, we will consider what that looks like and how we might show love. While we may not think we can make a difference in the world, in reality, we are making choices all the time that do make a difference. How can we be people who work for positive change in the world? (Note: This retreat is based on the 2022 Fall Youth Retreat, led by David LaMotte.) Leadership: This retreat will be led by youth and adult members of the presbytery's Youth Council.

Cost per person is \$85. Complete information has been sent to Pastors, Clerks of Session, Christian Educators and Youth Advisors. You can also find it at www.wvpresbytery.org. Contact Susan Sharp Campbell, susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com or 304-667-9427 with any questions. For more information, contact Susan Sharp Campbell, 304-667-9428 or susan_sharp_campbell@hotmail.com. **The registration deadline is Monday, March 27.**



Present: Mark Boyd, Mike Merguc, Andi Pease, Jack Rogers, Sara Kell, Kirk King, Michael and Etta Clark

Absent: David Harvey, Tim Malcomb

Opened meeting with prayer at 6:30 pm

Reports

Mike Merguc, Custodian Report

- Doors are being left unlocked and lights on when the building is empty. We ask the last person in the building to please check on these upon leaving?
- Called Mr. Roofer to repair a leak on the Fellowship Hall roof.
- Trap sink in men's bathroom was leaking. Mike removed old and replaced with PVC pipe.
- Thermostat in basement heater was not working. Dandy Don Heating and Cooling fixed it. Wrapping on condensation line was loose.
- Jack has been repairing, sealing, and painting walls in the basement sleeping rooms.
- Mike will call Stanley Steamer to clean the sanctuary carpet before Lent and Easter worship services.

Kirk King volunteered to lock the church and turn out lights when he is here for Quartet Rehearsal on Tuesday nights.

Sara Kell has been talking with Ken Cottrill regarding estimates to remodel the handicap bathroom and both main bathrooms on the first floor. She hopes to get estimates by Friday of this week. She would like the name of other construction companies who would give us an estimate.

We raised \$17,000 for repairs and updates in the recent Building Fund campaign. There are so many projects which need attention we will have to put them in order of priority as soon as possible. It will be discussed at the Session meeting on February 11th.

Kirk King will not be able to attend Building and Grounds Committee meetings on Tuesdays but would like to continue as a member. Call on him when needed. He will continue to maintain areas around the building with mulch and weeding.

EVANGELISM/CONGREGATIONAL CARE

(Jennifer Burgess, Connie Ivey, Cel Jones, Donna Merguc, Linda Slappe, Laurie Turley, Valerie Wade, Rev. Mark Boyd)

This Committee meets the first Sunday of each month at 11:15 am in the church parlor. Come and join us.

Congregational Care

Church family:

Millie is home and is having some trouble sleeping.

Donna spoke with Ina who told her that Ina's sister-in-law passed recently.

Carol doesn't want to continue dialysis and is dealing with some loss of vision.

Connie has visited with both Ann and Sadie. She invited Judy Coffman to Littles, but Judy couldn't moving to SA soon. Connie also shared an article with Dolly Locke about hearing aids.

Visitors:

Regina's son and daughter-in-law Tony and Alex (son Owen) are interested in joining the church. A New Members class.

Sally Smith has been attending and considers us her church family.

OLD BUSINESS

We submitted our budget at last year's level and it remains the same for this year.

We will push our discussion of Welcome Baskets for New Neighbors to our next meeting.



Evangelism

We are receiving occasional prayer requests in the prayer box. This is likely to pick up as the weather improves and people are out walking more.

LITTLES Storytime continues to bless us. LITTLES will celebrate its 4th anniversary this May. Raven Lanham and Kathy Weed have agreed to join the staff of LITTLES. Donna shared that one of their kids wanted to give a prayer recently and that's a big step for these kids.

We discussed advertising options to get more information out about the program. We discussed putting a sign at Crawford Field, perhaps putting posters in the yards of local church members, checking into the grandparents' group at WVSU, and other ideas. We will discuss further in March.

New Business

We discussed the possibility of our church participating in Founders Day in SA. We will find out the date and make plans at the March meeting. Some of the things suggested to give out were: cookies, flyers, plants/seed packets (come and grow with us), microwave popcorn (pop in and see us), etc. We will also check into any options for the Tour de Coal.

We also discussed the possibility of having food trucks again this summer. We will determine what options are available and discuss at the March meeting.

THANKS TO THIS AWESOME COMMITTEE FOR YOUR DEDICATION, IDEAS, AND ENERGY!!

The Blessing Bags Project

The Evangelism Committee continues to ask for your donations of hygiene products such as **shampoo, lotion, soap, toothpaste/toothbrushes, deodorant, snacks, bottled water, and gallon-size zip lock bags** to fill. These bags are taken to Christ's Kitchen for distribution to those in need. If you wish to contribute, a basket is in the Narthex for your items. If you prefer, you may make out a check to First Presbyterian Church and put "Blessing Bags" in the memo. You may also give using the "Donation" button on our web page and Facebook page using the "Other" category and type "bags" in the memo.

LITTLES' STORY-TIME

We welcome Raven Lanham, Kirk King, and Kathy Weed to Littles. They are on the March and April schedule. The children will enjoy listening to them read their books. Thank you for giving of your precious time. Thank you Vickie for purchasing the book, Just in Case You Ever Wonder by Max Lucado. "I'll always love you. I'll always hug you. I'll always be on your side. And I want you to know that...just in case you ever wonder." The children will love this book. Thank you Vickie for loving our children.



Presbyterian Women Purpose

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to:

- nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,
- support the mission of the church worldwide,
- work for justice and peace, and
- build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.

To learn more, see

www.presbyterianwomen.org.

Celebrating Sabbath PW Bible Study

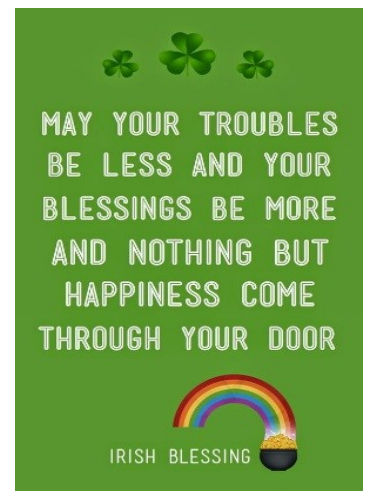
Presbyterian Women meet for fellowship and Bible study Tuesday, March 14, 2023.

Lesson seven explores Sabbath and Self-Care as acts of glorification and stewardship rather than selfishness.

Join us in person at noon in the fellowship hall, **or** from the comfort of your home on zoom at 7:00 pm. At noon we begin with a brown bag lunch and fellowship time before the study from 12:35 - 1:30 pm. OR join the zoom with the link below at 7:00 pm. The link will open at 6:45 pm for early birds:

<https://bridgevalley.zoom.us/j/81076798059>

For more information contact Kathy Leftwich at (304)206-5451 or Kathryn Maddy at (304)539-2573.

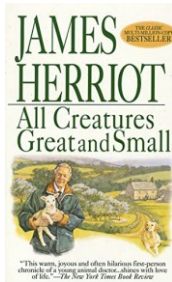


Book Club at First Presby



For our March selection we will be reading *All Creatures Great and Small* by James Herriot. Join us March 28, 2023 at 7:00 on Zoom for a discussion of the book.

For more info please contact Abbie Burch or Linda Slappe



Many years ago an Italian monk made a simple bread to remind his brother monks that Lent was a time of prayer. He rolled bread dough in strips and shaped them in the form of crossed arms over the heart in a prayerful gesture. These little breads were called *bracellae*, the Latin word for “little arms”. From this word came the German *bretzel*, and our word *pretzel*.

Lord, may the pretzel snack remind us to always turn to you in prayer.

Recipe for Lenten Pretzels:

½ tsp. salt
4 ½-5 cups flour
1 beaten egg
kosher salt
1-1/2 cups warm water
1 pkg. active dry yeast
½ tsp. sugar

Pour water in bowl. Gently stir in yeast, salt, and sugar to dissolve. Mix in flour and form a ball. Knead dough, then let it rest one hour. Roll pieces of dough in strips about ½” thick and 6” long. Fold strips into pretzel shapes and place on lightly greased cookie sheet. Brush lightly with egg and sprinkle with salt. Bake at 425 degrees for 12-15 minutes. Makes 2- ½ dozen pretzels.



- Daylight Savings Time Begins March 12th
- WVMAW work group will be in staying from March 11th through 18th
- First Day of Spring, March 21st
- Easter Sunday April 9th



Majestic Mountains Needle Arts 25th Anniversary Party

A reunion for members, former members, and anyone interested in the art of needlework is invited to attend. Majestic Mountains Needle Arts, a chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America, will host a reunion March 25 from 2:00-4:00 in the Fellowship Hall of First Presby. We had our first meetings at First Presby 25 years ago and are happy to revisit the place where Majestic Mountain Needle Arts began!





First Presbyterian Church
201 Kanawha Terrace
St. Albans, WV 25177

Worship with Us
 Sundays 10:00 A.M.
 In person and Live Streamed
 On Facebook

Officers

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Mark Curtis (2)	Jack Rogers (1)	Dave Harvey (1)
Kathleen Jordan (1)	Laurie Turley (1)	
Valerie Wade (1)	Holly Greathouse (2)	

Trustees

Class of 2023: Michael Duvall
 Class of 2024: John Jones
 Class of 2025: Buck Ivey

First Presbyterian Church
 201 Kanawha Terrace, St. Albans, West Virginia 25177
 Phone: 304 727-2241
 Email: fpcsa@firstpresbychurch.com
 Web site: www.firstpresbychurch.com
 Facebook: First Presbyterian
 Church of St. Albans

Church Staff

Ministers	Every Member of the Congregation
Pastor	Rev. Mark Boyd
Admin.Assistant/Financial Sec.....	Christina Mayes
Custodian	Mike Merguc
Treasurer	Buck Ivey