

Focus

News of the Community of Faith

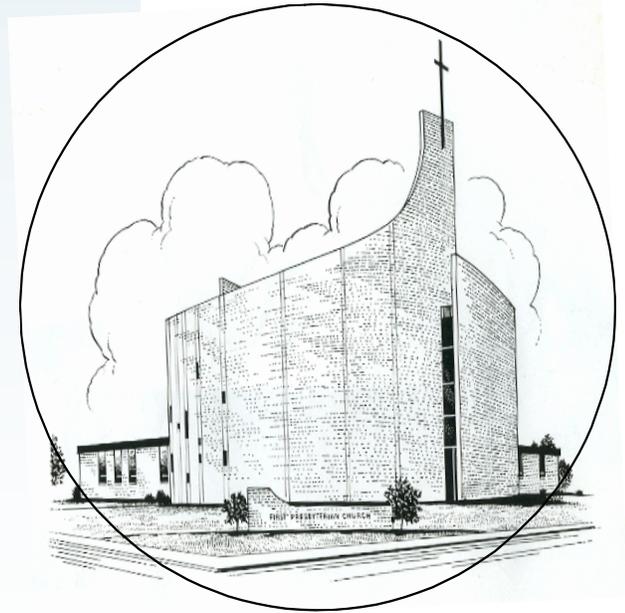


On March 6th, we will join with our friends over at First Christian

Church (1800 I-27 Frontage Road) to celebrate Ash Wednesday. For those newcomers to a liturgical tradition (and for us old-timers who may have forgotten!), here are some of the meanings and traditions surrounding this holy day.

- Ash Wednesday is the official beginning of Lent, which lasts 40 days, ending on the Saturday before Easter. For those eagle-eyed number crunchers out there, you may be wondering, 'wait, there are more than 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday', and you would be right. The tradition is to not count the Sundays, which are considered to be 'mini-Easters'. Practically, however, since most people only attend worship on Sundays, the liturgy, scripture, and hymns on Sundays generally reflect a Lenten theme.
- Ash Wednesday is observed by Catholics, Presbyterians (and other Reformed traditions), Methodists, Episcopalians, Lutherans, and other liturgical protestants.
- Ashes have been used throughout both the Old and New Testaments to indicate humility and penitence. They are used in other faith traditions as well for the same purpose and are a universal sign of our finite nature.
- Ash Wednesday reminds us that we are mortal ("you are dust, and to dust you shall return..."), but it is also a celebration of Jesus' triumph over our mortality ("...you are baptized dust").
- The ashes used in the service are made by burning the palms used in worship during the previous year's Palm Sunday service. This symbolizes the way our passion and zeal inspired by Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem tend to flame out over time, and the embers of our faith grow dim.
- This year, we will be using real frankincense along with olive oil to anoint. The first Ash Wednesday service was recorded in the 10th century and became an official part of the Church's liturgy in the 13th century.

I encourage all of us to take a moment the evening of March 6th at First Christian Church to remember our mortality and begin our journey with Jesus into the desert for 40 days as we prepare ourselves for the Passion of the Christ and his Resurrection.



Dave's Doodles



During the season of Lent, the Session has decided to celebrate communion each Sunday. We will begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through to Easter. As part of this season, we will be exploring different forms of communion, including different kinds of bread, different kinds of distribution of the elements, and different liturgies.

As part of these different liturgies, we will take a look at a new version of the Lord's Prayer, which has been included in the PC(USA) Book of Common Worship. The session studied and discussed this version of the prayer, and while it was strange to hear different words ('your' instead of 'thy', for instance), the fact that the words were slightly different caused us to think a little bit more about this ritual prayer, and that is never a bad thing.

I hope that we can take advantage of this season of reflection and preparation to examine not just our own lives, but the life of the church and our congregation. I know that some of the things we will do might not be to everyone's liking, but I hope that we can all learn something new about ourselves and about our faith. Please feel free to come talk to me about any of the experiences you have, good or bad.

As we begin this time of reflection, it might be helpful for me to talk a little bit about what Presbyterians think about Communion. Or to be more accurate, what this particular Presbyterian thinks about Communion. And, while I might have some unusual ideas about some things in our tradition, I am really pretty mainstream when it comes to communion.

Traditionally, there have been three broad interpretations of what is happening during this sacrament, and Presbyterians throughout the years have embraced all three, to a certain extent.

One way of thinking about communion is that Jesus is present in the bread, in some form. I'm not going to go into the fine distinctions between transubstantiation and consubstantiation, mystical union and spiritual consumption, but the idea is that in the invocation, Jesus comes to us, and is in some way consumed.

On the far side from that understanding, another way of thinking is that the meal is only symbolic, that nothing mystical or spiritual is happening, it is only a memorial meal, an observation of the last supper.

I am in between these two interpretations. I believe that something more than just symbolism is happening, and in fact, I believe that communion is more than just the last supper. It is the first breakfast as well, as the resurrected Jesus cooks fish for his disciples on the shoreline. It's also the first supper, as a resurrected Jesus breaks bread with the travel-

ers on the road to Emmaus. And it is this understanding that leads me to how I feel about the presence of Jesus. In the Emmaus story, the scripture tells us that it was in the breaking of the bread that the disciples recognize who Jesus was.

I believe that in the act of communion, in the partaking of the bread and cup, we are brought by the power of the Holy Spirit into the presence of Jesus, and we are able to recognize him for who he really is. It is only for a moment, but it is an eternal moment, and it feeds our souls, and it brings us all together, all those who are taking communion, and all those who have taken communion together with Jesus through the ages.

Having said that, I want you to know that wherever you fall on this spectrum, from a very mystical, almost supernatural understanding of communion, to a purely symbolic view is fine with me, and well within the historic practices of the Presbyterian Church. What I've articulated is the official theology of the Church, but that in no way binds you to it. In fact, one of our Presbyterian beliefs is that the Lord alone is Lord of the conscience, that neither I, nor anyone else, is in a position to tell you what to believe. And I respect that.

But, I thought it might be a good idea for us to review what we think about communion as we head into Lent. During this time, we will experience different elements, different ways of being served, and different words in the liturgy. The main thing will stay the same, however. In whatever way you think Jesus is present, whether in the bread, or symbolically, or that we are brought into his presence, nothing will change that. Jesus will still be present, and we will recognize him in the breaking of the bread, and our souls will be nourished, and we will be brought together.

Because regardless of how we do communion, some things never change.



March Birthdays and Anniversaries

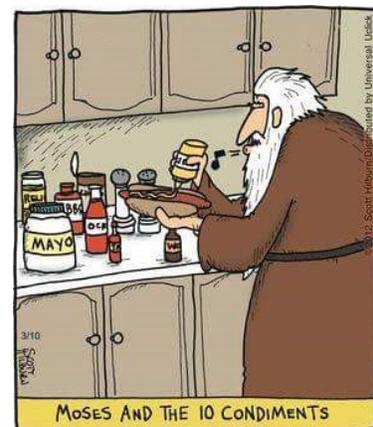
LaDeanna Whitfill	March 2
Heather Bozeman	March 4
Dean Thompson	March 13
Lea Perry	March 15
Duncan Sweeney	March 17
Mike Boster	March 18
Caroline Kinkaid	March 21
Sammy T. Strovas	March 21
Charlie Marie Whitacre	March 24
Keegan Butler	March 29
Luke Ingraham	March 29
Blake Walter	March 29
Stan Rigler	March 30
Sally Beth Strovas	March 30



Dean and Sherry Thompson	March 4
Karen and Bruce Sandlin	March 25

Potluck Reminder

We will have our monthly Potluck this Sunday, March 3. Whit & Barbara Hunt and Dean & Sherry Thompson will host. Please bring a dish to share. And hint, hint...it's not Lent yet...



Church Workday

We will have a church workday on Saturday, March 23. Please come on out and help if you can.

March 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



					1	2
3 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship 11:30 am – Potluck	4	5 5 pm – Outreach & Membership 6:30 pm – Den	6 11 am – MoW 6 pm – Ash Wednesday Service at FCC No WNF/No Choir	7	8	9
10 Daylight Savings 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship/Baptism	11	12	13 11 am – MoW 1:30 pm – Naomi Ruth Circle No WNF/No Choir	14	15	16 8 am – Men’s Breakfast
← Spring Break →						
17 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship	18	19 6:30 pm – Den Meeting	20 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Groovy Grillers 6:45 pm – Choir	21	22 12 pm – Fourth Friday Fellowship w/Friends	23 9 am – Church Workday
24 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Pick up FISH bag	25	26 6:30 pm – Den Meeting	27 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Amazin’ Grazin’ 6:45 pm – Choir	28 6:30 pm – Cub Scout Parent Meeting	29	30
31 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship 12 pm – Session Return FISH bag						

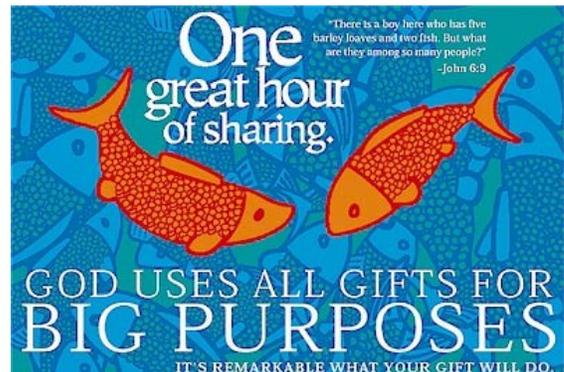
Our Lent Mission

One Great Hour of Sharing has been chosen by the Mission Committee to be the Special Offering during this Lenten Season.

Our gifts to OGHS will enable the church to share God's love with our neighbors around the world. It will provide relief to those who have been affected by natural disasters, provide food to feed the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

This year each church family will have the opportunity to read about programs that benefit from One Great Hour of Sharing and to give with the resources that each one of us have. Lent begins Wednesday, March 6, 2019 and ends on Easter Sunday, April 21st. Look for your Fish Jar or Fish Bank and the Lenten Calendar of information and giving in the Church Narthex after Ash Wednesday.

May this church be active in sharing our bread with the hungry, clothes with the naked, homes with the homeless and help those who lack the opportunities for a better life.



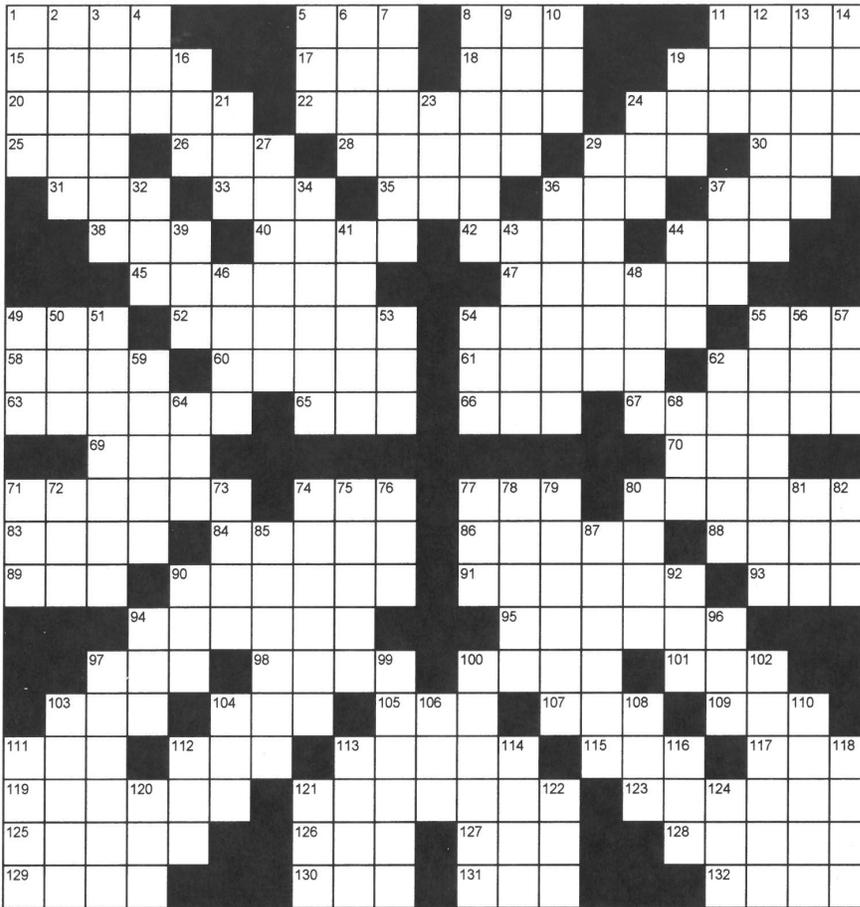
Fourth Friday Fellowship with Friends

March 22 at noon

Men's Breakfast

has been moved to March 16 at 8 am in the hopes more people are available to attend!

Lent



www.CrosswordWeaver.com

ACROSS

- 1 Compass point
- 5 Dit's partner
- 8 Government worker
- 11 Writer Bombeck
- 15 Light purple flower
- 17 North northeast
- 18 Annoy
- 19 **'Lehem' in Hebrew**
- 20 City in the former USSR
- 22 _____ Angels (MLB team)
- 24 Slip by
- 25 Small
- 26 Tender loving care
- 28 Irregular
- 29 Time zone
- 30 Billion years
- 31 Revolutions per minute
- 33 Jamaican or Southern Cali Bro
- 35 Jell
- 36 Before (prefix)
- 37 Lodge
- 38 Cry
- 40 Island
- 42 Open
- 44 Fall mo.
- 45 Hair ___
- 47 Spoken
- 49 Acid drug
- 52 Rise

- 54 Married
- 55 Most basic
- 58 Three
- 60 **number of days in 48 down**
- 61 **Adversary**
- 62 Stair
- 63 Scatter
- 65 Digit
- 66 Mousy
- 67 Church offerings
- 69 **For anointing or cooking**
- 70 Great!
- 71 Scorn
- 74 Short-term memory
- 77 Alternative (abbr.)
- 80 Minority
- 83 Detail
- 84 Loathe
- 86 Marsh
- 88 Extremely long time periods
- 89 Summer month
- 90 Monks
- 91 Sashays
- 93 Cooking measurement
- 94 Odors
- 95 Tease
- 97 Hairpiece
- 98 **Type of Friday**
- 100 Coin
- 101 Talk
- 103 Rumpus

- 104 Female (abr.)
- 105 Environmental protection agency (abbr)
- 107 British drink
- 109 Galled
- 111 Marsh
- 112 Tax agency
- 113 Water vessels
- 115 Chest bone
- 117 Football conference
- 119 Strong chemical base
- 121 Citing
- 123 **Type of Thursday**
- 125 Bombard
- 126 Stray
- 127 Equal
- 128 Maples
- 129 Sap
- 130 Cozy room
- 131 Snacked
- 132 Bird's home

DOWN

- 1 Tardy
- 2 Broader
- 3 Sounds
- 4 Had been
- 5 Cell stuff
- 6 Green Gables dweller
- 7 **Tenebrae candle holder**

- 8 Spanish celebration
- 9 Canal
- 10 Dam
- 11 Time period
- 12 **Atone**
- 13 Brick worker
- 14 City in Yemen
- 16 Central Time
- 19 Deli order
- 21 Loose gown worn at mass
- 23 Garden tool
- 24 East southeast
- 27 Shortening brand
- 29 List of errors
- 32 Momma
- 34 Be insistent
- 36 Same in value
- 37 Arctic
- 39 Constrictor snake
- 41 Slow
- 43 Biblical prophet
- 44 Hoary
- 46 Defunct football league
- 48 **Season after Epiphany**
- 49 Type of partnership
- 50 ___ Lanka
- 51 Balk
- 53 Tinct'
- 54 Ship initials
- 55 Opposed to
- 56 Spelling contest
- 57 Cycles per second
- 59 Narcotic
- 62 **"Turn this into 19 Across"**
- 64 Fairy
- 68 The other half of Jima
- 71 Brim
- 72 Airport abbr.
- 73 Ticket amount
- 74 Islamic greeting
- 75 Trunk
- 76 Mr..'s wife
- 77 Abdominal muscles (abbr.)
- 78 Machine tool
- 79 Tzar
- 80 Acorns
- 81 Ozone
- 82 Sixth sense
- 85 Bottom parts of ships
- 87 Exclusion
- 90 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
- 92 Slick
- 94 **Miss the mark**
- 96 Serving of corn
- 97 Flirter
- 99 Take away the horns
- 100 Per ___
- 102 American Indian tribe member
- 103 Headquarters of British India
- 104 Last day of the wk.
- 106 Pock
- 108 Point
- 110 Walks in shallow water
- 111 **stay hungry**
- 112 Sick
- 113 Safe
- 114 Vexation
- 116 Upside-down sleeper
- 118 Saclike structures filled with fluid or diseased matter
- 120 Lager
- 121 It is proven
- 122 "To the right!"
- 124 Vase

Focus

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MARCH NEWS TO KNOW

Focus is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, Plainview, Texas. Articles for inclusion in the FOCUS are requested by the 20th of the month.

Rev. David Hawkins, Pastor
Dr. Charles Teykl, Pastor Emeritus
Karen Hawkins, Publisher

Be sure to note these important dates and jobs to be done during the month of February.

Ushers

Whit Hunt, Richard Morgan,
Gaylan Goddard, Chris Lewellen,
Larry Williams, Mike Craig, Dean
Thompson, Graham Tirey

February Attendance

Feb 3	27
Feb 10	39
Feb 17	42
Feb 24	50

February Deposits

Feb 3	\$2,497.80
Feb 4 (online)	\$2,130.00
Feb 10	\$1,763.20
Feb 17	\$ 829.30
Feb 24	\$1,622.55

Wednesday Night Fellowship

3/6—Ash Wednesday/**No WNF**
3/13—Spring Break/**No WNF**
3/20—Groovy Grillers
3/27—Amazin' Grazin'

Total Income:	\$ 8,842.85
Total Expenses:	<u>\$11,827.56</u>
Shortfall	\$ -2,984.71

