

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

March 2021

"You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name." John 15:16 (NRSV)

Lent is a time when Christians reflect upon who we are in light of our relationship with Jesus Christ. We reflect upon what it means that Jesus is the Son of God who was a fully human man and also fully divine as the 2nd person of the Trinity.

Our lives as Christians are marked by our trust and confidence in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Our lives are to be an adventure in following Jesus. I say adventure because when we follow Jesus, we are taken places we might not have gone on our own. This is an adventure that is exciting, exhilarating, and challenging.

Notice the beginning of John 15:16. Jesus says that He has chosen us. Jesus has chosen each of us in unique ways as individuals and as part of the body of Christ. During the season of Lent we look at what that call looks like. We consider what we are doing and contemplate if we are acting as His disciples.

John 15:16 challenges us because Jesus says that we are appointed to bear fruit in His name. When I first spoke with the PNC we talked about how First Presbyterian Church can be God's blessing to the community of Covington.

The session is working to discern what it is that we are to do. We are working to understand what God's dream is for us. Each of you is a part of that dream. As your pastor I ask two things of you. First, pray about what it is that God might be asking us to do as a congregation. And second, if you are called upon to serve in some way; either on a committee or for a particular project; pray about your participation.

Jesus has chosen me and Jesus has chosen you. We have been chosen to follow Him. We have been chosen to do the work of God in this place, in this time.

Pastor Susi



1 Dotty Hanshew
15 Kaytie Carter
15 Frances Withrow
18 Susan Lindstrom
20 Helen Gaylor
23 Meredith Minter
30 Chet Swartz

A Message from ...

*The Virginia and Community
Development Corporation
Community Services Team*

The Virginia Department of Health is pre-registering residents to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Visit vaccinate.virginia.gov and sign up for free COVID-19 vaccine & check your pre-registration status. Stay Healthy!

Spring forward

Don't forget to set
clocks ahead
one hour
at 2 a.m.
Sunday.



March 14th

Do You Want To Fast This Lent?

By Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words....
and say kind words.

Fast from sadness....
and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger....
and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism....
and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries....
and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints....
and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures....
and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness....
and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness....
and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges....
and be reconciled.

Fast from words....
and be silent so you can listen.



World Day of Prayer March 5th

“Help us this day, O God, to serve thee devoutly, and the world busily. May we do our work wisely, give succour secretly, go to our meat appetitely, sit thereat discreetly, arise temporarily, please our friend duly, go to our bed merrily, and sleep surely, for the joy of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.”*

***“Adapted from a traditional saying very popular in the Middle Ages, and often printed on the end papers of the earliest printed books.”**

**AN ANTHOLOGY OF PRAYERS (Fifth Edition) by
A.S.T. Fisher, M.A.**

Seeking Justice and Healing in Guatemala: The Ministry of CEDEPCA

*Sunday School March 7th
and
Minute for Mission During
Worship Service*

On March 7th following the 9:30 a.m. social time, join Sunday School Zoom discussion to hear more about the ministry of CEDEPCA, the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America. This is one of the missions that we have supported over the past several years and we are excited to get more insights during Sunday School on March 7th. CEDEPCA staff members Betsey Moe and Nancy Carrera will report on what God has been doing in Guatemala to bring hope and connection during a year marked by a pandemic and two devastating hurricanes.

The Rev. Betsey Moe is a PC(USA) Mission Co-Worker for CEDEPCA currently living with her family in Spokane, WA. Nancy Carrera is the Coordinator for the Intercultural Encounters Program in Guatemala City. Betsey and Nancy work with a team that designs and facilitates experiences of encounter, reflection, dialogue, and mutual service between people of North America with Central American communities in search of a more just, tolerant and equitable world.



The Intercultural Encounters Team of CEDEPCA: Esvin Sirin, Rebeca Noriega, Betsey Moe, and Nancy Carrera.

A *Minute for Mission* during the 11am service will summarize points made during that morning's Sunday School. We hope that you can join us for both Sunday School and the Sunday service.

--Mission & Service Committee

Laud and Honor on Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday anthem "All Glory Laud and Honor" is one of Christendom's oldest hymns. St. Theodulf of Orleans, who helped reform the church under Charlemagne, wrote the lyrics in the year 820 while imprisoned in France.

The lyrics recount Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus figure riding a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin – Gloria, laus et honor – and onlookers soon chimed in.

City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer "because we know just what kind of King he was and is – an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor."

*All Glory, laud and honor
to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children
made sweet hosannas ring.
You are the king of Israel
and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming,
the King and Blessed One.*

MISSION WORKER
DAVID PANDY-SZEKERES
REPORTING ON
UKRAINE MISSIONS
DATED FEB 5 2021

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

All is well with me and us. I trust that you and yours are also keeping healthy and will continue to do so in this new year which is already into its second month.

My brother Abel signaled to me that the cheques totaling \$18,490* arrived in his mailbox yesterday and he was able to deposit them into my account the same day. My co-workers in the mission field and I are most appreciative of the support which you and all the members of First Presbyterian Church in Covington as well as the representatives of your presbytery have been kind enough to provide.

Yesterday and the day before I was in Ukraine tending to various chores and making necessary visits to help coordinate activities. I gave \$200 to Monika who is the teacher at the kindergarten for Roma children in Peterfalva for her to be able to purchase the foodstuffs which go into making the morning snack and the midday meal for the children for the next few weeks. The kindergartens have been operating since the second week of January [after the Christmas holiday break] and the help-school pupils in Nagydobrony returned to in-classroom instruction on January 25 following a state-mandated lockdown which began on January 8 [on-line instruction being in effect until January 25 which of course is rather ineffective in the case of Roma children who generally do not have access to in-home internet].

The Lord be with you in all your present and future activities which give witness of a Christian brother,

David Pandy-Szekeres

* The total of \$18,490 is comprised of the following:

Two Cents a Meal Grants

\$4,500 for the Roma Mission Center in Peterfalva (\$3,000 Two Cents a Meal grant plus \$1,500 matching grant from FPC's Thompson World Hunger Fund).

\$4,500 for program support of the Christian Schools for Roma Children in Nagydobrony (\$3,000 Two Cent a Meal grant plus \$1,500 matching grant from FPC's Thompson World Hunger Fund).

Mission Grants from Presbytery of the Peaks

Two checks totalling \$6,490 for the Good Samaritan Orphanage Scholarships in Nagydobrony (\$3,245 Mission Grant from Presbytery of the Peaks, plus \$3,245 matching grant from FPC's Thompson World Mission Fund).

\$3,000 for financial support for wages of six individuals serving as staff for the help-school for Roma Children in Nagydobrony (Mission Grant from Presbytery of the Peaks)

--Mission & Service Committee.

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday Worship Will Be Held In-Person and on Our YouTube Channel
 Devotions with Daniel Continue to Be Streamed on Our YouTube Channel
 Sunday School, Lenten Studies, Choirs and Meetings Are Held via Zoom

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a W&M + Staff, 11a Lenten Study, 6:30 p.m.	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a Elder Training	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Mission and Service Committee, 4p	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Lenten Study, 6:30 p.m.	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a (communion) Daylight Saving Time Begins	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Lenten Study, 6:30 p.m.	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
21 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a Session Meeting, 12:30p	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Lenten Study, 6:30 p.m.	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a PALM SUNDAY	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Newsletter Items Due, 10a Lenten Study, 6:30 p.m.	31 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <u>Choirs</u> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 7:30p			

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