

# Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

March 2022

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.  
~ Psalm 51:10

It seems like Christmas has just passed. We now stand on the brink of the Lenten season. March 2, a mere 66 days after Christmas, is Ash Wednesday.

Lent is a period of preparation for the events of Holy Week and Easter. For 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter, excluding Sundays, we observe practices that draw us closer to God; practices that help us be ready for God to create in us a clean heart.

Some may undertake the spiritual practice of fasting. Fasting is the abstinence from food and drink, except water, for a period of time; usually a day. Leviticus 23 has God giving Moses instructions for special days and festivals. One of those days is the Day of Atonement. *“Now, the tenth day of this seventh month is the day of atonement; it shall be a holy convocation for you: you shall fast and present the Lord’s offering by fire;”* (Leviticus 23:27, NRSV)

Prayer and fasting is one spiritual practice that folks undertake in order to focus on God. However, in recent times folks are recognizing that one may find that there are things other than food from which to fast. Isaiah speaks to this in Isaiah 58:6; *“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”*

During Lent as we consider our relationship with God in the desire to have a clean heart, a new and right spirit, we fast from those things that separate us from God. Pope Francis said the following about fasting for Lent:

*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!*

As we travel the road to Jesus’ last Passover meal with His disciples, may we remember that He died because God loves us. He died on our behalf to ensure us eternal life. We remember to turn to God, to Jesus, to the Holy Spirit and to live in such a way as the world would see our Triune God through us.

*Pastor Susi*

# Minute for Mission

## SOUTH COVINGTON CARE PANTRY REPORT

### STATISTICS

	Families Served	# of Family Members
November 2021	105	369
December 2021	75	255
January 2022	62	225

November totals are included because we published before the last Tuesday of the month. The Pantry was closed January 18 because of snow.

Deposits	November 28, 2021 – January 2022
\$425.00	Local UMCs
\$1,058.00	First Presbyterian Church
\$150.00	Memorial-Cotton and Eleanor Hylton & In Honor of Nancy and Anthony Salyers
\$40.00	Memorial – Katie Moody
\$500.00	Edgemont ARP Women's Ministries
\$250.00	Lewis Gale Hospital-Alleghany Auxiliary
\$1,325.00	Donations from Individuals
\$3,748.00	TOTAL

### BLESSINGS

- We are still picking up expired Little Debbie pastries from Sunshine Distributing.
- Food Lion continues to donate out of date meat, produce and bakery items, which are picked up on Saturdays and Sundays by our team members.
- A member of First Presbyterian Church donated stuffing mix.
- The Callaghan Charge delivered 30 food items plus 341 lbs. of food items—too many to count!
- South Covington UMC donated 62 items.
- The Patterson Grandchildren donated 11 items.
- A member of Christ UMC delivered 9 cans of food.
- Hunters for the Hungry delivered about 500 pounds of venison. Our applicants are always happy recipients.
- The Christmas Mother delivered 70 food items which had been donated by the EZ Pass Call Center.
- Our church gifted each applicant family in December with a Christmas Card and with a bottle of laundry detergent. We also distributed donated 2022 calendars as far as they went.
- Our Care Pantry Team is an amazing group of Christians who are dedicated, enthusiastic, and committed to serving our Lord and our community. Praise God!

(I failed to bring the January Donations List home, so I'll include those next time.)

2 Corinthians 9:7: "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

We have faith that God will continue to be in control of seeing that our needs are met. Please continue to pray for our applicants and for all those who work so faithfully to serve them.

Donations of cornbread mix such as Jiffy are always appreciated. We have stocked our pantry with a great supply of dried pinto beans. What better combination is there? Please remember the needy when you are grocery shopping!

Wishing each of you a Happy Valentine's Day and Happy St. Patrick's Day!

This report courtesy of Linda Black for Your Care Pantry Team

# MARCH 2022

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Dotty Hanshew
- 7 Anne Lindstrom
- 9 Rachel Hise
- 15 Kaytie-Jo Carter
- 15 Frances Withrow
- 18 Susan Lindstrom
- 20 Helen Gaylor
- 23 Meredith Minter
- 30 Chet Swartz



The Presbyterian women group met on Thursday February 10 and we are excited to share that we have now have 19 members enrolled. We are studying the book, "Things My Grandmother Taught Me." There were 17 in attendance this past Thursday to hear Rev. Susi share the lesson with us.

Pat Trees, the Executive Secretary of Safe Homes gave us an informative talk about the current status of safe homes and how we might address their needs. This will be part of our discussion during the March meeting as to how we may reach out if we decide this will be one of our projects. Pat gifted us with fans from Safesystems, Inc.



The January and February birthdays were acknowledged and the following were recognized. Debbie Amick, Jeanie Morrisette, Terri Slate, and Ruby Sharp. Happy Birthday was sung a cappella and joyous clapping for the recipients.

As Co-Moderator and card chairman, a report was given by Ruby Sharp. She has been unable to reach Joan Shiffeler whose address is in Texas. Joan is on our list for shut ins. Her status is unknown because there are no replies about her health. We are concerned as to whether to continue to send cards to her. Someone offered help in this issue. Further discussion about resupplying the stamps and cards were given and money was taken from the treasury to cover the cost. As a result of dwindling finances, our group has decided to bring a love offering to be placed in a basket. We are grateful that donations were already placed on this first meeting. We want to be able to order our work booklets as needed as well as the other gifts we share. Thank you for sharing with our group. The basket will be available at each meeting for those who wish to donate.

Barbara Fawley gave the treasure's report of a balance of \$629.59 for February after expenditures of \$30.38. Thank you, Barbara, for continuing to do this job for PW.

Rev Susi gave our lesson on Ruth who is referred as "Ruth the Moabite" which was a slang expression suggesting less than complementary. All the women in this study that we have examined, still did their part to further the church regardless of their station in life. This tells us by faith we can help our church to be far reaching and to grow. If we sit back and do not take a role in our church, the declining population may close our doors.

As we continue to pray let us invite our families, friends and others to attend church.

With God's help we can be as strong as the women we are studying.

Our next meeting will be held Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM in the Sanctuary.

Love to all

Moderator of PW  
Pam Pace

# Lenten Sermon Series

I will be preaching a special Sermon Series during Lent titled "Encounters with Jesus".

As we hear the stories of 7 people who encountered Jesus, we will consider what that encounter meant to each of them.

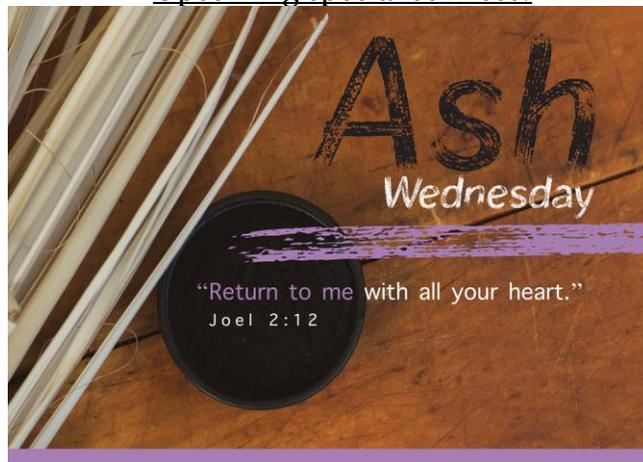
Here are the stories and their Scriptures:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| March 6, 2022  | The Man Born Blind,<br>John 9:1-12       |
| March 13, 2022 | Martha and Mary,<br>Luke 10:38-42        |
| March 20, 2022 | Nicodemus, John 3:1-21                   |
| March 27, 2022 | The Woman at the Well,<br>John 4:1-42    |
| April 3, 2022  | Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-10                  |
| April 10, 2022 | Caiaphas, Matthew 26:57-68 (Palm Sunday) |
| April 17, 2022 | Mary Magdalene,<br>John 20:1-18 (Easter) |

*Pastor Susi*

# Prayers & Songs

Upcoming special services:



~Ash Wednesday Service~ March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
This service will be at 5:00 p. m. and will last approximately 30 minutes. Please attend.

~Communion March 6<sup>th</sup> (seated) &  
Installation of Elders

~Our Worship and Music committee is open to anyone - please think about joining with us. Let Pastor Susi know if you'd like to join for the Zoom link for the meeting.

Brenda Linkenhoker



**Please like us on Facebook and Share our daily scriptures with your friends.**

Second Quarter *THESE DAYS* Devotionals have arrived. These begin April 1<sup>st</sup>. Please let the office know if you would like a copy mailed to you. Thank you!



## Complete serenity

Many of us have heard the first part of what's called "The Serenity Prayer," attributed to theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. But we would do well to learn the rest of it as well: **"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference, living one day at a time; enjoying one moment at a time; taking this world as it is and not as I would have it; trusting that you will make all things right if I surrender to your will; so that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with You forever in the next. Amen."**

# Lenten Devotions

Beginning Ash Wednesday, through Easter Sunday, Daniel Pillow will be sharing a special series of devotions, Steadfast Love, written by Henri J.M. Nouwen. Henri Nouwen was one of the most innovative and influential spiritual writers of the past century. His vision of spirituality was broad and inclusive, and his compassion embraced all of humankind.

Nouwen wrote 39 books on spirituality and the spiritual life that have sold millions of copies and been translated into over 30 languages. The passages quoted and shared in the devotions are taken from some of his published works, all of which are available through [www.henrinouwen.org](http://www.henrinouwen.org).

You are encouraged to join Daniel, on our YouTube Channel **FPC CovingtonVA** at a time that suits you, beginning at 8:00 a.m. each day.

“Faith is the first factor in a life devoted to service. Without it, nothing is possible. With it, nothing is impossible.”

—Mary McLeod Bethune



# Puzzle!

Complete the Scripture verses (NIV, unless marked) using letters found in the words



See! The winter is \_ \_ \_ \_ ; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come. (Song of Solomon 2:11-12)

“Therefore, if your whole body is full of light, and no part of it \_ \_ \_ \_ , it will be just as full of light as when a lamp shines its light on you.” (Luke 11:36)

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them ... ? (Psalm 8:3-4)

We all, like sheep, have gone \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ , each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and members of the household of God. (Ephesians 2:19, ESV)

Answer: past, dark, stars, astray, saints

## Our Stain Remover

From sanitizers and soaps to solutions and sprays, many products promise to eliminate germs and grime. Unfortunately, they often fall short. Just think how many items in your closet or kitchen have been ruined by stubborn stains.

What if we were that concerned about ridding our lives and hearts of sin? What if we spent as much time confessing and repenting as scrubbing and laundering? The (the cross), Jesus makes us “whiter than snow” (Psalm 51:7). Praise be to our remover!

# 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 via Zoom – Contact Pastor Susi for an Invitation @pastor.susi.ennis@gmail.com

## March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <b>March 13th</b>		<b>1</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  <b>TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 6:45 p	<b>2</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <b>Ash Wednesday Service 5p</b> <b>Choirs</b> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p	<b>3</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	<b>4</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	<b>5</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
<b>6</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School, 9:45a Worship, 11:00a Communion Elder Installation	<b>7</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	<b>8</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  <b>TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 6:45 p	<b>9</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <b>Choirs</b> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p  <b>VOUCHERS DUE, 10a</b>	<b>10</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  <b>PWs meet 1 pm</b>	<b>11</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	<b>12</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
<b>13</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	<b>14</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	<b>15</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <b>W&amp;M @10aZoom</b> <b>M&amp;S @ 4p Zoom</b>  <b>TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 6:45 p	<b>16</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <b>Choirs</b> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p	<b>17</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  	<b>18</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	<b>19</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
<b>20</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	<b>21</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	<b>22</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  <b>TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 6:45 p	<b>23</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <b>Choirs</b> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p	<b>24</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  <b>Newsletter Items Due 10a</b>  <b>VOUCHERS DUE, 10a</b>	<b>25</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	<b>26</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
<b>27</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a  <b>SESSION</b>	<b>28</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	<b>29</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a  <b>TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL</b> 6:45 p	<b>30</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a <b>Choirs</b> Handbell, 5:30p Chancel, 6:45p	<b>31</b> Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a		

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