

Under Our Roof

First Presbyterian Church, Covington, VA

March 2023

“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?” Isaiah 58:6

By the time this newsletter reaches you we will have already observed Ash Wednesday which signals the season of Lent. During Lent we reflect on God’s great love the people of the world. It is a time to reflect upon Jesus’ sacrifice for us because of that love.

The 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday are observed in a variety of ways by faithful Christians. This solemn period is marked by reflection on Scripture, prayer, and fasting.

Some people will extend their devotion time by reading additional passages in the Bible. Others might select devotional material that is designed just for the season of Lent. I know that I have received invitations in my email from the several sources asking me to purchase Lenten devotional materials to be used by the congregation. Some of you have favorites that you return to year after year during Lent. Those favorites might be from authors such as Henri Nouwen, Eugene Petersen, Oswald Chambers, and the like.

As devotional time is increased, so too is prayer time. We know that in the letter to the Thessalonians Paul encourages us to pray continually; and so we do. During Lent, many people will set aside a particular time to pray in addition to whatever regular time spent in prayer.

We pray in thanksgiving for God’s gift of a Savior who was willing to die to bring us salvation. We thank God that we are cared for, watched over, and blessed. We lift prayers of repentance for our sins. And we lift prayers for the healing of our world, our country, and our community. We pray for people in our lives who are hurting and in need of healing. All of these things we pray for regularly, however, during Lent we might focus on a particular area of life for which to pray.

And then there is fasting. Fasting is the act of abstaining from something. Often when we think of fasting it centers around food. Some people give up a particular food that is a favorite. I think of how many people tell me they give up chocolate for Lent, or they give up sodas for Lent. Some take a 24-hour period where they do not consume solid foods, only water and broths.

Others might give up bad habits in the hopes that refraining from them for these 40 days will help them give them up permanently. Things like smoking, drinking alcohol, or swearing.

The point is to do something that deepens your relationship with God; something that brings you closer to God, to Jesus Christ, and to the Holy Spirit. May this season of Lent be a time for you to draw close to the God who sent a Savior who is called Christ the Lord.

Pastor Susi



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

Our new member today is Ann Woodward. We are grateful for her presence.



Barbara Fawley gave our treasures report to share and we are financially sound at this time. A reminder was made to all to remember to

bring supplies for safe homes. The box is in the church library for those items. Just remember to pick up extra paper products or cleaning supplies when you shop.



The members would like to begin a peanut butter collection to help supply the food pantry.

There is an overwhelming need according to Terri Slate and Brenda Linkenhoker who volunteer at COPE on a regular basis. We will stack the peanut butter just outside the door of the pastor's office in the hall. Reminders will be in the bulletins to help us remember.

Letters from the Children's home in Wytheville and from the Christmas Mother thanking us for



our donations were passed around to be read. We also received a note from our most efficient secretary thanking us for her gift. We are so indebted to her for keeping us informed and for sharing all our events in a timely fashion.



The PW women met February 9th for their Cup of Soup luncheon and Bible study. Denise Pillow gave the opening devotional by Kate Bowler which was so well received. Thank you also Denise for sharing your personal note about your Dad. There were 11 in attendance. Fun conversation was had and it was a joy being together. In addition to the soup we had delicious cookies made by Emily Amick as well as other wonderful peppermint and fine cookies furnished by the social committee.



We had reports from our members who returned home recuperating from falls. So grateful for healing and good care by those who love them.



Ruby Sharp gave a report on the cards and candy she delivered and mailed. We sang Happy Birthday to those celebrating including Ruby who has a birthday on Valentine's Day. Other birthdays included are Terri Slate Feb 6 Debby Amick Feb 18. We are grateful for Ruby's devotion to bring joy to the embers.

Other business was tabled until more information is given and the business meeting adjourned.

Rev. Susi led our Lesson 5 Bible Study Discussion of "Sabbath and Servitude".

Our next meeting will be at 1 PM on Thursday, March 9th, and Mr. Billy Rice from the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands in Wytheville will be our mission guest speaker. Hope you can all attend!

Pam Pace
Moderator



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

Second Quarter *THESE DAYS* Devotionals will arrive soon. These begin April 1st. Please let the office know if you would like a copy mailed to you. Thank you!



Minute for Mission

**One Great Hour of Sharing
Collection on 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.

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

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.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering is traditionally received on Easter, April 9th. There is a special envelope in your offering box and bulletins for this offering.

-- Mission & Service Committee

LETTER OF THANKS

AND NEWS FROM

SOUTH COVINGTON CARE PANTRY

The South Covington Care Pantry provides abundant food boxes to Alleghany Highlands families who apply. This is possible because of the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and because of your outstanding support in 2022 by donating \$2,509.25. We also recognize the work by Sue, Denise, and Barbara plus the Session, which resulted in a Two Cents a Meal Grant of \$1,200 and your matching funds of \$600 received in December. Not only do we seek to provide nourishing food, but also a smile and maybe a laugh, compassion and love, and personalized care whenever possible. Our dedicated, Christian team members serve each week to provide for our neighbors and to make these extras a vital part of our mission. Assistance such as yours is also essential to our success, and we continue to be very grateful for your faithfulness.

In 2022, we saw an increase of 21%, allowing us to serve 3,892 individuals (1,058 families) including many children. In addition to the individual friends and local churches, civic organizations and industries that support our efforts, we gratefully acknowledge Feeding Southwest Virginia, the USDA, Food Lion and Hunters for the Hungry. In 2022, as most likely will be the case in 2023, we made all of our purchases from FSWVA, from whom we can purchase frozen meats and canned goods for a \$.19 per pound handling fee. They also purchase other food items in bulk to pass on competitive prices, as well as providing selected items, including fruits and produce at no cost.

It continues to be our honor to put your donations to work in helping meet the needs of many families in the Highlands and to share our newsletters with you. As always, we ask your continued prayers for

this mission, as well as for the families who come to us for help and for our team.

May God bless you for your generosity!

- Linda Black

South Covington Care Pantry

SOUTH COVINGTON CARE PANTRY STATISTICS REPORT

<u>Months</u>	<u>Families Served</u>	<u># Of Family Members</u>
December 2022	91	324
January 2023	113	406

Deposit	December 2022 – January 2023
\$882.79	Local UMCs
\$1,100.00	Donations from Individuals
\$1,359.25	First Presbyterian Church
\$1,200.00	Presbytery of the Peaks
	Two Cents a Meal Grant
\$500.00	Greenwood Evangelical
	Presbyterian Church
\$600.00	Edgemont ARP Women's
	Ministries
\$100.00	Edgemont ARP Hope
	Sunday School Class
\$200.00	Lewis Gale-Alleghany
	Volunteer Auxiliary
\$100.00	Ingevity
\$6,042.04	TOTAL

The monthly bills from FSWVA for food totaled \$2,520.51 for December and January. Although we continue to receive reduced quantities of USDA products, we again received some "no cost" canned foods and staples from Feeding Southwest Virginia. Food drive items and frozen meats donated by grocery stores to FSWVA for which we pay a \$.19 per pound handling fee are dwindling. Thankfully, we have been able to provide abundant amounts of groceries to our applicants during this period.

BLESSINGS

- South Covington UMC donated 73 food items including 30 boxes of cornbread mix.
- The Patterson Family donated 38 items including cereal and peanut butter.
- Granbery Memorial UMC members delivered 155 items including food and paper products.
- A member of Hokes Chapel UMC delivered 37 food items.

- Members of Christ UMC delivered 81 food items consisting of stuffing mix and pasta.
- Hunters for the Hungry delivered 500 pounds of venison. Pretty much all applicants look forward to this.
- A member of Mt. Pleasant UMC donated 18 protein drinks.
- A member of Lone Star Baptist Church delivered 30 food items.
- Team members picked up 35 food items donated by WestRock employees.
- We were blessed by a Two Cents a Meal Grant from Presbytery of the Peaks. The grant request was endorsed by the Session of First Presbyterian Church. First Presbyterian also gave us a 50% matching grant of \$600.
- Applicants were very grateful for the Christmas gift of laundry detergent, Christmas card, and donated 2023 calendars as far as they went.
- Almost 50 thank-you letters have been sent to those who generously donated to our pantry during 2022.
- Donations of very nice clothing continue to come in, and many grateful individuals have shopped the clothing racks. This service is well received.

PROVERBS 14:21

“Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.”

THE ITEM OF THE MONTH IS GOING BACK TO CORNBREAD MIX. It is a great meal addition, and we still have a great supply of dried beans.

GOD IS GOOD! We have faith He will continue to see that our needs are met. Please continue to pray for our applicants, for all who support our mission, and for all those who work so faithfully to serve our neighbors in need.

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

- Linda Black for Your Care Pantry Team

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

Sunday School Zoom Classes meet Sunday morn at 9:30 A. M. and Tuesday at 6:45 P. M.

To be added to the email list to receive the Zoom link, please email: pastor.susi.ennis@gmail.com
Here is the upcoming schedule for Sunday School classes through the end of April.

Tuesday	2/28	No Class
Sunday	3/5	No Class
Tuesday	3/7	Galatians 6
Sunday	3/12	The Temptation of Jesus #1
Tuesday	3/14	The Temptation of Jesus #1
Sunday	3/19	The Temptation of Jesus #2
Tuesday	3/21	The Temptation of Jesus #2
Sunday	3/26	The Temptation of Jesus #3
Tuesday	3/28	The Temptation of Jesus #3
Sunday	4/2	The Temptation of Jesus #4
Tuesday	4/4	The Temptation of Jesus #4
Sunday	4/9	Easter Sunday, no class
Tuesday	4/11	no class
Sunday	4/16	The Temptation of Jesus #5
Tuesday	4/18	The Temptation of Jesus #5
Sunday	4/23	The Temptation of Jesus #6
Tuesday	4/25	The Temptation of Jesus #6

2023 LENTEN LUNCHEON SCHEDULE

01 MAR	McAllister Mem. Presbyterian
08 MAR	First Christian Church
15 MAR	Good News Christian Church
22 MAR	Gospel Tabernacle COGIC
29 MAR	Mallow Presbyterian Church



All lunches begin at 12 Noon
and end prior to 1 P. M.

A free will offering is collected each Wednesday to support a local mission or ministry. Each week a different minister will bring us a message. Join together with brothers and sisters of all denominations to worship and glorify God.

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 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 March 12th			1 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p Noon Lenten Lunch: McAllister Pres.	2 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	3 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	4 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
5 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a NO Sunday School class Worship, 11:00a Jim & Terri Slate	6 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	7 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	8 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p Noon Lenten Lunch: 1st Christian	9 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a PWs meet 1 pm VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	10 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	11 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
12 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a INSTALL ELDERS Communion	13 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	14 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	15 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p Noon Lenten Lunch: Good News	16 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	17 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a 	18 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
19 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a SESSION	20 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	M & S 10 AM Zoom TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p	22 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p Noon Lenten Lunch: G T -COGIC	23 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	24 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	25 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a
26 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Social Time, 9:30a, Sunday School 9:45a Worship, 11:00a	27 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	28 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a TUESDAY NITE SUNDAY SCHOOL 6:45 p Newsletter Items Due 10a VOUCHERS DUE, 10a	29 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a Choirs Chancel, 4:30p Handbell, 5:30p Noon Lenten Lunch: Mallow Pres.	30 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a	31 Devotions w/ Daniel, 8a 