**First Presbyterian Church**

300 Market Street, Warren, PA 16365-2360

Following Christ So All May Thrive

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00AM-2:00PM

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**March 8, 2020**

**SECOND SUNDAY**

**IN**

**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY**

Second Sunday in Lent

**March 8, 2020 10:00 AM**

*Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.*

**We GATHER in God’s GRACE**

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE  *Prayer and Finale* Eugene Butler

Scotland Bell Choir

INTROIT *We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding* David Ashley White

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive) (verses from Psalm 121)

L: I raise my eyes toward the mountains. Where will my help come from?

**P: My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

L: The Lord is our protector; the Lord is our shade right beside us.

**P: The Lord will protect us on our journeys— whether going or coming— from now until forever from now!**

\*HYMN *To God Be the Glory* #634

CALL TO CONFESSION: (based on Romans 6)

Do we continue to live in ways that are against God’s ways just so God can continue to be gracious and forgiving toward us? No! Once we become aware of how we are hurting God we continually ask God to renew us in Christ’s resurrection life! In this power, we are free from sin and bound to God! Knowing that we need this renewal, let us pray together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Responsive) [adapted from Prayers for a Privileged People by Walter Brueggemann]

L: We acknowledge, O God, that we are among the builders: towers and monuments and steeples and high-rises and silos. We build because we can and because it looks good and because we have so much stuff to store.

**P: We admit, O Lord, that we soon discover that moth and rust consume, shiny surfaces tarnish, and goods decay and turn sour.**

L: And we see clearly that we are closer to being empty than we imagined.

**P: We turn from our successes to you. We turn from our reason to you. We turn from our power to you, to you, to you... because our help is in no other.**

L: You only, O God, in your generosity are enough!

**P: You only, O Lord, do we desire!**

L: Renew our trust and receive our relief that we may yet know you to be our only God!

**P: Quicken our readiness to obey as you summon us in faith this day! Hear us as we ask for your mercy in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

TIME FOR PERSONAL CONFESSION

WORDS ASSURING US OF GOD’S GRACE (Responsive) (based on Romans 6)

L: Hear the Good News: just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of God, we too can walk in newness of life!

**P: The person we used to be is no more! Sin and death hold no power over us!**

L: By grace, we are dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus!

**P: We rejoice in the new life that is ours in Christ! Thanks be to God!**

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GRACE**

\*RESPONSE *We Are Forgiven* #447

\*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

L: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**P: And also with you!**

*Please welcome your neighbors, sharing the peace of Christ with them.*

**WE RECEIVE GOD’S WORD**

A MOMENT WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION (Unison):

**In your mercy and love, O God, open our hearts and minds as your Word is heard that we may receive its truth today! By your Spirit, enable us to understand and appreciate who you are for us and how you work in our lives! Strengthen us in faith we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 12:1-4 (Common English Bible)

The Lord said to Abram, “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, those who curse you I will curse; all the families of the earth will be blessed because of you.” Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM *Psalm 121*

I will lift mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

My help cometh from the Lord, which made Heaven and Earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING John 3:1-12 (Common English Bible)

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a Jewish leader. He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one could do these miraculous signs that you do unless God is with him.” Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born anew, it’s not possible to see God’s kingdom.” Nicodemus asked, “How is it possible for an adult to be born? It’s impossible to enter the mother’s womb for a second time and be born, isn’t it?” Jesus answered, “I assure you, unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, it’s not possible to enter God’s kingdom. Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh, and whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don’t be surprised that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ God’s Spiritblows wherever it wishes. You hear its sound, but you don’t know where it comes from or where it is going. It’s the same with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said, “How are these things possible?” “Jesus answered, “You are a teacher of Israel and you don’t know these things? I assure you that we speak about what we know and testify about what we have seen, but you don’t receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you don’t believe, how will you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God!**

THE WORD EXPLORED: Not How But Who Rev. Rebecca Taylor

\*HYMN *Spirit of the Living God (sung 2x)* #288

**WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD**

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYERS (traditional)

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

Offertory *Adoramus Te Christe* Arr. Peter J. Wilhousky

\*RESPONSE #606

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below;***

***Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts;***

***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.***

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

\*WORDS AFFIRMING OUR FAITH (Unison) (from *A Declaration of Faith*)

**To the world in its rebellion and alienation God promised blessing and restoration. The Lord chose Abraham and his descendants as bearers of that promise for all peoples. They had done nothing more than others to deserve the Lord's favor, but God loved them and made them his own.**

**We acknowledge God's freedom and grace. Though we are unworthy, the Lord has made us his own in Christ. God has chosen us as servants for the sake of the world and destined us to be daughters and sons, giving us love and life, calling us to worship and honor him.**

\*HYMN *O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High* #618

\*BENEDICTION *Farewell, Good Friends!*  Unknown

POSTLUDE *If I Could Hie to Kolob* James C. Kasen

L = Leader **P = People**

**\*indicates that one is invited to stand in body or spirit**

\* THE LECTIONARY READINGS FOR THE NEXT WEEK\*\*\*

**Exodus 17:1–7** Romans 5:1–11

Psalm 95 **John 4:5–42**

Questions for Reflection

As you read John 4:5–42, think about the meaning of water—its symbolic qualities, its presence in nature, and its use in human life. How is Jesus like water? What are the things that are most necessary in your life? Where do you get them? Contribute to or participate in a service project that provides clean water (or some other necessity of life) to people in need. As you do so, make a commitment to pray for all the providers and recipients of this service.

Household Prayer: Morning *Ps. 95*

God, my maker, hold me this day, with the same hand that shapes the mountains, with the same hand that cradles the deep. Keep my heart soft and supple, make my faith strong and firm. Renew me, re-form me, re-create me

into the image of Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Household Prayer: Evening E*xod. 17:1; John 4:6; Rev. 22:1*We come to you now, O Lord, weary from the day’s journey, thirsty for rest, hungry for peace. Renew us in your love and restore us by your grace, until we find our rest at last by the river of the water of life. Amen.

\*\*Taken from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C, Volume 2*. © 2014 Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



**OUR STAFF**

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Kyle Brecht, Property Manager Ben Check, Assist. Property Manager

Courtney Robillard, Childcare Curtis Tyler, Childcare

Lori VanOrd, Childcare Terri Shaw, Childcare

**\*\*\* OUR WORSHIP SERVICE \*\*\***

IF YOU ARE NEW TO OUR CHURCH, and are interested in uniting with this congregation, please speak to Rev. Rebecca or one of our Elders. We would love to have you as a member of our church family. Visitors are encouraged to fill out the pink visitor card found in the pew rack.

LARGE PRINT HYMNALS, BULLETINS, Children’s Activity bulletins, and hearing assist radios are available from the ushers.

THE PRAYER REQUEST FORM is located on the lecterns at the back of the sanctuary. Please fill in your concerns prior to worship.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. John and Patricia Huey by Matt and Tina Huey and their children.

WE WELCOME AND THANK Cindy Knapp, today’s liturgist and Gloria Lasher for providing the children’s sermon.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE is an ancient tradition of acknowledging the unique fellowship we have in Christ Jesus. Please take this opportunity to share the peace of Christ by whatever means you and the one you are greeting are most comfortable; a handshake, a hug, or a simple verbal greeting.

A MOMENT WITH OUR YOUNG DISCIPLES — From babes in arms to elementary school age children, we welcome the children forward to the chancel at this time. Parents should feel welcome to accompany younger children. After sharing and a closing prayer, children age 5 and younger may go downstairs for childcare or return to their seats with their parents.

**\*\*\* ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS \*\*\***

**HAPPINESS HOUR HOSTS** – Volunteers are needed to host upcoming Happiness Hour events. Directions are posted in the kitchen. Hosts can be an individual, a couple of friends or family members, or a team effort. Please sign up in the Third Avenue hallway.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** – The Adult Sunday School Class meets at 9:00 AM in the Craft Room. All are welcome! The group is currently studying Exodus through Deuteronomy focusing on the six primary parts which culminated in the development and organization of the Jewish doctrine, which is the foundation of our Christian faith.

**DINNER WITH FRIENDS** –Volunteers are needed to host upcoming Dinner with Friends. A sign-up sheet is on the Third Avenue hallway.

**2020 Presbytery of Lake Erie Mission Trip-**Sunday July 5 – Friday July 10 the Presbytery of Lake Erie will head to West Virginia Presbytery. All ages 14 & up are encouraged to join us. No previous experience or expertise required! Just bring a heart and hands willing to serve! Space is limited to 25 participants, first come first served with a $50 non-refundable deposit. Cost will be $350 per person which includes meals, housing, transportation and work materials. If you would like additional information, contact Cindy Knapp.

**HOLDEN SERVICE**-First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Holden Service on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Cookies are requested for the Coffee Time following the service. Cookies can be dropped off in the kitchen of Fellowship Hall any time before the service on Tuesday - please put a note on them that they are for March 10.

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING-**Join in God’s call to share our bread with the hungry, to aid and shelter people overcoming catastrophe and conflict, and to resource communities working to cast off the bonds of poverty and oppression. Gifts will be received through Sunday, April 12, 2020 and fish boxes are available at the entrances to the sanctuary. **A picture containing weapon, nature

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**2020 Lenten Services**

**“Symbols of the Season” Holden Evening Services at 7:00 P.M.**

 Date Location Preacher Symbol

Tuesday, March 10th First Presbyterian Rev. Jeff Ewing Dove

Tuesday, March 17th St. Joseph RCC Rev. Larry Scofield Chalice

Tuesday, March 24th Trinity Memorial Rev. Rebecca Taylor Crown of Thorns

Episcopal

Tuesday, March 31st St. Paul Lutheran Father Richard Tomasone Fish

**Meat at the Movies!**

(A series for meaty conversation during Lent)

Week 2

March 8, 2020: “The Way” (PG-13, 121 min., 2010)

Lashers’ Residence Martin Sheen, Emilio Estevez

Week 3

March 15, 2020: “My Sister’s Keeper” (PG-13, 109 min., 2009)

Lashers’ Residence Cameron Diaz, Abigail Breslin

Week 4

March 22, 2020: “Shadowlands” (PG, 133 min., 1993)

Lashers’ Residence Anthony Hopkins, Debra Winger

Week 5

March 29, 2020: “A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood” (PG, 109 min., 2019)

Tom Hanks, Matthew Rhys

**\*\*\* CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK \*\*\***

Sunday 3/8

8:30 AM Finance Committee-Library

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School-Craft Room

9:30 AM Properties Committee

10:00 AM Morning Worship – Sanctuary

11:15 AM Happiness Hour

5:00 PM Lenten Movie-Lashers’ Residence: “The Way”

Monday 3/9

6:30 PM Troop 8 – Scout Room

Tuesday 3/10

12:00 PM AA – Calvin Corner

Bulletin QR Code



7:00 PM AA (Women’s Group) – Calvin Corner

7:00 PM Holden Service-First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday 3/11

9:30 AM Cuppa Coffee – Library

6:00 PM Bell Choir Rehearsal – Sanctuary

6:15 PM The Healing Journey – Conference Room

7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal – Choir Rehearsal Room

Thursday 3/12

4:30 PM Sharing Place Meal

6:30 PM NA-Calvin Corner

6:30 PM District Scout Committee

Friday 3/13

6:00 PM AA (Men’s Group)- Calvin Corner

Sunday 3/15

9:00 AM Adult Sunday School-Craft Room

9:30 AM Properties Committee

10:00 AM Morning Worship – Sanctuary

11:15 AM Happiness Hour

5:00 PM Lenten Movie-Lashers’ Residence: “My Sister’s Keeper”

**\*\*\* JOYS AND CONCERNS \*\*\***

Ushers will distribute postcards at the beginning of the service; if you would like to write a word of encouragement to any of the people mentioned, or others on your mind, please raise your hand and indicate how many cards you would like. Fill them out and drop them in the offering plate and the office staff will ensure they are mailed during the week.

**Joys:**

The Caring Connection that gathers monthly at Warren Apartments

**Concerns:**

Prayers for Rev. Rebecca who is recovering from a successful knee surgery

Prayers for the family of Dwight Witman, Sara Swanson’s uncle, who died on 2/27/2020, two days after celebrating his 100th birthday

Prayers for Dorothy Collins, currently at the Rouse Home

Prayers for Bill

Prayers for Kathleen Mahaffy, who has a severe case of bursitis in her arm

Prayers for Randy Rossey who is recovering from shoulder surgery

Prayers for Rex Rossey, Randy Rossey and Suzanne Hunt’s brother, who is in hospice care

Prayers for Mary Schorman

Prayers of healing for Wanda Monts

Courage, Strength and Faith to Larfay Austin Jr during his incarceration

Prayers for Sherry Walter who is now residing with her daughter, Kim

Prayers for Carinne Palm, Vickie Eggleston’s sister, who will be undergoing radiation treatments

Prayers for Coleen Christy, recently hospitalized

Prayers for Trevor, 16 years old, facing a 9-month recovery from successful shoulder surgery

Prayers for Susan Wenzel, who has health concerns

Prayers for Ross Bryan, who is recovering from back surgery

Prayers for Norm Perschke, who is at the Warren Manor

Prayers for Sherran Jones

Prayers for Lynda Slocum’s grandson, Brayden

Prayers for Lois Buerkle, Lynn Sears’ sister, as she undergoes treatments for cancer

Prayers for Andy Yurick

Prayers for Carol Swanson

Prayers for Tristan Dolan

Prayers for Louise Crozier and family

Prayers for Kass Judson

Prayers for Katie Roth Spiegel, age 39, who is undergoing treatment for cancer

Prayers for Wally Post *(continued)*

Prayers for Ron & June Carlson Prayers for Calvin Leonard, residing at the Rouse Home

Prayers for Lisa Huey Hochberg

Prayers for Emma and Leila

Prayers for Pat Fankhouser

Prayers for Seth

Prayers for Andy Slocum

Prayers for Margaret Taylor, Rebecca’s mother, under Hospice care.

Prayers for those whose lives and property have been affected by the tornadoes in Tennessee

Prayers for those affected by the Coronavirus.

Prayers for the world situation in the Middle East.

Those whose lives and property have been affected in the earthquake in Puerto Rico.

Courage, strength, and faith to all those affected by violent crimes.

Those serving in our military, people struggling with addiction, and those in jail

Those facing famine and hunger in remote and desolate places.

Let the Light of the Lord shine on all peoples in all nations

**\*\*\* PRESBYTERY JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS \*\*\***

We pray for the churches and ministerial staff that constitute the Lake Erie Presbytery. This week we pray for Tidioute and Irvine, Commissioned Pastor Dennis Ledebur, and Rev. Seth Agidi, Moderator of General Assembly, Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana.

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| This Week’s Servers: | | Next Week’s Servers | |
| Liturgist | Cindy Knapp | **Liturgist** | Carrie Salapek |
| Children’s Sermon | Gloria Lasher | **Children’s Sermon** | Lynda Slocum |
| Secure Offering | Joanna Elletson | **Secure Offering** | Joanna Elletson |
| Secure Offering | Carrie Salapek | **Secure Offering** | Carrie Salapek |
| Ushers | Paul Blasco  Kay Dolan  Beverly Callahan  Martha Leathers | **Ushers** | Jim Higgins  Marjorie Neel  Pat King |
| Happiness Hour |  | **Happiness Hour** | Ray Pring |
| Flower Delivery | Richard Swanson | **Flower Delivery** | Jim and Lila Hookins |
| Sharing Place | First Methodist | **Sharing Place** | First Presbyterian 2 |
| Sharing Place Team | First Methodist | **Sharing Place Team** | First Presbyterian 2 |