



## MARCH NEWSLETTER

### Why do we need Lent? Why do we need Spiritual Practices?

In the 3rd and 4th centuries, a group of devout men and women known as the desert mothers and fathers, set out for the desert areas of Egypt and beyond to live in simplicity as Jesus talked about living. These faithful followers set up an early form of Lenten observance, one in which they carved out the space necessary to discover exactly which disciplines would lead them to encounter the living God.

Lent provides that for us today, as well. It shows us which practices and habits we are most in need of. And if we are following in the way of Jesus, it forces us to SLOW DOWN. Otherwise, our spiritual practices become like many other things in our life: a showcase of our productivity.

In a world that constantly tells us to hurry and produce, Lent tells us to slow down and pay attention. It demonstrates what habits and practices we need most.

Ronnie's Lenten sermon series, Purple Theory, is providing us with excellent examples of which practices would benefit us most. Some of these practices, like the liturgy we follow during Lent, are familiar to us after years of keeping them. So, we may ask ourselves, "What's the point?" The novelty of liturgy can wear off quickly, but it is meant to. These words, the same and the same and the same, for hundreds of years, signal reassurance; trustworthiness. It is precisely this unrelenting sameness that opens up space for new works of God's spirit in individual lives.

Theologian, N. T. Wright, uses an excellent metaphor for this in his writing about Lent. He describes a house that's grown dusty and disorganized through lack of attention. Our spiritual lives can easily become like this. He uses this metaphor to say that Lent is a time set aside for the purposes of "cleaning house." Sweep up the cobwebs, so to speak. But even more so, once the house is clean, we're given the chance to reevaluate whether that is actually the best place for the couch, whether the TV might make more sense in a different corner.

"When God forgives," he writes, "God does so not in order to bring us back from being 'in the red' merely to having a 'zero balance.' God does so in order to guide us into new tasks and callings he's had in mind for us all along, but for which we weren't ready."

Our focus on repentance and forgiveness at Lent, ultimately serves the purpose of calling us into new possibility. Through our reflective listening, our quiet contemplation, our slowing down, may we discover new possibility with God this Lent.



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

March Calendar .....	2
March Birthdays.....	2
New & Noteworthy .....	3
Deacon News.....	4
Hearts & Hands to Others.....	5
One Great Hour of Sharing.....	6
Easter Word Search.....	7
Poem & Brain Teasers....	8



March 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

*"A light exists in Spring  
Not present in the year  
at any other period  
When March is scarcely here."  
□ Emily Dickinson*



Sunday, March 10th  
Don't forget!

March 3: 3rd Sunday of Lent

March 5: Book Club, 1:00 pm, Java with Jesus area

March 6: Prime Time, 5:30-7:30, FH

March 10: 4th Sunday of Lent

March 13: PEO, 12:3, Java with Jesus area; Prime Time, 5:30-7:30, FH

March 16: Area Council of Barbershop singers, 10:00 am, FH

March 17: 5th Sunday of Lent; Youth Group, 5-7 pm

March 20: Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am; Prime Time, 5:30-7:30, FH

March 21: Session & Deacons Meetings, 7:00 pm, office Classrooms

March 24: Palm Sunday, Holy Week begins

March 28: Maundy Thursday service, 7:00 pm

March 29: Good Friday

March 31: Easter Sunday; One Great Hour of Sharing Offering;  
Easter Breakfast, 9:30 am, FH

#### WEEKLY

Spiritual Formation Classes, 9:30 am; Worship, 10:30 am

Tinkers meet Tuesdays, 9:00 am at church

AA Groups: Tuesdays, 6:00 pm; Saturdays, 10:00 am; meet in the Parlor



#### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Jack Spraul

2 Ellie Luley

2 Sylvia Carroll

9 Shanan Litteken

10 David Roy

17 Maya Southard

20 Caleb Scott

21 Ellie White

28 Ian Besselman

29 Anna White

29 Travis McMaken

29 Danita Watkins

30 Alex Kelly

31 Luke Mitchum



Happy Birthday to all of our beloved members born this month! May the coming year bring you joy and peace knowing the Lord loves you and your church family too!



## NEW & NOTEWORTHY



**VBS is coming! Outback Rock** is an Aussie adventure where kids explore God's monumental love and discover what it means to have an unshakeable faith. Mark your calendars for June 7th -9th: Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Sunday morning service. All kids 4 years-5th grade completion are welcome!

### New Information on our SCRIP Program

In order to expand our SCRIP program, you will now be able to purchase the more popular scrip cards from the church. The regular second Sunday order process will stay in place, but for those who don't have access or don't want to use the RaiseRight app/website, we will have cards available each Sunday (or during the week in the office) for purchase. If there is a card you would like us to keep in inventory, please let Howard Seeds know: ([howard@scpcusa.org](mailto:howard@scpcusa.org)) or 314-600-2051 (cell). There will be a list of available cards for purchase in the Narthex.

Thanks to everyone who supports our program and thus the church's mission and ministry through the purchase of scrip cards.



The church is looking to expand its online directory through Realm and you can be a part of that by creating an account. Please email Howard Seeds ([howard@scpcusa.org](mailto:howard@scpcusa.org)) and he will send instructions to guide you through the process. Please note that your contact information will only be seen by others in the directory.



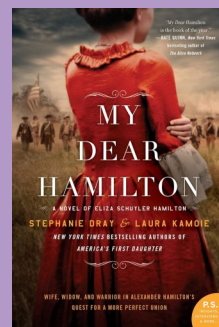
Prime Time continues through March 20th, 5:30-7:30 in Fellowship Hall. Join us for dinner at 6:15 and then a short Lenten devotional in the Parlor focusing on spiritual disciplines. Everyone is welcome!

### Prime Time Wednesdays Menu & Themes

- Mar. 6: Fun Fact Day-Pigs in a blanket, tater tots, Carrots with ranch, brownies; dress like you
- Mar. 13: National Good Samaritan Day-Taco Bar, tortilla chips, fruit cups, Texas sheet cake; bring a donation to FISH
- Mar. 20: Mr. Rogers Day-Pizza and salad, cookies; wear a sweater



Join **Book Club** this month by reading their selection, *My Dear Hamilton*, by Stephanie Dray & Laura Kamoie. They will meet Tuesday, March 5th at 1:00 pm in the Java with Jesus area. Don't miss out on this exciting read and lively discussion!



Join Lunch Bunch on March 20th at 11:30 at JJ's Restaurant located at 1215 Duchesne Dr. Enjoy good food and even better conversation!





## Deacon News



Easter Flowers

Easter flowers are available to order for Easter Sunday. Please use the form in the Narthex and order by March 24th. Each order is \$14 and the church will receive a variety of flowers, such as lilies, tulips, kalanchoes, mums and azaleas, to choose from on Easter Sunday.



Psalm 1:1-3

Deacons monthly mission project for February focused on helping families in our community through the support of Habitat for Humanity. This nonprofit organization helps families build and improve places to call home. They believe affordable housing plays a critical role in strong and stable communities. Families who partner with Habitat for Humanity build their own homes alongside volunteers and pay an affordable mortgage. The offering was taken on Feb. 25th and you generously gave \$380.75. Deacons also purchased gift cards for Jonathan Scott's family who lost their home recently in a house fire.

Deacons will be focused on Easter Baskets for FISH for the month of March and you will find details about donating and/or volunteering to help with this annual mission project below. If you have any questions about the Easter baskets or how to help, please see Nancy Brakeman.

The month of March also includes One Great Hour of Sharing, one of the four special offerings of the PCUSA. For more details about that offering and how you can give, please see page 6.



Deacons are collecting items for Easter baskets for FISH. The list includes:

- ◇ Play-Doh or putty
- ◇ small fidget toys
- ◇ individual packages of pretzels, popcorn or animal crackers
- ◇ individually wrapped candy that will fit inside plastic eggs
- ◇ chocolate bunnies



There is a table in the Narthex to show items that are needed and also to place your donations. All items need to be donated by Sunday, March 3rd, so deacons can put them together for delivery by March 6th. If you would like to help with assembly of the baskets, please let a deacon know or contact Nancy Brakeman. Thank you for supporting this annual project for FISH!

1 "Oh, the joys of those who do not follow evil men's advice, who do not hang around with sinners, scoffing at the things of God. 2 But they delight in doing everything God wants them to, and day and night are always meditating on his laws and thinking about ways to follow him more closely. 3 They are like trees along a riverbank bearing luscious fruit each season without fail. Their leaves shall never wither, and all they do shall prosper."

Psalm 1:1-3

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MARCH

Please give what you can and remember that no donation is too small

### FISH FOOD PANTRY\*

Pasta Sides (i.e. Pasta Roni)	Animal Crackers
Canned Pears	Mayonnaise
Canned Gravy	Ketchup
Misc. Potatoes (scalloped, au gratin)	Mustard
Hamburger Helper	Deodorant (men, women)
Jelly	Laundry Detergent
Crackers (Townhouse, Triscuit)	Family Shampoo
	Dishwashing soap

\*You may not be aware that FISH, as a general rule, is always in need of household items, such as blankets, sheets, pillows, underwear, socks, etc. They use much of their monetary donations to purchase these items as a larger family in need can diminish them quickly; however, they always accept these types of used items in good condition. Just something to consider as your plan your donations for 2024.

### FT ZUMWALT EAST SNACK SHACK

Ramen bowls	Pop Tarts
Mac 'n' Cheese	Peanut Butter crackers
microwaveable bowls	Cheese crackers
Individual chip bags	Popcorn
Granola bars	Capri Sun
Breakfast bars	Kool-Aid Jammers



HEARTS  
AND  
HANDS  
TO OTHERS

...in our Community,  
nation, and world

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

Mother Teresa



“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.”

Matt. 25:40

The Souper Bowl Luncheon hosted by our Youth Group was a big success! Lots of delicious soups were served and enjoyed by many. Your generosity was on full display by the 226 cans of soup you donated for FISH, and the \$400 in free will donations you gave for future Youth Group mission activities and trips. Thank you for stepping up for our youth and our community!



75  
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

FEBRUARY 14 – MARCH 31, 2024

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY —  
FOR WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,  
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

## BUILDING GOD’S HOUSEHOLD WITH THE SUFFERING AND VULNERABLE

In Isaiah 58, the prophet exclaims, “Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in” (Isaiah 58:12). As the people of Israel returned from the cloud of exile and struggled to rebuild their lives, Isaiah questioned their efforts: [Are you not called] “to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them?” (Isaiah 58:7).

Then in Matthew 25, we hear Jesus calling to us, “For I was hungry and you gave me food ... I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing. ... As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:35–40).

Isaiah and Jesus are making an important theological point: faithfulness to God causes us to find solutions that will mend broken things— broken lives, broken spirits, broken hearts, broken relationships—things that happen to all of us throughout our lives.

When we give to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering on Easter Day, we are combining our efforts with those across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to repair peoples’ lives — people who are hurting, broken, oppressed, lost or on the margins of society. The exact people about whom Isaiah and Jesus are speaking. The people we are called to connect with every day, but especially in the light of the Good News of the resurrection.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations through three impactful programs: **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters; **Presbyterian Hunger Program** takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed; and, **Self-Development of People** invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty, and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these societal ills.

This year, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of One Great Hour of Sharing. Since 1949, this Offering has been vital in restoring hope, rebuilding dreams and empowering communities to create a world that reflects God’s love. It serves as a tangible expression of our thanks for all that God gives us, and an opportunity to share our blessing with others.



# He is Risen!



L	E	E	T	Y	Y	V	O	L	S	T	M	H	I	P
P	L	G	M	A	R	V	D	A	D	S	C	Q	C	N
V	H	E	D	P	C	A	L	I	P	I	R	B	M	U
N	Z	N	G	R	T	V	V	Q	Q	R	O	M	F	S
N	U	J	O	N	A	Y	K	L	F	H	S	O	Y	I
S	X	W	Q	T	A	A	K	X	A	C	S	T	C	P
E	N	O	I	E	N	O	T	S	N	C	D	C	G	P
B	F	O	N	X	W	Z	Z	K	X	H	U	E	K	U
T	N	H	I	M	P	C	Y	R	I	S	E	N	P	N
R	L	Q	X	K	W	Q	H	D	D	W	V	E	N	P
N	W	F	C	F	I	K	D	O	G	E	L	Y	D	H
A	N	F	H	N	V	I	F	C	Z	I	R	B	I	K
T	V	F	F	D	I	W	E	A	Q	A	H	C	V	C
S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	M	U	I	B	O	C
U	A	V	A	W	K	J	P	S	J	G	Y	Z	V	H

RISEN

SALVATION

STONE

SUNDAY

TOMB

ANGEL

CALVARY

CHRIST

CROSS

CROWN

DISCIPLES

EMPTY

MARY



## The Ballad of Mary's Son

It was in the Spring  
The Passover had come.  
There was feasting in the streets and joy.  
But an awful thing  
Happened in the Spring-  
Men who knew not what they did  
Killed Mary's boy.  
He was Mary's Son,  
And the Son of God was He-  
Sent to bring the whole world joy.  
There were some who could not hear,  
And some were filled with fear-  
so they built a cross  
For Mary's Boy.

By Langston Hughes (1954)

## BRAIN TEASERS

1. There is a word in the English language in which the first two letters signify a male, the first three letters signify a female, the first four signify a great man, and the whole word, a great woman. What is the word?
2. What is harder to catch the faster you run?
3. In my hand I have two coins that are newly minted. Together, they total 30 cents. One isn't a nickel. What are the coins?
4. What fastens two people yet touches only one?
5. You're escaping a labyrinth and there are three exits. Exit A leads to an inferno. Exit B leads to an assassin. Exit C leads to a lion that hasn't eaten in 3 years. Which exit do you take?



St. Charles Presbyterian  
Church  
Founded 1818

Answers to Brain Teasers:  
1. Heroine  
2. Your breath  
3. A quarter and a nickel  
4. A wedding ring  
5. Exit C. If a lion hasn't eaten in 3 years, it has definitely starved to death.