



From the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

We are now in the season in Lent, 40 days excluding Sundays when we're encouraged to particularly reflect upon our Christian faith, the love of a God so wide and so deep as to be willing to become human and to die a horrific human death, and its meaning for our lives in preparation for the joy of Easter.

This year we are using a Lenten wreath each Sunday to count down the Sundays to Easter. Similar to an Advent wreath, except that unlike Advent when we light another candle each week to commemorate the Light coming into the world, on the Lenten wreath we snuff a candle each week counting down the days to that darkest Good Friday when the Light of the world was temporarily snuffed out. I hope this liturgical addition to our Lenten observance will be a meaningful way for us to mark these 40 days.

Two Sundays this month we will mostly set aside our Lenten observance. The first is on March 4 when we observe "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday with three of our members offering monologues by biblical women.

The second is Sunday, March 11, which I hope you have marked in bold as a day not to miss on your calendars. That's the Sunday we will have our "Summit on the Past" following worship, with the kick-off during worship. Come and share with us your favorite memories of being a part of this church family, bring mementos showcasing meaningful events for our church's history, be a part of helping us together celebrate the good things from our church's past, and especially those that speak to the church we are today.

This month I'll be continuing our book study discussions on *Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To* on Wednesdays here and Mondays at the Pacific church. I'm hoping the chapters will spark some interesting and thought-provoking discussions about the present and future of both churches.

Also, this month we will have our second joint worship service with the Pacific church. It will be our Maundy Thursday worship meal, hosted at Pacific on March 29 at 6:45 p.m. in the fellowship hall. The worship meal will follow their weekly free Dinner With Us community meal. There are plans to take the van, and car pool to make it easier to attend.

Looking forward to seeing you in worship, at the Welcoming Table dinners, and around the church, continuing to get to know you as we serve together during this time of ministry transition!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Marilyn



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Presbyterian Women



SAVE THE DATE

WEST CLUSTER WINTER GATHERING

First Presbyterian Church of Sullivan
(285 East Springfield Road, (573) 468-6364)

Friday, March 9, 2018

9:30 to 10:00 a.m. Registration – coffee and pastries
Cindy Fieg, Presbyterian Women Giddings-Lovejoy Moderator will be our guest speaker and talk about the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program (PDA). The morning will include worship and communion. Registration fee of \$10 will include lunch of chicken salad on croissant, soup, green salad and dessert. Registration forms will be mailed to churches in the cluster at a later date. Please see Carol Gruber to Register

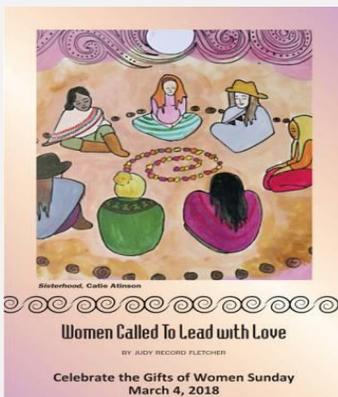
Worshiping and serving God, loving and accepting all

Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

We will observe the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Sunday on March 4 with three or four women in our church sharing monologues portraying biblical women.

This year's Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday focuses on women who have modeled for us what it means to "lead with love." Two characteristics we hope to particularly highlight will be the gift of hospitality and the gift of building consensus.

Come celebrate women's leadership in sharing our faith down through the ages and from within our church family on Sunday, March 4!



Sunday Morning Worship for March

March 4 – 3rd Sunday in Lent – "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" Worship with Communion – Three Biblical Monologues performed by Union Women: "Being Set Free-The Bent Over Woman," "Welcoming Jesus for Dinner-Mary of Bethany," and "Living By Faith-the Canaanite Woman"

March 11 – 4th Sunday in Lent – "Summit on the Past" Worship at Union – "Seeking God's New Thing" from Isaiah 43:18-21 (Pacific will have pulpit supply)

March 18 – 5th Sunday in Lent – "Following the Path to Life" from John 12:20-33. (Pacific's "Summit on the Past")

March 25 – Palm/Passion Sunday – "Betraying Jesus" from Mark 14:1-15:47

March 29 – Maundy Thursday – Joint Meal and Service with Pacific at Pacific at 6:45 p.m. in Fellowship Hall – Communion – probably no sermon – liturgies and hymns interspersed with sharing a simple meal and communion together.

April 1 – Resurrection of the Lord/Easter – Communion – "Amazing, Scary, Good News" from Mark 16:1-8



Fellowship List for March

- Mar 4 Phil & Dorothy Clarkson
 Mar 11 Bev Stobie
 Mar 18 Carol & Myron Gruber
 Mar 25 Leighann & Rich Hoekel

Usher List for March

- Mar 4 Myron & Carol Gruber
 Mar 11 Ralph & Dinah Sudholt
 Mar 18 Laura & Mike Hill
 Mar 25 Phil Clarkson, Susan Buchanan

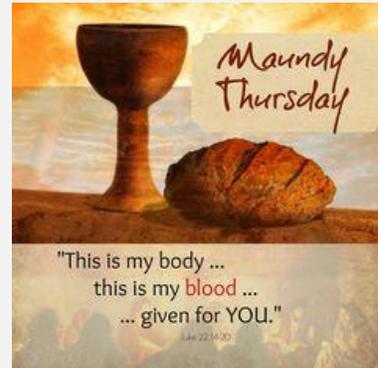
If you are not able to fulfill your assigned Sunday, please ask another member to take your place and let the secretary know of the change. Thank you

Prayer List:

Charles Groskopf (Melissa's Dad)
 Bette Quinn Cedar Crest, Washington
 Charles Otte (Laura Hill's dad) having health issues

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. -
 Washington Presbyterian Church
 4834 South Point Road - fully accessible - everyone
 welcome
 Speaker Larry Lazar will talk on Caring for Creation
 Ploughsharing Fair Trade Crafts for viewing and
 purchase



Joint Maundy Thursday Service at Pacific Thursday March 29 At 6:45PM

Our second joint service with First Presbyterian, Union will be for Maundy Thursday on March 29 at 6:45 p.m. in the Pacific Presbyterian fellowship hall. The worship meal will follow Pacific's weekly free Dinner With Us community meal, with guests invited to stay if they choose.

Current plans are to share a simple meal together, with Maundy Thursday liturgies and communion interspersed. There are also tentative plans for a joint choir to sing during the worship meal.

Hope to see you at our second joint service!

“Seeking God’s New Thing” First Presbyterian Church’s “Summit on the Past”

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

Isaiah 43:19c

The first step in our transitional ministry in preparation to seek a new called and installed pastor is to take a close look at our sense of mission and ministry. Who are we, how did we get here, and who and where do we want to go in the future are questions we will consider in a three-part mission study process Pastor Marilyn has proposed. The three parts are called a Summit on the Past, a Summit on the Present, and a Summit on the Future. The theme for the three summits is “Seeking God’s New Thing” from Isaiah 43:19. Our hoped-for goal is as to have 100 percent congregational participation in each summit.

Our Summit on the Past will be **Sunday, March 11** following morning worship. Although details are still being finalized, in broad general terms you can expect and come prepared for the following:

- A. Sharing important highlights from the church’s written history and placing them on a time line around the room.
- B. Adding to the time line or simply sharing memories and stories from your own histories of being a part of this church family by those gathered. When and why did you become a part of our church family? What’s your favorite story about your time with our church family or that illustrates the kind of worshipping community we are?
- C. Identifying what beliefs or values seem to be expressed through the memories and stories.
- D. Identifying history, memories and stories, along with any roles the church has played down through the ages in the community, that have been particularly impactful on who this church is today.

Since it will be mid-morning we will have donuts, fruit, coffee and juice available.

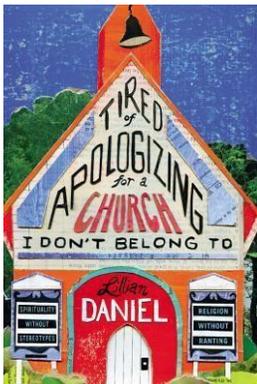
Looking ahead, our Summit on the Present will be Sunday, April 22 following morning worship, and will include taking a survey to assess our congregation’s vitality in area’s such as discipleship formation, evangelism, empowering servant leadership, spirit-led worship, and caring relationships. Our Summit on the Future will probably be scheduled in August, and we will hope to elect members to a joint Pastor Nominating Committee and write a joint Ministry Information Form for beginning our pastor search in September.

NOTE: So that Pastor Marilyn can attend and lead, on the Sundays when First Presbyterian, Union is holding its summits the Pacific church will either have a pulpit supply preacher or a lay led worship service. Pacific’s Summit on the Past will be Sunday, March 18 and their Summit on the Present will be Sunday, April 15. Please hold their congregation in special prayer on the days of their summits. They are being asked to do the same for you on the days of our summits.



Lenten Wreath of Diminishing Lights

During the 40 days in Lent the Christian Church prepares to observe Jesus' passion and resurrection. We examine ourselves as we remember the suffering and sacrifice of Jesus on our behalf. In this season of repentance and fasting, we come to terms with our mortality and need for God's mercy. The candles in our Lenten wreath of diminishing lights represent Jesus' life and ministry. Each week as we snuff another candle the circle of gathering darkness created by the candles and the crown of thorns remind us of the role human sin played in bringing about Jesus' crucifixion and our need for Resurrection. This reversal of the Advent wreath reminds us how we, the human race, rejected Jesus as the Christ, the Light of the world.



***Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To:
Why Rigorous, Reasonable, and Real Religious Community Still Matters***
by Lillian Daniel

**“Lunch & Learn” Brown Bag Lunch and Book Study Led by Pastor Marilyn
Wednesdays 12 Noon-1:00 p.m. at Union**

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| March 7 | Chapters 8-10 |
| March 14 | Chapters 11-12 |
| March 21 | Chapter 13 |
| March 28 | Chapters 14-15 |

If you can't make it on Wednesdays but would really like to participate, don't despair – you are welcome to attend Pacific's study on Monday's from 12 Noon-1:00 p.m.! Here's their schedule:

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| March 5 | Chapters 8-10 |
| March 12 | Chapters 11-12 |
| March 19 | Chapter 13 |
| March 26 | Chapters 14-15 |

A gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Offering will be received on Palm Sunday and Easter.



March 2018

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | 1 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30-3:30PM | 2 World Day of Prayer at Washington Pres- byterian Church 7:30pm | 3 |
| 4 Usher— Myron & Carol Gruber Fellowship - Phil & Dorothy Clarkson | 5 Book Study - Pacific Presbyterian 12-1:00 Chapters 8-10 | 6 The Welcoming Table Zion UCC Serving 6:00 PM | 7 Book Study - First Presbyterian Union 12 Noon - 1:00 Chapters 8-10 | 8 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30-3:30PM | 9 PW West Cluster Gathering @ First Presbyterian Church of Sullivan; 9:30AM | 10 |
| 11 Usher - Ralph & Dinah Sudholt Fellowship Bev Stobie “ Summit on the Past ” after Worship | 12 Book Study - Pacific Presbyterian 12 -1:00 Chapters 11-12 | 13 The Welcoming Table First Presbyterian Serving 6:00pm | 14 Book Study - First Presbyterian Union 12 Noon - 1:00 Chapters 11-12 | 15 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30-3:30PM | 16 | 17 |
| 18 Usher - Mike & Laura Hill Fellowship - Carol & Myron Gruber | 19 Book Study - Pacific Presbyterian 12 -1:00 Chapter 13 | 20 The Welcoming Table Second Blessings Serving 6:00pm | 21 Book Study - First Presbyterian Union 12 Noon - 1:00 Chapter 13 | 22 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30-3:30PM | 23 | 24 Second Blessings Quarter Auction Fund- raiser 5 PM– 10PM at American Legion – Union MO |
| 25 Usher - Phil Clarkson & Susan Buchanan Fellowship - Leighann & Rich Hoekel | 26 Book Study - Pacific Presbyterian 12-1:00 Chapters 14–15 | 27 The Welcoming Table First Presbyterian Serving 6:00 PM | 28 Book Study - First Presbyterian Union 12 Noon - 1:00 Chapters 14– 15 | 29 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30-3:30PM Joint Maundy Thurs Service @ Pacific Presbyterian 6:45PM | 30 | 31 |