



# First Presbyterian Times

*February 2023*

## Letter from the Pastor

Friends,

As I write this article, earlier today a few faithful folks arrived at the church and we worked together to take down, pack up and put away all of the Christmas decorations. It was a very productive, albeit exhausting, morning. And I find myself thankful for the “rest” these next several months will bring until all the decorations are once again brought out and put into place.

No sooner has the Christmas season come and gone, than we turn the calendar to February and find the next cycle approaching of Lent...and Easter. Only this cycle is one I find myself more and more excited about as the years unfold. Perhaps it's because I'm coming more to terms with my own mortality and the real hope of resurrection. Maybe it's because the older I get the more convinced I am that Christmas (or anything, for that matter) has no meaning apart from the Resurrection of Christ. Who knows? It could be that I simply prefer the more introspective seasons of Advent and Lent to those of the bright and bold Christmas and Easter! No matter the reason, I find myself getting excited once more for the Lenten season to begin; for the much-needed reminder of my dependence upon God; for the holy-corrective of God's Word that I cannot save myself, but that God can save and desires to do so. Thanks be to God!

On **Sunday, February 19**, the church observes the “Transfiguration of the Lord” – and with Jesus and his disciples gathered on the mountaintop, we too pivot and begin making our way from the mountaintop drenched in light, to the city of Jerusalem, and the rejection, betrayal, death, and resurrection of our Lord, Jesus. This date also marks our next observance of the Lord's Supper, and I hope you'll mark your calendars and be in attendance.

Three days later (a good, holy, number) is **Ash Wednesday**, the official start of the Lenten season. We'll gather in the sanctuary at 7:00pm, and in Scripture, prayer, and the Word enacted, lay ourselves bare before God, again intentionally placing our lives into the capable hands of our Savior who promises to make all things new. This might be my favorite service of worship every year. It is simple, yet profoundly moving to me. I hope you'll make every effort to attend and be reminded once more that while we “are dust, and to dust [we] shall return” (Genesis 3:19), we are also baptized dust – holy mud, precious and beloved by the God who made us in God's image and redeemed us in love.

From February to April, we journey together through this season of **Lent**, a word that means “lengthening” or “spring”. And as the days lengthen, and the world around us (at least in the northern hemisphere) seems to come alive and bloom, I pray you, too, will experience a newness of life as you seek Christ; that you will know Christ's fullness, and experience in some very real way what Jesus promises to the woman at the well in John 4: “a spring gushing up to eternal life.”

May God bless and keep you all in the days ahead,

Peace,

*Pastor Jason*

# A Note from Faith Formation...

Friends,

We have begun the new year here at First Presby by planning some fun new opportunities for all ages within Faith Formation and we are so excited to share them with you!

To start off, I would like to encourage families to check out the bulletin board in the CE wing across from the Sunday School classrooms. You may recall, with Shiloh Vick as Faith Formation Director, that we made efforts towards teaching kids about the books of the Bible both with our 66 Book Club and with the Old and New Testament hopscotch located around the church. We are continuing these efforts in 2023, but in fun new ways! This year, we would like to focus on understanding what the different books consist of or, put simply, 'what are they all about?' Every other month, families will find that there is a new book of the Bible highlighted on that bulletin board with fun facts and activities for families to take home and continue increasing their Biblical literacy! In January, we began with the beginning...Genesis! We hope you take the time to stop by and check out what we have for this month!



Before we know it, Lent will be upon us! The Faith Formation Committee has been hard at work with preparing a meaningful Lenten bible study for 2023 and we hope you all enjoy what we have put together. Starting the last week in February (aka, the beginning of Lent), we will have a six-week small group Lenten bible study surrounding the concept of "resurrection eggs". For those who do not know, resurrection eggs are a tradition to teach the story of Easter with each egg containing a different item that reminds us of the Easter story in some way. For this study, each week will have a lesson containing scripture from the various gospels (making sure to compare these to one another), reflection/prayer time, and a second enriching activity to help cement our understanding of the wonderful story of our Savior. Additionally, each person in the group will get to take home their own resurrection eggs, as well as a helpful guide for those with small children at home to teach this concept to their children. If you are interested in signing up and taking part in this class, **please sign up either in person on Sundays in the Narthex or virtually**. We will sort the small groups based on times available to meet. We also need group leaders! **If you are willing to lead a small group (all information and materials will be provided) and share your time in service of the discipleship of your congregation, please contact me (susana@firstpresmanhattan.com) or call the church office.**

As we celebrate this month of love, let us not forget the one who loved the world so much, that he gave his only son to save us all. Have a wonderful February.

With blessings,

Susana Vick  
Director of Faith Formation

## WELL WISHES TO TIM & SHELLEY

**Tim & Shelley Norris are moving to Omaha, NE!**

The Community Outreach Breakfast teams and coordinators would like to thank Tim and Shelley for all of their hard work and dedication to our community throughout the years. We're pretty sure they haven't missed a volunteer breakfast since it's inception!

**With love and gratitude,  
Missy Cox & The C.O.B. Volunteers**



# FEBRUARY CALENDAR

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|
|   |  |  | 1<br>Community Breakfast 7am<br>Staff Meeting 9am<br>Women's Bible Study 10am<br>Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm                                  | 2<br>Life's Journey with Grief 12pm                                 | 3<br>Food Pantry 9am                            |
| 5<br>Nursery 9am-noon<br>Sunday School 9:30am<br>Early Service 8:30am<br>Traditional Service 10:30am<br><b>5th Sunday after Epiphany</b>                        | 6<br>Faith Formation 1pm<br>Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm<br>Worship Committee Meeting 5:15pm | 7<br>Community Showers 5pm<br>Community Meals 6pm  | 8<br>Community Breakfast 7am<br>Women's Bible Study 10am<br>Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm<br><b>Newsletter Deadline</b>                         | 9<br>Life's Journey with Grief 12pm<br>Business Affairs Meeting 5pm | 10<br>Food Pantry 9am                           |
| 12<br>Nursery 9am-noon<br>Sunday School 9:30am<br>Early Service 8:30am<br>Traditional Service 10:30am<br><b>6th Sunday after Epiphany</b>                       | 13<br>Men's Luncheon 12pm<br>Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm                                    | 14<br>Stewardship Committee Meeting 1:30pm<br>Community Showers 5pm<br>Community Meals 6pm | 15<br>Community Breakfast 7am<br>Staff Meeting 9am<br>Women's Bible Study 10am<br>Personnel Meeting 1:00pm<br>Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm     | 16<br>Life's Journey with Grief 12pm                                | 17<br>Food Pantry 9am                           |
| 19<br>Nursery 9am-noon<br>Sunday School 9:30am<br>Early Service 8:30am<br>Traditional Service 10:30am<br><b>Communion</b><br><b>Transfiguration of the Lord</b> | 20<br>Deacon's Meeting 5:30pm<br>Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm                                | 21<br>Community Showers 5pm<br>Community Meals 6pm   | 22<br>Community Breakfast 7am<br>Women's Bible Study 10am<br>Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm<br>Ash Wednesday Service 7pm<br><b>Ash Wednesday</b> | 23<br>Community Breakfast 7am<br>Women's Bible Study 10am           | 24<br>Food Pantry 9am<br>Friday Fellowship 11am |
| 26<br>Nursery 9am-noon<br>Sunday School 9:30am<br>Combined Service 10:30am<br>Annual Meeting 11:30am<br><b>1st Sunday in Lent</b>                               | 27<br>Deacon's Meeting 5:30pm<br>Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm                                | 28<br>Community Showers 5pm<br>Community Meals 6pm<br>Session Meeting 6:30pm               |  |   |   |

## February Birthdays

02/01 Susana Vick  
02/02 Joan Burton  
02/02 Ruth Chartier  
02/03 Larry Weigel  
02/03 Mary Mertz  
02/09 Katie Philp  
02/09 Amy Levin  
02/10 Hunter Hunt  
02/10 Dick Towers  
02/11 Karen Davis  
02/13 Doug Slaughter  
02/14 Landon Shilling  
02/15 Bob Haines  
02/17 Lee Borck  
02/17 Jan Rayl  
02/18 Jon Anderson  
02/23 Pam Beardsley  
02/23 Lori Levin  
02/23 Terry Healy  
02/24 Donna Davis  
02/26 Brianna Hula  
02/27 Jack Dunn  
02/29 Haley Hynek

## TECH THE HALLS



Our trusty A.V. team brought their  
Christmas cheer to worship on  
Christmas Day!

Pictured left to right: Kathryn Pittman,  
Jonathan Wille, Benjamin Pittman

## PARENTS' NIGHT OUT KIDS ON A MISSION

RSVP

Friday, March 24th  
6 PM to 8 PM

(785) 537-0518



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Transfiguration of the Lord | February 19th

Sanctuary | 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Join us as we remember the transfiguration of Jesus and we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

## Ash Wednesday | February 22nd

Sanctuary | 7:00 p.m.

The official start of the Lenten season! We'll gather in the sanctuary at 7:00pm. for Scripture, prayer, and the Word enacted.

## Annual Meeting | February 26th

Our Annual Meeting to be held following a single, combined service of worship at 10:30 a.m.

## Friday Fellowship | January 27th

Fisher Hall | 11:00 a.m.

This month's speaker is Ken Burton. Please make a reservation for attendance and the luncheon by Monday, February 20th.

## FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

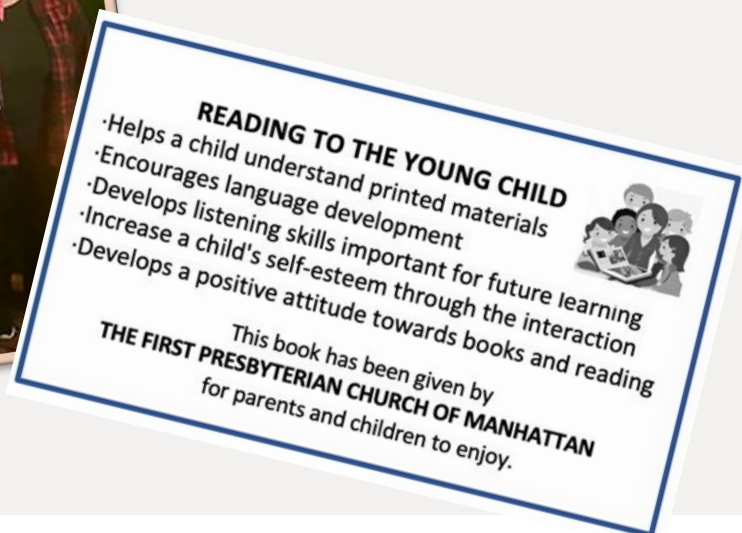
### *Nurturing Young Minds*

Appreciation is given to the Second Cup Book Club (photo below), Shirley Vogts on behalf of her book club, and the congregation for donating children's books to the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry. Our pantry has been giving books for many years to guests with children under six years of age. It is one of the many ways we make our pantry guests feel welcomed. Each book contains a label listing the important benefits of reading to young children.



**Pictured to the left:** The Second Cup Book Club members display the new children's books they donated in December to the First Presbyterian Church Food Pantry for distribution to pantry guests with children under six years of age.

**Pictured below:** The book label included in each donated book.





First Presbyterian Church  
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## *February 2023*

### *Connect*

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Facebook: @firstpresmanhattan

Instagram: @firstpremanhattan

YouTube: @firstpresmanhattan

Website: [www.firstpresmanhattan.com](http://www.firstpresmanhattan.com)

## February Lectionary

### **Sunday, February 5 | Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

Isaiah 58:1-9a & Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 & Matthew 5:13-20

### **Sunday, February 12 | Sixth Sunday after Epiphany**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 & Psalm 119:1-8; 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 & Matthew 5:21-37

### **Sunday, February 19 | Transfiguration of the Lord**

Exodus 24:12-18 & Psalm 2; 2 Peter 1:16-21 & Matthew 17:1-9

### **Wednesday, February 22 | Ash Wednesday**

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 & Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 & Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

### **Sunday, February 26 | First Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 & Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19 & Matthew 4:1-11