



First Presbyterian Times

March 2023

Letter from the Pastor

Friends,

March is more than the start of the spring season. This month brings many opportunities to be in prayer, fellowship, and service in Christ name. As we continue to journey together through this season of Lent (which itself means “spring”), there are a couple of important dates I wish to bring to mind and hope you’ll make them a priority.

The first date is **Friday, March 3**. This is the World Day of Prayer. “I Have Heard About Your Faith” is the theme of this year’s World Day of Prayer, based upon Ephesians 1:15-19. And I want to encourage you to spend some intentional time in prayer that is informed by this scripture. As the World Day of Prayer encourages, put your prayer into action and write a card or a letter to someone you care about – expressing your concern for them and encouraging them to take care of others, to uphold faith in Christ, to be a testimony of the power of God, and to share the love of Jesus. This is a ministry begun by faithful Christian women in the United States and Canada in the 19th century that continues around the world today. Let’s join our hearts and lives with the witness of those faithful women in ages past, and pray for our world in Jesus’ name. You can find more information on World Day of Prayer at www.wdp-usa.org

But that’s not all that March 3 brings. We’ll gather on **March 3 at 6:30p.m. in Fisher Hall** to continue with our next installment of what we’re calling a “Faith and Film” series. This installment features the 2005 film *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* based upon the beloved series by C.S. Lewis. Lewis has been called the 20th century’s greatest Christian apologist. And this film, as with the book, is replete with themes, and visual metaphors that are near and dear to us in the Christian tradition. Please join us for what will surely be a worthwhile, meaningful, and fun evening together. You bring your friends. We’ll bring the popcorn. And let’s explore our faith in film!

The second date is **Sunday, March 19**. This is our next observance of the Lord’s Supper. I’ve been asked recently why we are celebrating the sacrament more often these days. Our Presbyterian and Reformed tradition commends the observance of the Lord’s Supper as often as weekly, but no less than quarterly. And the Session of FPC, Manhattan decided that it is good for us to celebrate at least monthly as a regular demonstration of our need for Christ, and for God’s saving power and care from generation to generation. This is especially the case on Sundays marking significant events in the life of the church of Jesus Christ and is thus the reason that the date is not fixed from month to month. March 19 marks one month from the Transfiguration of the Lord and finds the church approaching Holy Week. So come on March 19 with hearts that yearn for Christ and find their rest in him.

As spring begins, and the world around us (at least in the northern hemisphere) begins coming to life, greening up, and budding everywhere, may the assurance of eternal life we have in Christ Jesus bring you peace, comfort, joy, and daily renewal of commitment to follow where our Savior leads.

Peace,

Pastor Jason

A Note from Faith Formation...

Greetings Everyone,

Happy Lent! Spring is coming and soon the Earth will come to life once again, the sunshine coaxing white and pink blooms from the trees and birds from their nests raising their voices to praise our wonderful Lord. If you can't tell, I love spring. One thing you may have learned when studying literature, is that rain is a symbol for renewal...a sort of baptism. In my opinion, there is nothing more refreshing and renewing than a gentle spring rain followed by those first sunny days where jackets come off and windows roll down. In the same way, Lent is a time often spent with a renewal of focus on our faith. We may set goals to go to church more often, to read our bible every night or to give up something for the season. My challenge for you all (as well as myself) is to look beyond the Lenten season. Rather than setting goals for Lent, let's set goals beyond Lent. Our faith and our relationship with God is so much more than trivial goals, but rather a way of life. It is so hard to keep our focus in such a distracting world, but while Lent may remind us of why we put our faith in God, let that reminder set a tone for the rest of our year or the rest of our lives or, better yet, for our everlasting life that we have been so graciously given.

That being said, looking into the month of March, we have our Lent Small Group Bible Study going on. I hope anyone who wants to participate is signed up and in a small group. If you did not get the chance to sign up and would still like to participate, please contact me and I will help you find a small group that is meeting at a time that works in your schedule.

Our Parents' Night Out event is on Friday, March 31st; this month's theme is Kids On A Mission. The kids will be participating in mission projects that are fun and give them an opportunity to help others in need and spread God's love to others. All are welcome and encouraged to invite friends!

I hope you all have a wonderful and refreshing spring and Lent season and I look forward to seeing you all around.

With blessings,

Susana Vick
Director of Faith Formation

A THANK YOU FROM EMILY MARK

Thanks to all who sent wishes and surprised me on my 80th birthday with celebrations at Colbert Hills and PW/Circle. What friendships and memories we have shared in my 40 years as a member of First Presbyterian Church. **Shalom, Emily Mark**



UPCOMING EVENTS

Faith & Film | March 3rd

Fisher Hall | 6:30 p.m.

Our Faith & Film Series is back! Enjoy an evening of fellowship and fun with the 2005 film, *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, & The Wardrobe* (PG). Bring your friends and we'll bring the popcorn!

Friday Fellowship | March 24th

Fisher Hall | 11:00 a.m.

This month's speaker is Jackie Hartman-Borck. Please make a reservation for attendance and the luncheon by Monday, January 23rd.

Parents' Night Out | March 31st

Fisher Hall | 6PM—8PM

Parents, need a break from the kiddos?! Mark your calendars for our March Parents' Night Out! The kids will have an evening of fun activities, bible study, snacks, and more! RSVP with Susana at (785) 537-0518 or at susana@firstpresmanhattan.com

FPC YOUTH: OUT & ABOUT!

The Youth have been busy little bees! First up, they collected canned goods for "Souper Bowl Sunday"! All of the donations went to the Flint Hills Breadbasket and FPC Food Pantry. The First Presbyterian Youth have also been playing lots of dodgeball, and even became first runner-up's to the Champs in the co-ed portion of a local dodgeball tournament!



First Image (from left to right): Jonathan Wille, Daisy Hilton, Ben Pittman, Aidan Hilton, Kathryn Pittman.
Second Image: Niella Edwards, Kathryn Pittman, James Poulter, Ben Pittman, Jonathan Wille, Aidan Hilton

MARCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
			1 Community Breakfast 7am Women's Bible Study 10am Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm	2 Life's Journey with Grief 12pm	3 Food Pantry 9am Faith & Film 6:30pm World Day of Prayer
5 Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Early Service 8:30am Traditional Service 10:30am 2nd Sunday in Lent	6 Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	7 World Friendship 9am Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	8 Community Breakfast 7am Staff Meeting 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm Newsletter Deadline	9 Life's Journey with Grief 12pm	10 Food Pantry 9am
12 Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Early Service 8:30am Traditional Service 10:30am 3rd Sunday in Lent	13 Faith Formation 1pm Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	14 Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	15 Community Breakfast 7am Women's Bible Study 10am Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm	16 Life's Journey with Grief 12pm	17 Food Pantry 9am
19 Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Early Service 8:30am Traditional Service 10:30am Blood Drive 9am 4th Sunday in Lent	20 Men's Luncheon 12pm Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	21 World Friendship 9am Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	22 Community Breakfast 7am Staff Meeting 9am Women's Bible Study 10am Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm	23 Life's Journey with Grief 12pm	24 Food Pantry 9am Friday Fellowship 11am
26 Nursery 9am-noon Sunday School 9:30am Early Service 8:30am Traditional Service 10:30am 5th Sunday in Lent	27 Boy Scouts Troop 74 6:30pm	28 World Friendship 9am Community Showers 5pm Community Meals 6pm	29 Community Breakfast 7am Women's Bible Study 10am Back in the Word Bible Study 6pm	30 Life's Journey with Grief 12pm	31 Food Pantry 9am Parents' Night Out 6pm

March Birthdays

03/01 Sue Simmons
03/04 Jill Myers
03/04 Billie Woodward
03/05 Barbara Finnegan
03/05 Sandra Cramer
03/06 Connor Montgomery
03/07 Lou Ann Hydeman
03/10 Ken Burton
03/11 Mary Lu Allen
03/12 Loren Reiswig
03/12 Gene Nelson
03/13 Julie Pentz-Dunn
03/15 Paul Bohlen
03/17 Pat Fellows
03/21 Tyler Hynek
03/24 Jim Pritchett
03/26 Marilyn Bullock
03/26 Gene Klinger
03/26 Shirley Vogts
03/28 Judy Shilling

A Winning SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY



Thanks to the generosity of our church members, 150 lbs of food items were donated to our pantry in conjunction with the 2023 Super Bowl on February 12.

Food Pantry Coordinators Paul Dittmar and Barbara Gatewood weighed, sorted, and stocked the needed items. Plus the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Philadelphia Eagles, 38 to 35. There is so much to celebrate!

Yay FPC! Yay Chiefs!



PARENTS' NIGHT OUT KIDS ON A MISSION

RSVP
Friday, March 31st
6 PM to 8 PM

(785)537-0518





First Presbyterian Church
801 Leavenworth St
Manhattan, KS 66502

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Phone: 785-537-0518

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Website: www.firstpresmanhattan.com

March Lectionary

Sunday, March 5 | Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 12:1-4a & Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 & John 3:1-17

Sunday, March 12 | Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:1-7 & Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11 & John 4:5-42

Sunday, March 19 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

I Samuel 16:1-13 & Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14 & John 9:1-41

Sunday, March 26 | Fifth Sunday of Lent

Ezekiel 37:1-14 & Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11 & John 11:1-45