



Spreading the Word

Washington Presbyterian
Church

MARCH 2021

From the Pastor's Desk....

In every age of history, on every page of Scripture, the truth is revealed: God allows us to make our own choices. No one exemplifies this more clearly than Jesus. According to him, we can choose: A narrow gate, or a narrow road, the big crowd or the small crowd. We can choose to: build on rock or sand, serve God or riches or be numbered among the sheep or the goats. God gives eternal choices, and these choices have eternal consequences. Isn't this the reminder of Calvary's trio? Ever wonder why there were two crosses next to Christ? Why not six or ten? Ever wonder why Jesus was in the center? Could it be the two crosses on the hill symbolize one of God's greatest gifts? The gift of choice.

There are times when God sends thunder to stir us. There are times when God sends blessings to lure us. But then there are times when God sends nothing but silence as he honors with us the freedom to choose where to spend eternity.

He spotted you. He has heard you, and he has invited you. What once separated you has been removed: "Now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away from God are brought near." (Eph. 2:13) But how could this be." If we can't get in to see the president, how could we be granted an audience with God? What happened?

Jesus cried out in a loud voice and died. Then the curtain in the Temple was torn into two pieces, from top to bottom. The curtain is nothing short of the curtain of the Temple. The veil that hung before the Holy of Holies. What did 1500 yrs. of a curtain-draped Holy of Holies communicate? Simple. God is holy...separate from us and unapproachable. Even Moses was told, "You cannot see my face, because no one can see me and live" (Ex.33:20). We are sinners, and there is a distance between us. But isn't that our problem? If only there was a mediator who could bring us together. Oh, but there is! Jesus is our mediator. Is not a mediator one who goes between? Jesus was the curtain between us and God. And wasn't his flesh torn?

What appeared to be the cruelty of man was actually the sovereignty of God. When Jesus cried out, he gave up his spirit. At that very moment, the curtain of the temple was torn. The significance is immense. God has removed the barrier that separate us from him.

As we begin our journey through Lent, we have much to realize. Don't trust your conscience. Trust the cross. The blood has been spilt and veil has been split. You are welcome in God's presence and you don't even have to bring cookies.



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The *deadline* for submitting
articles for the
April newsletter
March 20 at 5 p.m.

articles may be e-mailed to
jsq85@aol.com

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS—February 2021

The February session meeting was held February 18, 2021. If you have any concerns for session, please communicate them to Clerk of Session, Cathy Strawbridge.

The next session meeting will be Thursday, March 18, 2021, virtually at 6:30 pm.

Pastor's Report:

On 2/11 Melody and I spent the day with two of her Scout girls to put together packets for the Lenten Series. The idea is a personal journey with Christ during his trial and crucifixion. It is very personal. Each item in the packet is something to handle during the sermon. I.E, a swatch of leather and a shell which made up the whip with which Jesus was flogged. A crown of thorns, a nail, a wooden cross, and a stone. All items relating to the Artisans who were ordered to make the objects for the crucifixion and burial. It is a journey that will make you think and envision what was happening during that week. Also, in the packet is a small ziplock of ashes to be used during the zoomed Ash Wednesday service.

Several calls, cards, and notes were sent to our members who are especially in need of care. Also made one in person visit. I have tried especially to be concerned with the welfare our members when there is frigid weather, snow and ice. Though we have not had any accidents on the church site, there have been a couple of falls with serious consequences. I continue to pray for all of you and those who are shut-ins. It has truly been a busy time for us to remain mindful in prayer for all. On that note, I am grateful for your prayers while I nurse the hand. Hand surgery took place on January 15 and is progressing as well as can be expected. But God is the Master Physician who is in charge.

-Report of the Treasurer: M.S.P. to approve Treasurer's report for January 2021.

Report of Commissioner to Presbytery:

Susan Proffitt Cox, Commissioned Elder for February 13, 2021 Presbytery meeting, submitted the following report.

The meeting was held on Zoom – approximately 85 people attending.

Highlights of the Docket and reports are mentioned below.

Administration Team- a nomination was accepted to the Nominating Team.

Nominating Team encouraged Ruling Elders to consider accepting positions on Presbytery. One motion was approved to submit a member of Great Rivers Presbytery to Synod.

COM- 2 ministers are retiring. One has been called to the church in Milan. She will be installed in March along with 2 others.

The motion to Extend terms of Session and Deacons was approved- this involved 5 churches.

Commission of Preparation for Ministry reported 2 local members are studying at Dubuque Seminary.

Visioning Team- submitted their report. The Visioning Statement is complete. The 7 parts of the Visioning Statement are Transform, Connect, Support, Spiritually Engage, Seek Justice, Resources, Focus. Churches are requested to consider ways to implement it.

The Keynote Speaker was Rev. Jimmie Hawkins of the Office of Public Witness and U.N Advocacy. His topic was PC(USA) and Advocacy. He is based in Washington DC and spoke of ways to improve justice in our communities. He gave specific advice on contacting our representatives about concern. He acknowledged that we have to say something that is relevant to any we seek to engage in our church, pinpointing issues that a congressman might have as a priority. Our community members may have sought out sports as an outlet for teaching values instead of finding that at church.

The offering for this meeting was Peace and Global Witness.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

Mission (Jean Escue):

Special Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing (Received February 17 thru Easter Sunday – April 4)

Benefits:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Hunger Program

Self-Development of People

Donations for February:

Almost Home Kids: Diapers any size

OSF Children's: None

Antepartum: Non Skid Socks

WHIP Donation: cereal

Donations for **March:**

OSF antepartum donation: Lotions

Children's Hospital donation: Infant/youth socks or non-skid socks

Almost Home Kids: None

WHIP Donation – Peanut Butter

Worship and Sacraments (Melody Wiseman)

Attendance:

January 24th - 23 in person, 17 online

January 31st - 17 in person, 22 online

February 7th - 0 in person, 28 online

February 14th - 0 in person, 30 online

Communion was "on your own" Sunday, February 14th. Ash Wednesday communion scheduled for February 17, 2021 was cancelled.

Congregants were sent "Lent in a package" and those with no internet were also provided with copies of the bulletins for February 14th service and the February 17th Ash Wednesday Service. All received copies of the sermons for those days. In the future, the bulletins and a copy of the sermon will be sent to those with no internet access if the situation warrants.

Unfinished Business:

PNC Committee Report update: COM has assigned a new ministry partner, Rev. Dr. Laura Reason, to our PNC.

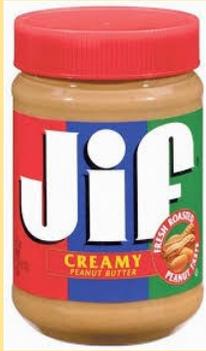
The next session meeting will be Thursday, March 18, 2021, virtually at 6:30 pm



MISSION

WHIP

PEANUT BUTTER



ANTEPARTUM UNIT

LOTIONS



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

CHILDREN'S SOCKS



 **SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING—FEBRUARY 17—APRIL 4, 2021

in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

BITS AND PIECES

I want to thank you all for the many thoughts, cards and prayers that have come my way since my illness and surgery. The outpouring of love was like a warm blanket of comfort in a stressful time! I thank God for you and for all His goodness. In Christ,
Kim Siu

PNC COMMITTEE UPDATE

COM has assigned a new ministry partner, Rev. Dr. Laura Reason, to our PNC.

Please continue to pray for the PNC.

PNC Committee



PRAYERS FOR:

Nancy Ponto—esophageal cancer & fell broke a shoulder

Millie Eldridge—health concerns

Mark Wolf—health concerns

Kim Siu—surgery went well

Lila Neville— heart issues

Kim Hess (bookkeeper)—daughter-in-law has breast cancer

Marge Honeg— broken leg in two places

Ann Tharp—fell at home has sore knee and hip

Sandy and Mike Fritz—Sandy's dad passed away



Dear Church Friends,
Sandy and I miss you already. We're getting settled into our new house in Kentucky. We wanted to let you know that we're thinking about you and will attend services if possible when we're in town. Here's our address. Feel free to drop in.

Love, Mike & Sandy Fritz

Address: 132 Crestwood Dr.
Gilbertsville, KY 42044

MARCH CARD SHOWER



Please consider sending a note or card to:

Nancy Ponto

Marge Honeg

Lila Neville

Kim Siu

Ann Tharp

Millie Eldridge

(Apostolic Skylines Nursing Home)

Sandy and Mike Fritz

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The 2021 Sanctuary Flower sign up sheet is available in the East Room by the office. Please sign up to provide flowers for the communion table on the third Sunday of each month. If your flowers are in honor of someone or a special celebration, please note on the sign up sheet. There will be no flowers needed in February and March due to celebrating Lent. If a vase is needed, there are several in the vestibule at the west end of the Session Room/Nursery hallway. Please feel free to use any of those vases from the box.





March 2021



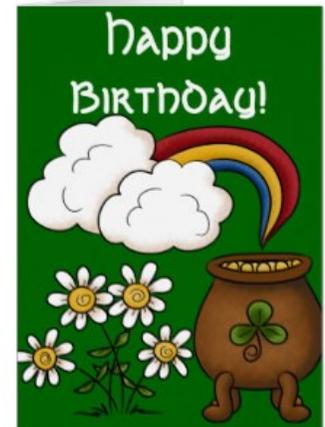
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Dr. Seuss Day 	3	4	5	6 National Oreo Cookie Day 
7 Worship 9:30 AM 3rd Sunday in Lent	8	9	10	11 	12	13
14 Worship 9:30 4th Sunday in Lent 	15	16 	17 	18 Session Mtng 6:30 PM (virtual)	19	20  Newsletter Info due
21 Worship 9:30 AM 5th Sunday in Lent	22	23 National Puppy Day 	24	25 Pecan Day 	26	27 Passover Begins
28 Worship 9:30 	29	30	31	AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH  American Red Cross <i>Together, we can save a life</i>		
HOLY WEEK						

Birthdays:

2 Carolyn Hardesty
15 Rod Wolf
16 Dick Franzen
18 Marge Honeg
30 Cindy Hamilton

7 Don Gilfillan-Jones
15 Ken Lehr
16 Bill Strawbridge
24 Annette Brehmer
30 Man-Hong Siu

13 Marshall Escue
15 Kirsti McDonnell
18 Jessica Earl
24 Carissa Reece



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