

First Presbyterian Church

CHURCH EMAIL: fpcclarkston@gmail.com CHURCH WEBSITE: firstpresclarkston.org

MARCH MESSENGER

FROM THE PASTOR

I recently heard someone say, "Lent 2020 was the Lentiest Lent I've ever Lented." I suspect that rings true for many. If you are one to observe Lent, the disciplines you had entered became unusually demanding very quickly. Not only did you give up chocolate, but you found yourself giving up in-person social interactions, eating out, and even reducing your toilet paper usage. Irony of ironies, we had to leave behind in-person worship during one of our most sacred times of gathering during the year. But of all the interactions and routines we had to leave behind the most difficult for me was when we had to suspend the Catholic Presbyterian Dialogues. Rarely had I seen such enthusiasm for a church related event, and rarely had I seen such a quick end to something so promising.

Thankfully, we worship a God who raises the dead and the Holy Spirit brought us together once again in the fall. While it looked different (facemasks, etc.), the enthusiasm remained high. We, together with our brothers and sisters from Holy Family, learned we have a lot of theological questions and we enjoy exploring them together. Likewise, we share a love for the Lord Jesus Christ, his church, and one another.

Once again, we find ourselves in Lent, and once again, I would like to invite you to the Catholic-Presbyterian Dialogues. Even if you did not join us the first time around, I hope you will consider joining this time around. If you did join the first round, I hope you will still join us. In this world of division, anxiety, social isolation, there are few more important things we can do. Come and join a Spirit-led movement of sharing Christ with the world. Perhaps, just perhaps, you may receive a taste of the resurrection joy of Easter morning -- even in the middle of a "Lenty Lent."

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Dave

Preaching Notes

In Lent, the Lectionary takes us into the Gospel of John to prepare us for Jesus death on the cross. The assigned texts give us three 'sermons' of Jesus: The Whip Sermon, The Gospel Sermon, and The Crucified Sermon. Each of these will prepare our hearts to understand what Jesus Christ has done for us and for our salvation.

March 7 John 2:13-22
March 14 John 3:14-21

March 21 John 12:20-33
March 28 John 12:2-16 (Palm Sunday)

Book Notes (*Gentle & Lowly* by Dane Orlund)

Nearly a year into the pandemic and many of us have grown weary. We wonder where we can find some rest, some relief. We carry more burdens than we care to admit. We feel weighed down by circumstances beyond our control. If only we could find some relief. In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus gives this invitation, “Come to me all of you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest” (11:28). We know what Jesus has done for us, but do we know Jesus’ heart for us sinners and sufferers? This heart is exactly what Dane Orlund wants to reveal to us in his short book, *Gentle and Lowly*. In it, he carefully and clearly reminds us of the heart of Jesus Christ. Every time I opened the book I found myself drinking from rich waters to quench my weary soul. Frequently, Orlund’s insights would move me from reading into praying. Most of all, he pointed me to the Savior who provides rest for our souls. If you have found yourself weighed down in the wilderness of the pandemic, I would highly recommend you journey with *Gentle and Lowly* and so find living waters for your parched soul.



First Presbyterian Church and Holy Family Catholic Parish: The Neighborhood Dialogue continues!

Where: Holy Family Fellowship Hall

When: Dialogues led by Rev. Dr. Karen Petersen Finch @ 9:30-10:45 a.m. on:

Saturday, February 27: Exploring Ministry (Text: “The Presence of Christ in Church and World,” 1977)

Saturday, March 6: Exploring Worship (Text: “The Unity We Seek,” 1977)

Saturday, March 13: Exploring Baptism (Text: “These Living Waters: Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism,” 2007)

Saturday, March 20: Exploring The Eucharist/Lord’s Supper (Text: “This Bread of Life: Dialogue on The Eucharist/Lord’s Supper,” 2010)

Saturday, March 27: Exploring Dr. Finch’s book, *Grassroots Ecumenism* (Text: Chapter One, *Grassroots Ecumenism: The Path towards Local Christian Kinship* by Karen Petersen Finch)

What to Know:

- Last Fall’s video lectures by Karen are available at her YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2uf02S_L_6m5xLBNCHpIKg. They will be very helpful if you are new to our dialogues.
- On the Monday before each Saturday session, a short selection from a Catholic-Presbyterian statement will be provided to read before Saturday. (Handouts will be provided on Saturday, as well.)
- We will be masked and socially distant, as before.
- We will not have lunch together, nor will we be able to provide childcare.

How to Sign-Up:

Please email Bree Miles at fpccclarkston@gmail.com or contact Janis Wallis. You will be sent a weekly email with the reading of the week. (No videos this time, but the Dialogue videos from last session are on the church website at firstpresclarkston.org. For the last session of the dialogues, we will be reading the first chapter of Karen’s upcoming book, which tells the story of the Clarkston Dialogues so far.



**Every Thursday at 10 a.m.
in the Narthex**

~New Catechumenate Study~

Financials

Finances as of January 2021

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 54,889.34	\$ 32,072.96
Expense	\$ 40,786.02	\$ 32,073.18
Inc./Exp.	\$ 14,103.32	\$ (0.22)



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. You may donate during one of our Sunday services by using the special offering envelopes located in each pew to put your donation inside and place in the offering plate, or you may bring the donations to our main office during our office hours. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

Church Family & Friends News

by Pat Paasch

Jeanne Keatts – spent Christmas week with her son in Hawaii. Jeanne and her son had a quiet, wonderful Christmas dinner together and even got to do some sightseeing around the island during their visit to Hawaii, including the volcano that erupted recently.

Art Johnstone – sounded very upbeat when I last spoke to him. Art thanks God every day for all his blessings.

**** A big thank you to Judy James and Lorraine Cline for their faithfulness and continuing to provide breakfast for Second Saturday. An additional thank you goes out to all those who have continued to gather for Second Saturday - even with the snow! ****




UNION GOSPEL MISSION

Who is the Union Gospel Mission?

The Union Gospel Mission is coming to the LC-Valley and your session wants to support this ministry. Their mission is to "reach the poor with the power and love of the Gospel so that they may become God dependent, contributing members of society." If you want to know more about UGM and their mission here in the Valley, we'd encourage you to attend one of their informational meetings at 6 p.m. (all in Lewiston):

- * March 11 @ Crosspoint Community Church
- * April 08 @ First Church of the Nazarene
- * May 20 @ Orchards Community Church
- * June 24 @ River City Church



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1	2	3 4 p.m. Prayer Service	4 10 a.m. ABS 7 p.m. NCS - 2nd Year	5 7 p.m. Al Anon	6 9:30 a.m. Cath./ Presby. Dialogue @ HF
7 Communion 10 a.m. Worship & SS	8 12:30 p.m. PEO Meeting	9	10 4 p.m. Prayer Service	11 10 a.m. ABS 7 p.m. NCS - 2nd Year	12 7 p.m. Al Anon	13 9:30 a.m. Cath./ Presby. Dialogue @ HF
14 10 a.m. Worship & SS <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i>	15 2:30 p.m. CASA 6:30 p.m. Session Meeting	16	17 4 p.m. Prayer Service	18 10 a.m. ABS 7 p.m. NCS - 2nd Year	19 7 p.m. Al Anon	20 9:30 a.m. Cath./ Presby. Dialogue @ HF
21 10 a.m. Worship & SS	22 6 p.m. Deacons Meeting	23 1:30 p.m. Kairos Meeting	24 4 p.m. Prayer Service	25 10 a.m. ABS 7 p.m. NCS - 2nd Year	26 7 p.m. Al Anon	27 9:30 a.m. Cath./ Presby. Dialogue @ HF
28 Palm Sunday 10 a.m. Worship & SS	29 SPRING BREAK NO KK THIS WEEK	30	31 4 p.m. Prayer Service	4 Janis Wallis 12 Chris Moore 16 John Molohon 17 Pam Klug 24 Janet Auer 		

ABS - Adult Bible Study
CASA - Court Appointed Special Advocate Program

HF - Holy Family
KK - Kingdom Kids
NCS - New Catechumenate Study

PEO - Philanthropic Organization