

THE P.L.A.N.

P.
Presbyterian
L.
Life
A.
Action
N.
Newsletter

March
2018



Church Office
hours:
Tuesday,
Wednesday,
Thursday
8am—1:00pm

Dear friends,

I'm caught in the standard time warp that happens every time I have to sit down and write a page for the PLAN. I write it, the day after Ash Wednesday, to cover a month that will end on Holy Saturday, the day before Easter. That leaves me unsure of what to say, as I will be again next month, writing in Lent to prepare for Easter.

Our Lenten journey will take us through John's Gospel, and it will dwell, perhaps too long for some of us, in the horrible and marvelous events of that week. It will remain in the outside the tomb, in the courtyard of power, be it Pilate or the chief priests. It will see Jesus rendered 'powerless,' arrested, interrogated, handed over, denied, mocked, beaten, scourged, and eventually crucified.

All of this makes for what can be, and is, a slow, overwhelming journey to Jerusalem. And we are impatient people. We want to rush through, particularly through the yucky stuff, the hard stuff, the messy stuff, the painful stuff. We want to get to the good stuff. We want to get to the empty tomb and to resurrection. We want to get to what we **know** is waiting for us.

This season, perhaps we can go through Lent in faith, more than in knowledge. This season, as we ourselves live messy, painful, sometimes yucky lives, maybe we can appreciate differently a Christ who lived a life like that as well. Perhaps as we travel toward Jerusalem, we will experience differently what it is to have a God who made that journey ahead of us, and who travels with us through all of it – loss, denial, abandonment, pain, and even death.

This Lenten season, I encourage you to use the words of Advent and Christmas to experience the journey that is Lent and Easter. Use the words of Immanuel, 'God with us.' And in the discomfort, the pain, and the hope, may we row closer to the One who is with us, to the One whose name we bear, and may we follow Christ in helping one another to navigate the way to Jerusalem as well.

In Christ,
Wade

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In Our Prayers

Pray for those serving in the armed forces:

- ✠ Army:
Doug Carlile
Sean Richey
- ✠ Coast Guard:
Charles Fosse
- ✠ Marines:
Austin Reach
Kaleb Selock
Jacob Selock

If you have a service member that you would like to add to this prayer list, please contact your Deacon or the church office.

Pray for these Missions:

- Campus ministries
- Marion Medical Mission
- Camp Carew
- Habitat for Humanity
- Hospitality House
- Marion Ministerial Alliance
- Embangweni Hospital in Malawi
- Wlm. County Child Advocacy Center
- Hospice of So. Illinois
- Lighthouse Shelter
- YAV
- Lithuania College
- Edinburrrough Seminary

Pray for our collegians:

- Danielle Markland
- Emily Wallace
- Gus Martini
- Lanita Ames

Pray for our missionaries:

- Ben & Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk
- Sabrina Evans
- John Van Dyk
- Tom & Jocelyn Logan

Pastor's Address:

Rev. Wade Halva and Rev. Laurie Fields daughters: Madeline and Catherine Fields Halva

1713 Redbud Marion, IL 62959
email: wade@fields-halva.org
laurie@fields-halva.org

Wade Cell: (618) 751-1410

Pray for these concerns of members and friends of our church family: Betty Ridgley, Cindy & Roger Burroughs, Fran Giles, Georgia Ruhe, Jeanette & Ron Bowman, Jaye Van Zile, John & Jean Johnson, John & Kelly Atkinson, Loren Taylor, Marlene Sheruda Pam & Roger Hendricks, Peggy Wiley, Mark Stokes, Ruth Blackburn, Shirley Mitchell, Susan Harbison, Suzanne Kerley, Tom & Jocelyn Logan, Vivian Crofts, Gene Stiman, Art Kucharik, Celia DeVries, all those with cancer, the hungry, homeless, those in shelters, those who are ill or in pain, those who are traveling, AIDS & HIV families, homebound or hospitalized, caregivers, the unemployed, the poor, our General Assembly PC (USA), Compassion Children, Co-moderators of PC(USA), school shootings, our nation and leaders, our military, our world, POW's, peace around the world, Session, our church, end to wars, Puerto Rico, Zambia, Egypt, Syria, refugee situation around the world.

Someone remembers, Someone cares

Your name is whispered in someone's prayers

-Author unknown

Praise and Thanksgiving: Lanita Ames new job, gathering together for the Lenten season, family.

Condolences: Colleen & Erwin Echavez & family for the loss of the baby, those affected by school shootings, Tom Logan and family for he loss of his sister Cathy.

Please remember these members & friends
with your prayers, cards and calls:



Georgia Ruhe

3203 Zeller Ave. Apt C
Marion, IL 62959
997-7933

Roger & Pam Hendricks

445 Park Lane
Herrin, IL 62948
942-5863

Peggy Wiley

505 Rushing Drive, #46
Carterville, IL 62918
997-0948

Betty Ridgley

400 E. Reichert Drive #B
Marion, IL 62959
998-8893

Fran Giles

701 S. Oakland Ave
Carbondale, IL 62901
457-2892

Shirley Mitchell

505 Rushing Road
Carterville, IL 62918
998-8950



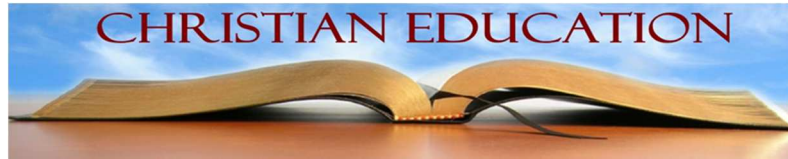
MMA Soup Kitchen

Thank You to all those volunteers who represented 1st Presbyterian Church by preparing and serving the noon meal at the Marion Ministerial Alliance's Soup Kitchen January 29th thru February 2, 2018. Those volunteers were: Claire Kreutzer, Landa Stettler, Susie Selock, Rich Portwood and Samantha Edwards, Wils Evans, Susan Van Dyk, Tim Van Roekel, Clara Lee Buschsulte, Ralph Thompson, Dee Segers, and Loren Taylor.



Lighthouse Shelter

Thank You to Landa Stettler, Loren Taylor, Claire Kreutzer, Mona Odum and Tim Van Roekel for helping to prepare, serve and clean up after the meal at the Lighthouse Shelter on Tuesday February 27, 2018. Thank you all. **Our next opportunity to serve is April 24, 2018.** This is a great local mission that provides help to those that need a little uplifting



Here it is the middle of February and I need to be thinking of March. My March and my April calendars are already nearly full and I want to get a vacation in as well. Busy lives. Do I let myself get to busy and in so doing do I leave time for worship? Being the middle of February in 2018 means the beginning of Lent. Lent is supposed to be a period of reflection and a time for fasting from food and festivities. I understand the importance of the period of reflection but I am not sure about fasting from food. I understand that fasting from food can aid in being able to focus our minds and meditate spiritually. I understand that the forty days of Lent symbolizes the forty days that Jesus Christ spent in the wilderness being tempted by Satan and that these were the days that lead up to Jesus' crucifixion and subsequent resurrection. A good time to meditate.



If you can fast from food that is great. Do it. If you cannot fast from food find something else to fast from, give up, for the period of Lent. Even with a full calendar I plan to "give up" some time. One way is through the use of additional devotionals. As a Church we have a couple of suggestions of devotionals to use during Lent. One of them is the 2018 Lenten Devotional put out by Presbyterians Today titled "Jesus and the Prophets". This devotional has some scripture readings and a reflection along with a prayer. This devotional will take you through Lent including Sundays and right up to and including Easter.

The second devotional is titled "Guide to Forty Days of Prayer" and was written by a past moderator of the PCUSA General Assembly. It is actually an addendum to a book titled "Sailboat Church". This guide also provides a scripture reference and a short reflection and emphasizes your prayers and writing, noting, what is on your mind. The suggestion is to go through this on your own and then at some time find a prayer partner and read through the "Guide to Forty Days of Prayer" together, sharing your prayers and thoughts.



Before Lent begins, by the time you read this we will already be a week or so into Lent, we will celebrate with Pancake Day or Shrove Day. Normally Shrove is held on Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, before Ash Wednesday. We here at Marion First Presbyterian Church normally hold a Shrove Sunday. This year, due to weather, we moved it to Monday. Hope you enjoyed our Pancake Day or Shrove Monday and found time to get your "ashes" on Ash Wednesday. Have a blessed Lenten reflection.



Tim Van Roekel, Elder for Christian Education

Government: Big and bad? Or a big brother? Or what?

Here's a quiz for you: Choose one and check either true or false:

- Government is too big, too regulatory, and infringes on my personal freedom.
 Government is not doing nearly enough to make sure the down-and-out don't fall through the cracks.

What is your response? Depends on whether you are a conservative or a liberal, right? Republicans generally side with the conservatives, Democrats with the liberals. Both regard government with suspicion: the right thinks the government is overstepping its bounds; the left thinks the government is not doing enough.

What are we Presbyterians to do? Jump on either the conservative or the liberal bandwagon? Rely either on Fox News or on MSNBC? Consider them mutually exclusive, incompatible options? And, in so doing, create a silent but real conflict within the congregation? Or is there another way? Let's take a look.

I must admit considerable puzzlement. I ask myself: Why is there among us so little communal conversation about a matter as important as the nature and role of government? Are we abiding by an unspoken agreement to avoid talking politics? If so, I suspect that the reason is the risk of triggering shouting matches, even fisticuffs. Another reason may be the conviction that politics and religion don't mix. Christians, some say, should stay away from worldly political issues and stick with personal, private spiritual matters. Separation of church and state, don't you know? As if our Christian faith is securely bottled up in the church. As if the Gospel has nothing to say to those in authority over us. But you and I know that our faith can't be bottled up. We can't be part-time Christians. God speaks to all aspects of our lives, including our lives as citizens.

I'm new to Presbyterianism but not to the Reformed tradition. And guess what: The Reformed tradition refuses to keep quiet about political and government issues. John Calvin himself ended his major treatise with an extended discussion about the task of "civil government." And our own *Book of Confessions* is not silent either. What does it say? I single out two recurrent themes.

First, the *Confessions* insist that government is not a misguided invention of men, a necessary evil, or a troublesome meddler in our personal affairs, nor is it the ultimate utopian solution to all of society's woes. On the contrary, it affirms that government is instituted and ordained by God Himself, to be treated with the utmost respect. "The magistracy is from God," declared the Helvetic Confession. "God, the supreme Lord and king of all the world," echoes the Westminster Confession, "has ordained civil magistrates to be under Him over the people." This means that government is not a take-it or leave-it political plaything, to be either despised as an enemy, or exalted as our savior. Rather, government has been established by God Himself. And what God has instituted, we cannot treat flippantly.

Second, our Confessions remind us of the calling and task of government. Is it to keep the economy growing? About winning elections? About maintaining a stockpile of nuclear weapons? The Barmen declaration puts it succinctly: "Scripture tells us that the State has by divine appointment the task of providing for justice and peace" (*Book of Confessions*, p. 284). Now ask yourself: When was the last time you heard a politician talk about justice? And when, in today's acrimonious climate, where compromise is a dirty word, do we see the flag of peace raised high?

Here is the good news: God is not a Republican or a Democrat. God is the sovereign ruler of the universe, who scoffs at human arrogance that imagines we can do just fine without Him, thank you. And a quick reading of a Bible book such as Amos persuades us that if rulers, law-makers and politicians ignore God's call to do justice, and seek only to keep their political parties in power, their efforts will amount to nothing, and God will hold them in derision (Ps. 2:4). The prophet Micah's question "What does the Lord require of you?" addresses not just individuals, but office holders, policy makers and governments as well. Micah's answer is clear: *Act justly and love mercy and walk humbly with your God* (Micah 6:8).

But what does this mean for you and me as citizens? A following article will explore the options.

Reminders



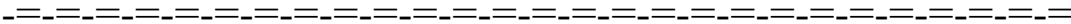
KROGER CARDS

The Kroger Community rewards program is in effect and there is no need to sign up yearly anymore.

If you do not have a Kroger Plus card, you can get one at the service desk at any Kroger store.

Once you are signed up you can check the bottom of your Kroger receipt to see if your purchase amount is benefitting this church. If that is not listed, you may need to sign up online at Kroger.com.

In January 2018 we received a check from Kroger for \$128.98. It all adds up!



Email addresses for the church and Pastor Halva:

office@marionpresbyterian.org
 lee@marionpresbyterian.org
 Wade@marionpresbyterian.org or
 pastor@marionpresbyterian.org

Lenten Schedule

MARION MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE 2018 LENTEN SERVICES

THEME: Jesus' "I am" statements

Tuesday's Feb. 20 – March 20

5:30pm Soup and Bread Supper 6:30pm Ecumenical Worship



Mar 6:	St. Joseph Catholic Church, Ken Hilliard hosts 600 Russell St. Marion	Marlin Otte <i>I am the Gate</i>	John 10:9
Mar 13:	Community of Christ, Kevin Waldrop hosts 100 W. De Young St., Marion	John Holst <i>I am the Good Shepherd</i>	John 10:11,14
Mar 20:	Zion United Church of Christ, John Holst hosts 930 W. Cherry St., Marion	Wade Halva <i>I am the True Vine</i>	John 15:1

Holy Week-March 25-31. Easter is April 1.

March 30: Good Friday at noon: (no soup or bread meal)
 1st United Methodist Church 208 W. Main St., Marion John Hackman hosts
I am the Resurrection and Life John 11:25,26

Braised leeks and carrots

Sauté in 2 T olive oil:

6 leeks, sliced (include the greens as far as they are tender)

Grate 3 carrots. Add to leek with 1/2 cup bouillon. Cook until tender.

Transfer to serving bowl.

Top with 3 T cream or half and half.

**Chile Relleno Casserole (serves 4-6)**

Remember to make this ahead then COVER THE DISH AND CHILL OVERNIGHT (or at least 4 hours) before baking.

Oil a 9" x 9" casserole pan. Place 4 slices of whole wheat bread on the bottom of the pan.

Sprinkle 2 cups grated Cheddar Cheese and 2 cups grated Jack or Mozzarella Cheese over the bread.

On top of cheese: 1 small can of chopped green chiles

Beat 6 eggs in a bowl, add 2 cups of milk. Add 1/2 tsp oregano, pinch of salt, pepper, paprika, mustard powder, garlic powder. Blend well.

Pour egg mixture over cheese. Cover dish and chill overnight.

Bake at 325 degrees for 55 to 60 minutes or until top is lightly browned.

Let stand 10 minutes before serving.

3000 calories total. 6 servings of 600 calories and 28 grams protein each.



HEALTH MINISTRY

submitted by Susan Van Dyk

A review of *Nourishing Traditions*, by Sally Fallon



Nourishing Traditions, by Sally Fallon, is a book that had been recommended to me at the turn of the century. A good friend and organizer of our local food coop strongly urged me to read it. Somehow I just never got around to it. However, when a family member handed it to me last year, what choice did I have but to read it? I found it an interesting read. The next Health Ministries' bulletin board will be a game, made from contents of this book and created by Trilby and Grandma.

Nourishing Traditions is a cookbook that divides food into three categories: Nourishing traditional foods, compromise foods, and newfangled foods. Some of the foods listed under nourishing traditional foods are fresh, pasture-raised meat, seafood from deep sea waters, fresh eggs from pastured poultry; organic whole grain products, legumes, fresh fruits and vegetables. Under compromise foods you will find pork, commercially raised beef, lamb, turkey and chicken, barbecued or smoked meats; unbleached white flour, canned legumes and tomato products, honey, maple syrup. And what might be listed under newfangled foods? Processed meats containing additives and preservatives, such as lunchmeat, salami and bacon; bleached and fortified white flour products, commercial dry cereals, refined sugar in the form of dextrose, fructose and high fructose corn syrup. The lists are more inclusive, but this gives you a taste of the products included in each list.

The introduction to the book is a good review of nutrition and what is necessary for our bodies to digest food in a beneficial way. It is followed by a chapter on making your own cultured dairy products, fermented vegetables, stocks, salad dressing and sauces and marinades. Look here for recipes for making yogurt, buttermilk, sauerkraut, pickles, chutney and preserves. Chapter 2 features salads, soups and appetizers such as cream cheese pastries, hummus, tomato cucumber salad and chicken rice soup.

Not hungry yet?

Try swordfish steaks, Oriental style, spiced chicken breasts, or venison with ginger sauce. You will find "A Catalog of Vegetables" toward the middle of the book, with a recipe featuring each vegetable in the catalog: stuffed artichokes, asparagus with sesame seeds, green beans with almonds, broccoli timbales.

Maybe you're just looking for a dessert? Baked apples? Apple cobbler? Gingerbread? Vanilla ice cream? Lemon meringue pie? Carrot cake with cream cheese icing? Is your mouth watering yet?

Recipes are made from scratch, with nutritious ingredients. Directions are clear and concise. Each recipe includes the number of servings it makes.

You might not want to wait 15 years to read this cookbook. The sidebars on each page will grab your attention and may distract you from the recipe you were looking for. That's okay. This cookbook includes lots of things to think about.

One Great Hour of Sharing

submitted by Loren Taylor

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four annual special offerings. The four church-wide special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost Offering, Peace & Global Witness Offering, and Christmas Joy Offering, play an important part in defining what it means to be a connectional church. Over the years these offerings have provided ways for individuals and congregations to join together with each other in partnership with other Christians in responding to a variety of concerns; and offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness that profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ love for the whole church.

Around the world, 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.

Received during the season of Lent (Feb. 14-April 1), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

[One Great Hour of Sharing, makes a difference in the world.](#)

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

- ◆ Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees
- ◆ Receives 32% of funds raised

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

- ◆ Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- ◆ Receives 36% of funds raised

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

- ◆ Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.
- ◆ Receives 32% of funds raised



Thu 1: 6:00pm ADK (retired teachers group) will hold their meeting.

Tue 20: PLAN deadline. All articles, items of interest, calendar items, etc. are due in the office.

Thu 29: Maundy Thursday. 7pm Service with **Communion**.

SUNDAYS AND DURING THE FELLOWSHIP HOUR

4: The Worship Committee meets during the fellowship hour. There will be an annual congregational meeting following worship.

11: Daylight Savings begins. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour on Saturday night.

11 & 18: Pastor Louis James will hold his Sunday Services in our building between 2-6pm.

18. There will be a blood pressure check during the fellowship hour sponsored by the Health Ministry.

25. Palm Sunday. **Communion**.

MEETINGS THROUGH THE WEEK

Tue 13: Deacons meeting. 6:00pm Session meeting.

Sat 17: 8:00am Presbyterian Men meet at IHOP in Marion.

Tue 27: 5:00pm Health Ministry meeting. 6:30pm Cancer Support Group meeting.

WEEKLY CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

Tuesdays : 11:00am Tuesday Prayer Group meets at the church. Please bring a lunch and join us.

Wednesdays: 10:00am Book Study. 4:00pm S.H.A.R.K.s 5:30pm Choir.

Thursdays 3:30pm Tai Chi.

March 4, 2018 The Third Sunday in Lent

John 18:12-27 Jesus' trial before Annas, Peter's denial.

Psalm 17:1-7

Said and Unsaid

March 11, 2018 The Fourth Sunday in Lent

John 18:28-40 My kingdom is not from this world.

Psalm 145:10-13

Can't, Won't, Don't

March 18, 2018 The Fifth Sunday in Lent

John 19:1-16a Jesus is condemned, they have no king but Caesar.

Psalm 146

Talking about Jesus

March 25, 2018 Palm and Passion Sunday

John 19:16b-22 Sign above the cross proclaims the crucified king.

Opt.: John 12:12-27 Triumphal Entry

Psalm 24

Even Death on a Cross

Thursday, March 29, 2018 – Maundy Thursday Lenten Cantata

Saturday, March 31, 2018 – Easter Vigil Service






Holy Week

Birthdays: 6th Ray Presley, 8th Jocelyn Logan, 19th Denise Robison & Ben Groenewold Van Dyk, 21st Yvonne Whitfield, 23rd Tricia Groenewold Van Dyk, 24th Mona Odum & Susie Selock

March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 3:30 Tai Chi 6pm ADK	2	3
4 Worship	5	6 11am Prayer Group Lent: St. Joseph Catholic Church	7 10am Book Study 4pm SHARKS 6PM Choir	8 3:30 Tai Chi	9	10
11  Daylight Savings Time	12	13 10am Deacons 11am Prayer Group 6pm Session Lent: Community of Christ Church	14 10am Book Study 4pm SHARKS 6PM Choir	15 3:30 Tai Chi	16	17 8am Pres. Men
18 Blood Pressure check	19	20 11am Prayer Group Lent: Zion United Church PLAN deadline	21 10am Book Study 4pm SHARKS 6PM Choir	22 3:30 Tai Chi	23	24
25 Palm Sunday COMMUNION	26	27 5PM Health Ministry 6:30 Cancer Support	28 10am Book Study 4pm SHARKS 6PM Choir	29 30 3:30 Tai Chi 7 pm Maundy Thursday COMMUNION	30 Good Friday Noon-1st United Methodist Church	31



First Presbyterian Church

A Century to Celebrate . . . A Future to Fulfill



1200 South Carbon Street • Marion, Illinois 62959 • (618) 993-3640 • office@marionpresbyterian.org

Online: www.marionpresbyterian.org

Sunday School: 9:00am

Worship Service: 10:30am