



Presbyterian Times

2019

First Presbyterian Church
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

What is Lent and why is it important in our lives? Once again we are entering into the season of Lent. For centuries the church has set aside the time before Easter to prepare to celebrate our most holy day. So why do we, in this post modern world, carry on a tradition which began in a time so removed from ours? Is it still relevant to our lives?

According to the PC (USA) Mission Agency, the time we spend in Lent is a transformational time for many and can impact our lives if we engage it by deliberately setting aside the time for prayer, personal sacrifice, ministry, and study. On their website the Mission Agency explains, "The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship."

During Lent we hear the stories of Jesus' journey to the cross, his arrest and crucifixion. It is from Jesus' death and resurrection that we recognize our need to die with Christ to the powers of death and sin and be raised with Christ to the new life he offers. "The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the "old self." In dying, we live. Through the intervention of God's gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the 'old self' in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, "Death is no more!" and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" leads to the destination of Easter." (An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship, Geneva Press, 2003 110-111).

So how will we, at First Presbyterian Church in Rolla "faithfully adhere to the Lenten journey of 'prayer, fasting, and almsgiving'?" Of course we will be worshipping together throughout the season and also include special services to mark our journey.

- March 6 5:00 – 6:00 Ash Wednesday supper and worship service
- March 10 1st Sunday of Lent, Luke 4:1-13 “The Voice of Temptation”
- March 17 2nd Sunday of Lent, Luke 13:31-35 “The Voice of Power/Hate?”
- March 24 3rd Sunday of Lent, Luke 13:1-9, “The Voice of Judgment”
- March 31 4th Sunday of Lent, Luke 15:1-3, 11b – 32 “The Voice of Disgrace”
- April 7 5th Sunday of Lent, John 12:1-11, “The Voice of Hypocrisy”
- April 14 6th Sunday of Lent, Luke 22:14-23, Luke 23:1-49 “The Voices Change”
- April 18 6:30 Maundy Thursday Service with Communion in the Chapel
- April 19 12:00 Good Friday Service in the Chapel

These are the ways we will worship together during Lent. Continue reading to discover ways in which you may engage in almsgiving (giving to those in need), prayer, and fasting.



Easter Baskets of Hope

The Outreach Committee invites and encourages us all to fill our Easter Baskets of Hope for Russell House, GRACE and The Rolla Mission.

Each Sunday in Lent we ask that you bring a different item the ministries need.

Lent Week 1 (March 10)	Hair Brushes and Hair Gel
Lent Week 2 (March 17)	Toilet Paper or Paper Towels
Lent Week 3 (March 24)	Laundry Soap
Lent Week 4 (March 31)	All Purpose Cleaner
Lent Week 5 (April 7)	Dish Soap
Lent Week 6 (April 14)	Deodorant



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
 SPECIAL OFFERINGS
 HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

On Easter Sunday we will be collecting the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. The offering goes directly to address issues of poverty, hunger, and disaster emergencies throughout our world. This is a critical offering for our denomination and our ministries together. It is through this offering that we share with countless others the love of Christ when they are most in need.

Tread Lightly for Lent
 A Daily Reflection-Action Calendar
 from the Presbyterian Mission Agency
 Look for this daily guide at the back of the sanctuary to use through Lent and reflect on our impact on the world.

PALS LUNCH

Cheryl Koederitz

PALS will meet for lunch at 11:45 am on March 4th at Bandana's Restaurant in Rolla.

MOVING FORWARD

Jonathan Kimball

On February 24, I made an announcement on behalf of Session, and as chair of the Way Forward committee. At the leadership retreat on January 29, attended by most of the session, deacons, and trustees, we decided to pursue a few changes to our church building. Katie and Lou Ellen made some contacts regarding changes to the office, Sadler Lounge, and nursery, which the Session discussed and approved at its meeting on February 18. On the 24th, I also hosted a conversation in the chapel. For the benefit of those who missed the chapel meeting, or who may have forgotten some of what was said, here's a few questions and answers.

What are we changing, and what are we leaving the same?

The nursery will be in the room that Katie currently sits in. The existing pastor's study will be converted to a meeting room. Katie will sit in the foyer; the existing counter will be replaced by a normal desk. The Sadler Lounge will be converted to the pastor's study. The library will stay where it is, and the copier and safe will be moved into it.

For the time being, the existing copy room will be storage. The Sadler Chapel will not be impacted in any way.

Why are we doing this?

The primary reason is to move the nursery to be close to the sanctuary. Right now, the nursery is at literally the furthest possible point from the sanctuary. With the changes, the nursery will be almost as close as possible. This is an essential way to show hospitality to our visitors with children.

The secondary reason is to make the office accessible. Right now, it is physically impossible for people in a wheelchair to reach the office, and challenging for many others in the congregation and drop-in visitors. As a result, office staff regularly needs to come down to the foyer to meet people. With the change, both Katie and Lou Ellen will be right by the portico door, which is accessible. As an added benefit, security will be improved because Katie will be able to monitor those who come and go.

If Katie's office is out in the foyer, how will that be secure?

Katie will have a laptop instead of a desktop computer. She will keep it in a locked drawer, and will similarly store all papers, etc.

How much will this cost?

Based on preliminary discussions with various contractors, the cost is expected to be less than \$4000, the maximum amount approved by Session. This will include plumbing, electrical work, new furniture for Katie, and some people to move stuff.

Plumbing? Will the nursery have a bathroom?

Plan A is to revive the old bathroom in the pastor's study. IF the sewer line is OK, this should be an inexpensive project. However, if it is NOT, then the cost will be excessive.

In that case, we will fall back to plan B: the sanctuary restroom. There are some logistical issues with that, but we believe they will be manageable for the foreseeable future. Parents will be asked to change their own kids' diapers, and potentially to take their own kids to the restroom.

Why not move the library to the new meeting room?

The shelves are built into the walls. At this time, the effort required and the benefit expected do not justify moving the library. The library will be accessible without entering the pastor's office, via the door that opens out onto the stairway.

What are the restrictions on the Sadler Lounge and trust?

At this time, the clerk of session is officially the trustee, who shall act only with the advice and consent of the session. There is no longer an outside trustee. Therefore, we may use the money available to ensure the continued attractive appearance and utility of the chapel and lounge in a way that serves the congregation.

Is there going to be a capital campaign?

Given the low cost of the move, we decided not to do a campaign at this time. There is more on the horizon. The building as a whole has many issues that need to be addressed. There will likely be a capital campaign in the near future, so we did not want to ask twice.

How does this solve our accessibility problem?

Well, it doesn't solve it, but does improve it. Right now, the nursery is not accessible; with the change, it won't meet ADA guidelines, but will be much closer with far fewer stairs. Right now, the office is not accessible; with the change, it will be. There is lots more we can and should do. This project was chosen as a relatively easy, relatively inexpensive change that can have a significant impact.

I still have questions. Who should I ask, or what should I do?

After worship on March 3, I will again be available in the chapel. In addition, feel free to speak with Lou Ellen, any elder on Session, or anyone on the Way Forward Committee.

Annual Cardinals Game on May 6

Join us for our annual trip to St. Louis as we cheer on the Cardinals vs. the Phillies. The cost for each person is **\$25** which includes your bus ride to and from the stadium, admission to the ball game, and a brown bag snack for the ride. This is always a great time! Invite a friend! If you would like to reserve your place, please contact Britt Whitaker or Katie in the church office.

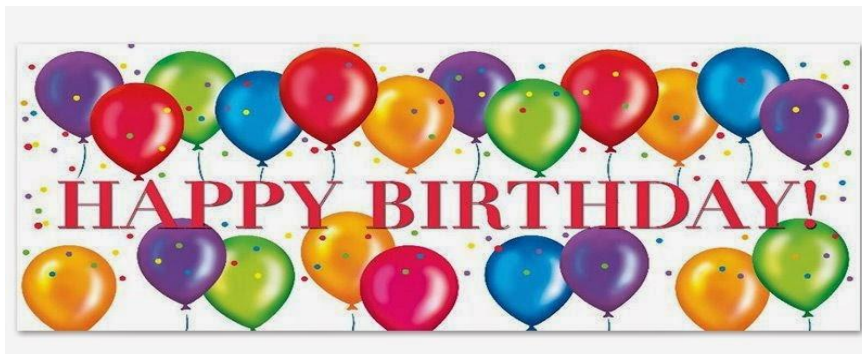


FROM THE OFFICE

Katie Sands, Office Manager

BIRTHDAY WISHES GO OUT TO:

Jacob Drewniak, Lucy Greig, Deborah Hall, David Cottingham, Ryne Fox, Steve Bowles, Lee Bennett and Bob Anderson.



ANNIVERSARY WISHES GO OUT TO:

Eugene & Janice Zanders, Jonathan & Rhonda Kimball
George & Fredi Zobrist.



UPCOMING EVENTS

1st First Friday Night Out, Bandana's

4th PALS lunch at Penelope's Restaurant

6th 5:00 pm Dinner in the Fellowship Hall
5:30 Worship in the Sadler Chapel

7th Brown bag Book Club

10th Daylight Saving Time begins



20th Spring begins!

21st Brown Bag Book Club

26th April Newsletter article deadline

28th Lenten Lunch

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Brown Bag Book Club

There are two more opportunities to participate in our Brown Bag Book Club! Join in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 for the discussion. Bring your lunch and we'll make the coffee. What is the Presbyterian view of these books?

March 7

- **Little Fires Everywhere** by Celeste Ng discussion day has been postponed until March 7th because of the weather. Jodi Picoult wrote of this book, "With brilliance and beauty, Celeste Ng dissects a microcosm of American society just when we need to see it beneath the microscope: how do questions of race stack up against the comfort of privilege, and what role does that play in parenting? Is motherhood a bond forged by blood, or by love? And perhaps most importantly: do the faults of our past determine what we deserve in the future? Be ready to be wowed by Ng's writing -- and unsettled by the mirror held up to one's own beliefs." This is an easy read and great story.

March 21

- **Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right** by Arlie Russell Hochschild will be discussed on March 21. Set in the bayous of Louisiana, this book is a compelling look into our society and why we do the things we do. Publisher's Weekly notes: "After evaluating her conclusions and meeting her informants in these pages, it's hard to disagree that empathy is the best solution to stymied political and social discourse." Join us as we discuss being strangers in our own land.

Feel free to join us even if you haven't read the books. The coffee is hot, the crowd is friendly and you may find a book you want to read.

Lenten Luncheons

Sacrificial Love

Spring is coming and so are our annual Lenten Luncheons! This year's theme is Sacrificial Love.

"So the divine love is sacrificial love. Love does not mean to have and to own and to possess. It means to be had and to be owned and to be possessed. It is not a circle circumscribed self, it is arms outstretched to embrace all humanity within its grasp". —Fulton J. Sheen

Our three luncheons will be held in Fellowship Hall starting with lunch at 11:45 and followed by our speaker at 12:15. Lunch will consist of soup, salad, bread, dessert and drink for \$5.00.

The Luncheons will begin on Thursday, March 28 with the Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley of First Presbyterian speaking on Sacrificial Love.

April 4th, we will have the Rev. Harold Harrison speaking. Rev. Harrison is currently Chaplin of Alternative Hospice.

The Rev. Allen Teal will be speaking on April 11th. Rev. Teal is Chaplin at Rolla's Presbyterian Manor.

A love offering will be taken with all proceeds will go toward **One Great Hour of Sharing**.

To help with planning, please call or email Katie at the church office for reservations by Wednesday preceding the luncheon. The number is 573-364-3852 or email at office@rollapresby.org.

Join us for a great lunch, learning and fellowship for our Lenten Luncheons, March 28th, April 4th and April 11th.

Spring Gathering “God is Faithful”

Loving us still,

God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,

Like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home.

God is faithful still.

“A Brief Statement of Faith”

Launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman’s Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church, the Spring Birthday Gathering celebrates Presbyterian women’s history of giving. Now the Birthday Offering is an annual tradition and has funded more than 200 mission projects that touch the lives of women and children. Join us as we review our year and enjoy fellowship with each other.

Who: All women attending First Presbyterian and their friends!

When: April 27, 2019

Where: First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

Time: 11:00 AM

What: Lunch provided by the Presbyterian Women’s Board

Program: The Mission of Presbyterian Woman through the Birthday Offering with Emma Lou Brent speaking about our local mission CASA.

A sign-up sheet will be located in hallway outside the office door, but, if you forget to sign come anyway and bring a friend! We would love to have you.



Lenten Luncheons

First Presbyterian Church

Join us for our three-week exploration of Spiritual Love.

"So the divine love is sacrificial love. Love does not mean to have and to own and to possess. It means to be had and to be owned and to be possessed. It is not a circle circumscribed by self, it is arms outstretched to embrace all humanity within its grasp". --Fulton J. Sheen

11:45 AM -12:45 Lunch followed by our speaker.

\$5.00 - Soup, Salad, Dessert and Drink

Week 1

March 28, 2019

Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Rolla First Presbyterian

Week 2

April 4, 2019

Rev. Harold Harrison

Alternative Hospice

Week 3

April 11, 2019

Rev. Allen Teal

Presbyterian Manor

For Reservations:

573-364-3852

office@rollapresby.org

