



# The Lamplighter



March 2020

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Pastor's Notes for March, 2020.

*The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, and in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day and by night.*  
*Exodus 13:21 (NRSV)*

The season of Lent is now upon us, and with it comes the invitation for us to enter into a time of self-reflection (examination), prayer, and fasting in the 40 days leading up to the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord. For those that might not be aware, the Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Many of our Lord's faithful choose this time of year to focus on either giving something up, starting a new spiritual practice or being intentional in reaching out and doing for others. I **had** been thinking a great deal about what I was going to focus on this season but had been unable to come up with anything that I could be enthusiastic about, and I could not figure out why. It was only after I was brave enough to admit to myself that for about eight months now, I have been wandering around like the Israelites following Moses in the desert - walking in circles and seemingly getting nowhere, that things have started to change.

Sometimes, even as people of deep faith, we can feel adrift, not seeing, feeling, or even understanding where God might be leading us. We can feel separated in some way from the God who we love and worship, without knowing or understanding why. What I have come to learn through the years is that this is a normal part of many people's faith journeys.....and while it might be very hard, in the end, it usually leads to a closer relationship with God.

This is not my first time in the wilderness - nor will it probably be my last. But as I walk this Lenten season, being honest about where I have been, and focusing on where I **can be** (not unlike the Israelites looking for the promised land), is what I will be doing. My focus will be on being more open to hearing what God is saying and remembering that even though I might feel alone and lost, I am not. God is with me always, like a pillar of fire, providing light for both my days and my nights.

May you be richly blessed in whatever way God leads you this Lenten season, remembering that God is with you, ALWAYS,

Pastor Cath

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING**

Beginning with the March edition the Session highlights will not be posted until they have been approved by Session. Thank You!

**REMEMBER TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD  
ONE HOUR MARCH 8TH FOR DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME****NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH****CALLING AND MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

The Calling and Membership met and report the following projects: Coming Soon!! LADIES LUNCHEON April 25th, 2020. SAVE the DATE!!!.-

**HELP FOR OUR GROWING CHRISTIAN ED PROGRAM**

Growing pains! We have grown to about 20 kids, on an average, at our Wednesday night Christian Education program and we have come to the realization that with such a wide variety of ages, having two groups is not in the best interest our kids when it comes to learning and growing in their faith. As a result, we are working on creating a third group and need to set-up an additional room, which means we need a few pieces of furniture!

So, if you have a sofa, couch, loveseat, sectional or futon you are looking to get rid of - we would love to have it!!! Please let Pastor Cath, Megan Huizenga, Margaret Crosthwaite, or Bill Wilkin know!

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Fellowship Committee met and report the following project coming in March.

**MEXICAN POTLUCK AND BINGO**

The Fellowship Committee will be having a Mexican themed Potluck and Bingo night on Sunday March 15th starting at 4:00 p.m. in the afternoon. Please bring a dish to pass, dessert, or snacks. We will provide drinks for the night. For the Bingo we are asking everyone to bring a \$5.00 or under gift in a paper bag and we will follow the White Elephant Bingo game rules. Come join us for a fun filled night of fellowship! Hope to see you there.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE NEWS**

The Finance Committee met and report the following information about the church financial situation: The church's finances are stable at present and the congregation's continued support is very much appreciated.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

The Nominating Committee did not meet but will report news when they do meet.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

As we usually do, we once again this year, received donations to Souper Bowl Caring on February 2, 2020. All the proceeds were sent to the Fulton/Thomson Food pantry. We are happy to report the total of \$266.32 was received. Thank You for your generous donations.

Our Adopt-a-Child in Haiti (Stephanie) campaign is in full swing and all spots are filled. We would like to say Thank You to all those who have signed up. Your donations are very much appreciated.

We are currently selling flowers through March 22, 2020, with proceeds to be used for Summer Nights. We are planning another of our wonderful bake sales for Sunday April 5th, the first \$300 will be donated to the Food Pantry and the remainder to the General Fund.

## PROPERTIES COMMITTEE

The Properties Committee met and report the following projects:

### TABLES

This message from the Properties Committee: Fulton Presbyterian Church was fortunate to have received donations to cover the purchase of 20 new rectangular and 12 round tables for use at the church. With that donation we now have available to members for free (or donation) 15 of the older tables. Any questions please contact Jim Balk or Roy Nelson

## STAFF COMMITTEE

The Staff Committee met and are pleased to announce that Stacy Bueno has been hired as our new custodian.

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met and is happy to report the following upcoming special worship services. Maundy Thursday worship service will be April 9th, with a soup supper preceding the 7:00 p.m. service.

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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Our Men's Fellowship Group continues to meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. This month it will be March 14th, all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.



## LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch meet on the second Thursday of each month. They will meet at Jenny's in Clinton on March 12th at 11:30 am. There is a sign up sheet posted on the hallway bulletin board. Come and bring a neighbor, friend, or anyone who needs a day out.

## THANK YOU

Fulton Presbyterian and Outreach Committee, your thoughtfulness is so appreciated. Thank you so much for your continued support to FES Students with helping to supply us with clothing needs. Rest assured it all gets used. Fulton Elementary School, Linda Rogis, School Nurse..

## BOOK GROUP MEETING

The next book selection for the book group is a novel by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey, called "Fearfully and Wonderfully: The Marvel of Bearing God's Image" We will meet on 3/18/20 at 9:30 a.m. at the library in the church to discuss! Anyone in the community is welcome to join us!

## GREETERS

We need your help by signing up to be a greeter on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sheet which is found on the table in the Narthex. Thank You

## LENTEN STUDY BEGINNING MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020

Please join us on Monday mornings at 9:30 for our Lenten Bible Study. We will be using the book "Living Into Lent," written by Presbyterian Author and school Donald Kim. Below is a description of the study which is available on Amazon as a book or Kindle download. If you would like to attend and have a hard copy of the book (\$15.00) please let Pastor Catherine know.

From Amazon....

*"The Lenten journey is a shared journey Christians join with others along the way of faith, following Jesus and seeking to live out the will and purpose of God. Living into Lent, written by noted theologian, educator, and author Donald K. McKim, sets aside time during the Lenten season for readers to reflect on their Christian identities, listen to God's Word and will, and engage in practices that deepen the Christian experience through discipleship.*

*Whether used for congregational study or personal reflection, each reading features Scripture, devotion, theological quote, response, and prayer. Theological quotes, drawn from the history of the Reformed church, will help readers better understand God's Word and its implications for the Lenten journey. Readings are enhanced by a seven-session study guide and questions for conversation."*

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS

### HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

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 (February 26 – April 12), 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. RPDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). It enables our congregations and mission partners to witness the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events. Find an interactive world map with OGHS recipients at [pcusa.org/oghsmap](http://pcusa.org/oghsmap).

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**VOLUNTEERS:** For more information about PDA's refugee ministry, visit [pcusa.org/PDA/refugee](http://pcusa.org/PDA/refugee), [presbyterianmission.org/oghs](http://presbyterianmission.org/oghs) Story ministry

**Trigger:** The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence was recently added to Amazon Prime. Flint: The Poisoning of an American City premiered in Flint, MI on September 12, 2019; PC(USA) Stated Clerk Rev. Dr. J Herbert Nelson, II was present. Following the premiere, the film had a theatrical run in Emagine Theaters in Canton, Novi and Birch Run, MI, September 13-19. Residents of Flint spoke on the panel and shared their stories at the premiere and select screenings of the Emagine Theaters theatrical run.

The late Congressman Elijah Cummings co-hosted the Baltimore, MD, screening on October 7. Other cities where screenings are being organized include Atlanta, New York City, Chicago, Detroit,

### PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

PHP works to alleviate hunger and eliminate root causes.

Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.

Receives 36% of funds raised.

Los Angeles and possibly more. Every screening will have a panel of specialists and Flint community leaders for a discussion following the film. In production is Trouble the Water: Conversations to Disrupt Racism and Dominance—the story series discussing race is a collaboration between the Office of General Assembly, Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries and Compassion, Peace and Justice. This will be out in time for General Assembly.

For more information about PDA's story ministry, visit [pcusa.org/StoryProductions](http://pcusa.org/StoryProductions)

Find out more about the ongoing work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance at [presbyterianmission.org/pda](http://presbyterianmission.org/pda).

### 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; [presbyterianmission.org/oghs](http://presbyterianmission.org/oghs)

The Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People continues to work with low-income communities across the United States to overcome oppression and injustice. In 2018, National SDOP entered into partnerships with the projects. Projects focused on advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, worker rights, immigration/refugee issues and capacity building.

Through your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, over 5,000 projects in economically poor communities in the United States and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since SDOP's inception.

**Highlighted Projects:** Fideicomiso de la Tierra del Cano Martin Pena, San Juan, Puerto Rico (a collaborative initiative with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Hunger Program). Fideicomiso members collectively own land which is managed for the benefit of all district residents. This innovative community land trust was designed by the communities to regularize land tenure and avoid gentrification. The grant makes it possible for the group to hire a community facilitator.

**Exploring Educational Opportunities—Black Male Leadership Initiative, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.** This is a project comprised of economically poor African American young men. They seek to advance themselves educationally, personally and economically through lectures, workshops and field trips. The project is meant to fill a cultural gap in learning and exposure that is perpetuated by poverty and racism.

**Small Scale Sustainable Development West Africa Initiative, Liberia, Sierra Leone** (a collaborative initiative with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Presbyterian Hunger Program and various ecumenical partners). The initiative seeks to improve the food security and economic status of communities, families and individuals through technical training, follow up technical support and small grants for project activities. Find out more about the ongoing work of the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People (SDOP) at [presbyterianmission.org/sdop](http://presbyterianmission.org/sdop). [presbyterianmission.org/oghs](http://presbyterianmission.org/oghs)

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March 1, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship - Communion 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	March 16, 2020	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to Meet	
March 2, 2020	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Scouts—Papers 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	March 17, 2020	Primary Election in Outreach Center all Day 10:30 a.m. Pastor to Presbytery NO Steam Anchor, Pastor will NOT be at Steam Anchor	
March 3, 2020	1:30 p.m. Pastor to Presbytery NO Steam Anchor, Pastor will NOT be at Steam Anchor 6:00 p.m. Session to meet	March 18, 2020	4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice <b>559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m.</b> 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	
March 4, 2020	4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice <b>559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m.</b> 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	March 19, 2020	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	
March 5, 2020	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	March 20, 2020	Pastor's Day Off Spring Begins!!!	
March 6, 2020	Pastor's Day Off	March 21, 2020	Pastor's Day Off	
March 7, 2020	Pastor's Day Off	March 22, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	
March 8, 2020	Spring Forward - Daylight Savings Time Begins, move clocks ahead one hour 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	March 23, 2020	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	
March 9, 2020	No Bible Study Pastor to Synod COM Gathering	March 24, 2020	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor will be at Steam Anchor	
March 10, 2020	Pastor to Synod COM Gathering 10:00 a.m. Finance Committee to meet	March 25, 2020	4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice <b>559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m.</b> 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	
March 11, 2020	Pastor to Synod COM Gathering No Steam Anchor, Pastor will NOT be at Steam Anchor. 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Blended Pre-school Screening in education wing. 4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice <b>559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m.</b> 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	March 26, 2020	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	
March 12, 2020	11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch to meet at Jenny's in Clinton 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	March 27, 2020	Pastor's Day Off	
March 13, 2020	Pastor's Day Off	March 28, 2020	Pastor's Day Off	
March 14, 2020	Pastor's Day Off 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship	March 29, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	
March 15, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. Mexican Potluck and Bingo	March 30, 2020	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	
		March 31, 2020	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor will be at Steam Anchor	

A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted.

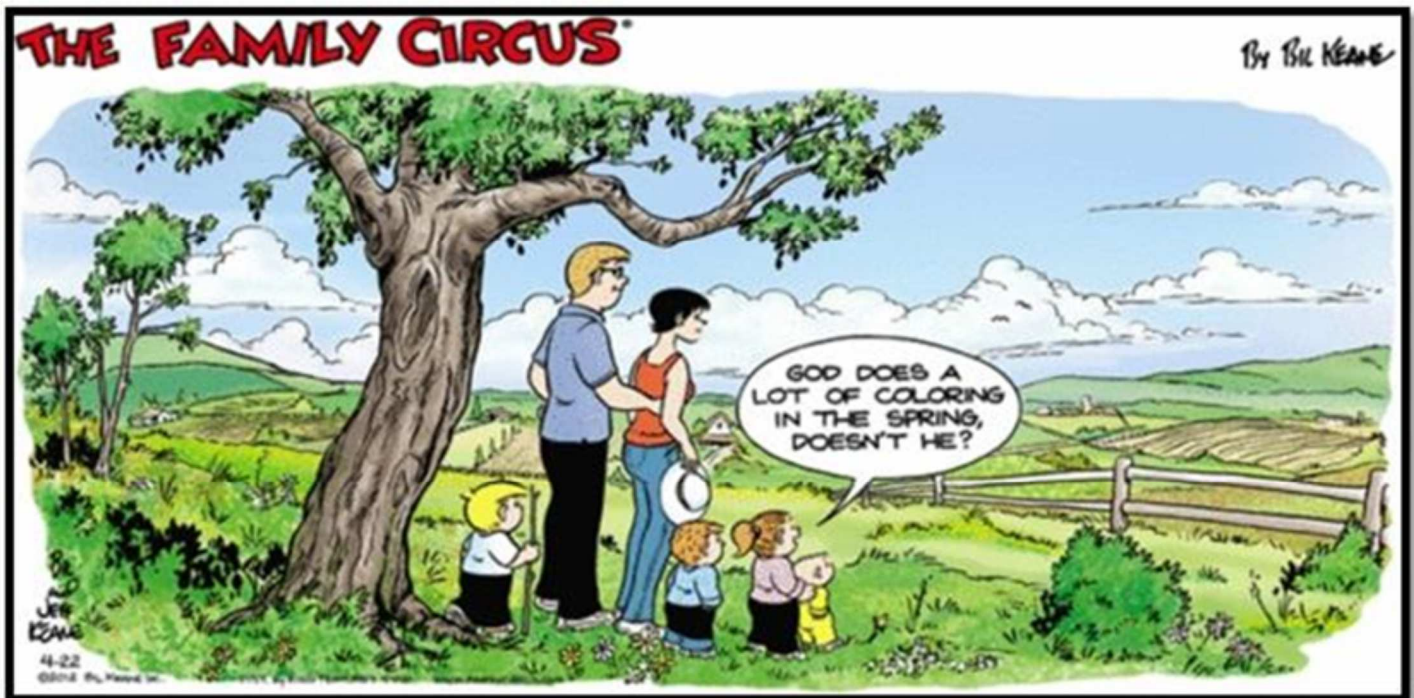
As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study and told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and how much he loved him. He handed him a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible, with his name embossed in gold. Angrily, he raised his voice to his father and said, "With all your money you give me a Bible?" He stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible behind.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and wonderful family, but realized his father was very old. He thought perhaps he should go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. But before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away, and willed all of his possessions to him. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things.

When he arrived at his father's house, sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important documents and saw the Bible, new, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages.

His father had carefully underlined a verse, Matt 7:11, "And if ye, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father which is in Heaven, give to those who ask Him?" As he read those words, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words... PAID IN FULL.

How many times do we miss God's blessings because they are not packaged as we expected?



### March VOLUNTEERS

**Ushers:** Mike and Cindy Wierema

### **Greeters:**

March 1 ..... Megan Huizenga  
 March 8 ..... Ron and Connie Koehn  
 March 15 ..... Dale and Toni Houzenga  
 March 22 ..... Mike and Melinda Kramer  
 March 29 ..... Irma Geerts



### **THE JAN STUART MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY** **March suggested donations:**

Canned Carrots  
 Canned Peas





**BIRTHDAYS**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY!**



March 1	Caden Wilkin
March 3	Jeff Pessman Jackie Pessman
March 4	Jennifer Smith
March 5	Dorothy Hook Jim Balk Mark Steele
March 6	Taylor Curley Courtney Radke
March 8	Anne Balk
March 12	Jim Moore
March 21	Adam Huizenga
March 23	Odetta Swanson
March 26	Belle Curley
March 30	Reece Kramer
March 31	Pam May

**ANNIVERSARIES**

March 17	Mike and Karen Hand
March 19	Chuck and Odetta Swanson

*If your birthday or anniversary was missed please contact the office.*

**OFFICE SCHEDULE:**

Pastor - 9 a.m. to Noon - Monday - Thursday  
Secretary - 8 a.m. to noon - Monday - Friday

**LUNCH BUNCH**

The Lunch Bunch will continue to meet the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO MEET**

The Men's Fellowship will meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday March 14th For more information contact Bill Wilkin.

**PRAYER REQUESTS**

If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, please contact us at the office. We are available by e-mail, telephone, or regular mail. We will pass your request along to everyone, there are never too many prayers. Thank You Paul and Pastor Catherine.

**DID YOU KNOW**

Did you know that when you pay your bills by "Bill Pay" online you can include the church or even make it an automatic payment. Please see Paul Delzell for more information.

**SEMI-ANNUAL DONATION STATEMENT  
AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL**

With our computer program, your donation statement is available through e-mail. If you are willing to receive your statement in this manner, please contact me. I have started this method with several signing up. Thank You Paul Delzell

**DID YOU KNOW?**

If you put loose trash in any of the containers outside the kitchen door, someone will have to fish it back out and put it in a trash bag. Our trash is carried to the curb in bags by someone to be picked up by the trash collectors. So PLEASE DO NOT put loose trash in either of the trash containers put it in a garbage sack. Thank You Paul Delzell

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Are you in need of offering envelopes? I have begun a new policy of printing them when you need them as many have said they have some left from previous years. So, if you are in need please call the office or drop a note in my box at church to let me know how many you would like and I will print them. Thank You

**ESTIMATE OF GIVING**

Have you considered how you can help our Finance Committee plan for our church financially for 2020. Your Estimate of Giving helps us do just that. So please if you have not done so yet please consider filling it out today. For the blank form contact the Office. Thank You!

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