

Presbyterian Times
February, 2018

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from Our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

Dear Friends,

Soon we will enter into a new spiritual season. Lent will move into our lives and we will move into Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14. The fact that it falls on Valentine's Day may give some of us pause. We are more accustomed to anticipating chocolates, perhaps a loving card, a nice dinner, etc. We certainly do not think of Valentine's Day as a day of ashes, a day to remember our mortality. Alas, Hallmark does not create the liturgical calendar so this year we will observe Ash Wednesday with a simple dinner and a worship service. We spend six weeks pondering Christ's life and death, his ministry, his lessons. We will think about our need for the forgiveness and salvation he made possible. We will also think about God's great love for us demonstrated through the miracles of incarnation resurrection. While we may resist the call to reflect on our frailties and sin, I urge us to overcome that impulse. I urge us to reflect on what we cannot control so we might rely on the strength of our savior. I urge us to think in terms of sacrifice, self-denial, and servanthood as we follow Christ to the cross. Lent is a time when we ponder the great mystery of God's profound love and grace. As we do this, we may find ourselves moving closer to God and to one another.

Love in Christ,

Pastor Lou Ellen

Basket of Hope
Melba Read

Our Basket of Hope this year will benefit

RUSSELL HOUSE, GRACE, & THE MISSION

One item will be collected for each

week of Lent.

1st week—February 18th

Dish Soap

2nd week---February 25th

Shampoo

3rd week—March 4th

Disposable Razors

4th week—March 11th

Toilet Paper or Paper Towels

5th week—March 18th

Deodorant or Liquid Hand Soap (individual)

6th week---March 25th

Ziploc bags--(Qt. or Gal.)

Or Trash bags—(Lg. or XLg.)

Mission Committee News

Melba Read, Chair

SOUPE BOWL – We will again be voting with our dollars on our favorite Super Bowl Team on Sunday, February 4. Soup pots will be at the back of the sanctuary following worship. Proceeds will go to GRACE.

BACK-PACK PROGRAM – Price Chopper is reimbursing the Back-Pack Program for every bar code from a Best Choice item. A box will be on the table across from the office for the collection. Please remove the labels from the recyclable containers. This will be an ongoing project. Plastic grocery bags are always needed for the program and you may place these in the foyer. 450 students are being served weekly in the Rolla School System.

Membership

Bob May, Chair

Cardinal game Wednesday, April 25, 2018 between the Cards and the Mets is at 7:15 pm. Cost for the game and the bus is \$25.00. Please send your commitments and money to Britt Whitaker, Nancy Marlow, Ken Kwantes or Betti Jo Pyatt asap. There are a limited number of tickets this year so may go fast. The bus will leave the church parking lot at 4 pm.

Way Forward Committee
Jonathan Kimball, Chair

As you read in last month's newsletter, we have formed a new committee, the Way Forward. We report to the Session and are tasked with evaluating our building and its suitability for our congregation, or what options we may have. The committee membership is: Jonathan Kimball (chair), Ken Kwantes, Susan Murray, Eleanor Van Horn, and Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley. All of us are ordained elders; Ken and Jonathan are currently installed.

Our first task is to catalog all of the activities in the church and what their needs are. Shortly, we will move on to investigating what is needed to reconfigure our existing building or to move to another building. However, the Way Forward committee ultimately has a fact-finding commission: We will provide a report to Session with options that they can evaluate. Our hard deadline is October 2018.

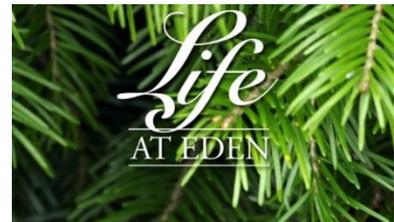
The committee's next meeting is February 7 at 6 pm. If you have any particular input, please share it with one of the committee members. Meanwhile, please pray for wisdom and discernment, for the committee, for the Session, and for the congregation.

LIFE: Lifelong Learner Institute of Faith Exploration
Eden Theological Seminary

Jonathan Kimball

Eden Theological Seminary is a United Church of Christ (UCC) seminary in St. Louis, near Webster University. They welcome people of a variety of backgrounds, but are predominantly progressive Christians. The LIFE program is for people who are looking for something more. The program meets five times a year with a basic schedule that runs from dinner Friday night through worship Saturday afternoon. Each weekend retreat includes a choice between a certificate course and an elective course. The certificate requires fifteen courses (so a minimum of three years, more if you miss one) and is intended for UCC lay leaders. I generally choose whichever course looks interesting to me, since I'm not particularly interested in a UCC certificate.

The next LIFE weekend is themed, "Jazz & Justice, Faith & Witness," and will be held on March 2-3. The format this time is different from normal to accommodate...





“Jazz for the Journey” led by Cliff Aerie and the Oikos Ensemble, Rev. Geoffrey Black, Rev. Ozzie Smith. Jazz for the Journey is an opportunity for pastors, church musicians, worship leaders, musicians, and jazz lovers to celebrate, share and explore the many possibilities of jazz as a contemporary faith language and creative vehicle for the Church’s ministry. This is the elective class.

There will also be a certificate class, “Confronting Reality: Life, Faith, Justice, Witness” with Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister of United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries. This class will join with Jazz for the Journey participants in worship, meals and the concert.

Follow these links for more details:

<https://www.eden.edu/events/life-at-eden/>

<https://www.eden.edu/events/life-at-eden-2/>

Christian Education Committee
Marcia Brewer

A study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, his life, work, and writings, continues in the Journey Room. All are invited to bring refreshments from Fellowship and join the discussion, which is presented in print and video by Jan Roberts. Bonhoeffer was a German pastor and theologian who was executed in the waning days of WWII because of his opposition to the Nazis and Hitler’s national church. We often think of martyrs as heroes in ancient history; this study brings to light the fact that, in some of our lifetimes, Christians were and are still suffering for our beliefs.

Beginning on February 18, Pastor Lou Ellen Hartley will lead a Lenten study in another area of the church building. Books will be ordered for those who are interested. We are experimenting with the plan of having two adult Sunday classes running concurrently.

Meanwhile, the adult Sunday school class will continue meeting in the Journey Room,

with a new study, including a video, of “Jesus, Qumran, and the Dead Sea Scrolls” beginning in late February or early March. These scrolls and fragments were discovered in 1948 by Bedouin shepherds, near the Dead Sea in what was then Jordan and is now referred to as the West Bank. Largely written during the pre-Christian era, these manuscripts contain some of the earliest known examples of the Hebrew Bible and are now housed in a dedicated museum in Israel, while scholars continue to piece together the delicate fragments.

From the Office

Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

Birthday wishes for February go out to Joan Williams, Fredi Zobrist, Kaylee Denbo, George Zobrist, Teresa Fox, Andrew Isaac and Mary Wallen.

Anniversary wishes for February go out to David & Mary Wallen and Brett & Lou Ellen Hartley.

Our Deacons for 2018 are: Carrie Aswegan, Carol Bennett, Bill Neely, Jr., Jan Roberts, Dixie Finley, Marian Pruitt, Cheryl Koederitz, Carlene May, and Deanne Jackson.

Our Elders for 2018 are: Pam Cottingham, Lee Bennett, Bob May, Marilyn Schmidt, Melba Read, Ken Kwantes, Jonathan Kimball, and Marcia Brewer.

Our Trustees for 2018 are: Steve Day, Bill Cottingham, Eugene Zanders, Clayton Read and Ray Fox.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: I am in the process of finalizing a new directory for the church. Please review your information and let me know if you have any additions or deletions.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE for March letter is February 26th.

EVENTS FOR THE MONTH

2 – First Friday Night Out – Mandarin Garden at 6 pm

4 – Souper Bowl of Caring offering

14 – Ash Wednesday meal and service

19 – Church office closed for President’s Day

School is in Session

24 – Pastor Lou Ellen will attend Presbytery Meeting in Ft. Scott, KS

