



# Among Friends

MARCH, 2020

## From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings!

For those of you who were unable to attend the Ash Wednesday service I would like to share the message I gave. And for those who attended I would like you to reflect on that message.

### FOR MY SINS!

Mark 15:21-39

At the ninth hour, Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ***“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”***

Jesus was forsaken by the crowd who on Palm Sunday shouted ***“Hosanna, hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”*** And only five days later they were shouting, ***“Crucify him, crucify him!”***

It is so easy to want to go right from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. It is so easy to want to go right from hosanna to He is risen. However, to fully understand the suffering Jesus endured, to fully understand the that God has for us; we need to stop—we need to stop at the foot of the cross. We will never experience the elation of the resurrection, until we experience the agony of the cross.

It was time for Jesus to be crucified. He had been beaten. He had been flogged. His flesh was bleeding, raw and torn open. A crown of thorns pierced Jesus' skull. Then spikes were driven through his wrists and feet. At the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land. And that was when Jesus cried out, ***“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”***

Darkness came upon the earth. The light was gone. Sin crushed the perfect, unblemished lamb. The pain of the cross; the nails, the tortured flesh was agonizing; but the most agonizing pain of was when the Father turned his back on his Son.

Jesus took our sins and paid the price for each of us. The price was separation from his Father. That was the first and last time that Jesus would be separated from his Father. What agony it was for Jesus. He cried out to his Father, ***“Why have you forsaken me?”***

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**APRIL**

**Newsletter  
Deadline**

**March 26**

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# March

## SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH

- *Frist Sunday in Lent, 3/1*
- *World Day of Prayer, 3/16*
- *Second Sunday in Lent, 3/8*
- *Daylight-Saving Time begins, 3/8*
- *Third Sunday in Lent, 3/15*
- *First day of spring, 3/19*
- *Fourth Sunday in Lent, 3/22*
- *Fifth Sunday in Lent., 3/29*



Deadline for  
submission of  
APRIL newsletter  
information is  
MARCH 26.

Submit to:

Sue Datt via

"Snail Mail"  
324 S. Main St.  
Harrisville, PA 16038

E-mail:  
[ratsbatuti@  
zoominternet.net](mailto:ratsbatuti@zoominternet.net)

Phone:  
724-991-5863

## From the Pastor's Desk (continued)

As I reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus, it reminds me of this true story.

It was a Sunday evening service in a small church. That night one of the local nursing homes, which cares for a group of adults with Downs Syndrome, brought several of their residents to worship. Some in the church may have been distracted by their outbursts, laughter and untimely 'amens.' But it was so impressive and amazing to see their simple childlike faith and their genuine excitement for hearing God's word.

When it came time for communion, they gathered at the altar and the pastor began to give the elements to each person that came forward. The residents from the nursing home came forward to receive the elements. When the Pastor offered bread to one of the men with downs syndrome, he said; "The Body of Christ, given for you." Then he gave the man the cup with juice and said, "The blood of Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of your sin." Upon hearing those words, the man blurted out, "For MY sins? For MY sins?"

It was as though he had been given a precious gift. The man in his simple childlike faith truly understood the words spoken by the pastor. But they weren't the pastor's words; they were the words of Christ. They were words of forgiveness, hope, good news and salvation. That night, the young man with the faith of a child believed. He believed the words of Christ and as a result he realized that HIS sins had been forgiven. The man with downs syndrome preached a joyous three-word sermon that night. **FOR MY SINS!**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, during this Lenten season, take time to reflect on the great price paid so that your sins could be forgiven. Let's all journey together to the cross where Christ willingly went to pay the price **FOR YOUR SINS** and **FOR MY SINS!**

*In His service,  
Diane*



## UPCOMING EVENTS



- March 1**      **COMMUNION AND WORSHIP SERVICE**, Worship Center, 11:00 a.m. Pastor Diane Whitman will lead the service. Sunday school begins at 10:00 a.m.
- March 8**      **WORSHIP SERVICE**, Worship Center, 11:00 a.m. Pastor Diane Whitman will lead the service. Sunday school begins at 10:00 a.m.
- March 11**     **FPC Presbyterian Women**, Community Center, 700 p.m. Cindy Cross and Michelle Whitehouse will be hostesses for the evening. **PLEASE NOTE WE WILL RESUME EVENING MEETINGS IN MARCH.**
- March 14**     **Second Saturday Concert**, Community Center, featuring the music of Ron Knapp and Friends. Refreshments begin at 6:30 p.m., the concert will follow at 7:00 p.m.
- March 15**     **WORSHIP SERVICE**, Worship Center, 11:00 a.m. Pastor Diane Whitman will lead the service. Sunday school begins at 10:00 a.m.
- March 15**     **KIDS CLUB FUN NIGHT** — Watch for more information when the details have been finalized!
- March 20**     **MOVIE NIGHT!** Community Center, 7:00 p.m. Bring along your favorite “movie snack” to share. We will be showing: “I Can Only Imagine.” A separate movie presentation for children will be a part of the evening’s entertainment.
- March 22**     **WORSHIP SERVICE**, Worship Center, 11:00 a.m. Pastor Diane Whitman will lead the service. Sunday school begins at 10:00 a.m..
- March 29**     **WORSHIP SERVICE**, Worship Center, 11:00 a.m. Pastor Willard Morse will lead the service. Sunday school begins at 10:00 a.m..

## COMMUNITY EVENTS DURING LENT AND HOLY WEEK



### CENTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Bill Mumaw will present a Lenten Study based on the Max Lucado book: **JESUS The God Who Knows Your Name.**

Wednesday Evenings - March 4 through April 1

A light meal will be served at 5:30 p.m. with the study series to follow from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Anyone planning to attend is asked to call the church (724-794-4380) to let them know so they can prepare enough food.

### HIGHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 p.m.

### CENTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT FPC?

### THE SATURDAY CONCERT

This month's **Second Saturday Concert (March 14)** will feature **Ron Knapp and Friends** presenting a program of gospel and old country music.

The concert will be held at the **Community Center**.

Refreshments will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the concert starting at 7:00 p.m.

**Come for dessert and settle in for the concert!**

**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!**

### SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

#### ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Adult Sunday School: Our Spring lessons focus on justice as presented by the Old Testament prophets. This March we study from the books of Amos, Habakkuk, Micah, and Malachi as they issue God's call for justice for the poor and oppressed and describe how leaders must practice justice. We meet at 10:00 a.m. Sundays for a time of Bible study, discussion and sharing. All are welcome.

#### CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The Children's Sunday school class is studying the last section of the Old Testament. They are also looking at comparing passages that are in the Old and New Testaments.



## SERVING THIS MONTH



### PREACHING

3/1	Pastor Diane Whitman
3/8	Pastor Diane Whitman
3/15	Pastor Diane Whitman
3/22	Pastor Diane Whitman
3/29	Pastor Willard Morse



### LITURGISTS

3/1	Cindy Cross
3/8	Bill Kreuzer
3/15	Michele Lagnese
3/22	Cindy Cross
3/29	Bill Kreuzer



### GREETERS

3/1	Joanie West
3/8	Dave & Donna Walker
3/15	Heather Datt
3/22	Joanne Campbell
3/29	Evelyn Vargo



### PROJECTIONISTS

3/1	Jeremy Whitehouse
3/8	Benjamin Vukson
3/15	Jeremy Whitehouse
3/22	Benjamin Vukson
3/29	Jeremy Whitehouse

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



**Kid's Club** continues to collect items for a shoe box packing party this November for **Operation Christmas Child**. We are planning a different collection theme each month but please feel free to bring in any items at any time during the year. We are collecting **picture books and coloring books** for the month of March. (Keep in mind they must fit into a shoebox.)

## CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET DRIVE – EXTENDED



Share the gift of warmth and shelter when you donate \$5 toward the purchase of a wool blanket for Church World Service. This is a perfect way to give thanks for the warmth in our hearts, our homes and our church by helping to provide blankets for those in need.

When you donate \$5, a red heart will be added to the blanket hung in the sanctuary. Let's fill the blanket again this year!

Donation envelopes will be available in the vestibule. Our CWS Blanket Drive will run through the month of March.

## FOOD CUPBOARD

The Food Cupboard "wish list" for March: Cereal



## DRESS FOR SUCCESS

FPC Presbyterian Women continue to collect gently used dress clothes and accessories for the Butler Branch of "Dress for Success." This donation operation is spearheaded by Chris Hogg who graciously delivers the clothing when we receive 20 or more items.

Donations are always accepted for the "next" delivery...what a great way to help empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.



## GIRL SCOUTS DO A GOOD TURN FOR GOODWILL

In cooperation with the Girl Scouts, Michelle and Lilly Whitehouse are collecting clothing and other items for Goodwill. Clothing that may not fit into the guidelines of "Dress for Success" is happily accepted here! Please bring those items to the Worship Center through March 31. **PLEASE PUT ALL ITEMS IN WELL-TIED TRASH BAGS.**

We accept:

- Clothing, shoes, accessories and linens
- Saleable kitchen ware, dishes, pans
- Knick knacks and decorative items
- Books, records, CD'S, DVD's, cassettes
- Small household appliances and tools

We CANNOT accept:

- Furniture and area rugs
- Hazardous materials (paint, batteries, gasoline, chemicals, tires, oil)
- Household cleaning supplies, medicine and syringes
- Large appliances, televisions

# Prayer List

*“Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.” James 5:16*

Anne D. (Missionary to India)  
Sally Alben  
Jane Allison  
Carly Atkisson  
Zachary Barto  
Candy Boulanger  
Kayla Brundige  
Martie Cooper  
Ruth Cooper  
The Cooperstown  
Congregation  
Kathy Reimers Cratty  
Kay Curtis  
Bessie Datt  
Heather Datt  
Winnie Davis  
Jim Dickey  
Mark Doerr  
Bertha Durnell  
Randy Durnell  
Blanche, English

Jennifer Gilliland  
Donna Grossman  
Rick Grossman  
David Hall  
John Hines  
Nancy Huntington  
Timothy James  
Jennie Jamieson  
Rev. William Jamieson  
Graham Larimore  
Lisa Leach and Family  
Ed Lind  
Joe Lowers  
Delaney Matteo  
Kevin Michael  
Randy Morgan  
Jessie Myers  
David Parker  
Karen Piper  
Bill and Chris Schroeder  
Micheal Scott

Rodney Stewart  
Helen Taggart  
Joe Vivelo  
Seth Vogan  
Donna Walker  
Jeremy (God will know which one).  
Our military at home and abroad  
Persecuted Christians around the world,  
Alpha Omega (SR)  
Pregnancy Center  
Feed My Sheep Food Cupboard  
Beaver Butler Presbytery  
The PCUSA  
The Church of Jesus Christ  
Friendship Presbyterian Church

## On the Road Again

This summer (June 18 and 19) we will be traveling to Kentucky’s “**Creation Museum**” and “**Ark Encounter**” and the “**National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**” in Cincinnati, Ohio. Not only will travelers join in exploring state-of-the-art Biblical encounters and experience the story of the Underground Railroad, the trip will provide opportunities for enjoying the fellowship of a motor coach filled with interesting, fun-loving and faith-filled passengers.

The bus is filling up fast — only a few seats left! Call Jeff Cross to save your place! (724) 498-5957

## March

### BIRTHDAYS

Joanne Campbell, 3/3  
Wendi Vukson, 3/4  
Mark Weidner, 3/10  
Patty Musulin, 3/16  
Savanna Crawford, 3/24  
Karen Pepper, 3/27  
Michelle Whitehouse, 3/31

### ANNIVERSARIES

None

## REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS IN NURSING HOMES & SENIOR LIVING

Bessie Datt  
Orchard Manor  
20 Orchard Dr.  
Grove City, PA 16127

Bertha Durnell  
Lowrie Place  
100 Stirling Village Drive  
Butler, PA 16001

Jessie Myers  
Grove Manor  
435 North Broad Street  
Grove City, PA 16127

Helen Taggart  
Orchard Manor  
20 Orchard Dr.  
Grove City, PA 16127



JUST FOR FUN

Joyful  
noise



Use your voice and this hand-crafted percussion instrument to make joyful noises to the Lord.

**What you need:**

- Dry beans (about one Tbsp)
- Plastic Easter egg
- 2 plastic spoons
- Masking tape
- Markers and stickers

**What you do:**

1. Place the beans inside the egg and snap it closed.
2. Set the egg in a spoon and cover it with the second spoon so the spoons are holding the egg.
3. Tape the spoons to the egg. Also wrap tape around the spoons from top to bottom to make a shaker handle.
4. Decorate your shaker and use it as you sing praises to God.
5. Experiment with sounds by filling other eggs with coins, rice, and so on.



MAKE MUSIC TO THE LORD

People of the Bible used many different instruments to worship God through music.

*Directions: Using the clues, unscramble the names of instruments found in Psalm 150. Then write the circled letters in order in the spaces below to complete verse 6.*



A type of horn  MURTEPT

Played by King David  PRHA

Plucked to make sound  IGSNSTR

Similar to a tambourine  MRBELIT

A type of harp  ELRY

Blown through to make sound  EPPI

A percussion instrument  YBLACMS

Le\_ everyt\_ing tha\_ has \_r\_ath  
\_raise the \_ORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV

Answer: trumpet, harp, strings, timbrel, lyre, pipe, cymbals; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Psalm 150:6, NIV





**FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
877 Franklin Road  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057



**SUBMITTED BY  
HEATHER DATT**