



Among Friends

FEBRUARY, 2021



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Greetings,

It sure has been a difficult year. We look back to this time last year and it held such promise. What happened? Well, COVID-19 happened, a quarantine happened, riots happened, the election happened, a divided nation happened, and our world has been turned upside down.

There was a time back in history that must have seemed just as dark this past year. Things looked so promising, their Savior had come, love and hope was all around them. Then the unthinkable happened, their Savior had been crucified and their world was turned upside down. Even Jesus cried out in a loud voice, *“Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?”* (which means *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*) *Mark 15:34*. Things sure did look bleak that day!

As I reflect on the day Jesus was crucified, this true story comes to mind:

It was a Sunday evening service in a small church. That night one of the local nursing homes, which cared for a group of adults with Downs Syndrome, brought several of their patients to worship. Some people 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 each one that came forward the elements. There were a lot of people there that night and among those that came forward were the patients from the nursing home.

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 of juice and said, “The blood of Christ shed for you for the forgiveness of sin.” Upon hearing those words, the man blurted out, “FOR MY SINS? FOR MY SINS?”

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FEBRUARY

**Newsletter
Deadline**

February 24

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SPECIAL DATES IN FEBRUARY

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration Sunday, February 14
- Valentine's Day, February 14
- Presidents Day, February 15
- Ash Wednesday, February 17
- Friendship Church Ash Wednesday Service — time to be determined.



Deadline for
MARCH
submission of
information is
FEBRUARY 24

Submit to:

Sue Datt via

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

E-mail:
suedatt70@gmail.com

Phone:
724-991-5863

From Our Pastor's Desk (continued)

It was as though he had been given a precious gift. The joy in his voice was that of pure joy. This 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...they were words of hope...they were words of salvation...they were words of good news...AND they were words for that young man.

The man with downs syndrome preached a joyous three-word sermon that night, "FOR MY SINS!"

My friends, keep the faith. God has a way of making even the darkest days turn out for our good and His glory...if we love him.

*And we know that is all things God works
for the good of those who love him.
Romans 8:28*

Yes, this past year has been difficult and things don't look much better if we look ahead. But remember this; God is still on His throne...Jesus is still seated at His right hand...and God isn't finished with us yet! And remember, Christ died for your sins and for my sins!

In His love,
Diane

*I am
with you
always*

Matthew 28:20

LOOK FOR THE SIGN!

Submitted by Evelyn Vargo

*When driving past the
Community Center don't
forget to watch for the signs
of encouragement.*

*Evelyn reported that it was
too cold to do more than two
signs in January. Hang in
there Evie, Spring is just
around the corner!!!*



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

**A LIFE
WELL SPENT
HAS NO
LOSSES**

To Book Call: 723-738-0953

FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

**DON'T LET
THE TROUBLES
OF LIFE
TAKE OVER**

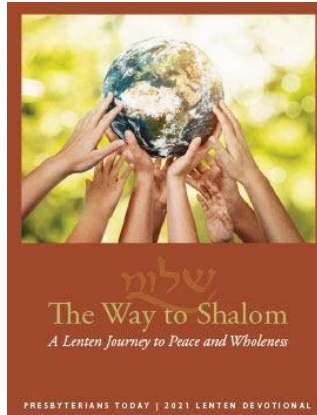
To Book Call: 723-738-0953

THE WAY TO SHALOM Lenten Devotional from Presbyterians Today

The Way to Shalom is an online and printable weekly devotional that begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17) and goes through Easter (April 4).

This year's theme invites you to reflect upon the gift of shalom, the Hebrew word with a host of meanings: peace, security, well-being, health, completeness. The spiritual goal is to explore how can we receive this gift of shalom and, in turn, bestow it upon the world.

Learn more...



PRESBYTERY / SYNOD OF THE TRINITY / GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2021 PER CAPITA

Here is the per capita information from the Beaver - Butler Presbytery for 2021. It is broken into parts so that you may choose your level of support. Please mail in (877 Franklin Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057) or place in the offering plate by February 28.

General Assembly	\$ 8.98
Synod of the Trinity	\$ 2.40
Beaver-Butler Presbytery	<u>\$29.44</u>
Total	\$40.69

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL:

What and how is God calling us? That's been the theme of the winter lessons and we're finishing the winter season by studying women in the New Testament who prophesied, evangelized and stood by Jesus even at the cross. Priscilla and Lydia will be focused on in the last two lessons. All are welcome. We meet at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday morning in the sanctuary. Join us for Bible study, discussion and sharing.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL:

The Children's Sunday school class is working on developing their skills to navigate the Bible; to search for and find Bible verses passages. We meet in the basement at 9:45 a.m. each week.

2021 PER CAPITA	
Name:	
General Assembly	
Synod of the Trinity	
Beaver-Butler Presbytery	
Total Enclosed	

For more information about Per Capita and how it is assessed and allocated in Beaver-Butler Presbytery call 724-452-7517 or visit beaverbutler.org



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.
April and Todd
The Alben Family
Jane Allison
Carly Atkisson
Zachary Barto
Candy Boulanger
Kayla Brundige
Martie Cooper
Ruth Cooper
Kay Curtis
Bessie Datt
Heather Datt
Winnie Davis
Jim Dickey
Mark Doerr
Blanche English
Jennifer Gilliland
Donna Grossman
David Hall
Kimberly Harrison

Nancy Huntington
Timothy James
Jennie Jamieson
Rev. William
Jamieson
Graham Larimore
Landry Lawson
Ed Lind
Joe Lowers
Will McCoy
Kevin Michael
Willard Morse
Randy Morgan
Jessie Myers
David Parker
Anna Mae and Jon
Richards
Bill & Chris Schroeder
Micheal Scott
Helen Taggart
Joe Vivelo

Seth Vogan
Our military at home
and abroad
Persecuted Christians
around the world,
Alpha Omega (SR)
Pregnancy Center
Feed My Sheep Food
Cupboard
Beaver Butler
Presbytery
Cooperstown
Congregation

All those who have
been impacted by
COVID19

FASTING FROM CRITICALNESS

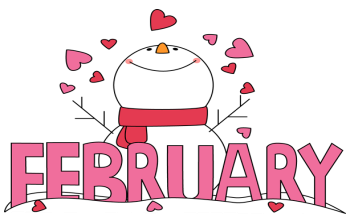


Most fasting involves temporarily giving up something you enjoy. When you long for a cookie or a favorite show, you instead turn your attention to God, reorienting yourself to his best.

*Catherine Marshall, in **A Closer Walk**, presents a different approach she calls fasting from “criticalness.” God dealt with her judgmental spirit by prompting her to spend 24 hours without criticizing “anyone about anything.” At first, Marshall felt rather empty when she didn’t engage in a heated political debate. But friends and family didn’t seem to miss her comments. Plus, God replaced the energy she’d spent attempting to correct others with energy and creativity to positively influence them.*

A critical spirit can make us lose perspective, joy and even relationships. It also can prevent the good work God wants to achieve through us. Consider what could happen as a result of your own “criticalness fast.” Pray for God to do the correcting while you focus on building up others.

—Janna Firestone



BIRTHDAYS

Fred Barron, 2/1
Bernie Rihel, 2/5
Don Bickel, 2/10
Chuck Musulin, 2/12
Jessie Myers, 2/17
Evelyn Vargo, 2/21
Daniel Sybert, 2/27
Paul Yanosy, 2/29



ANNIVERSARY


Bill & Gail Kreuzer, 2/15




REMEMBER OUR FRIENDS IN NURSING HOMES



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

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



What do you call two birds in love?

Tweethearts!

Did you hear about the near-sighted porcupine?

She fell in love with a pin cushion!

What did the farmer give his wife on Valentine's Day?

Hogs and kisses!

What did the boy owl say to the the girl owl on Valentine's Day?

Owl be yours!

What do you call a very small Valentine?

A valentiny!

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Olive.
Olive who?
Olive you!

What did one light bulb say to the other light bulb?

I love you a watt!

What did one pickle say to the other?

You mean a great dill to me!

What did the stamp say to the envelope on Valentine's Day?

I'm stuck on you.

What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?

I want to hold your hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand, hand.

What did the boy bee say to the girl bee on Valentine's Day?

Will you bee mine?



FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
877 Franklin Road
Slippery Rock, PA 16057



**SUBMITTED BY
HEATHER DATT**