

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
NEWSLETTER MARCH, 2018

Pastor's Ponderings:

Genesis 8:6-12

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him anymore.

Do we see ourselves in the stories of scripture? As God's children God's story is our story. In our first congregational conversation we talked about where we saw ourselves and some thought of Hagar cast out in the desert alone with her son Ismael. God walked with Hagar and Ishmael and made a nation in their line as well as Abraham's. The story of Noah and his family surviving the great flood is another story that can speak to us as we seek a new path for our future. Even after great loss, Noah sent out birds to test and see if the land was ready to support new life. By reaching out to the Greenfield community we are

looking for ideas and suggestions from new perspectives of things we can try. These will be experiments and some may return to us empty, but we will welcome them back and try again. March 11th from 12.30-2:30 p.m. we will host another congregational conversation exploring our future. Community leaders in several areas and Rev. Shelly Wood our Presbytery liaison to the Commission in Ministry will join with us as we seek new possibilities for our church facility and our ministry to Greenfield. Everyone is encouraged to come be part of our prayerful exploration as we seek God's will and guidance for our ministry. A church must follow Jesus, its head, so please continue to pray and listen carefully for God's direction and be willing to share and encourage one another.

Our holy season of Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 14th this year. Our Lenten forty days, like the days it rained on Noah will culminate in our Easter celebration of new life with Christ. All are welcome to join our Lenten study, *Surprised by Hope* that meets at 6:30 on Thursday evenings. We are contemplating heaven, the resurrection, and the mission of the church led on video by British scholar, N.T. Wright. A service of shadows portraying Jesus' passion with story and music will be held Maundy Thursday at 7:00 p.m. March 29th. On Easter morning we will hold our sunrise service in Riley Park at 7:20 a.m. and our traditional worship at 10:30 at church. Easter breakfast will be available between services at church April 1st. I pray we will

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all grow in faith and purpose as we follow
 Jesus to the tomb and beyond.

In Christ, Pastor Ann

Offerings

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Amount</u>
02/04	19	\$6,962.08
02/11	0	Cancelled
02/18	23	744.05
02/25	15	<u>155.00</u>
	Total	\$7,861.13

All Presbyterian churches are billed by
 Presbytery a Per Capita Tax for each
 member the local churches have on their
 roles. This money is used to support
 Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.
 This year the Per Capita is **\$39.05**. Members
 are asked to make a contribution of this
 amount per member to ease the financial
 burden on our church.


 Birthdays
 of the Month
 03/24 Roby Hott


 ANNIVERSARIES
 03/01 Dennis & Melva Smith



03/11 Daylight Savings
 Time Begins



03/11 Community Meeting with
 Corned Beef & Cabbage
 Dinner

03/17 *St. Patrick's
 Day*

03/20 First Day of *SPRING*

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03/21 Session Meeting 7pm



03/26 Newsletter Deadline



Psalm 5:3

“Every morning I tell you what I need
and I wait for your answer.”



In an interview, Dan Rather once asked Mother Teresa, “What do you say to God when you pray?” Mother Teresa answered quietly, “I listen.” Taken aback, Rather tried again. “Well, then, what does God say?” Mother Teresa smiled, “He listens.”



Husband and wife constantly argued about who was supposed to make the coffee in the mornings. He thought she should do it. But one day, in a heated discussion, she told him she could prove that men were supposed to make the coffee! “Just how do you plan on doing that?” the husband asked. So the wife opened the bible to He-brews...

