

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2021

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What Can These 10 Common Objects Have to Do With Lent?

Stay Tuned for...



A Tangible Lent
Beginning February 17

WORSHIP WITH US IN FEBRUARY

*My soul melts away for sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word. Psalm 119:28*

Feb. 7	Communion Isaiah 40:21-31 Mark 1:29-39 <i>How God Lifts us up</i>	Online all day	ONLINE WORSHIP ONLY
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Session will be meeting on February 2 and will make a determination as to how we proceed worship-wise...Stay Tuned.

On Ash Wednesday, we will have a short online service at 6PM, which may also be in-person depending on what Session decides. Pastor Robin will also be in the Narthex from 6:30 to 7:30 PM offering the imposition of ashes.

Lent: A Tangible Lent

Sermon series inspired by *Lent In Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield

Feb. 14	Transfiguration 2 Kings 2:1-12 Mark 9:2-9 <i>Being Changed</i>	Online all day	
Feb. 17	Ash Wednesday Genesis 2:4b-7 Luke 9:1-6 Psalm 119:25-32 <i>Dust</i>	Online at 6PM	
Feb. 21 Lent 1	Mark 8:31-38 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 Mark 15:16-24 ??? <i>Cross</i>	Online all day	
Feb. 28 Lent 2	Mark 6:6b-13 Exodus 12:11- Luke 15:11-24 <i>Shoes</i>	Online all day	

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A Note from Pastor Robin

Beloved People of God,

As we come into February, we come back to Lent. Last year, just a few weeks into Lent we entered a rushed lock down and we have yet to fully come out. As I ponder this, I remember that the Israelites wandered in the desert for 40 years. We have been wandering, in our own way, for just one year. And it is no small thing. In a recent conversation, I heard someone say: 'It feels like we never left Lent.' My heart jumped as this truth resonated within me.

Maybe it does feel like we never left Lent. Maybe we haven't. Maybe we need this season even more, to sit in the dust, to let oil anoint Jesus, and us too. Maybe as we come back to this season, it will connect even more powerfully as we look and long for a new day – for Easter hope, right now.

This year, my goal is to keep Lent simple. With so much tension, stress and change through this last year, I have heard so many mention that their minds feel foggy. Mine does too. Thus on our journey through Lent we will focus on everyday things like bread, coins and oil. Jill J. Duffield wrote a devotional called *Lent in Plain Sight*. My hope is that these everyday tangible things will ground us every day and point us back to scripture again and again. You will see in this newsletter an invitation to bring all of these objects together for your own worship. You will also see two ways of engaging with God every day, as we offer you two options for daily devotionals. Find a way to journey through this season. It is an opportunity for all of us, to journey through suffering, with Christ, and to God – again.

Lent is a season for slowly turning to God, as we pull out our laments and our struggles. Seeing the struggles of Christ and knowing – again – that God is truly with us, in every age, every time. For me, I feel this is a year to dig through my heart and mind and soul, and unbury the hope (and yes the joy) that, in Christ, always remains. I think I need it this year. Maybe you do too.

Come again to God.

Come again to the deep season of Lent; where tears flow, questions are unearthed, and hope comes from the most unexpected place.

Come again and follow Jesus, to the cross.

May it lead us through the darkness and back into the light.

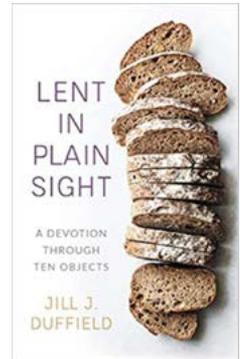
In the love and hope of Christ,

Pastor Robin

LENT Devotionals 2-WAYS

Beginning Wednesday, February 17th

Look for our Online Video Devotional Christian Education will be putting together a video devotional. Each day, a member of St. Andrews will read the devotional of the day out of Lent in Plain Sight by Jill J. Duffield. These will go along with the and message from worship each week. This is a wonderful way to see and connect to others. If you would like to read the devotional for a day, please email Rob (youth@standrewslebanon.org)



The online devotionals will be available on: YouTube, Facebook and the website.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDw2Ywf_f2fI-V3Gv8HR07A

<https://www.facebook.com/standrewslebanon>

<http://www.standrewslebanon.org>



We will also have devotional cards for Lent, similar to last year. These have a word or phrase on the front with a scripture to look up. The back has a thought or question and a prayer. The card packs will be available to pick up on Ash Wednesday, or after at the back door of the church. *Call the church office, if you would like us to mail you one.*

Last year, many of you mentioned how you enjoyed the different format of daily cards.

Here are some of the ideas you shared of how you used them:

- Reflecting on the card in the morning and again in the evening
- Carrying it with you through the day
- Giving a card to another, who came to mind as you prayed.
- (They can easily be mailed in an encouraging note as well!)
- Using the cards as bookmark

Your Worship Space for Lent *Scripture and Symbols for Everyday*

This year we will focus each week on one tangible thing, that we see all the time.

We will begin on Ash Wednesday with DUST.

Then on each following Sunday of Lent we will focus on:
CROSS, SHOES, BREAD, COINS, OIL, COAT, TOWEL,
THORNS, AND STONES

Pastor Robin will have all of these gathered in the sanctuary for our worship together.

You are invited to create a place to gather these symbols, almost like we do with an Advent Wreath. You might put it in the space where you worship online, or where you pray most often, or even your dining room table. You could gather these, one at a time, for each week, or prepare for the whole season, and gather them all at once. They will tie into worship and to a daily online video devotional.

The symbols will guide us through Christ's journey as we connect these everyday things to Lenten scriptures. May these simple, everyday things, ground you and guide us through Lent.

Let us journey together, right where we are, every day.



ARE YOU READY FOR ANOTHER TRIVIA NIGHT

When: Friday, February 5, 2021 at 7 pm

Where: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84872691269>

Meeting ID: 848 7269 1269

Theme: **February**



Everyone is invited to a special February edition of trivia night. Remember, you don't have to have graduated at the top of your class to participate. Trivia is just that... trivia! Categories will include: Super Bowl, Valentines Day, Presidents Day, and Lent. Prizes will be awarded for each category with one overall prize. The overall winner will also get to select a charity for a donation. If you have any questions, please contact Maggie or Don Beatty at memab3@comcast.net or 717-304-2379. Looking forward to another fun night with the St. Andrews family.



VALENTINE'S DAY

What if this year...

we sent more cards 'just because.'

As we come into February, consider sending a few cards, in the love of Christ.

The church office is happy to help with addresses.

New Chaplain to the House of Representatives Has Ties to St. Andrews

I'm sure most of you remember our dear Fred Grun, long-time member of St. Andrews, who passed away in 2017. And many of you will also remember his niece, Rear Adm. Margaret Grun Kibben, an ordained PCUSA minister who was for many years the U.S. Navy's chief chaplain. Margaret was a guest preacher at St. Andrews and visited occasionally with her dad, Bill Grun.

Margaret was sworn in as the first female chaplain of the House of Representatives on Sunday, January 3. She was called on only days later to pray and minister during the attack on the Capitol on January 6. You can read the full article here: https://religionnews.com/2021/01/09/house-chaplain-siege/?fbclid=IwAR3pTmkM_SczvtxbCqRdrqNxcaNRNFYYSeFNV6Y3I8tzim8mlJZPDtF9j8



As a “church family” of sorts to Margaret, we thought it would be nice to send cards of well-wishes and congratulations as she begins a new phase of her career. Margaret's address is:

The Reverend Dr. Margaret Grun Kibben, Chaplain,
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol, Room HB25,
Washington, DC 20515-6655

EPYC Expectations

A night at the Movies! I love going to the movies, from the popcorn, to the previews, to the opening score! Movies are just a fun storytelling and engagement that I love as a part of our culture. For February I am working on a movie night for Epic and Trailblazers at Flagship in Palmyra. This Movie night will be limited to 20 people, you will need to contact me to sign up for the movie night. The movie will be a favorite classic of the Princess Bride! As soon as I have the date confirmed with the Theater I will have it announced, but it will be late February.

While it is the cold of winter, and as you read this it may even be snowing, I am looking forward to warmer months. In these warmer months we are going to work to have as many outdoor events as possible. The first of which will be a hike at Gov. Dick on March 20th at 1pm; we will meet at the nature center.

Finally, this Lent Christian Education will be doing a Lent Video Study and we are in need of readers! If you are interested in being a part of the daily recordings, please sign up on the church website or reach out to me. Recordings for the study will be done at the Church and we will set times to safely record the readings to post on the church social media for the Lent.

Dear St. Andrews Family,

It is with mixed emotions that I tell you that I am stepping down from my position as Praise Team Leader effective February 21, 2021. This was a very hard decision for me. I love St. Andrews but my new position will be a five-minute commute from my home. Thank you for welcoming me and my family into the church the past five years. I have been blessed by your kindness and generosity. I wish you all the best!

Sincerely,
Kent Pierce
Praise Team Leader



Presbyterian Women

During February Presbyterian Women will be collecting donations for Blanket Sunday. You should have received an envelope in the latest mailing. Please make all checks out to Women of the Congregation and indicate Blanket Sunday in the memo space. True Life lunch will be prepared for 12 students on February 4th.

We pray that all of you stay safe and healthy during this time of separation.

Happy Valentine's Day. Remember—love makes the world go 'round.

SESSION NOTES

The regular meeting of Session was held on Tuesday January 5th at 7pm via ZOOM. As it was Epiphany Eve, Pastor Robin opened the meeting with a reading of Matthew 2:10-12 and a devotion regarding the Wise Men. She encouraged us to keep our eyes on the light of Christ.

The COVID Task Force recommended that due to the uptick in COVID numbers in the Lebanon area, we continue with the recording of worship services up through February 7th. The Session approved this recommendation, amended to include all meetings be held virtually during this time as well. The Congregational Meeting, normally held on the 4th Sunday in January will be postponed until after we begin meeting for worship in person again.

The Session also approved an Ash Wednesday service to be held either in person or recorded (decision to be made at a later date). A time will also be established for those who are interested to come to the church if they wish to participate in the imposition of ashes. More information will be forthcoming. All other Session committee reports were received. The Session also affirmed support and approval for Rebecca Lister in completing her SPM (Supervised Pastoral Ministry) course with St. Andrews during the spring semester 2021. The Worship Committee of Session will serve as the layperson advisory committee for her in this endeavor.

The next regular meeting of Session will be held on February 2 at 7pm via ZOOM. The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2	Richard Hofman	21	Sarah Hamme
	Benta Samuelson	24	Louise Rahalewich
5	Daniel Peelen		Rick Borger
10	Barbara Hains	27	Kaitlyn Mulligan
11	Jill Kreiser	28	Carol Smith-Kilgore
	John Butler		Ken Gries
15	Nansi Alexander		

Mourning **has Broken**

A Grief Support Group of St. Andrews

**A Grief Support Group
of
St. Andrews Church**

*Love...bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things,
endures all things. Love never ends.*

1 Corinthians 13: 7-8

I have chosen this meditation based on 1 Corinthians 13 for the February article because it speaks so eloquently of love and is one of my most favorite scriptures.

What a truckload of responsibility and potential for pain we take on when we love another human being: all the dangers of misunderstanding, of betrayal, or indifference, and ultimately, of loss.

To more than balance those dangers, we feel the possibility of life made rich through sharing experiences with another – of physical and spiritual warmth and communion, of enriched understanding and common achievement, of a stay against loneliness and isolation.

Most of us have no trouble opting for love.

But then, to have invested so much of our life's energy in the life of a loved one – and then to find that loved one gone! Is it any wonder we are, for a time, laid low?

This is where the St. Andrews Grief Support Group can be of help. The people who come to these meetings have all loved and have all experienced death, some more than once, and have experienced these feelings of extreme sadness and loneliness. Yes, we have all been “laid low” by our intense grieving for a period of time. We help each other work through these feelings by sharing our stories and our experiences, by offering ideas and suggestions, and expressions of hope to those who are feeling especially low. We learn through sharing that these feelings are “normal” – whatever “normal” is! – and learn that we are not alone with what we are experiencing.

No matter how recent or how long ago the passing occurred, if you or someone you know could benefit from meeting with our group, please do not hesitate to join us or to invite your friend to come join us. We welcome anyone, whether members of St. Andrews or not. Our meetings are usually held on the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 2:00 PM, in Cassel Chapel. The meeting in February will be on February 11, and we will likely go as a group to celebrate Valentine's day, which has become our February tradition. Watch for more information about that. Then in March we will be back to our usual meeting time of 2:00, on March 11. Please feel free to come join us – to share, to learn, to listen, to cry, to laugh – we will be happy to see you!

If you have any questions, please contact our Advisor, Diane Pomeroy, at 717-454-0756; Pat Yates at 717-273-9297; or call the church office, 717-272-9933.

The love we have shared helps form the strength to deal with loss. The hope and joy we have known helps us believe in the possibility of help and joy again. And the intensity of grief (which will moderate, though we may find that hard to believe), mirrors the intensity of shared love, which will continue to beam through our life, to illuminate and nourish all that we do and are. Love never ends. Never



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