

ST. ANDREWS HERALD

The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2021

VOL. 21, Issue 3



Our Tangible Lent

WORSHIP WITH US IN MARCH

Give us this day our daily bread.

Matthew 6:11

As we observe Lent, St. Andrews will continue to meet in person and stream at 10AM, with the service uploaded to YouTube and available in the afternoon

Mar. 7 Lent 3	Communion Exodus 16: 4-12 1 Corinthians 11:17-26 John 6:1-14 <i>Bread</i>	In-person, streamed worship 10AM Available on YouTube later in the day	
Mar. 14 Lent 4	John 2: 13-16 Luke 21:1-4 Matthew 26:14-16 <i>Coins</i>	In-person, streamed worship 10AM Available on YouTube later in the day	
Mar. 21 Lent 5	Rebecca Lister preaching Psalm 23 Matthew 26:6-13 <i>Oil</i>	In-person, streamed worship 10AM Available on YouTube later in the day	
Mar. 28 Lent 6	Palm Sunday Psalm 84 Mark 11:1-11 <i>Coat</i>	In-person, streamed worship 10AM Available on YouTube later in the day	

Lent



THE HERALD is published eleven times per year at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 600 S. 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042

A Note from Pastor Robin

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I sit here writing, the sun is melting the snow and February is giving way to March. March often feels like it is in the middle to me. Winter storms still show up, we are waiting for Spring and yet this month in the middle. It reminds me that life has so many transitions because most things do not change in an instant. Moving always seems like a classic example, there is the actual moving day but it is surrounded by the packing...the sorting...more packing...and then the unpacking...the organizing...the searching for things and over time the settling in.

Right now we are still in the middle, but I am hopeful, and even leaning into the post pandemic season. I admit that especially now, I long to rush through this transition...to be done waiting, to get out of this season, and to be in the next season (I don't think I am alone in this). And yet the time of transition is a gift, a gift I often ignore. It does feel like we are starting to transition. Many of you are vaccinated or on lists to be. The numbers are going down (I pray they keep going down). But, before we jump in or rush ahead, let us be intentional about this gift of transition time to pause and reflect, as well as to look ahead and focus on following God, out of this season.

As we move through the middle of Lent, we remember the Israelites moving through the desert. It was a time for a whole generation to transition from a life of slavery to forming a nation, a nation of God's people. In the wilderness they *slowly* learned to trust God. The one who gave them water from the rock when they feared they would die of thirst. And the God who gave them manna from heaven, to sustain them. When they finally reached the edge of the Jordan, still they were learning to rely on God.

This whole last year has been a challenging wilderness for us. Yet one that has also asked us (not very subtly) to reflect, to surrender to what we cannot control (way too much), and to find God, especially on the days when we are ready to throw up our hands. It is not too late to find our center, to abide in God right now, as we hope to near our Jordan, hoping to be ready to cross over.

Take some time to reflect and consider, in the midst of this transitional season of Lent:

What have I learned in my wilderness?

What has been my manna in this wilderness?

Have I given thanks for the manna, even when it felt like it wasn't enough?

Have I found new ways to rely on God?

What has God shown me in this time?

What am I stepping into as I move forward?

If you have a prayer partner, or a small group, I encourage you to share your own reflections and lovingly listen to others. If you do not have a specific prayer partner or small group, find someone you trust spiritually and ask them to reflect so that you can share your reflections together.

“When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, ‘what is it?’ For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, ‘It is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.’” Exodus 16:15

May we help one another see, what it is God has been doing and is doing as we move through the middle, and as we pray for a new season to come.

May God lead us, now and always.

In the Hope of Christ,

Pastor Robin



March Mission Spotlight

Applesauce and
Canned Meats

Come Read With Us!
Sponsored by Congregational Life
March 26 7PM

March 26, Friday at 7:00 pm Book Discussion of Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger. In these days of confinement, join us in this adventure of living through the eyes of a 13-year-old boy growing up in a small town in Minnesota. The book is a terrific story that touches on many morals and values we wrestle with every day the origin of which we rarely consider. Buy a copy of your own or possibly check out a copy from our local library - then connect with us via Zoom on March 26th to share your impressions. The following description from the internet tells more: "Ordinary Grace" by William Kent Krueger is an exceptionally well-written **novel** of coming-of-age in a small town in Minnesota during the summer of 1961. This book holds a mystery when one of the five deaths is a murder, but it also speaks of wisdom, secrets, forgiveness, the love of family, faith and miracles."

The following internet link gives greater detail: <https://www.nyjournalofbooks.com/book-review/ordinary-grace-novel>.



Presbyterian Women

March is the month when we support Agape House and DVI with targeted contributions for their ministries.

Agape needs: spic and span or other floor cleaner mixable with water, tall kitchen trash bags, antiseptic spray cleaner, lysol or Clorox type wipes.

DVI would like Kleenex, small bottles of hand sanitizer, bottled water, saltine crackers, soup, applesauce and fruit cups.

Thank you for your generous faithfulness!

DEACON DOINGS

The annual reorganization of St. Andrews Deacons is complete. We are grateful for the service of outgoing Deacons Maggy Beatty, Jean Gigler and Lew Sauerwein. We welcome new Deacons Jean Ditzler, Donna Kuntz and Gwen Yordy to our team. Ken Gries continues as Moderator along with Judy Borger, Vice Moderator; Mary Lynne Mulligan is our new Secretary.

In addition to our personnel changes, new committee and flock assignments are now in place. Each Deacon has a “flock”, a group of St. Andrews members, who receive timely communications about Church events throughout the year. A Deacon can also be a source of caring and comfort in times of difficulties. If Maggie Beatty, Jean Gigler or Lew Sauerwein were your Deacon, a new Deacon will be in touch with you soon.

Deacons partner with Pastor Robin in meeting the needs of our congregation. In 2021 we look forward to being able to return to more personal contact with our flocks.

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.”
Acts 20:28- NIV

Ellen Arnold



SESSION NOTES

The Session met via Zoom on February 2, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Robin opened the meeting with Isaiah 40. The Lord, the Creator, is in control of the universe. That is GOOD NEWS!

Highlights from committees:

Christian Ed is sponsoring online Lenten devotional readings by members of the congregation. Signup by calling the office or using Signup Genius.

Congregational Life is offering another Zoom Trivia on Friday, February 5, with hosts Maggie & Don Beatty.

Mission committee reported on Christmas mission projects and is hoping to develop subgroups to do mission work throughout the year.

Administration and Personnel report included names being considered for pulpit supply during Pastor Robin's maternity leave. Final decision has not been made. Resignation of Kent Pierce was also noted with regret. No decision yet regarding replacing him.

Visioning committee reported on a mailbox that will be added to the Labyrinth area to hold instruction cards for Labyrinth visitors.

A motion was made and carried to resume in person worship services on February 14, 2021. The service will be live streamed. In person Sunday school will resume as well. Committees may also meet in person with a heads up to Cliff for room assignment.

Elder Beckie Dreibelbis gave the closing prayer. Meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.

EPYC Expectations

It has been just shy of a year since we went into lock down, and everything began to change. I remember having left the Church office to go and pick up the kids from school and standing with another father as he informed me that the state was shutting down. Looking back on this year of exile I cannot help but ask myself what have I learned and how have I grown in this time? I offer this because one of the areas of growth that I have clung to is Hope. We as a people are very versatile and we have survived hard times, throughout history. So, maybe the better question, the one that I have learned to love in this year is, 'Where is the hope'. I believe that there is hope to be found in the big and small of this time!

With that said in youth group we have begun a study in the Gospel of Matthew looking for the Hope that is Christ. Matthew is written to a people in need of Hope, to reveal that their Savior, in Christ, has come and brought us Hope. I look forward to the ways that the students can engage with this series.

Also, in the season of Lent Christian Education has moved forward with a Lenten Bible study with "Lent in Plain Sight" by Jill J. Duffield. It has been a great joy to work with everyone who has signed up to read for this series. If you are curious to see the series in whole there are a couple places that you can go to watch. First you can find it on the church website, front page under the Lenten Devotional videos. The church Facebook has also posted the daily video. Lastly all videos can be found on the church YouTube page. Please take a moment to subscribe to the church YouTube, this helps overall with streaming and getting notifications on latest church videos.

Upcoming

March 7 TrailBlazers 4-5pm Epyc 5-6pm

March 14 TrailBlazers 4-5pm Epyc 5-6pm

March 21 TrailBlazers 4-5pm Epyc 5-6pm

March 27 Hike at Gov. Dick 1pm at Nature Center

March 28 TrailBlazers 4-5pm Epyc 5-6pm

April 4 Easter, He is Risen. No TrailBlazers 4-5pm Epyc 5-6pm

IN MEMORY



Louise Koons

Louise joined the church along with her husband Frederick in 1946 when the church was located on Fourth Street. They continued as members at St Andrews.

Louise was active as an elementary Sunday School teacher during the years her three children grew up in the church. She also taught Bible School, volunteered in the Boost program and helped with church dinners. Louise and Fred were both active members of the 60 Plus group. Louise celebrated her 100th birthday last year and joined the church triumphant January 29, 2021.

Marilyn Marshall

Marilyn joined the church in 1962. She was active her whole life in health care, first as a nurse and later as an organizer of health support systems. She developed the Social Work Department at the Good Samaritan Hospital along with their Hospice program.

Marilyn was also a mother and grandmother. She attended church as long as her health allowed and joined the church triumphant February 6, 2021



March Birthdays

2	Bill Kalbaugh	14	David Overholt
3	Mardon Fedder	15	Maggie Jones
	Bob Capobianco	16	Martha Gelgot
4	Ken Peterson	17	Connie Dowhower
5	Gwen Yordy		Donna Kuntz
6	Rev. Tom Jackman	20	Christine Nelson
7	Caroline Gelgot	22	Robin Gries
	Bruce Kurtz	23	Rose Mary Birt
	Ann Ormond	24	Kristen Jones
9	Beckie Dreibelbis	25	Will Gelgot
10	Perry Latshaw	26	Jessica Heister
	John Reitz	27	Lee Samuelson
11	Ty Bechtold	28	Samantha Strock
12	Amanda Gries	30	Jamie Yocum



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

*Grief melts away, Like snow in May;
As if there were no such cold thing.*

George Herbert

As I sit at my computer today preparing to write this article, I notice the very tall piles and piles of snow outside my window, and I find myself wondering, “will it ever go away?” I know eventually it will! Much the same as I know eventually the intense grieving will melt away.

We thought it would never happen – that this grief would never cease, let alone melt away.

Yet grief, like the snow, does melt slowly away, until one day, perhaps to our surprise, we realize the landscape has changed – the snow has gone. Grass and stone and flower beds are visible again. Similarly, our grief seeps slowly away, until one day we realize we are feeling better – almost like ourselves again.

In the discussions during our meetings of the Grief Support Group, we discover that everyone grieves in a different way, at a different pace. We discover that it is OK to suddenly realize that yes, “the snow has gone and the flowers are visible”. Some may feel that this can not possibly be. We are intended to grieve for ever and ever. It is a perfectly natural segue from deep grief to lighter grief to almost no grief at all. It is almost like the snow melting and the flowers appearing.

One of the things we seem to do best in our meetings is help each other find ways to work through the grieving process by talking about things that work for us. And especially for newer members, always reassuring them that what they are feeling, how they are acting and reacting, thoughts they are having, and emotions they express, are all part of the natural progression of their grieving.

We welcome anyone to come to our meetings. No matter how recent or how long ago the loss occurred, if you or someone you know can benefit from coming to our meetings, please feel free to join us. Our sessions are open to anyone, whether members of St. Andrews or not.

Our meetings are usually held on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM,. We will continue to meet in Snyder Hall as we did last fall.. Our March meeting will be on March 11, at 2:00 PM; and the April meeting will be on April 8, also at 2:00 PM. Please come join us. We will be happy to see you there!

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

Our grief will continue to be part of the system of our life and the lives of those around us, depending on circumstances and where the need is greatest. It will not be lost. It will be transformed.



**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
600 South 12th Street, Lebanon, PA 17042
(717) 272-9933
office@standrewslebanon.org
www.StAndrewsLebanon.org**

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