

FIRST PRES PRESS

Due to some unforeseen issues, this newsletter is coming to you later than we expected. Some dates have passed. Some items will happen soon. We leave this in its original form.



Message from Pastor Matt

“So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

- 2 Corinthians 2:16-17

God is doing new things every day... In the world, in our church, and in your heart! As the church continues to stretch and return to life after the pandemic, we are excited to see all of your

lovely singing faces on Sunday mornings for worship, and throughout the week at our variety of opportunities to live out our faith.

The upcoming worship services will have a fun new thing: For the first three Sundays of March, Pastor Matt will be swapping with other Presbyterian pastors in Anchorage. On March 5th, your guest preacher will be Rev. Ellen Johnson-Price from Immanuel Presbyterian. Most of you will remember Ellen from when she served as interim pastor before I came along. On March 12th, we will have Rev. Luke Jones from Jewel Lake Parish in our pulpit. Remember, this is the first day of Daylight Savings Time, so be sure to set your alarms carefully! And then on March 19th we will have Rev. Alison Burchett from Trinity Presbyterian as our preacher. All of us will be preaching part of a Lenten series.

Then I will be back on March 26th, to finish our Lenten journey toward Palm Sunday (April 2nd) and the joyful celebration of Easter (April 9)! In the weeks that follow Easter, I will be preaching a sermon series about the Disciples and Apostles of Jesus. I look forward to sharing this season of our faith lives together!

- There will be a New Members Class beginning after Easter. Classes will be held at 9:30 - 10:30 AM in room 8 (the small room off of the kitchen) on April 16th, April 23rd, April 30th, and May 7th. The class will then join the church at the worship service on May 7th. If you would like to sign up or if you have any questions, email Pastor Matt. mschultz@firstpresanchorage.org

Pastor Matt

SPRING YARD SALE

The Christian Education Team is planning to host a rummage sale this spring to raise money to support some of the mission needs of the church that are not covered in our current budget. We have not set the date yet but invite you to begin cleaning your closets and garages and putting things aside for our rummage sale which will be held in fellowship hall. We hope to have it in April. If you have questions about what can be donated, please contact Danna Larson or Margaret Young.

WELCOME TO THE SEASON OF LENT - 2023

There are many ways to celebrate Lent! Check out the following resources. Many of these resources are on the Lent Table in the narthex. You will also find these resources on the FPC webpage (firstpresanchorage.org.) If it is not on the webpage (due to copyright rules) contact Danna Larson and she will get you the resource.

*Lent Devotionals

Stop by the Lent table or check our website for a variety of devotionals (both print and online) you can choose from to use for you and/or your family during Lent.

*Youth Lent Devotions

Check out d365.org. The theme for Lent is "Journey to the Cross." These short on-line devotions provide an opportunity for you to pause, listen, think, pray, and go. Many adults also use this resource!

*Faithful Families for Lent, Easter & Resurrection

This book is full of simple ways to experience the season of Lent. If you did not get a copy of this book last year pick up one on the table during Lent. FPC is sharing this book with our families as a resource you can use for many years to help you develop meaningful faith practices during Lent.

*Reflections on Giving: An Illustrated Lent for Families

As you journey through Lent together, families are invited to focus intentionally on the spiritual discipline of giving. By exploring Gospel passages about giving, families will reflect on why we give, what we give, and the power of gifts.

*Faithful Families: Lent + Easter Reflections

This devotional book contains one meditation and one faith practice per week for your family to focus on. The reflections begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through Pentecost.

*Praying in Color

Using a calendar template is a simple, daily, and playful (but serious) practice for praying our way through the forty days of Lent. Each day choose a word to ponder or a person to pray for. Write the word or name in the space and doodle around it as you pray. The accumulation of words or peoples' names on the calendar creates an emerging tapestry of your Lenten journey. Pick up a Praying in Color handout or print your own using this link: <https://prayingincolor.com/tag/len>.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES DURING LENT

**Help Us Assemble*

Lunchbox Pantry Boxes

Help us donate 100 pantry boxes to the Children's Lunchbox. We will be assembling the boxes during Lent. The following items are needed: shoe boxes, pasta shells, Alfredo sauce, tuna, canned peas, canned fruit, spaghetti noodles, spaghetti sauce, canned chicken, stewed tomatoes, crackers, mac and cheese boxes, chili, canned corn, and fettuccini noodles. Bring your donations to the church during March and help us assemble the boxes on Palm Sunday and Easter.

****Bring Easter Joy to the Women at Highlands Prison***

The mission committee invites you to help make 350 cards that we will give to the women at the Highlands Correctional Center for Easter. Stop by the "card table" in the narthex and make a card or take some supplies home and create your own cards and bring back to the church. We hope to have the cards completed on Palm Sunday so they can be delivered to the prison during Holy Week.

JOIN US FOR LENTEN GAME NIGHT

People of all ages are welcome to join us on Saturday, March 25 at 6 pm for a potluck dinner and board games! Bring something to share for the meal and board games you like to play. Play is important in our faith formation. Play bonds us with God and with each other. Join us for a fun evening as we fellowship together.

COLOR AN ALLELUIA BUTTERFLY FOR EASTER!

Spend some time during Lent coloring a butterfly. Bring your colored butterfly to the church on Palm Sunday (April 2) and we will use it to decorate for Easter Sunday! Butterflies are available to take home on the Lenten Resource Table.

WALK THROUGH HOLY WEEK

Join us on Sunday, April 2 for a "Walk Through Holy Week". We will gather in fellowship hall following worship and provide opportunities for you to engage in the events of the last week of Jesus' life in interactive ways. More details to follow.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

The PC(USA) One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be taken on Palm Sunday (April 2). This offering supports three programs of the PC(USA): Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. These three programs all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Fish banks and calendars are available for you to use during Lent. Use the calendar to learn about the work of One Great Hour of Sharing and donate daily to this offering. Pick up a bank and calendar on the Lenten table.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

First Presbyterian Church will be having its Vacation Bible School June 5-9 this year. The VBS will run from 9:30-12 noon and we will also have an afternoon camp (12-4 pm) for parents who need an all-day experience due to work commitments. Check out the church website this week for more information and the registration form. The VBS is for children 4 years to 6th grade. Volunteers (youth and adults) are needed to help with this year's VBS. Contact Danna Larson or Margaret Young if you are available to help with the VBS.

EASTER BREAKFAST

Come join us for an Easter Potluck Breakfast before services on April 9! We will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall upstairs. Bring some fruit, bread, pastry, or your favorite breakfast casserole. Deacons will be providing coffee service and beverages and there may even be some candy eggs? If you have questions, please contact Judith Burtner (907 782 9880) or Sarah Kleedehn (907 244 6934) or Diane Siewert (907 764 1288).

