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THE COLUMNS

First Presbyterian Church, Waynesboro, VA

**March 2025, Volume 63, Issue 3**

*First Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro is a community-minded*

*congregation living out the love of Christ as we serve one another with*

*humility, gentleness, and patience through God’s grace.*

*15  Toward evening the disciples approached him. “We’re out in the country and it’s getting*

*late. Dismiss the people so they can go to the villages and get some supper.”*

*16  But Jesus said, “There is no need to dismiss them. You give them supper.”*

*17  “All we have are five loaves of bread and two fish,” they said.*

*18-21  Jesus said, “Bring them here.” Then he had the people sit on the grass. He took the*

*five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the*

*bread to the disciples. The disciples then gave the food to the congregation. They all ate*

*their fill. They gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. About five thousand were fed.*

*Matthew 14:15-21*

*When in doubt, always quote scripture. This is not one of the rules I have painstakingly collected over the years,*

*but perhaps it should be. Last month, we began with insights into basketball; for May, we are diving back into*

*the New Testament for illumination.*

*We are conditioned, I think, to look at the miraculous as magical, the theological equivalent of alchemy. Just as*

*the medieval alchemist sought to turn lead into gold, and thus enrich themselves without labor, we look at*

*miracles at least in part, as labor-saving plot devices: healing without the effort of treatment; gifts that eliminate*

*the need for impossible choices; rescue that makes of us passive recipients of grace. But, in the words of yet*

*another of my rules, God is not a magician; what we call miracles are signs of God at work in our midst - and*

*God hates to work alone.*

*In the feeding of the multitude, the disciples recognize a need - the crowd is getting hungry and the day is*

*mostly gone. This is a real problem, they know, but the best they can come up with is to send the crowds*

*back to town, where they might find some supper. But Jesus has something else in mind; not just pushing*

*the problem down the road, but actually doing something about the hunger of the people. He asks what*

*food is available, and is told, 5 rolls and 2 cooked fish - the lunch of a well-prepared young man. Jesus*

*then does the miraculous, but the miracle isn&#39;t magic- Jesus does not make everyone feel full, or have*

*manna fall from the heavens. The miracle happens through the work of the disciples. It is the disciples*

*who organize the people, getting them to sit down in an orderly fashion; they who oversee the distribution*

*of the loaves and fishes, making sure everyone is fed; even making sure the leftovers are collected. And*

*that, friends, leads us to Rule #10:*

Dear members & friends of First Presbyterian Church,

On **Ash Wednesday, March 5th, we will worship together at Main Street United Methodist Church at 7:00 pm.** This service marks the beginning of Lent. With the imposition of ashes, we remember that from dust we came, and to dust we shall return. At Lent, we’re called to remove barriers that keep us from knowing the love of God, in our Christian life together. We’re called to reinforce, for ourselves and for each other, that God rules!

In this way, the ministry of Fred Rogers is Lenten. Mr. Rogers strived in all that he did to remove barriers between people and the love of God, especially for children and young people.

In this spirit, we will celebrate Mr. Rogers alongside our Better Together churches with ***Love Your Neighbor***, **Thursday, March 20th, at 5:30 pm, in the Barksdale Room,** with a free kid-friendly meal for children and Mr. Rogers-themed activities. Though this event is for children, all children of God are invited to attend – regardless of age – to enjoy intergenerational fellowship. There will be a seat for you at our tables. FPC’s preschool children are receiving a special invitation in their backpacks this week!

Please spread the word to your own nieces, nephews and grandchildren. You may use this letter to do so. We ask that everybody RSVP to me (Samantha) at scoggins@firstpresway.com or (540) 907-7401, so that we

have an accurate headcount for the meal.

May the blessing of new life in God be yours, as spring approaches and the season of Lent begins.

Samantha

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MARCH **MUSIC NOTES**

This month, we begin with The Transfiguration. The opening hymn, *Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain*, tells the story of Jesus’ Transfiguration and how we, as Christians, respond. The choir will sing *O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair,* which tells the story of the Transfiguration. The music was written around 1415, an English folk tune known as *The Agincourt Hymn.* The closing hymn, *Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies,* depicts Christ as the True Light. It is filled with images of how light transforms the gloom of darkness into the joy of His radiant light.

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on 5 March. First Presbyterian Church will join other congregations at Main Street United Methodist Church for a service at 7pm. A combined choir will provide music for the service.

The first Sunday of Lent falls on 9 March. We open the season of penitence with *Forty Days and Forty Nights* and *The Glory of These Forty Days.* These hymns depict Jesus’s temptation in the wilderness and how remembering Christ’s struggle helps prepare us for the season and the eventual joy of Easter. The choir will sing *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say.* The music comes from a folk song popular in England and Ireland in the early 20th century. Composer Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) heard the tune and set it to text by Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). The hymn, now known as Kingsfold, is one of scores of folk songs that Vaughan Williams turned into hymns and included in *The English Hymnal*, published in 1906, for which he was editor.

On 16 March, Roger and Kimberlea will be away. Our faithful substitute, Diane Kingsbury, will play organ on the second Sunday of Lent. We are so grateful to Diane for her willingness to play at First Presbyterian Church, as she has served so well in Roger’s stead for many years.

The music for the rest of the month will reflect the Scripture passages for the season of Lent.

We remain grateful to FPC for supporting the music program at FPC.

Blessings –

Kimberlea and Roger Daggy





**MISSION/OUTREACH JANUARY 2025**

* Ordered and received food from Blue Ridge Area Food Bank January 7 and 21. Volunteers assembled 20 pantry boxes for each order.
* Maintained temperature logs for refrigerators and freezers.
* Food Bank was held January 2, 9, 16 and 23.
* Purchased eggs, bread, and margarine for Food Bank weekly.
* Updated weekly shopping list for extra options.
* Completed pantry inventory and report: Served 104 individuals and 31 households. These numbers include those in the High School Pantry.
* Collected cereal for Food Bank and Pantry Items for High School.
* Delivered donated items to Waynesboro High School.
* Served 55 meals at Disciples’ Kitchens on January 16 - next March 31.
* Served 49 meals at the WARM Shelter on January 30. Donated milk, cereal and yogurt for following morning’s breakfast.
* Session voted to give leftover church Centennial Blankets to WARM.
* Session voted to give $500 to the new organization HERO.

. --Cynthia Hoover, Mission Chair

**COLLECTING CEREAL FOR FPC BOOK BANK**

**COLLECTING NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS for**

**WAYNESBORO HIGH SCHOOL FOOD BANK**

**Healthy snacks like granola bars and grab-and-go items**



**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

Session held a Stated Meeting on February 18, 2025.

* Session approved the 2024 Church Statistical Report.
* Session elected Jean Hashagen Commissioner to the Zoom Presbytery meeting on February 25.
* Session discussed budget letter, congregational participation finding individuals to participate in leadership roles, and committee to work with Fishburne.
* Preschool held a Parents Night Out on February 15 for 17 children.
* Mission/Outreach Report provided (published elsewhere).
* P&M: No progress on cleaning of gutters. The pulpit has been repaired. The outside door to the Preschool entrance is having locking/unlocking issues.
* The contract with the Waynesboro Symphony has been revised and renewed.
* A dinner tailored for young children, “Love Your Neighbor” on Mr. Rogers Day, will be held in the Barksdale Room on March 20. Rev. Carrico from Finley Memorial and Samantha are heading up the event.
* Session approved serving Communion the first Sunday of each month and on Christmas Eve.
* Session approved Rev. Coggins serving Homebound Communion.
* Session approved One Great Hour of Sharing Offering for Easter.
* Rev. Coggins will be attending a Conference March 10-15 and out of the pulpit March 16.
* FPC will participate in 6:00 p.m. “Better Together” church services Maundy Thursday at Hermitage PC and Good Friday at Smyrna PC (April 17 & 18).
* All Session meetings are opened and closed with prayer. The next Stated Session Meeting will be March 18 (change of date).

--Betsy Ruehl, Clerk of Session

**A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD**

**Mr. Rogers Emphasis Day**

Fred Rogers was an ordained minister of word and sacrament in the PC(USA) and is a notable public figure who work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. Rogers was also a pioneer in the world of Christian education and formation of young children. March 20 was his birthday and the day that the PC(USA has chosen to highlight all we can learn from his work.

Several Fred Rogers Quotes appear below:

*We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It’s easy to say “It’s not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.” Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes.*

*There are three ways to ultimate success. The first way is to be kind. The second way is to be kind. The third way is to be kind.*

*Often when you think you’re at the end of something, you’re at the beginning of something else.*

*If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at everything meeting with another person.*

You are invited to try something new and participate in our “Love Your Neighbor” program with child-friendly meal and program on Thursday, March 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the Barksdale Room.





**TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD**

**Jesus is transfigured and becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain**

Six days later, three of them saw that glory. Jesus took Peter and the brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. Sunlight poured from his face. His clothes were filled with light. Then they realized that Moses and Elijah were also there in deep conversation with him.

Peter broke in, “Master this is a great moment! What would you think if I built three memorials here on the mountain – one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah?”

While he was going on like this, babbling, a light radiant cloud enveloped them, and sounding from deep in the cloud a voice: “This is my Son, marked by my love, focus of my delight. Listen to him.”

When the disciples heard it, they fell flat on their faces, scared to death. But Jesus came over and touched them. “Don’t afraid.” When they opened their eyes and looked around, all they saw was Jesus, only Jesus.

(Matthew 17:1-8 The Message)

The Sunday immediately prior to Ash Wednesday is an appropriate time to celebrate the Transfiguration of the Lord, because this event marked a transition in Jesus’ ministry in which he “set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51), where he would die.

In Jesus’ transfiguration, we are assured that Jesus is the hope of the ages. Jesus is the One who fulfilled the

Law given through Moses, the one dreamed of by the prophets, of whom Elijah is the greatest.

(An excerpt from the Companion to the Book of Common Worship {Geneva Press, 2003]}

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Historically, Ash Wednesday was a time when penitents were presented for church discipline during Lent, culminating in reconciliation on Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is also the occasion when would-be disciples of Christ known as catechumens were enrolled in the catechumenate, a special time of learning the basics of the faith in preparation for baptism on Easter Sunday or during the Easter vigil.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is a day of mourning for our sin and the sin of all humanity before God. It signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. Unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step in this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our own mortality. In many traditions this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes – placing a cross on one’s forehead – and the repetition of the words “You are dust, and to dust you shall return”. We are to remember that we are only temporary creatures, always on the edge of death.

Lent is not a matter of being good and wearing ashes is not to show off one’s faith.

Trusting in the “accomplished fact” of Christ’s resurrection, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church’s Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed “on the way” to Jerusalem and the cross.

***PRESBYTERIANS BETTER TOGETHER* BIBLE STUDY**

Once a month some members of *Better Together* churches meet for about an hour for Bible Study. Studies are progressing through the Old Testament as we reacquaint ourselves with some of the characters we grew up with in Sunday School. We relate events to each other and to the modern-day world.

The Study is ably led by the personable John Tindall, Director of Christian Education at Westminster PC. Not only is he knowledgeable about the people and situations, but he adds a touch of humor and comprehension with an occasional video.

Location schedule is as follows: 1st Monday – First Pres; 2nd Second Pres; 3rd Monday Hermitage, 4th Monday Finley Memorial, 5th Monday Smyrna. Time: 1:00 (with refreshments)

Come and be prepared to share your knowledge with a group of like-minded individuals, or come, like me, to hear about what you should have learned years ago. It’s fun!

--Betsy Ruehl



LITURGISTS

2– Betsy Ruehl

9 – Jo Pannill

16 – Bill Pannill

23 – Jean Hashagen

30 - Cynthia Hoover

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

March 8 Holly Bennett

March 14 Olive Prettyman

March 19 Art Johnson

March 20 Pam Hammock

March 25 Linda Quillen



**CHURCH OFFICERS:**

Treasurer – Colleen Cash

Members of Session - Jean Hashagen, Betsy Ruehl

Cynthia Hoover, Mike Cunningham and Bob Miller



Shenandoah Nursing Home: Nancy Garber

Summitt Square: Ruth Quillen

Home: Mary Ultee, Mary Ann Maupin, Warner Sandquist, Mike & Cathy Cunningham

Friends and Family: Bill Bromley, Jean Custen, Sally McNeel, Col. Stuart Roberts (Mark Henderson), Carolyn Hedrick-Williams, Mac & Judy Watts (Colleen Cash), Betsy Boswell (Curry), Shane Bennett (Bennett).

Military: Carson Craig, Michael Little

IN MEMORIUM

Margaretta “Margie” Spencer Hartley

February 14, 2025

**MARCH CALENDAR**

Monday, March 3

1 pm Better Together Bible Study First Presbyterian

Tuesday, March 4

6-10 pm Symphony Practice Fellowship

Wednesday, March 5 ASH WEDNESDAY

7 pm Main Street United Methodist Ash Wednesday Service

6-10 pm Chamber Music Small Group

Thursday, March 6

6-7:30 pm Food Bank

Sunday, March 9 Daylight Saving Spring Forward

11 am Worship

3 pm Symphony Concert

Monday, March 10

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Second Presbyterian

3-5 pm Chamber Music Concert

Tuesday, March 11

6-10 pm Symphony Practice Sanctuary

Thursday, March 13

2-4 pm Food Bank

6-10 Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, March 16

11 am Worship

Monday, March 17

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Hermitage

Tuesday, March 18

2:30 pm Session Room 212

6 -10 pm Symphony Practice-Fellowship

Thursday, March 20

6-7 pm Food Bank

5:30pm Mr Rogers Dinner

Sunday, March 23

11 pm Worship

3 pm Concert

Monday, March24

1 pm Better Together Bible Study Finley Memorial

Tuesday, March 25

6pm Symphony Practice Fellowship

Thursday, March 27

2-4 pm Food Bank

Monday, March 31

10 am Disciples’ Kitchen

\* Our Preschool Column will return next month, Ms Tami has the flu and we send our Get Wishes to her.