

The Network... a Publication of University Presbyterian Church

MARCH 2015

Pastor's Column

Lent is a season we often associate with developing or adopting new spiritual practices for the deepening of our faith. Some people "give up" something during Lent to focus their attention on God. And yet others choose to "take on" a practice as their Lenten discipline. Spiritual disciplines come in all forms and shapes and there is no one way or path to deepening our life of faith.

What path might speak to you and your life situation? There are a lot of things we might consider "giving up" for Lent besides the classic ones of chocolate or sweets. Consider "giving up" electronics for some prescribed period of time each week. How might the absence of these items affect your use of time, your energy, your relationships? What if we pledged to give up being critical of others during Lent, and tried to stop saying or even thinking critical things about our family members or friends or colleagues? That would no doubt take quite a bit of discipline for a lot of us! Or what about giving up unnecessary spending for this season?

On the other hand, we might consider "taking on" some kind of practice. If prayer is not a regular part of our day, we could try to adopt a simple practice of prayer. Or what if we made it our practice to do a least one random act of kindness each day? If there is a troubled or difficult relationship in our lives, what if we adopted the practice of doing or saying something positive for that person each day. How about keeping a "grateful journal" each day, listing those people or circumstances for which we are thankful.

Remember, the point of these disciplines is not to make life unpleasant but rather to help us enter the joy of a meaningful relationship with God. May this season offer you the joy of discovering God's presence within and around you.

Shalom,
Tracy

WORSHIP COLUMN ~ March 2015

March 1st 2nd Sunday in Lent
9:00 am **Worship Service with Communion**
10:00 am **Education Hour**
11:00 am **Worship Service with Communion**
Lectionary – Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16; Ps 22:23-31
Rom. 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38

March 8th 3rd Sunday in Lent
9:00 am **Worship Service**
9:30 am **Deacons Meeting**
10:00 am **Education Hour**
11:00 am **Worship Service**
Lectionary: Exod. 20:1-7; Ps. 19;
Cor. 1:18-25; John 2.13-22

March 15 4th Sunday in Lent
9:00 am **Worship Service**
10:00 am **Education Hour**
11:00 am **Worship Service**
Lectionary: Num.21:4-9; Ps. 107:1-3, 17-22;
Eph. 2:1-10; John 3:14-21

March 22 5th Sunday in Lent
9:00 am **Worship Service**
10:00 am **Education Hour**
11:00 am **Worship Service**
Lectionary: Jer. 31:31-34; Ps. 51:1-12 or
Ps. 119:9-16; Heb. 5:5-10; John 12:20-33

March 29th Passion/Palm Sunday
9:00 am **Worship Service**
10:00 am **Education Hour**
11:00 am **Worship Service**
Lectionary: Palms: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Ps. 118:1-2, 19-29
Passion: Isa. 50:4-9a; Ps. 31:9-16; Phil. 2:5-11;
Mark 14:1;15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Our Member's March Birthdays

- 1 Lori Lopinski
- 5 David Bartley
- 5 Patricia Grisante
- 5 Sandy Maiwald
- 8 Arthur Cookfair
- 11 Cindy Hickey
- 12 Karen Stamos
- 12 Elaine Swaine
- 13 Kathy Hallborg
- 16 Karen Guggemos
- 17 Jim Grisante
- 19 Dorothy Ward
- 22 William Guggemos
- 23 Claudia Weiss
- 23 Jane Somerville
- 28 Kyle Townsend
- 30 Tracy Daub



Our Youth's March Birthdays

- 13 Timothy Moorhouse

Please don't forget about our Hearts for the Homeless "DONATE YOUR SOLE" program. Drop off gently used shoes, boots, slippers and sneakers to the box in the Narthex of the Church. Your donations makes a difference in the lives of men, women and children.

Your kindness and generosity are always appreciated. Thank you!!!



Bible Study ~ Intergenerational-International with Rev. Stuart Buisch

**Bible Study will be held on Wednesday, March 11 and 25, from 5:00 – 6:30 pm
A light meal is served. Open to everyone and all are welcome. April dates are the 8th and the 22nd. And starting May there is a class on Wednesday, the 6th.**

FOOD PANTRY BY THE NUMBERS

These numbers only tell part of the story of this important and meaningful ministry. It is the people behind the numbers, those who receive this food and offer us their thanks and their blessings, and this congregation who provide such generous support, both in time and in donations, that are the essence and the real story that these numbers represent. Our thanks to all of you.

January		
Infants	0	
Children	47	
Adults	157	
Elderly	42	
Total	246	
Households	152	
Equivalent Meals	2214	

Please Help Us Recruit New Volunteers – New Pantry Volunteers are always welcome! But right now we are in great need of more folks.

- Can you give us an afternoon a month?
- Do you know someone who might like to join us?
- Come and bring a friend along.
- Ask a neighbor.
- Post a flyer at work or at your library.



When would I work?

- On a Tuesday or Thursday from 11:30am to 4:00pm.
- One afternoon a month (or as many as you wish).

What would I do?

- You would work with 3 or 4 other volunteers.
- You might guide a client through our "store" to help them choose their groceries.
- You might greet and "check in" our clients.
- You might help to stock shelves.
- If you and a friend would like to work together, we can schedule that for you.
- You will feel good about the time you spend with us, helping our neighbors.

FRONTERA DE CRISTO REFLECTIONS JANUARY 2015
Lee Ann Grace and Howard Henry

As always, it is refreshing to be on the border, in a culture unto itself.

At one Tuesday evening vigil we shared the somber memories of those who have died in the desert with a student group from Eastern Mennonite University, and Lee Ann then had the pleasure of doing an analysis of the EMU student evaluations of their experience here. One student commented that talking with Tommy Basset (a former maquiladora manager) made him want to change the way he uses his money. A large percentage of the group relished the opportunity to speak with a Border Patrol agent who believes that he can still respect the dignity of the migrants he may detain. Other students remarked that hearing the stories of individuals and families as they broke bread with them was the most meaningful.

Howard was challenged in tracking down the appropriate contacts to follow up on a mailing of calendars to the top churches purchasing Café Justo. We also realized once again that the sense of time on the border is so different from at home, when we received only two responses to a request for biographical profiles from board members by the deadline.

We traveled to Tucson to provide a meal of tamales, beans, rice pudding and hibiscus tea, as well as a worship service for the Presbyterian Campus Ministry at the University of Arizona. Howard was a reader and Lee Ann played the flute.

We worshipped twice at First Presbyterian Church in Douglas, where Lee Ann offered special music, playing and then singing a cappella a favorite selection from Mendelssohn's oratorio *St. Paul*. How we do value having an accompanist at home!

Lee Ann tried the chiles rellenos – her favorite Mexican dish -- in every restaurant in Douglas that serves them and decided that El Pato's were all-round the best. We did not, however, pig out on gingerbread pigs (*cochinitos*) on this visit.

Lee Ann spent time translating and interpreting recipes for a planned cookbook, discovering that there were many steps that Mexican cooks would simply assume that an English speaker unfamiliar with Mexican cuisine would have no idea of (wash your hands after working with chiles, take the seeds out if you want a less spicy dish) and ingredients that appeared in the instructions but weren't listed in items required for the recipe. One chicken recipe even omitted how it was to be cooked! When Lee Ann started asking questions about the recipes, she found that some of those who had submitted them were now deceased. She has also become an expert at metric to British system conversions!

We reviewed the Frontera de Cristo website and consulted via Skype with the web designer in Tucson. General organizational work led to cleaning out and recycling/shredding outdated files (four large boxes of paper to recycle and six bags of shred). Lee Ann has already identified an additional three file cabinets in the back room at the Frontera office as a possible target for next year.

Howard and Adrián González, Director of Customer Relations for Café Justo/Just Coffee, arranged via telephone for a coffee house in Buffalo, NY to begin serving Café Justo. They also renewed the commitment of a Latin American store in Buffalo to sell packages of Just Coffee.

We had a lovely Sunday afternoon excursion to the Chiricahua Mountains, where we saw many white tailed deer and even a cheeky javelina who came sauntering out into the parking lot of the general store in Portal, AZ.

We got to drive the new Frontera van, in between visiting groups that had need of it. What an improvement over the old one!

Our visit with the widow and children of Pastor Rodolfo of the Iglesia El Lirio de los Valles was delightful, as they remembered how much he loved to cook and the Stars Wars inspired birthday party he once ideated for his sons, complete with hamburgers that looked like flying saucers.

The Wednesday morning Bible study with the Café Justo staff at the roaster – surrounded by the marevelous aroma of freshly ground coffee -- always reveals new dimensions of the passages studied. Reading them and speaking of them in Spanish, as well as hearing the perspectives of our Mexican brothers and sisters, broadens our understanding.

Our faith is renewed witnessing and sharing the faith of those we have come to know so well over our 25 years (14 visits) volunteering at Frontera.

Coffee Hour Update...

For the last few years the deacons have been offering coffee and goodies of various kinds for the congregation to enjoy after worship on Sunday mornings. The Funds collected are designated to offset the costs of the supplies and to raise money for the Deacon's fund which is used to help church members when emergencies arise.

Unfortunately, the weekly donations have not been sufficient to cover the costs and deacons generally pay out of pocket for both goodies and coffee. Running in the red obviously defeats the purpose, so the Deacons have made the difficult decision to cover only the costs of coffee and to no longer offer goodies each week. We did not feel it was proper to continually make appeals for more donations from the congregation.

Instead, we are requesting that members make an occasional donation of baked goods of some kind- donuts, cookies, cake, or more healthy choices if you so choose- to further the goal of fellowship and to bring the Deacon's Fund out of the red and into the black.

Thank you for considering helping us in this worthy cause!

The Deacons

Adult Education Sunday, April 26, 10:00 am

On Sunday, April 26 at the 10 am Adult Education class we will have as our guest speaker the director of the Family Justice Center, Mary Murphy. Mary use to be on Channel 7 news, and then was elected mayor of Orchard Park before becoming the director of the center. She is an excellent speaker and is very passionate about the services provided by the Family Justice Center. The center is a one stop resource referral for people who are in abusive relationships struggling to leave their spouse. There they are able to find out everything they will need to know from family court requirements to counseling needs.

Come out for morning coffee and conversation and learn more about this service to the community.

University Presbyterian Church has created an innovative new way to fund projects in the local community. Their **Community Soup grant** is a grassroots model for funding small projects through community meals. A group of people come together to share a meal at an affordable price. All income from the meal is given as a grant to support a project to benefit the Buffalo community, that must be proposed by young people (ages 15-25). Everyone who purchases a meal has one vote to decide who gets the grant.



A group of five Certified Nursing Assistant students from Buffalo East High School were selected as the recipients of the first grant in November. They used the funding to transport senior and disabled residents to their third annual health fair.

Sunday evening a team of five Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) students from East High School walked away with the first place award in the first semiannual "Community Soup Grant" program. This program is sponsored by the University Presbyterian Church and is intended to provide seed funding for worthwhile community outreach programs that high school students are involved with. East's students were seeking funds to transport Senior and disabled citizens to their third annual health fair, specifically but not limited to women, so that they can be screened by the Breast Health Mobile Mammogram Team. The team of CNA students offered research from Erie County that demonstrates that the incidence of breast cancer continues to increase in Western New York and that Black women who are inflicted with this condition are often diagnosed late and have a higher mortality rate. The students produced and presented a powerful power point presentation, individually meet with all guests, and answered a number of detailed questions from the audience.

The format for this event included a dinner prepared by the congregation and donations from Amy's Place restaurant. Members from the church as well as family members of the contestants enjoyed a great meal before the contestants made their presentation. New grant funding is available in the spring of 2015 and is open to all high school students who are engaged in worthwhile community services. Grants are worth up to \$400.00 and the winners are expected to return and report back at the next semiannual soup event.

The next Community Soup date is scheduled for Sunday, March 29, 2015, and proposals are currently being solicited for projects seeking funding.

For more information on the grant contact Lee Ann Grace at 716-836-0413 or email at laghupe@roadrunner.com.



From your Ministry to Community Committee

UPC is proud to be a member of ***NY Interfaith Power and Light***. Founded in 1998 Interfaith Power and Light's mission "is to be faithful stewards of Creation by responding to global warming through the promotion of energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy".

It's true that:

Our planet is warming. The past decade was the hottest ever recorded for the US and the world. Human activity, especially the burning of fossil fuels, is the primary cause of global warming.

Extreme weather has increased in severity and frequency. The impacts range from disruptions in ecosystems and agriculture to destruction of infrastructure.

As people of faith we are called to care for Creation.

We have an opportunity to join with other IPL faith communities to answer God's call.

- 1. Send postcards to our senators asking them to support the EPA's Carbon Pollution Standards for New and Existing Power Plants.**
- 2. Participate in the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris by signing and returning the Paris Pledge Card. Join with others in promising to reduce our individual carbon pollution.**

We will provide postcards and pledge cards on *Sunday April 19* for you to sign and return as a group.

For more information:

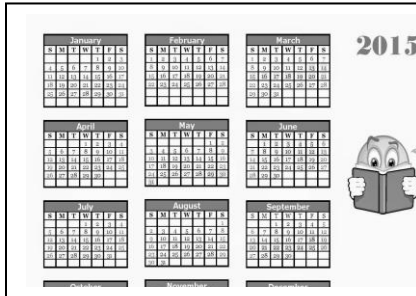
www.Interfaithpowerandlight.org

www.globalchange.gov

www2.epa.gov/carbon-pollution-standards

www.presbyearthcare.org

www.creationjustice.org



THE NETWORK CALENDAR March 2015

Sunday 1st		2nd Sunday in Lent
	9:00 am	Worship Service with Communion
	10:00 am	Education Class - Adult & Youth
	10:00 am	Worship Service with Communion
Tuesday 3rd	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Thursday 5th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Friday 6th	5:30 pm	Taizé Service
Saturday 7th	10:00 am	Grief Support Mtg. @ Family Tree Restaurant
Sunday 8th		3rd Sunday in Lent
	9:00 am	Worship Service
	9:30 am	Deacon's Meeting
	10:00 am	Adult & Youth Sunday Education
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Monday 9th	12:00 pm	Presbyterian Women's Meeting
Tuesday 10th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday 11th	5:00 pm	Bible Study w/Rev. Stu Buisch - Holzwarth
Rm.		
Thursday 12th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday 15th		4th Sunday in Lent
	9:00 am	Worship Service
	10:00 am	Adult & Youth Sunday Education
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday 17th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday 18th	7:00 pm	Session meeting in Holzwarth Room
Thursday 19th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
	7:30 pm	Choir Practice

Sunday 22nd	5th Sunday in Lent	
	9:00 am	Worship Service
	10:00 am	Adult & Youth Sunday Education
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday 24th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday 25th Rm.	5:00 pm	Bible Study w/Rev. Stu Buisch - Holzwarth
Thursday 26th	12 – 4 pm 7:30 pm	Food Pantry Choir Practice
Sunday 29th	Passion/Palm Sunday	
	9:00 am	Worship Service
	10:00 am	Adult & Youth Sunday Education
	11:00 am	Worship Service
	5:00 pm	Community Soup Grant Program
Presentation		
Tuesday 31st	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry

Preview of first week in April

Thursday 2nd	Maundy Thursday	
	7:30 pm	Worship Service
Friday 3rd	5:30 pm	Taizé Service
Saturday 4th	10:00 am	Grief Support Meeting @ Family Tree
Sunday 5th	Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Sunday	
	8:00 am <i>(note time change)</i>	Worship Service with Communion
	9:00 am – 10:30 am	Easter Breakfast
	11:00 am	Worship Service with Communion

Happy Easter to all our members and friends.

Monday 6th	The Church Office will be closed for the Easter Holiday.	
Tuesday 7th	12 – 4 pm	Food Pantry
Wednesday 8th	5:00 pm	Bible Study w/Rev. Stu Buisch - Holzwarth Room.

