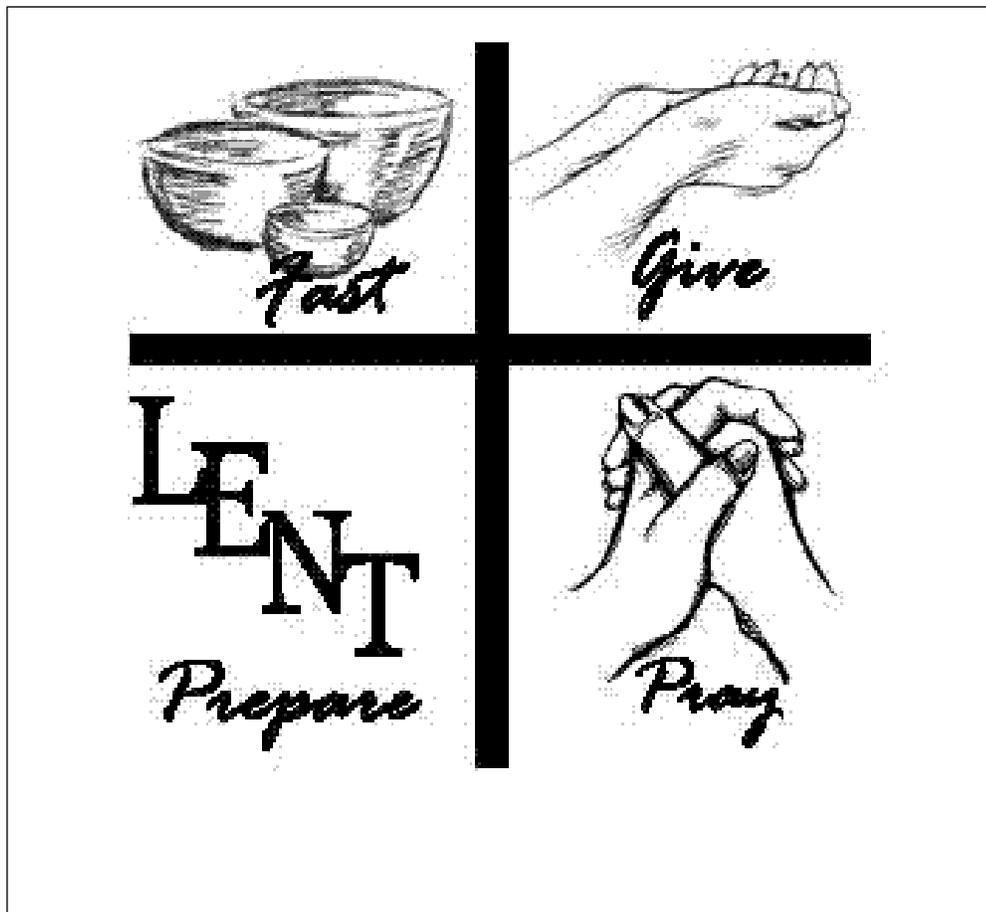


The First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville
The *Good News*-Letter



March 2018



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A Lenten Letter From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

Did you ever count the cost of something you wanted and decide that it was too expensive to buy? Maybe it was something really expensive, like a home addition or a private plane, or just something that would have stretched the budget this particular week or month, like a tool or game or piece of clothing. Every Lent I wonder whether God counted the cost of redeeming us, and why He didn't decide the cost was too high.

This Lent we've been talking in worship about covenants that God offered us without any reservations, even though there would be no way we could return adequate payment. God made a covenant with all of creation, regardless of whether there were any obedient people or not, never again to destroy the entire earth with a flood. God promised Abram offspring, a land and a future, whether or not Abraham's offspring all turned out to be worthy. God had compassion on Moses and the Israelites and made a short list of everything their ancestors did that caused them pain—the ten commandments—and offered it to them with instructions not to do those pain-inducing things any more. God had compassion on the whining Israelites and offered them a cure for snakebites, even while they were showing how little trust they had. The list continues, building to Easter when God paid the ultimate price for our salvation.

God's interest in us keeps coming even in the times of our greatest need. Noah's family, the Israelites in the wilderness and the disciples were totally dependent on God and surrounded by loss: the loss of their former lives and the way things used to be. When we need God the most, it seems logical to expect God to drive a bargain, to demand a lot of payment for God's gifts, right? Wrong.

God isn't thrifty. God's goodness is delivered with the force of a fire hose. It's unstoppable and irresistible. We can feel it in our bones as well as read it in the Bible. The fact that God paid such lavish prices for us shows us how valuable we are to God. Please come to church for the rest of Lent and Easter and hear the building story of God's love.

God bless you,
Martha

Prayer for Lent:

Thank You, God, for walking every lonesome valley so that we know we never walk alone, and for giving us the lavish gift of Your love. Amen.



Worship Ministry



Pastor Martha will be away on March 4. CRE candidate Lynn Costa will be our guest pastor.

The Lord's Supper will be celebrated on March 11 when Pastor Martha returns.

Please mark your calendars and join us Holy Week beginning March 25, Palm Sunday.

There will be a Soup and Bread Supper at 6:30 p.m. on March 29, Maundy Thursday. This service, beginning at 8:00 p.m., will include The Upper Room, a symbolic Seder meal, and The Lord's Supper. There will be a sign-up sheet for the Supper and another one for the Upper Room, since we will need to know how many people will be attending the Upper Room for the set-up.

The Good Friday service on March 30 will begin at noon and be followed by a Prayer Vigil until 6:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be posted. Prayer guides will be available.

Reflect on these words about prayer in Psalm 143:1 "Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness.

Be blessed,
The Worship Ministry



ALMSGIVING: Material generosity to the less fortunate.

What you can give: money, goods, acts of charity

Why: Almsgiving “represents a specific way to assist those in need and, at the same time, an exercise in self-denial to free us from attachment to worldly goods. Almsgiving helps us to overcome this constant temptation, teaching us to respond to our neighbor’s needs and to share with others whatever we possess through divine goodness.” –Pope Benedict XVI

FOOD FOR KIDS WISH LIST

The “wish list” of foods would be:

1. Individual, microwaveable portions of Dinty Moore Beef Stew.
2. Individual, microwaveable cups of Chicken Noodle soup.
3. Individual, microwaveable cups of Chef Boyardee pasta.
4. Individual, microwaveable cups of Mac & Cheese.
5. Fruit cups (in fruit juice, light syrup, or sugar free)

We invite you all to join us in this important Lenten practice of Almsgiving. As you are aware, Food for Kids is a community effort to feed children in need on weekends when they don't have access to the school's free lunch program.

During Lent, use the food list given here to fill up a grocery bag. Drop off your filled bag in the food storage area of Hazekamp Hall

At the conclusion of Lent, we will have a "Blessing of the food" moment during worship.

Join us

Sunday, March 11th

from 1-4 pm at

Newburgh Brewing Company
for a Fundraiser to benefit the



FOOD FOR KIDS is a non-profit organization developed by our Washingtonville local community. Our purpose is to help supply children in need in the Washingtonville Central School District with nutritious, easy-to-prepare food for weekends during the school year with an extension of the program during school breaks and weekdays during the summer months. Our school community, in partnership with several community organizations, fosters the sustainability of the program totally through volunteering. One of our core beliefs is promoting a sense of philanthropy both in school and in the community.

All CASH tips from 1-4 will be donated directly to the Food for Kids program. Come enjoy an afternoon with your family, while helping children in the Washingtonville community! (kids welcome)

“Guest” Bartenders from WCSD

50/50, Raffles, &

LIVE Music

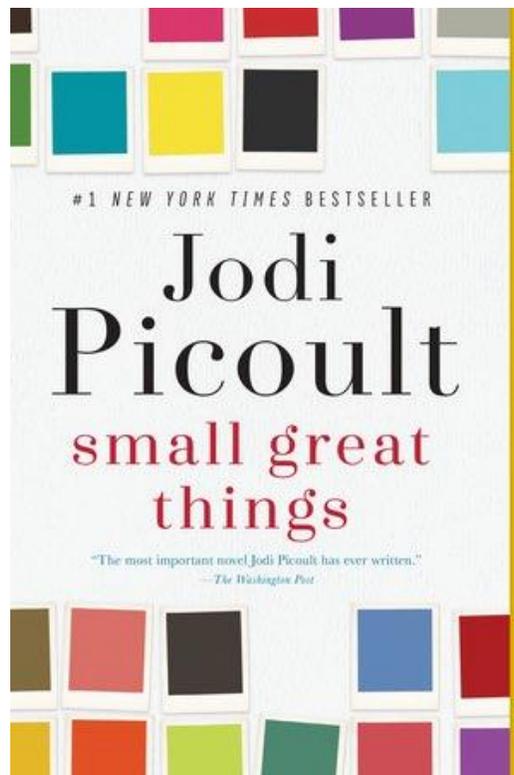
Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 24th was a delicious success!



The Savvy Soul Sisters of Syntax have chosen this book for discussion. Date and meeting location TBA.

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

An Amazon Best Book of October 2016: Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things* is about racism, choice, fear, and hope. The novel is based on the true story of a labor and delivery nurse who was prohibited from caring for a newborn because the father requested that no African-American nurses tend to his baby. In the fictional version, Ruth, the African-American nurse in question, finds herself on trial for events related to the same request made by a white supremacist father. Using the narratives of Ruth, the baby's father, and the female public defender who takes Ruth's case, Picoult examines multiple facets of racism. The topic of race in America is difficult to talk about, but in an honest and revealing way Picoult allows readers to draw their own conclusions about how we see ourselves and others in the world. *Small Great Things* is an important and thought-provoking novel about power and prejudice that deserves to be read, digested, and shared with others. --Seira Wilson, The Amazon Book Review



Always Pray and Don't Give Up

David C. McCasland

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1

Read: Luke 18:1-8

Are you going through one of those times when it seems every attempt to resolve a problem is met with a new difficulty? You thank the Lord at night that it's taken care of but awake to find that something else has gone wrong and the problem remains.

During an experience like that, I was reading the gospel of Luke and was astounded by the opening words of chapter 18: "Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up" (v. 1). I had read the story of the persistent widow many times but never grasped why Jesus told it (vv. 2-8). Now I connected those opening words with the story. The lesson to His followers was very clear: "Always pray and never give up."

Prayer is not a means of coercing God to do what we want. It is a process of recognizing His power and plan for our lives. In prayer we yield our lives and circumstances to the Lord and trust Him to act in His time and in His way.

As we rely on God's grace not only for the outcome of our requests but for the process as well, we can keep coming to the Lord in prayer, trusting His wisdom and care for us.

Our Lord's encouragement to us is clear: Always pray and don't give up!

Lord, in the difficulty I face today, guard my heart, guide my words, and show Your grace. May I always turn to You in prayer.

Prayer changes everything.

–Our Daily Bread

With blessings of love from the Nurture Ministry

First Presbyterian Church
Bethlehem Presbyterian Church
March 2018 Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 1 *Bible Study 7 PM*
- 8 *Bible Study 7 PM*
- 11 **Lord's Supper**
- 11 **Daylight Saving time begins**
- 11 **Food for Kids Fundraiser**
(1:00-4:00 PM at the Newburgh Brewing Company)
- 12 *Session at Zwarts' 6:30 PM*
- 15 *Bible Study 7 PM*
- 22 *Bible Study 7 PM*
- 25 **Palm Sunday**
- 29 **Maundy Thursday Supper (6:30 PM) and**
Worship Service (8:00 PM) Lord's Supper
- 29 *Maundy Thursday Service (6:00 PM)*
- 30 **Good Friday Prayer Vigil (12:00 PM-6:00 PM)**
- 30 *Stations of the Cross (12:00 PM -7:00 PM)*
- 31 *Community Egg Hunt (11:00 AM)*
- TBA Session*

Snow Cancellation

Our church cancellation policy during the winter months is to evaluate weather conditions on a case-by-case basis to determine if church closure is advisable for the safety of our congregation. The church's answering machine will have a message about closure. Our website will have a special notice on the front page. A group email will be sent, and phone calls will be made to members of our congregation who do not have computers or do email.



This Month to:

- 3 Doris Dunn
- 3 Gert Roosje
- 22 Cynthia Carey
- 23 Darlene Santacroce
- 28 Thomas Beasley



Members of Chancel Choir participate in Black History Month Celebration on February 25th at Hamptonburgh Presbyterian Church



Created by Sue Hegmann

HE IS RISEN!