

FEBRUARY 2022

**FEBRUARY
BIRTHDAYS:**

Joan Hladky 2/02
Jane Emmett 2/03
Emily Dayton 2/04
Elaine Stewart 2/04
Luke Puskedra 2/08
Roberta Cooper 2/10
Eileen Sanders 2/10
Daniel Long 2/11
Marian Little 2/13
Virginia Robertson 2/14
Adam Marwitz 2/15
Scott Sanquist 2/15
Cindy Sanquist 2/15
Kathryn Cotton 2/17
Barb Mack 2/23
Sue Walker 2/23
Whitney Schaaf 2/25
Doris Hayes 2/26
Kelly Schukart 2/28
Carolyn Sinclair 2/29

Dear Friends,

As many of you know, our family recently had an experience with covid. Despite being careful and cautious and everyone being vaccinated and boosted as much as possible, one of our family members tested positive, and we all developed symptoms that we're pretty sure were covid.

So we did what everyone does. We stayed home. We isolated. We moved meetings to Zoom. We cancelled or postponed other meetings. We asked others for help (so a big thank you to John Mahon and Karen Young and others for helping us with a number of situations).

We now have no more symptoms except for the main symptom of the whole thing, which was fatigue. That's been the primary symptom both then and now, a very real physical, mental and emotional fatigue. I even find I'm writing this in something like a fog, especially compared to normal or usual.

Although this is definitely a symptom, it also feels like it's tapping into the cumulative effect of two years of dealing with this whole pandemic. I recently shared an article with Marta about a group of moms of elementary aged kids. In December, they finally got the vaccines, and the moms had promised their kids they would now have a more normal life. Instead, Omicron hit, and so the moms would meet outdoors as a group to just scream out loud. That sounds about right.

I know I've talked about fatigue recently. I mentioned it in the Christmas Eve homily, how the holy family must have been tired, and in other sermons. In fact, you may be tired (fatigued!) of hearing about it, but I feel like it is not just me. I hear it from so many others I talk with who are feeling it.

Being a pastor and a Christian leads me to reflect on this theologically. What do we do when we are feeling fatigued, physically, mentally, emotionally or even spiritually? The most immediate answer is to rest, but most specifically, to rest on the promises of God. To remember that God is always with us. We just need to remember it.

With all the anxiety and stress of the last few years, I feel like one of the results is that we're all feeling a bit more irritable and are clashing more than ever with people from opposing groups: the right and the left, vaxxers and anti-vaxxers, we all seem to be at each other's throats.

One thing that is helpful in this situation is to remember and to see our common humanity, and that we are all in this together. We are all tired. Tired of wearing masks and of precautions, even as we continue them to help others. Tired of sickness. Just tired of being tired.

In times like this, it's more important than ever to remember and to connect with God, who is with us all.

Peace,
-David



tacklehunger.org
Sunday February 13, 2022 is Souper Bowl Sunday which means our YOUTH & KID'S GROUPS will be collecting canned soups and non-perishable food along with monetary donations. All donations will be donated to: FOOD FOR LANE COUNTY

HEADS-UP ON A SPRING ADULT CLASS:

Jack Maddex will lead an in-person Adult Sunday class (Mar. 6-May 1) on **THE CHURCH STRUGGLE IN NAZI GERMANY**. You probably know something about that part of history, including Martin Niemoeller and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This is a time to learn more of what it was about, what happened in it, and questions it raises for us now in our lives as Christians. Class materials will be available about Feb. 27; please email the church office if you want to join this class by the end of February.

UNDERSTANDING PER CAPITA And Why It Is Important

Each member of the Presbyterian Church is expected to pay per capita every year. This year the amount is \$39.00 per member. Per capita doesn't just "go to the bureaucracy." It fuels the machinery of doing church the Presbyterian way. This is quite different from independent congregational or bishop-based systems. The \$39.00 funds presbytery (\$24.82), synod (\$5.20), and General Assembly (\$8.98). These groups provide the support needed by congregations in crisis. They provide assistance filling pastor vacancies, mediating congregational disputes, ensuring doctrinal correctness and uniformity, and providing pastoral and congregational support. By funding these portions of the Presbyterian church, per capita provides the wherewithal for the ecclesiastical democracy of the priesthood of all believers to run smoothly.

The theological and biblical support for per capita is 1 Corinthians 12:18. It is the connective tissue in the body imagery of the Apostle Paul - "But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as God wanted them to be." I.e., all parts of the church are part of one body. Being a connectional church takes both the contribution of gifts to per capita and the work of pastors and elders who together advise, guide, and govern our General Assembly, synods, and presbyteries.

Congregations worship, teach church school, sing in the choir, marry, and bury. We advocate for justice. But without the support per capita provides for the parts of the Presbyterian church that undergirds the way we do church, congregations would find it difficult to thrive. You should look forward to paying per capita to ensure the continuation of the church you have chosen. You may pay per capita by credit card, direct deposit, check, or cash. Simply note on the contribution it is for per capita.

Stewardship and Personnel
Gwen Childs and Lee Kersten



Breakdown: General Assembly \$ 8.98, Synod of the Pacific \$ 5.20, Presbytery of the Cascades \$24.82. Total \$39.00

For those of you unfamiliar with the reasons for per capita giving, here is a helpful link: <https://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita/>

If you are planning to make a per capita payment, you can make a check out to: Westminster Presbyterian Church for \$39.00, and in the memo line, put "per capita giving". Please do not combine with other checks.

Caring for Creation, Caring for “the Least of These”

Have you noticed snow drops, hellebores, and green tips of daffodils coming up in your garden yet? God’s continuing creation goes on, even in winter, in weather only seagulls and steelhead can appreciate! Love of earth’s beauty and fertility runs deep in our faith, as we read in scripture. In the Revelation we read that God’s work in the world is to “make all things new” (21:5), to bring about a new creation that doesn’t destroy the old but transforms it, renews it. (Dr. William P. Brown, Columbia Theological Seminary). Matthew’s gospel calls us to care for “the least of these,” (25:40, 45) in all their diversity, whose well-being so depends on a healthy ecosystem.

Presbyterians, back in the 1960s, began leading the way in recognizing climate challenges and developing an environmental theology, ways of talking about God that embrace God’s love for all of creation. As Christians, we’re called to act out of love of God and others, rather than fear.

Presbyterians for Earth Care are proposing an “overture” for this year’s general assembly in June. This proposal calls for a faithful response to the problems of climate change as it most affects those most vulnerable to pollution and in floods, storms, and fires.

PEC is a grassroots organization. They hope all PCUSA congregations and presbyteries will read this proposal and discuss it. Are you interested? Email Karen Keady, keady8709@comcast.net.

You can see the overture and learn more about Presbyterians for Earth Care here: <https://presbyearthcare.org>



John Mahon’s Adult Bible Study: JOHN ON JOHN

The Gospel of John will be the focus of a Bible study taught by John Mahon beginning January 9th after worship on Sunday during January and February. John is both the simplest and most complex of all the gospels. Simple, because it is written in common Dick and Jane Greek. Seminarians love to translate this book in the New Testament. Complex, because the ideas and concepts in this gospel stretch the mind. Unlike the other gospels it does more than tell the story of Jesus. It presents the living Christ to all who read it, believers and unbelievers alike. It is the favorite gospel of both evangelists and scholars. A study guide is available and can be emailed to any who are interested.

Class Schedule:

Feb. 6 – The Man born blind Jn. 9

Feb. 13 – Washing the disciples feet Jn. 13

Feb. 20 - The Farewell Discourse and the Prayer of Jesus Jn. 13:31f; 17

Feb. 27 – The Resurrection Appearances Jn. 20

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@westminsterpres_eugene



We're on the Web!

<https://wpceugene.org>

Youth Group:
Sunday, February 13th at
11:00am-12:00pm
Sunday, February 27th at
5:30pm-7:00pm

Kid's Group:
Sunday, February 27th at
1:00pm-2:00pm

