

THE GOOD NEWS

March 2020



Formerly Princeton Presbyterian Church * A PC (USA) Congregation
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A Lenten Sabbath

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The story is told of a South American tribe that went on a long journey. They put everything they owned on their backs and marched on, day after day. Then, one day, in a place and at a time that was not marked by anything special, they sat down and unpacked and camped for a couple of days before setting out again on their journey. When they were asked why they did this, they answered, "We're resting so our souls can catch up with us."

Over the last few years, Tree of Life Church has been on a long journey. We've been called to a new mission to people with disabilities and their families. We've adopted a new name we try to live into. We've welcomed new members. We've adapted our worship. We've served week by week at Our Community Cup and reached out in many ways to share God's love in the world around us. Many of us have also been pushing hard in our personal lives, as we try to balance family, work, church and leisure. We get tired and stressed. True rest seems like a distant fantasy. It's time to slow down a bit and let our souls catch up with us.

So this Lent, we are going to do just that. We invite you into a Lenten Sabbath, a season of rest and renewal. "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy" is one of the ten commandments. For Jews, it is a day holy and set apart from the rest of the week for rest and worship. What does sabbath mean for us Christians? During Lent this year, we will explore that. We may discover some new practices that will lead us into God's continual renewing gift of rest in the presence of God.

Practically, here's what that will look like. We will gather for Sunday worship and Mission Possible as we do during the rest of the year. We will continue with Our Community Cup every Friday except for Good Friday. But teams, committees and boards will not meet. We will do minimal additional activities. We will take a rest. In worship, we will learn about Sabbath and experience it in different ways with all our senses. Throughout the season, we will use a Lenten devotional that pairs thoughts and practices about sabbath with the poetry of Wendell Berry. And, in a new experience for our church, everyone is invited to join us

SABBATH • REST • REFLECT • REFRESH

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for a Lenten Sabbath Retreat on Saturday, March 28. We hope this retreat will be the first of many that will enrich our spirits and recharge our souls and bodies so we can continue on this journey to which God has called us at Tree of Life Church.

Then, on Easter, we will rise with Christ, revived and renewed to do Christ's work of new creation.

May you have a holy and blessed Lent!

Pam

LENTEN & HOLY WEEK WORSHIP



Throughout the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26, not only will we experience a Sabbath season, but we will also be learning about it in worship. We tend to think Sabbath is a day off, but it's much deeper and richer than that. What does Sabbath mean in your life and in our life together as the people of God? Come and find out in worship this Lent. Here's what's happening:

Sunday, March 1 – First Sunday in Lent

“Into the Wilderness” Scripture Readings: 1 Kings 19:1-16, Matthew 4:1-11

Communion – Choir

Sunday, March 8 – Second Sunday in Lent

“Sabbath: Creation's Rhythm” Scripture Reading: Genesis 1:24 – 2:3, Exodus 20:8-11, Mark 2:23-3: 6

Fellowship Hour hosted by Admin Team

Sunday, March 15 – Third Sunday in Lent

“Sabbath: God's Liberating Day” Scripture Reading: Deuteronomy 5:12-15, Leviticus 25:8-12, 39-43

Hymn Sing – Choir – Evan Hansen preaching

Sunday, March 24 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

“Sabbath: Resting in God's Presence” Scripture Reading: Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday, March 29 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

“Sabbath: A Taste of Things to Come” Revelation 21:1-7

Change for Change Offering

Sunday, April 5 – Palm/Passion Sunday

“On the Way to the Cross”

Choir – Communion – One Great Hour of Sharing

Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday

6 p.m. Soup Supper at Tree of Life with First Presbyterian Church, Springfield

7 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Worship in chapel with communion and Tenebrae

Friday, April 10 – Good Friday

12 noon – Community Good Friday Service, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Springfield

Sunday, April 12 – Easter Sunday – Christ is Risen!

“Sabbath: A Day of New Life” John 20:1-18

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL –

“Wendell Berry and the Sabbath Poetry of Lent”

Sabbath is a time to rest, pray and play. To help us do that this Lent, we will be using a Lenten devotional which uses scripture, poetry and simple spiritual practices to lead us into Sabbath time. The devotional is available at church on the tables near the entrances to the sanctuary. We would be happy to send one to you if you need one. Our sabbath guide is the farmer and poet Wendell Berry, Selected poems from his book *This Day: Selected and New Sabbath Poems* will be available weekly for you to take home and use with the devotional. The devotional includes a reading for each Sunday through Easter and practices and practical guidance for reflection throughout the week. The devotional also includes simple and beautiful line drawings that could be colored for those who enjoy coloring. So get out your colored pencils and enjoy the Sabbath rest!



A DAY OF REST AND RENEWAL

“I want to rest, but where can I find the time?” You are invited to a day of intentional rest, reflection and play at the Lenten Sabbath Retreat on Saturday, March 28 from 9:30 - 3:30 at Swarthmore Presbyterian Church. This retreat, led by our seminarian Evan Hansen, will be a time to rest, relax and be with God and one another. Cost for the day will be \$20, which includes lunch. If you want to come, but can’t afford the \$20, scholarships are available. Talk to Pastor Pam McShane. We don’t want anyone to be turned away. Costs not covered by the registration fee will be paid by the church’s Blair Fund. So we can get a count, please sign up on the library bulletin board or on the table by the front door of the sanctuary or email the church office. Deadline for signup is Sunday, March 14. Our hope is that this will be the first of a series of opportunities to retreat and enjoy the gift of Sabbath together.

JUST THE BASICS

Maundy Thursday (or Holy Thursday) marks the day when Jesus first served communion to his disciples. Since the very earliest days of the church, communion or the Lord’s Supper has been a distinctive mark of the Christian faith. Why is it so important? What is the story behind it? What’s so important about bread and grape juice? All of these questions and more will be answered this month at Just the Basics as we bake bread together, learn about communion and have a good time. People of all ages and abilities are invited to join us in Boggs Hall after worship on Sunday, March 15 for a time of baking, learning and having fun.



SAVE THE DATE - SENSORY FRIENDLY EASTER EGG HUNT

We’re looking forward to a fun Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11 at 11 a.m. There will be crafts, a story and of course Easter Eggs for all! Mark your calendars now – details on registration will be included in the April newsletter and the church bulletin as soon as it is available.

SENSORY FRIENDLY EGG HUNT



**“YOU SHALL BE CALLED REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH”
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING 2020**



Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. Each gift helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. **OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.**

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human caused disasters, and support for refugees. ***Receives 32% of funds raised.***

PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. ***Receives 36% of funds raised.***

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP)

Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty, injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. ***Receives 32% of funds raised.***

PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Due to rapidly changing U.S. immigration policies, PDA has had to regularly reassess and shift its attention in order to respond to the changes in circumstances growing needs and opportunities. PDA has disbursed \$271,420 for refugee ministry and sent 174 volunteer teams consisting of 5,676 volunteers to date to help people continue long term recovery from disasters.

PHP works to alleviate hunger and eliminate its root causes. Grants provided to grant partners impacted 21 countries, including the United States. 329 farms and gardens provided healthy food to families in need. Through the gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, over 5,000 projects in economically poor communities in the U.S. and around the world have had an opportunity to develop solutions to their own challenges since **SDOP's** inception.

On Palm Sunday, April 5th, we will receive the special offering to support One Great Hour of Sharing. Look for the special envelopes in the pews. We hope you will be there to offer your gift, sharing God's love through ministries of justice, compassion, and joy.



**Our Community Cup
Coffeehouse**

THIS MONTH AT OUR COMMUNITY CUP

We're looking forward to a great month at Our Community Cup Coffeehouse! Thanks to everyone who volunteers week after week for all your help. Please

remember that we can always use an extra casserole or salad. If you are willing and able to help out, please let Ginny Warmerdam know.

Here's what's happening:

- Friday, March 6 – March birthdays, Karaoke, Music by Wayne Harvey
- Friday, March 13 – St. Patrick's Day celebration, Music by Ed Nelling
- Friday, March 20 – Spring into Spring!, Music by Chris Macy
- Friday, March 27 – Silver Winds Open Mic

MISSION FOCUS FOR MARCH
CONNECT BY NIGHT



What is Connect by Night? Some of you may be asking that question. Connect is a comprehensive program, administered by the Mental Health Association of Southeastern Pennsylvania, which offers assistance to homeless people in Delaware County to assist them in working their way back into mainstream society. One part of this program is Connect by Night which provides overnight shelter for homeless men and women in churches throughout eastern Delaware County. Again we are working in partnership with Christ's Community Church in Drexel Hill as they welcome homeless neighbors every night in the month of March.

One way we support Connect by Night is providing personal hygiene items for the guests who stay at Christ Community Church. We need to replenish our supply of items for March. Please bring any of the following items to church and place them in the red buckets by the church entrances through the month of March: ***travel size shampoo, conditioner, skin moisturizer, hand sanitizer, feminine hygiene products, especially pantliners, chap stick, cough drops, emery boards, nail clippers, foot care items, toothbrushes, travel size toothpaste, soap and deodorant, combs. New socks are much appreciated as well.*** Our girl scout troops will also be collecting items.



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM
Due: March 22nd

Your Name: _____

In **MEMORY** of _____

In **HONOR** of _____

<u>Flower</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tulips (\$7.00)	_____	_____
Azalea: (\$9.00)		
Red	_____	_____
Pink	_____	_____
Lavender	_____	_____
Lily (Single \$8)	_____	_____
Total:	_____	_____

RESEARCH REPORT

On Sunday, February 23 after worship Kevin Vollrath, a Ph.D. candidate from Princeton Seminary, presented the findings of a study he and several colleagues have been doing of 11 churches who intentionally engage with persons with disabilities. Each church was unique in what it was doing. Some have a free-standing service designed specifically for those with disabilities. Others engage in advocacy work. One group is working toward developing a housing model where persons with and without identified disabilities live together in community. And then there's Tree of Life Church and Our Community Cup Coffeehouse....

- There were some things in common across all these congregations and organizations. Everyone expressed the goal of inclusion as part of what they are working toward. The researchers observed that this is in line with the inclusive nature of the church as the body of Christ and Christ's ministry in the church and the world.
- Some of the most powerful moments in all congregations happened when true friendships developed both between people with identified disabilities and between folks who had disabilities and those who didn't. One participant observed that as her friendship deepened, lines between who was disabled and who wasn't seemed to move, recognizing that in reality each person has their own unique set of abilities and disabilities.
- Consistency of program is important. A lot of folks live in an environment of scarce financial resources, and changing housing and employment. Knowing there is a place where they can come, be welcomed and known by name is important.
- The challenge the researchers set before us is to move from simple inclusion of people with disabilities to empowerment, enabling them to have voices in decision making and to take leadership and responsibility within the church (and in our case, in coffeehouse.)

Their final observation was this: "Over the course of the study, we were drawn to the ways in which God is unseating able-bodied power in contexts of church and ministry so that people with disabilities can respond to their unique calls and offer their gifts for ministry and leadership to the Church."

Kevin, Dr. Erin Rafferty and others are working on articles and eventually a book that will be studied examining the move from inclusion to leadership in disability ministry. They promise to keep us in the loop!

Session Notes – February

Following are highlights of the February 5 Session meeting.

Report of the Clerk: The minutes from the Session meeting of January 9 were approved as presented.

Report of the Treasurer: January income totaled \$18,880 while expense totaled \$16,397 for a net current month surplus of \$2,482.

Team Reports:

- **Administration:** Approval was given for Amazing Mindz Movie Production Company to use Boggs Hall on March 21 from 8PM to 12PM for the premier of a Christian movie.
- **Building Community:** Planning continued for the Souper Bowl of Caring and the Share the Love Fest that are both February events. A letter was received from Heeding God's Call thanking the team for a donation that had been recently sent.

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(session rpt. Cont.)

- **Nurture Faith:** It was decided that the theme for Lent would be “Lenten Sabbath.” Other elements that will take place during Lent were discussed. Evan Hansen will lead an all-church retreat on March 28, with more details to come at a later time. Session voted to use money from the Blair Fund to subsidize the costs of the retreat.

Report of the Pastor: The Pastor reported on her study leave. She also reported that The Anchor Church would be donating half of their Christmas Eve offering to help support our ministry with people with disabilities. It was suggested that we might want to create a newsletter or brochure that could be sent to people who donate, so that they could see snapshots of what our program looks like.

Report from the Larger Church: Carolyn Jeffrey reported on the general meeting of the Presbytery that took place on January 21 at Wayne Presbyterian Church.

Other Business: The spring Flea Market will be held on Saturday, June 6. A committee will be formed to facilitate planning.

History of Our Church Funds

For the interest of our members, this month in The Good News we are starting a series on the origins, history and purpose of our Church Funds. In this issue we shall discuss two of our funds which have to do with our youth.

BLAIR FUND

The Blair Fund is our oldest established fund. The Blair Family was very active during the early years of our church. In 1858, Henry Blair was elected as an elder to the first Session in our church history. In a later generation, Andrew Blair was a member of the Session from 1874 to 1898. For many years during the last decades of the 19th Century, Mr. Blair served as superintendent of the Church School. Upon his death and in his memory, his family made a gift of \$5,000 to the Church, with the stipulation that the principal be placed permanently in an income producing investment and that the earnings therefrom be used only to help support the work of the Christian Education programs.

For more than a century now, Blair Fund income has been a major income factor underwriting the expenses of our Sunday School. The cumulative income during these long years has been far greater than the amount of the original gift and has grown to a sum of \$40,000. Indeed, the Blair Fund has been like the seed that fell into good ground and brought forth fruit, many fold.

DAVIS STUDENT LOAN FUND

This fund was established in 1973 by the Reverend Charles Davis. The fund commemorates the memory of Chester and Elizabeth Davis, parents of our former pastor. The Session, as administrator of the Fund, is authorized to make loans at preferred rates of interest to members of our church who are enrolled students in degree granting schools.

The fund was initiated with a grant of \$1,000 and through retained earnings it has grown to a present \$7,500. Although the modest size of the Fund precludes it from being of great significance in light of today's college tuition fees, it can be helpful in certain circumstances. To date, it has been used on only several occasions.

Share the Love Fest IV



photos by joel perlish photography,
joelperlish@aol.com

All the images can be seen, and prints or digi-
 tals purchased at discounted pricing
 at joelperlish.smugmug.com in the new ave-
 nue café folder.

Souper Bowl of Caring





Please remember to sign up for Fellowship Hour and Flowers



March 8th
Spring Forward
Set your clocks forward

SAVE THE DATE:

**Annual Spring
Flea Market
June 6th**

LOVE & SERVE

Date	Liturgist	Ushers	Counters	Fellowship Hour
3/1	Marian Andrews	Sue Shaw Bobbie Morrison	Brian McShane Mindy Bogue	
3/8	Debbie Walsh	Marian Andrews Leslie Kirsch	Alan Buchta Kate McShane	Admin Team
3/15	Alan Buchta	Kate McShane Miranda Cubler	Annette Donnelly Debby Richardson	
3/22	Kate McShane	Ken Hawthorne Annette Donnelly	Shaun Eyring Lin Buchta	
3/29	Debby Richardson	JoAnne Petrovitch Ginny Warmerdam	Kay DeSio Marian Andresws	

**Reverend Mrs. Pamela McShane, Pastor
Christine Laquintano, Director of Music**

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING FISH BANK BINGO

It's time for Fish Bank Bingo! Use the BINGO board on the back of this sheet to get as many "BINGOs" as you can—vertical, horizontal, diagonal, or even the whole board!

When you complete a square, color it in with a highlighter. Set a goal—maybe put a dollar in for each bingo you get? It's a triple good activity—

1. Play a fun game,
2. Learn new things,
3. Raise funds to help others!

Have fun and fill that bank!

Our offerings help people in many parts of the world through three programs:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
- Self-Development of People
- Presbyterian Hunger Program

While you complete this challenge, you are not only being a good steward by sharing money that will help people in our country and around the world, but you'll also learn interesting facts and complete a fun game!

Want to know where your offerings go?

Now you can find out in great detail.

This interactive map has been created to show how and where OGHHS funds are used around the world. Visit the map and explore its interactive features.

What a great way to learn about ministries in your own back-yard and around the globe.

WWW.PCUSA.ORG/OGHSMAP



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

"You shall be called repairers of the breach."

Isaiah 61

F I S H B A N K B I N G O

Self-Development of People (SDOP)	Acts of Kindness	OGHS Interactive Engagement Map	Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)	Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)
In 2007, a community in India was awarded \$7,200 to create a silk worm rearing project. Members of the group were able to earn regular income as a result. Add 72¢ in thanksgiving for this project's success.	All of the programs supported by our OGHS offerings are successful because of caring people. Write a note to a caring person in your life telling them why they are important to you.	Click at random on a PHP (green circle) grant, read about it, and say a prayer for the work being done at that site. www.pcusa.org/oghsmap	The PHP helps people in all parts of the world. Brainstorm with your family all of the different types of food that you like to eat, and add one coin for each country who's food is among your favorites.	In a natural disaster, electricity is usually the first utility to be lost. Add one coin for every outlet and light switch in the room you currently are in.
SDOP helps people in need like Atlanta-based Women in Agriculture Association, a farmers' group promoting locally grown products in the community. Add one coin for every veggie in your fridge.	Pay three genuine compliments today to people who are NOT immediate family members. Why not try: a kid at school who you don't know well, a cashier at a store, or a teacher?	Click at random on an SDOP (red diamond) grant, read about it, and say a prayer for the work being done at that site. www.pcusa.org/oghsmap	"Phat Beets Produce" in Oakland, CA, is supported by PHP as they provide education, access to good food and opportunities for youth. Add two coins for each family member who likes beets!	After a disaster, clean water is very important, and is often one of the first things to be distributed. Add the cost of a bottle of water to your bank.
A program in Oregon trains youth to repair and maintain bikes so that they can learn skills and earn income. Add two coins for each bicycle that your family owns.	The next time you are at church, make an effort to greet someone you don't know. Say 'good morning' to a person you see in the pew but haven't met, or thank the host at the cookie table at coffee hour!	Find a project on the map in a place that you've always wanted to visit. Read about the work being done there and say a prayer for that project. www.pcusa.org/oghsmap	12 wells and hand pumps were built in communities in Sierra Leone and Liberia that have limited access to clean water. Add 12 coins in thanksgiving for the clean water that is carried by those wells and pumps.	People often lose (or have to leave) everything after a disaster. PDA gives kitchen essentials to people trying to rebuild. Add two coins for every pot/pan in your kitchen.
Women and children are more likely to be affected by poverty and hunger. Because of this, many SDOP projects are woman-focused. Add five coins in honor of special women & children.	Make some kindness rocks to leave around your community to brighten someone's day. Learn more here: www.thekindnessrockproject.com	On the left side column, check only the yellow star icon to sort YAV sites. Pick a place where you'd like to serve and read about the work being done at the volunteer site there. www.pcusa.org/oghsmap	As many as 1 in 5 children in the US will experience hunger this year. Add coins equal to the cost of your favorite snack food to your fish bank.	Many Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centers act as host sites for PDA disaster relief workgroups. Put in one coin for every member of your family who has attended camp.
The Youth in Business project offers teens in Baltimore the opportunity to sell shirts to help keep them off the streets and to stay away from gangs. Add one coin for every T-shirt in your dresser.	Secretly do something for a member of your family. (Clean up a mess you didn't make. Empty all the trash cans in the house, leave a note of appreciation on someone's pillow. . .)	Click at random on a PDA (blue or purple square) grant, read about it, and say a prayer for the work being done at that site. www.pcusa.org/oghsmap	In Papaye, Haiti, farmers are learning how to grow morninga trees. The leaves of this tree are a great superfood for hungry people. Add one coin for every tree in your yard.	The hurricanes in the fall of 2017 were so severe that schools in the Caribbean were closed for months. Add one coin for each year you have spent in school.

Tree of Life Church
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**March 8th
Spring Forward!**

