

March Newsletter



First Presbyterian Church



400 Lakeview Road, Mexico, Missouri

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Volume 33, Issue 03

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STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

Student Ministries

Director

Micah McNeal

Organist & Handbells

Barbara Green

Choir Director

Josh Yancey

Administrative Assistant

Sandy Weber

Financial Secretary

Lori Ray

Custodian

Ryan Totten

Sunday Schedule

Worship Service

9:00 a.m.

Fellowship

10:00 a.m.

Sunday School

10:15 a.m.

High School Youth

7:30 p.m. Sundays

(First Presbyterian Church)

6th—12th Youth

6:00 p.m. Wednesdays

(First Christian Church)

Email:

office@mexicofpc.com

Web page:

www.mexicofpc.com

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/mexicoFPC)

[mexicoFPC](https://www.facebook.com/mexicoFPC)

Wifi: MexicoFPC-Guest

Password: #liv2srv

Lent and Easter 2024

The season of Lent is upon us! We began on Ash Wednesday, with our combined service with First Christian Church and Mexico United Methodist church. However, not all of us grew up with the tradition of observing the Lenten season, and I'm often asked, "When did Protestants start doing Lent?"

The answer is "a couple of decades ago." The observance of Lent has caught on gradually with Protestants as we realized its value. On Ash Wednesday, when the minister puts ashes onto our foreheads, the ashes are symbolic of repentance, mourning, and a memory of our mortality. (If you were at the ecumenical Lenten service, you heard Pastor Zane Whorton quote Genesis, saying "From dust you came, and from dust you shall return.")

As Christians, we certainly celebrate Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. Unfortunately, we often forget that it was our sin that caused Christ to be crucified. This is where Lent comes in. It's a time of prayer, repentance and recommitment during the days leading up to Easter. I think of it as sort of a "spring cleaning" season. It's a time to clean out the clutter in my life that doesn't really match what I believe about God, and who God wants me to be.

Traditionally, people have given up something for the 40 days of Lent: A certain food, a habit they need to shake off, or an extravagance in their lives. People have also started using Lent as a time to add in a new tradition that may have been lacking in their lives: a time for daily prayer or Bible reading, a new commitment to helping others, or a decision to participate more actively in worship services.

Here at First Presbyterian, we have Lenten lunches on Mondays and evening services on Wednesday, during which you can draw closer to God during this season.

Lent is rich in symbolism, and a great way to prepare us for the celebration that is Easter. Whether you add something to your life, fast from something, or do something completely different, we all look forward to Easter! Blessings on you this season!

Pastor Susan



MARCH WORSHIP
9:00 a.m.

March 3

Scripture—Jeremiah 31:3

Sermon—God Writes On Our Hearts

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

March 10

Scripture—Philippians 4:4-7

Sermon—Guarding Our Hearts

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

March 17

Scripture—Luke 10:25-37

Sermon—Hearts to God

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

March 24

Sermon—Palm Sunday

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

March 31—Easter Sunday

Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.

Traditional Service at 9:00 a.m.

Preaching—Rev. Dr. Susan Presley

(see Lenten schedule on page 4)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
KNITWITS PRAYER SHAWLS

The Knit Wits have lovingly crafted prayer shawls for people going through hardships such as times of stress, bereavement, illness and or recovery. Giving a prayer shawl is a thoughtful physical reminder of God’s love and prayers being said for a person. There is a supply of shawls in the Board Room. Simply record your name and the name of the recipient on the clipboard provided. Talk to a Knit Wit for more info. The Knit Wits meet Sundays at 10:15 a.m. in room 204.



CURRENT REQUESTS

- Cole Nettles (Sandy Weber’s nephew)
- Barbara Neumann
- Anna Rentschler
- Carl Smarr
- Rona Wilson
- Bonnie Kimbel
- Katherine Staley
- Dick Schmidtke
- Sue Kare (Peggie Kriwiel’s sister)
- Jane Cooper (Jody Fetterhoff’s sister-in-law)
- Betty Coari
- Donna Browning (Jan Harlow’s extended family)
- Don Munford (Robby & Cara Miller’s brother in law)
- Bob Kimes (Pam Miller’s father)
- Dan Kriwiel (Peggie’s husband)
- Larry LaRue (Barb Brandt’s brother)
- Connie Robley
- Quinlan Gillette (The Gillette’s grandson)
- Debra Kreyling
- Linda Baker (Lana Parmenter’s sister-in-law)
- Stu Miller (deployment to Kuwait)
- Lucas Coari
- Michael Schuessler (friend of the Rays)
- Luke Pickett
- Judy Lowery (Jody Fetterhoff’s sister)
- Bob Wilburn (Strode’s son-in-law)
- Cathy Scholz (Betty Coari’s friend)

MARCH SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship 9:00 a.m.

Fellowship 10:00—10:15 a.m.

Sunday School 10:15 a.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Pre K—1st Grade Room 105

2nd—5th Grade Room 104

Sr and Mid High Youth Room 300

Young Mom’s Westminster Room

Wired Word Room 200

Fenlon’s Bible Study Room 305

Sermon Discussion Room 201

Knit Wits Room 204



The Visioning Committee will present the results of their year long process on March 24th at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Snacks will be provided. Join us!

Ash Wednesday 2024 combined choirs: Mexico United Methodist Church, First Christian Church & First Presbyterian Church.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY 19, 2024

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Mexico, Missouri met on Monday, February 19, 2024. Elders shared joys and concerns and the moderator opened the meeting with prayer.

Stephanie Robinett was elected clerk of session for this month's meeting.

The consent agenda was accepted into the record, including prior minutes, financial reports, and the meeting agenda.

Adult Fellowship: Abby Ray is the new chair of this committee.

Adult Education: Mike Briggs reported on updates to the church library and current and upcoming classes. Pastor Susan will be leading a class in the Summer.

Children's Ministry: Whitney Lewis gave updates and reported that the committee will let Stewardship know if scholarships are needed for campers in the Summer.

Columbarium: Paperwork is being processed for two people who requested cancelation of their niche.

Deacons: The new co-chairs of Deacons are Liz Schutte and Liz Rice. Deacons will meet quarterly rather than monthly.

Fellowship: Sheryl Louder reported on Lenten Lunches and progress with funeral dinner organization.

Local Mission: Elaine Mensching reported that Baby Bundle Sunday will be on Mother's Day, May 12. The committee will be inviting representatives from local organizations that we support to speak during Moments for Mission on Sundays. Two members of the committee attended a Bright Futures Council meeting.

Music and Worship: Combined bell choir will play on March 17. The committee voted to donate \$50 to Our Daily Bread for the devotional booklets we receive from them.

National and Global Mission: Steve Haag is working with former committee chairs to arrange visits from missionaries we support. He is also looking at traditional mission projects as well as new ideas.

Outreach: The committee voted to cease weekly ads in the Leger, reserving newspaper advertising for special events.

Presbyterian Women: Elaine Mensching said PW is working on lists to honor 50 year members as well as choosing a Lifetime Member Award recipient.

Staff & Administration: A motion was made and unanimously approved to approve the hiring of Piper Higgins and Margaret Crews as nursery workers, contingent on the Staff Committee's approval.

Stewardship & Finance: Robby Miller reported that the church is on par with income and expenses, and also explained the offering counting procedure to Session.

Stephen Ministers: The group has a new care receiver. Next meeting is March 5.

Clerk's Report: The Clerk reported the baptism of Brixten Louder on January 29, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was served in worship and at the Kings Daughters Home and Pin Oaks on January 7, 2024 by Pastor Susan. Session approved a request by Dave and Renae Thomas from the rolls. The Clerk reported on the death of Renae Thomas.

The meeting closed with a devotion and prayer from Elaine Mensching and the meeting was adjourned.



Lent



SUNDAY SERVICES 9 AM

March 3—Jeremiah 31:3 God Writes On Our Hearts

March 10—Philippians 4:4-7: Guarding Our Hearts

March 17—Luke 10:25-37: Hearts to God

March 24—PALM SUNDAY—Jesus' Heart

March 31—EASTER SUNDAY

Sunrise Service @ 6:30 a.m.

Traditional Service @ 9:00 a.m.

MONDAY LENTEN LUNCHES—NOON

Lent Via the Fruit of the Spirit—Galatians 5:22-23

March 4—Kindness, Goodness

March 11—Faithfulness, Gentleness

March 18—Self-Control

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES 6 PM

Confession and Forgiveness

March 6—Pride

March 13—Patience

March 20—Listening

MAUNDY THURSDAY

March 28— 7PM

For new Deacons, experienced Deacons, or anyone wanting to learn!

DEACON TRAINING

Sunday, March 17, 2024
10:15 AM
Fellowship Hall



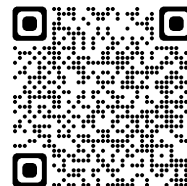
If you would like 2024 offering envelopes, please come by the office or talk to Lori on Sunday.

STREAM SUNDAY WORSHIP ON LINE @ YOU TUBE

If anyone is needing assistance in learning how to stream live services on Sundays, please reach out to Michelle Doolittle with Outreach Committee. We are offering to come to homes, nursing homes, etc., if needed to assist in learning how to do this. Our church services are now being streamed live on **You Tube**. You just search: First Presbyterian Church of Mexico, or go to: **www.youtube.com** and search for **Mexico First Presbyterian Church**.



Scan this QR code with your phone's camera to go directly to site.

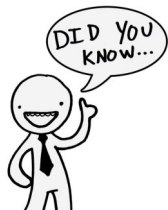


THE ASHES FOR ASH WEDNESDAY

The ashes that were used to mark our forehead on Ash Wednesday are made from burned palm leaves from last year's Palm Sunday celebration. This represents the belief that God made humans from dust and shall be returned to dust.

This year, the Ash Wednesday service was held at First Christian Church of Mexico.

It is meaningful to share this service with others from our community.



NEED A RIDE TO/FROM CHURCH?

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SHARE-A-RIDE MINISTRY
Call our dispatcher:
573-936-6625



Sweet Memories were repeated on Sunday, February 25th. Megan remembered her father Elwood making donuts in Sunday school years ago. The pair led the children in making the delicious treats and sharing them with all the other classes.



February Lunch Bunch met at 54 Diner.
The next lunch will be at 11:30 a.m.,
Wednesday, March 20 at:

Mi Casa
2780 S. Clark



GUIDELINES FOR A PRODUCTIVE MEETING

- 1) Each committee is assigned a chair by the pastor. The chair will find a committee member to serve as secretary. It is nearly impossible for a chair to do both.
- 2) Minutes should be kept of every meeting and should include: when the meeting took place, who was at the meeting, what actions the committee took (motions), and when the committee will meet again. Minutes should be sent to the office in a timely manner to be included in the session packet. Extraneous information & discussion should not be included.
- 3) Committee chairs may send their agenda to the office so it can be printed before the meeting with the last meetings minutes.
- 4) Sticking to the agenda during the meeting will make the meeting more enjoyable and productive for everyone.
- 5) Some people enjoy the social aspect of meetings, while others have extensive commitments and appreciate shorter meetings. Both needs can be met if time is set aside after the meeting adjourns for people who want to visit.
- 6) Learning the basics of Robert's Rules of Order is an asset to anyone attending a meeting here or at other organizations.

Stephen Ministers are trained to be CONFIDENTIAL and compassionate listeners to persons experiencing special needs:

- Loss of Loved One
- Separation or Divorce
- Terminal Illness
- Job Crisis
- Financial Stress
- Loneliness or Depression
- Hospitalization
- Being Homebound Spiritual Crisis
- ... And many more!



If you or someone you know could use the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Susan or send your name and phone number to the church in care of "Stephen Ministry, Confidential," 400 Lakeview Rd., Mexico, MO 65265.

A friend is one who comes in when the rest of the world has gone out. **If you don't call, we can't Help!**

BUDGET REPORT
As of 2.19.2024



INCOME	Actual \$	Budget for Year \$	Actual vs Budget %
Pledged Giving	38,025.77	325,000	11.70%
Non pledged	9,725.52	87,250	11.15%
Other Income	2,102.93	12,750	16.49%
Total all income	49,854.22	425,000	11.73%
EXPENSES			
Administration	692.21	6,050	11.44%
Adult Ministries	105.24	850	12.38%
Children's Ministry	106.32	4000	2.66%
Local Mission	1,399.79	13,000	10.77%
National & Global Mission	5,880	42,280	13.91%
Other programs	196.09	3,500	5.60%
Outreach	300.24	2,200	13.65%
Property	4,905.28	66,810	7.34%
Personnel	36,846.80	318,548	11.57%
Technology	594.91	8,000	7.44%
Worship	929	4,500	20.64
Youth & Young Adult Ministries	51.28	6,000	.85%
Total all expenses	52,007.16	475,738	10.93%



Darlene Isaacs	1
Pat Maguire	1
Emmett Cauthorn	2
Greg Hatfield	2
Jason Lamb	2
Bonnie Crews	3
Kyle Roth	3
Margaret Huffman	4

Renee Samm	4
Justin Webber	4
Billie Weeks	5
Nicole Webber	6
Rebecca Brunner	9
Michelle Doolittle	9
Brooklynn Price	9
Beth Colley	10
Cheryl Slagle	10
Jane Cooper	12
Joe O'Brien	13
Andrew Weber	14
Jacob Kessler	15
Steve Haag	16

Mary Mock	16
Stephen Skinner	18
Roger Williams	18
Richard Schmidtke	20
Jim Brunner	22
Hans Neumann	23
Betty Smarr	23
Paul Gillette	24
Jordan Mitchell	24
Joseph Mitchell	24
Ryan Shopper	24
Linda Sue Galloway	25
Vickie Moore	30
Mark Schnake	30



Spring Retreat

March 26-27
@ Camp Jo-Ota

\$30
(Scholarships available)

Permission forms due back
March 13th

Join us for an overnight at camp.
Food, friends, Bible study, games, campfire, more food and so much more



The Children's Ministry Committee invites all children to our Easter Egg Hunt

Sunday, March 31st @ 10:15 a.m.

If you have a basket or container please bring it with you to Fellowship Hall. We will have extras for borrowing. We hope to see everyone there. It is always a lot of fun!!

NURSERY IS OPEN

Our nursery is now open on Sunday mornings! Infants and children are welcome to come and play during worship and/or Sunday school.

Our new caregivers are Piper & Margaret.

Easter Egg Hunt

We Need Candy!

Donations gratefully accepted at the office.

Wednesday Youth Group
6th grade & up
6:00-7:30 p.m.
First Christian Church

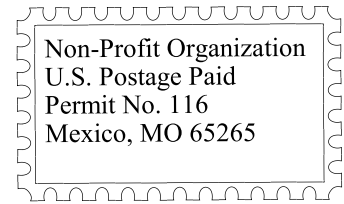
Sunday Night Youth Group
9th grade & up 7:30-9:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church

Help Center

Please bring your plastic grocery bags and egg cartons to the barrel by the office or drop at the Help Center.


First Presbyterian Church

400 Lakeview
Mexico, MO 65265



Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL

2024	March 3	March 10	March 17	March 24	March 31
Liturgist	Jim Dye	Clarissa Cauthorn	Russ Toalson	Lee Dalton	Bob Fenlon
Children's Message	Steve Haag	Lana Parmenter	Micah McNeal	Deb Haag	Teresa Carlson
Flowers	Peggie Kriwiel	Ron & Lori Ray			Layne & Randy Meyers
Ushers	Judy Dye Jim Dye Karen Linnemeyer Mary Creason Stephanie & Bryce Robinett	Nancy Oliver Bruce Oliver Linda Woods Bill Woods Ross Fryer Ali Grace & Emmie Fryer	Pam Miller Stuart Miller Lana Parmenter Paul Parmenter Megan Schutte Fayeth Schutte	Amy O'Brien Joe O'Brien Ron Ray Lori Ray Stephanie & Raigan Robinett	Donna Haerer Bob Fenlon Peggie Kriwiel Whitney Lewis Charleigh Lewis
	Communion Servers Ron Ray Robby Miller Mike Briggs Andrew Cauthorn	Communion Preparer Lee Dalton			Deacon of the Month Lee Dalton