



The MARCH Leaven 2022

Dear Friends,

I am writing this as we are in deep prayer over the conflict in Ukraine. In this issue of the Leaven, I have included a prayer that Presbyterian Ruling Elder Ann Weems wrote in

response. I read it in worship on February 28 and many of you asked for a copy.

I have really enjoyed my first month as your interim pastor. It is clear that you are a very mission minded congregation. You have also missed each other during the isolation of Covid. You have welcomed my family with open arms, and new visitors to our church as well. (My grandson likes your food!!) 😊

It is also clear to me that you were well served by your previous pastor Tim. I give thanks to God for his ministry with you.

The hard work is about to begin as we begin the journey of discernment of where God is leading into your next phase of ministry. Remember, you are not looking for a new pastor; you are seeking your next direction in ministry and then looking for the pastor who will partner with you in that direction.

The Session and I are organizing the first of what will be several opportunities for focused congregational discussions of the church's journey forward. The first opportunities will be during Lent. On both March 27 and April 3, the session will host, after worship, congregational conversation small groups. Please choose one of those two Sundays and stay after church for these small group conversations. Refreshments will be provided.

The conversations will be framed around these focus points: Heritage, Mission, Connection, Leadership, and Future. If you are not able to come to either gathering, we will have a way for you to respond to initial questions we are asking the congregation.

It is the season of Lent which is a good time to listen to the Spirit's movement in your life and in the life of our congregation. I continue to look forward to this journey together.

Peace – Krista

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE - "I NO LONGER PRAY FOR PEACE"

By Presbyterian Elder Ann Weems

*On the edge of war, one foot already in,
I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.
I pray that stone hearts will turn
to tenderheartedness,
and evil intentions will turn
to mercifulness,
and all the soldiers already deployed
will be snatched out of harm's way,
and the whole world will be
astounded onto its knees.
I pray that all the "God talk"
will take bones,
and stand up and shed
its cloak of faithlessness,
and walk again in its powerful truth.
I pray that the whole world might
sit down together and share
its bread and its wine.
Some say there is no hope,
but then I've always applauded the holy fools
who never seem to give up on
the scandalousness of our faith:
that we are loved by God.....
that we can truly love one another.
I no longer pray for peace:
I pray for miracles.*

JUST A REMINDER.....

Krista's office hours will change during the month of March. She has begun her "interim ministry" training and will not be in the office on Thursdays since that is the day of her training sessions. She will be in the office Monday through Wednesday from around 8:30am until 2:15pm. She will be back in the office on Thursdays starting April 14. Krista's phone number is 816-341-4647 and her email address is kristakiger@aol.com.

THE GIFT OF TIME

Continuing with my thoughts from last month when I encouraged members and friends of the church to use some of the time available to us all to pray for the church, its employees and those in leadership, I hope you will spend at least a little time this month thinking of other ways in which you might use some of your time to help the church.

In writing this I am reminded of a recent Sunday morning when Pam Crume, having recognized an undone task that needed to be done, took it upon herself to sweep up the sand that could be found near the west entrance to the church, sand that had been placed there in the wake of a storm that had brought snow and ice, so that it wouldn't get tracked into the building.

Several months earlier when Pastor Tim was still here, likewise having recognized an undone task that needed to be done, Claude Wiedower took it upon himself to organize and rearrange the church's Christmas decorations so that future Hangings of the Green would go smoother.

Someone has suggested to me that the church library in Classroom 8 would benefit from some rearranging, and I am well aware of the need for the leaves that have accumulated on the east, north and west sides of the church to be raked up and disposed of as soon as possible.

What undone tasks are you aware of that could be tackled by someone, maybe even you, which, when completed, would enhance the appearance of the building and grounds or meet an immediate need (e.g., restocking the little pantry)?

Are you available to fill in for Arlene some morning or afternoon? Would you be willing to sit in the nursery and keep an eye on little ones in a pinch? Could you serve as the liturgist some Sunday? These are all questions we need to be asking ourselves.

The time we have been given is a gift from God. How can we best use that time in honoring Him and advancing His kingdom here on Earth?

Rick Nichols, moderator, Faithful Discipleship Committee

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Please join us after worship on either Sunday, March 27 or Sunday, April 3 as we begin the process of discernment for the next phase of ministry for First Presbyterian Church, Leavenworth, Kansas. We will break out into small groups each led by members of the Session and begin to ask questions and ponder where the Spirit is leading. Refreshments will be provided.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP 7:00 p.m.

Lighting last years palms for this year's Ash Wednesday.



PRAYERS

Immediate: Cindy Scircle, Richard and Linda Cooper (Darrel and Margie Holland's daughter and son-in-law), Holly Allen and Family, Lorna Mathison

Ongoing: Joe Hudson, Barbara-Sue Rose, Maria Gordon (Carolyn Tillotson), Twila Corley, Le Thomas, Al Pursell, Brianna Hoffman (C. Scircle), V. Williams (Barbara-Sue Rose), Judy Jahn, Michael Brock (C. Scircle), Mike Graham (Pam Crume), Dana Guanciale (John and Ginnie Strand), Jeanie (Barbara-Sue Rose), Rick Nichols, Margie Holland, Greta Sharp, Gerald Carder, Gregg Scircle, John Garner (Carolyn T.)



MARCH FELLOWSHIP TREATS

March 6 –Circle 5

March 13 –Deacons

March 20-Session

March 27-Choir and Bell Choir

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2-Paul Keeling **5**-Pam Crume **8**-Linda Johnson **14**-Ivana Bowman **15**-Bill Katzenberger
16-Brian Hurt **18**-Howard Kirk **21**-Isabella Bowman **22**-Mike Lemke
23-Marge Grafke-Doby **23**-Shirley Comstock **29**-Kathie Wagner

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

7-Rod and Dru Cox **17**-Carl and Linda Johnson **19**-Jim and Lorna Mathison

MARCH 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Community Meal Meeting Fellowship Treats-Circle 4 9:15 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	28 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 10:00 AM Circle 4 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cody Choraliars	1	2 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service	3	4 Church Office Closed	5
6 Fellowship Treats - Circle 5 9:15 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Worship Committee Meeting	7 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cody Choraliars	8 10:00 AM Circle 3 6:30 PM Circle 5	9 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	10 6:00 PM <i>Session Meeting</i>	11 Church Office Closed	12
 Fellowship Treats-Deacons 9:15 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Mission Committee Meeting	14 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cody Choraliars	15 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM Community Meal	16 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	17	18 Church Office Closed	19 10:00 AM League of Women Voters
20 Fellowship Treats-Session 9:15 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Christian Ed. Committee Meeting	21 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 10:00 AM Circle 4 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cody Choraliars	22 Presbytery Meeting	23 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	24	25 Church Office Closed 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Amateur Radio Testing	26
27 Fellowship Treats-Choir and Bell Choir 9:15 AM Choir Practice 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Congregational Small Group Conversations	28 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cody Choraliars	29	30 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	31	1 Church Office Closed	2