



# FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · March 2019



Lent is a season of the church beginning 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays) in which we are called to repentance, renewal, and recommitment to a life of faith. Prayer, self-denial, and fasting are common practices during this time. To assist you in your observance of the season, we have planned some special opportunities for worship and study.

First, we will be hosting **Lunchtime Lenten Prayer services every Wednesday from noon-12:30**. Each week a different pastor will plan and lead the service. Please attend as often as you can and help us represent our church well to friends and neighbors.

March 6 – Rev. Edie Bird (Ash Wednesday)

March 13 – Rev. Ellen Gurnon

March 20 – TBA

March 27 – Rev. Tyler Tankersley

April 3 – Rev. Renita Green

April 10 – Rev. Karen Dumey

**Beginning the first Sunday in Lent, March 10, we will observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper each week, through Palm Sunday.** We will serve by intinction, asking those who are able to come forward. The *extra special* thing about this is that the Session has approved our children to assist in serving communion (alongside their parents) during this season. Children are also drawing pictures that will be used as bulletin covers each Sunday. Because we have so few children, we want to do all that we can to include them in worship.

**Sunday School for adults will be offered, also beginning March 10, at 9:15 am.** We will be discussing the book, *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study*, by Marjorie Thompson. This is a difficult subject which calls for prayer and repentance, making it an appropriate discipline for Lent. Call or stop by the church office to get the book.

**Sunday, March 31, we will recognize and celebrate our Choral Scholars** – all 4 of whom will be leaving us after this semester. They will be sharing special music with us that day.

**Maundy Thursday, April 18, at 6:00 pm,** we will gather in the Upper Room for a light supper and observance of Holy Communion.

**Good Friday, April 19** (time TBA), we will join with brothers and sisters **at First Baptist Church** for worship.

Grace and peace,

Ellen

## SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

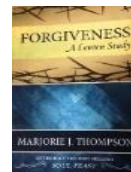
Stated Meeting of the Session February 11, 2019

1. Approved additional dates this summer for youth coding camps being conducted by Codefi and held in our church Fellowship Hall as a church community outreach project.
2. Received Rev. Gurnon's Written Report of Activities from January 13 to February 8, 2019. Included were three visits/calls to members, 12 church/community meetings and activities including a monthly worship service at the Villas in Jackson, MO.
3. Approved Lenten season plans reported by Rev. Gurnon for the Worship & Arts Committee. These plans include: (1) a 30 minute noontime prayer service at our church every Wednesday during Lent conducted by Rev. Gurnon and members of the Ministerial Alliance who volunteer; (2) a 9:15 a.m. adult Sunday School Class beginning March 10 taught by Rev. Gurnon based on the book "Forgiveness" by Marjorie Thompson; (3) a Maundy Thursday service, (4) a Good Friday Service held at First Baptist Church this year with Rev. Gurnon preaching; (5) Communion every Sunday during Lent with the youth of our church assisting; (6) Lenten Bulletin covers designed by our church youth.
4. Approved Donna Pikey continuing her design/production efforts on a historical display about our church to be hung in the Fellowship Hall. Cost not to exceed \$1,500.
5. Approved updated job descriptions for the church staff positions of Office Administrator and Bookkeeper with the goal of them being cross-trained so each is able to cover for the other 100%.
6. Treasurer Wiles reviewed the monthly financial report and noted we are still in a solid position with total assets of \$ 948,386.72 even though we have passed the point of paying for our annual expenses with annual pledges and nonpledged income and other donations.
7. It was suggested another appeal for voluntary Per Capita payments by members should be made through a letter to the Congregation, particularly to those nonresident members still on the Roll. Our church is assessed a \$31 fee per member which for 2019 totals \$ 4,495. Per Capita assessments help fund the work of the Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).



### SUNDAY SCHOOL LENT LESSONS

During the six Sundays in Lent the Children's Sunday School Class will meet from 9:15a.m. until 10:15a.m. in their classroom beginning on Sunday, March 10th. The lessons will discuss Ash Wednesday, the meaning of Lent, and Lenten Traditions. The focus will be on activities and projects that show ways to live more like Jesus as we prepare for Easter and The Resurrection by learning about "Forgiveness", "Self-Control", "A Life of Faith", "A Life of Prayer", "Service to God", and "Holy Week". During this time, and Easter Sunday, the children will join us for worship. As part of the children's lessons, watch for the children to help their parents serve Communion.



**Pastor Ellen will lead a Sunday School class during Lent** using the book, "Forgiveness-A Lenten Study." Call or stop by the office to get a copy. The class will meet in the Parlor at 9:15 am beginning March 10<sup>th</sup>.



## SPRING AHEAD!

Don't forget to change your clocks ahead Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.



**Second Tuesday at the Chateau** will meet in the Chateau dining room at 11:00 A.M. on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 for lunch and fellowship. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. Please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 no later than Sunday evening, March 10 if you would like to come so that a table can be arranged to accommodate all of us. All are welcome.



### March Meal-a-Month

Can of Tuna  
Can of Cream of mushroom soup  
Package of noodles  
Can of fruit



### MARCH GATHER, SHARE AND EAT

**Please join us for Gather, Share & Eat on March 17<sup>th</sup>.** Fried Chicken Dinner will be served with potluck.

Last names starting with A-P to bring a dessert and last names starting with Q - Z will bring a salad or vegetable.



**The next meeting of the book club** will be on Thursday, March 14 at the home of Jean Cairns. The book is "The Girl They Left Behind" by Roxanne Veletzos. In April, on the 11<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the home of Ruth Needle and the book is "The More" by Mary Gaitskill. For May, the place is the home of Sandy Wilhelm and the book is "Keeper of Lost Things" by Ruth Hogan. All are welcome and the reading of the book is optional.



### We are currently collecting items for the People's Shelter.

Needs include-  
warm socks, underwear for men (they prefer boxer/brief combo style) any size, Lysol spray, underwear for women- all sizes, bottled water, Sports bras (don't have to be specific fit to work) any size.

You may bring purchased items to the church or donate money for items to be purchased. Please write "People's Shelter" on the memo line of your check to First Presbyterian. Thank you!

### Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

**Paul Farris**, from Daryl Henry

**Sue McNeely**, from Daryl Henry

**Fern Harris**, from Daryl Henry

**Barb Taylor**, from Daryl Henry, Madge Ridings

**Margaret Baker**, from Daryl Henry

## MARCH PRAYER CALENDAR

The Session hopes you will use this 'Prayer Calendar' as we daily pray for each other and some of the mission concerns of our church.

- 1<sup>ST</sup> Mexico
- 2<sup>ND</sup> Cuba
- 3<sup>RD</sup> Nicaragua
- 4<sup>TH</sup> Costa Rica
- 5<sup>TH</sup> Honduras
- 6<sup>TH</sup> El Salvador
- 7<sup>TH</sup> Guatemala
- 8<sup>TH</sup> Betty Sewell (birthday)
- 9<sup>TH</sup> Judy Rueseler (birthday)
- 10<sup>TH</sup> Bryan Harris, Rachel Knapp (birthday)
- 11<sup>TH</sup> Judy Brown (birthday)
- 12<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery de Cristo
- 13<sup>TH</sup> The Presbytery of Grand Canyon
- 14<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of Sierra Blanca
- 15<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of Sante Fe
- 16<sup>TH</sup> Judith Farris (birthday)
- 17<sup>TH</sup> Synod of the Sun
- 18<sup>TH</sup> Synod of the Southwest
- 19<sup>TH</sup> Cimarron Presbytery
- 20<sup>TH</sup> Phillip & Joanna Shaver (anniversary)
- 21<sup>ST</sup> Grace Presbytery
- 22<sup>ND</sup> Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery
- 23<sup>RD</sup> Sheri Mitchell, Ed Kaiser (birthday)  
Bob & Donna Pikey (anniversary)
- 24<sup>TH</sup> Ann Bartlett (birthday)
- 25<sup>TH</sup> Ruby Rice, Ricky Ruditys (birthday)
- 26<sup>TH</sup> Palo Duro Presbytery
- 27<sup>TH</sup> Presbytery of the Pines
- 28<sup>TH</sup> The Presbytery of South Louisiana
- 29<sup>TH</sup> The Presbytery of Tres Rios
- 30<sup>TH</sup> Synod of the Trinity
- 31<sup>ST</sup> Byron & Wyn Ward (anniversary)

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

O God, you created all people in your image. We thank you for the astonishing variety of races and cultures in this world. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of friendship and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

# March 2019

## Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
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