



IT TAKES GRACE...

LESS + GOD = MORE
(MUCH MORE)

The Lord said to Gideon, "You have too many men. I cannot deliver Midian into their hands, or Israel would boast against me, 'My own strength has saved me.'" Now announce to the army, "Anyone who trembles with fear may turn back and leave Mount Gilead." So, 22,000 men left, while 10,000 remained. [Judges 7:2-3]

Gideon was the weakest member of the weakest clan of the weakest tribe in Israel. Actually, they were farmers, not fighters. Even so, he had no problem rallying people to the cause of taking back their land from the Midianites. In fact, it didn't take Gideon long at all to enlist 32,000 men.

Concerned that there were too many soldiers, God told Gideon to whittle down his army. Obedient to the Lord, Gideon first gave all the men who were fearful about fighting the Midianites permission to leave. With that permission, 22,000 of the 32,000 walked away. Down to just 10,000 now, God

gave another strange instruction to Gideon: "Take the remaining soldiers down to the river, to allow them to drink the water. Any of them who lay down their weapons and cup their hands to drink (like gentlemen) will be disqualified. But those who lap up the water like dogs will stay and fight (good soldiers never abandon their swords)."

When all was said and done, Gideon's army was only 300 men. BUT the ones who were still there were the true warriors – fearless, rugged, and ready to defeat their enemy... And that is exactly what they did.

My point in sharing this with you is to remind us all that in God's Kingdom, less can be more! We don't need to be the largest church in town, we don't have to have the most influential people in the community, in order to radically share God's love and reflect His glory in Hopkins County. Hundreds of new people coming to our church would be impressive. But if everyone

already on the rolls showed up fearless and ready for the task, there's no question of what we might accomplish in Jesus' name.

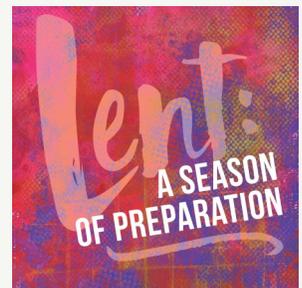
The more modest the vessel, the more God's power and might are revealed through it. His strength would be proven in what appears to be our weaknesses. There is no telling what the Lord will do through you and through us. Blessings,
RevLon

LENTON SEASON

March is directly in the midst of the Lenten Season this year. Beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 26, we journey through the season until Holy Week, beginning on April 5 with Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and

Easter on April 12. More information about the individual services will come later, but we sure hope everyone takes advantage of this season of reflection and celebration. If you'd like to sign up for our Good Friday

Prayer Vigil at the church you'll be able to sign up beginning February 26 at our Ash Wednesday worship service





HAVE THE ATTITUDE OF CHRIST

“Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. Don’t be selfish; don’t try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. Don’t look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal’s death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Philippians 2:1-11
 As we approach Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent this scripture from Paul’s letter to the Philippians helps focus our attention. He was encouraging a group of people that had suffered persecution for their belief in Jesus. Paul was also reminding them that the ultimate sacrifice was made by Jesus and their current situations paled in comparison to the future glory they would receive. Not to leave out the promise that they were not alone but were connected to God through Jesus and had the presence and power of the Holy Spirit with them.
 We have the great privilege of having received grace, unmerited favor and undeserved merit, for doing nothing to earn it. Let that sink in a bit as we consider those things we give up during Lent. Isn’t Jesus calling us to live a life that celebrates what we’ve received? So as we consider the sacrifices we make during Lent, let’s consider focusing more on what we have in Christ Jesus. He has raised us to a new life, given us right standing with God, freed us from the slavery of sin, imparted to us love, joy,

peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.
 “For God in all his fullness was pleased to live in Christ, and through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault” Colossians 1:19-22
 God is good, all the time! And all the time, God is good!
 In Christ’s Love,
 Rob, Romans 12



YOUTH NEWS



Youth News

Thanks for all the ways you support our Youth Programs at FPC! If you’re a Kroger shopper did you know that you could be helping fund our youth groups just by shopping there? The Kroger Community Rewards Program is now tied to your Kroger Plus Card. If you don’t have a Kroger Plus Card, you can sign up for one at any Kroger Customer Service Desk. Once you have your Kroger Plus card, you are ready to register for the Community Rewards Program online. Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com to set that up and look for

First Presbyterian Church Youth. You can also go to our church website and under the kid’s tab choose Kroger community rewards for detailed instructions. You can also use your Kroger app and go to your account to set that up too. If you need any help please contact Rob and he will get you signed up. Thanks so much!

Please be in prayer for the upcoming Chrysalis #62 March 27-29. Our community is blessed to have this opportunity for our high school students to experience. If

you have someone you know that is at least sophomore through senior in high school that would be interested in attending please see Rob for applications or go to <https://www.madisonvillechrysalis.com/> for forms. Haley Cope from our church will be serving on the team along with Rob too.



Paddling through lent...and life

Lent is a time for restoring balance to our lives. The Eskimos practice balance as they venture into freezing Arctic waters in little boats. If you've ever paddled a kayak, you know how easy they are to tip. Thankfully, kayaks are just as easy to turn back upright.

That isn't a bad image for Lent — or for life as a whole. Whatever spiritual disciplines we adopt, if we succumb to temptation, it's

no biggie. One of the lessons of Lent is that, as long as we're traveling light, it takes only a quick twist of the paddle to right us. That paddle twist might take the form of a quick but heartfelt prayer: "Jesus, set me straight again!" Or it might mean some extra time set aside for quiet meditation with God. Don't get worried if your spiritual discipline fails now and then. Just let Jesus help you get upright once more, and

keep paddling!

—adapted from Carlos Wilton, in *Homiletics*



January 2020 Finances At A Glance

January 2020

Income	\$17,519.83	YTD	
Expense	<u>-\$30,608.87</u>	YTD Income	\$17,519.83
Net	-\$13,089.04	YTD Expense	<u>-\$30,608.87</u>
		YTD Net	-\$13,089.04

<u>Undesignated</u>		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$15,009.60	Income	\$15,009.60
Expense	<u>-\$26,538.03</u>	Expense	<u>-\$26,538.03</u>
Net	-\$11,528.43	Net	-\$11,528.43

<u>Designated</u>		YTD Designated	
Income	\$2,510.23	Income	\$2,510.23
Expense	<u>-\$4,070.84</u>	Expense	<u>-\$4,070.84</u>

Operating Funds

Beginning Balance	\$276,549.17
Ending Balance	\$263,950.85





1st Rick Lee

15th Bob Wilkerson

2nd Jo Shepherd

Tyler Conover

3rd Karla Cates

26th Philip Taylor

4th Dicie Collins

27th Janet Agin

5th Marilyn Coates

Philip & Amy Taylor (A)

6th Brianna Gregory

29th Yvonne Bourland

10th Ed & Becky Moore (A)



12th MaryAnn Thomas

14th Brooks Leasure

March 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2 6PM GB Team Mtgs	3 6PM Session Mtg	4 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	5 Hopkins County	6 Detention Ctr	7 Great Banquet #31
8 	9 6PM GB Team Mtgs	10	11 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	12	13	14
15	16 6PM GB Team Mtgs	17 	18 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	19	20 Girl's Y.E.S.	21
22	23 6PM GB Team Mtgs	24	25 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	26 MCDC	27 Chrysalis #62 Great Banquet #18	28
29	30 6PM GB Potluck	31				

