



FPC Tidings



Website: www.newfpc.com

Special Dates of Interest:

- African-American History Month
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2020
- Presidents Day, February 17, 2020
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 23, 2020
- Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020
- Leap Day, February 29, 2020

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IT TAKES GRACE...

“...I will always love you...”
[Jeremiah 31:3]

I can't think of a promise that gives me more confidence and comfort than this one from Jeremiah, especially considering the setting of Jeremiah's day. He was called by God to warn Judah of God's judgment after years and years of idolatry and rebellion. Jeremiah had one of the most difficult ministries of any prophet and was known as the “weeping prophet” because of his laments over the sinfulness and destruction of a nation once blessed by God. And yet, in the midst of his warning, Jeremiah was reminded of the heart of God for His people – God's everlasting, never-failing love! Despite our sin and failures, we can be assured, too, of God's great promise: “I will always love you!” Centuries after Jeremiah, through a rhetorical question, Paul described the inseparable love of God: “Can anything separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble, suffering, and hard times, or hunger and

nakedness, or danger and death?” [Romans 8:35]

It's easy enough to wonder where God is when we are hurting. Our pain can trick us into thinking that somehow God has abandoned us. Even the heroes of our faith questioned where God was in bad times. King David, who wrote most of the Psalms, cried out, “My eyes fail, looking for my God... Where can I find Him?” [Psalm 42:2] From the other side of the struggle, though, when the smoke cleared, David acknowledged that God had truly been there all along. Rest assured; God does not abandon us.

There are painful times in our lives [self-inflicted, from the hand of others, or just natural or supernatural events] when we feel alone. These are the times God intends for us to claim His promise: “...I will always love you...” Nothing can separate us from the love of God. No matter what you've done, no matter what anyone else may think, God loves you with an everlasting, never-failing

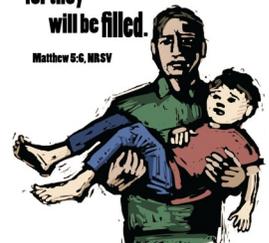
love!

We may not understand the trials of life, but we can always know we are deeply loved by God. By the way, going to church doesn't remove the trials, but it sure is nice to know there's a place where people are willing to hug us and remind us of God's love. As Steve Brown would say, “He wanted me to tell you that.”

Happy Valentine's Day
[And Happy God Loves You and So Do I Day],
RevLon

**Blessed are those who
hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they
will be filled.**

Matthew 5:6, NRSV



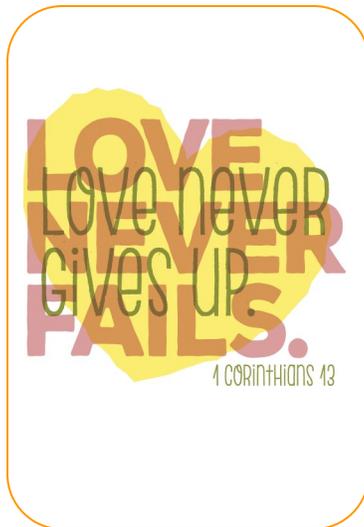


ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP [FEBRUARY 26]

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent – the time leading up to Holy Week [the remembrance of Good Friday and Maundy Thursday, culminating in the celebration of Easter Sunday]. Our service of Ash Wednesday will help us focus on Christ's death and resurrection, the purpose of His coming to earth. Traditions of the

Lenten Season include 'giving up' things that get in the way of our clear focus on Jesus. Traditions also include the 'taking on' of better habits of faith in our walk with Jesus. You are encouraged to take part, and invite others you know, to share in this simple act of worship as we take on the mark of ashes and share holy communion. The

service will be in the chapel at 6:00PM following our fellowship meal at 5:15PM.



In Other Words

We're so accustomed to hearing the Bible's "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13, at weddings and other occasions that we may not really hear its meaning anymore. It can help to listen to something familiar said in different words. What new understandings of love does this paraphrase from *The Message* Bible reveal to you?

"Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always 'me first,' doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of

truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. Love never dies" (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a, MSG).

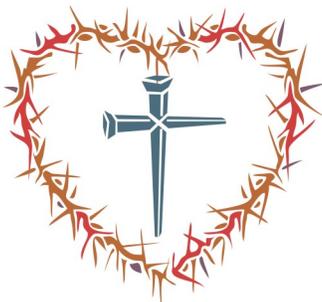
Our Lenten Focus

Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn't to denigrate ourselves or to see

how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus' death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: "The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same

time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less."





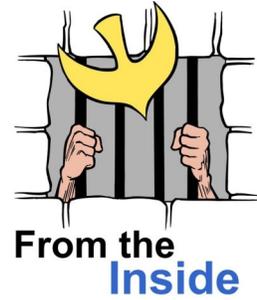
Serving

During my reunion group meeting this week, yes, some of us still have them, a conversation went down a road about how rich a particular family was and how they could do all kinds of great things. I, being he who I am, asked “Do you know if they are going to Heaven or hell? The response was “That’s not up to us, it’s between them and the Lord.” Disappointment fell on my heart. Have we a group of Christ professing men basically saying we are not responsible for others. Charles Spurgeon said: “If sinners be damned, at least

let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.

Most importantly, Jesus said: *“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have com-*

manded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20 New International Version (NIV)
I believe God expects more of us than to be content in our salvation.
On the Inside,
Chaplain Pete



DECEMBER 2019 FINANCES AT A GLANCE

December 2019

		YTD	
Income	\$27,317.81	YTD Income	\$343,082.39
Expense	<u>-\$19,318.22</u>	YTD Expense	<u>-\$287,823.47</u>
Net	\$7,999.59	YTD Net	\$55,258.92

<u>Undesignated</u>		YTD Undesignated	
Income	\$23,346.20	Income	\$257,005.50
Expense	<u>-\$17,836.90</u>	Expense	<u>-\$265,126.54</u>
Net	\$5,509.30	Net	-\$8,121.04

<u>Designated</u>		YTD Designated	
Income	\$3,971.61	Income	\$86,076.89
Expense	<u>-\$1,481.32</u>	Expense	<u>-\$22,696.93</u>

Operating Funds

Beginning Balance	\$270,960.34
Ending Balance	\$276,549.17



- 4th Burl Milligan
- 7th Bettye Riddle
Lyndi Bryan
- 11th Joe Phelan
- 17th Lyndi Bryan
- 19th Susanna Lee
- 20th Jim & Janet Agin (A)
- 22nd Serenity Agin
- 23rd Glori Cope
- 24th Stuart Sherrell
- 25th Folmer Starr
- 28th Tim Lester
Nancy Franklin

February 2020

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Souper Bowl of Car- ing	6PM GB Team Mtgs	6PM Session Meeting	5:15 Fellowship Meal (LWW Fundraiser) 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	6PM GB Team Mtgs		5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	 6PM GB Team Mtgs		5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	6PM GB Team Mtgs		5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> <u>Service</u> 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			 IT'S LEAP YEAR!

Men's Hopkins County Jail #31