



From the Pastor...

February 2024 Newsletter

Peter is a disciple that I sometimes just don't get. He can run hot and cold, one minute being very clear about who Jesus is and the next seeming to have no clue whatsoever. He makes bold actions, like stepping out onto the water, and then hides his identity when he gets scared, denying Jesus when confronted.

This back and forth, wandering around, not being able to choose one course and follow it, is frustrating to me who likes to make a decision and stick with it. And it's also totally true to form for me in my spiritual life. I wish that I was able to make a choice and stick to it, doing those things that bring me closer to God, staying connected at all times. But like Peter, I have all kinds of contradictions in my life, commitments that pull me in different directions, emotions that overwhelm my rational decisions, enthusiasm that pushes me forward and then wains, reducing the effectiveness of the advances that it seems like I have made.

This Lent we will be using Peter as the guide for our journey to the cross. Peter, with all his gifts and faults, can be a mirror for us and our lives. His living with Jesus, trying to be a faithful follower, missing the mark, helps us see our own lives as we seek to be a disciple. As we work to see the journey to the cross through his eyes, his experience, we may gain insights about ourself and our journey of faith. Both the places that we are solid as a rock in our faith and the places that we wander and get lost, needing help to get back on the path.

So, this Lent, let us take time to explore the ways that our lives follow the pattern of Peter and how he follows Jesus, let us take time to see how our hearts wander, let us take time to experience faith in God deepened and strengthened as we journey to the cross and the empty tomb. May we indeed have a blessed Lent.

In Christ, *Will*





BIBLE STUDY

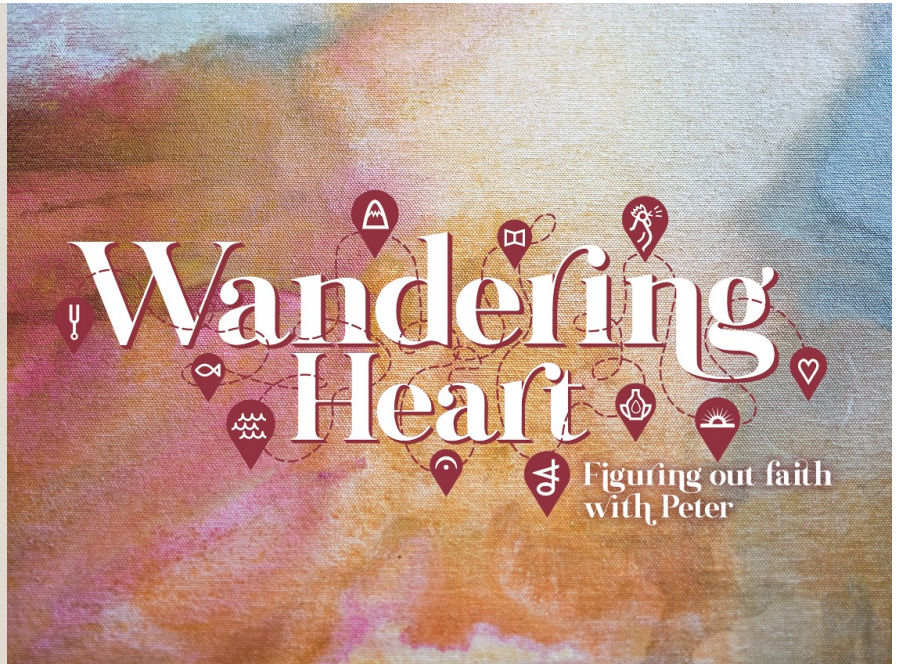
Monday Bible Study

Mondays at 9:45 AM

Join us for a discussion about the coming Sunday's lectionary readings either in-person in Fellowship Hall or watch on Channel 966.

Feb 5	2 Kings 2:1-12; Mark 9:2-9	for Feb 11
Feb 12	Psalms 25:1-10; Luke 5:1-11	for Feb 18
Feb 19	Psalms 22:23-31; Matthew 14:22-33	for Feb 25
Feb 26	Psalms 19; Matthew 16:13-20	for Mar 3

This Lent, we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. In Peter, we see a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out – just like us. As we were studying Peter's faith journey, the lyrics of "Come Thou Fount" came to mind. It's as if Peter himself wrote this song.



And so, for each step in Peter's journey, we have selected a phrase from this hymn. As we follow Peter's story, we will sing our way through Lent, binding our wandering hearts to God. In this series, we want to affirm that faith is a constant journey of steadfast pursuit, one that ebbs and flows, seeks and wanders. We want to affirm that wandering is exploration, not necessarily distance from God. We want to affirm the ways Peter keeps going: he drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps or mistakes.

Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people – in fact, time and again, that's precisely who God claims and calls.

This Lent, we will look for ourselves in the stepping stones of Peter's story. We will reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys as well as who and what has shaped us along the way. As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing.

Like many of us, Peter has a wandering heart. His journey is not polished, or linear, or perfect, but he is always tethered to the love of God. When you look closely at Peter's story, you find Jesus at each step along the way – offering him abundance, catching him when he begins to sink, challenging him when he stands in the way, washing his feet, predicting his betrayal, and offering him agape love. This Lent, we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him; instead, we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes.

- from A Sanctified Art



"Tune my heart" | ASH WEDNESDAY

Tuning fork: A tuning fork is used to tune various instruments to a proper pitch so that all the instruments can play together in harmony. This image represents the Lenten posture of inward reflection and reminds us to make adjustments to get in tune with God's will for our lives and the world.



"Jesus sought me" | THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Fish: Jesus instructs Peter to cast his nets after an unsuccessful day of fishing, and he catches an absurd abundance of fish. Peter doesn't feel worthy of this gift, but Jesus calls him to be a fisher of people all the same. The fish represents God's abundant provision of sustenance and grace, as well as Peter's shift in vocation and calling—from fisher of fish to fisher of people.



"Rescue me from danger" | THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Choppy water: Peter walks out in faith on the choppy waters, and Jesus saves him from sinking. The choppy water lines represent the turbulent waters we all walk through on our journey of faith.



"Praise the mount" | THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Mountain peak: Peter has a moment of clarity and professes Jesus to be the Messiah. Jesus affirms Peter's proclamation by saying Peter is the rock upon which he will build his church and that Peter will be given "the keys of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 16:19). A mountain peak represents this moment of clarity and affirmation along Peter's wandering journey.



Mardi Gras Celebration & Interactive Improv Show

Presented by Interchange Theater Company

Show • Raffle • Games
And more!

February 13, 2024

Calvary Presbyterian Church

Theater entrance:

628 N. 10th St., Milwaukee

Doors open at 6:00 PM.



Street Parking Available

Tickets are \$10.

All proceeds benefit
**Food For The
Journey**

FEBRUARY 2024



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Feb 9-12:30 Office Hours	2 11 AM Jerry Loebe Service	3
4 10 AM Worship - with communion 11 AM Annual Meeting 	5 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 9:45 AM Bible Study	6	7	8 9-12:30 Office Hours	9	10
11 10 AM Worship	5 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 9:45 AM Bible Study	13 6 PM - Mardi Gras Event for Food for the Journey @ Calvary Pres.	14  ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 pm Worship	15 9-12:30 Office Hours	16	17
18 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Session	5 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 9:45 AM Bible Study	20	21	22 9-12:30 Office Hours	23	24
25 10 AM Worship	5 8:30-12:30 Office Hours 9:45 AM Bible Study	27	28	29 9-12:30 Office Hours	1 March	2



We are a connectional church...connected in faith to God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Jesus taught us that prayer connects us to the Divine...and to each other.

Each month we list our faith community. Every family has a date when we ask you to hold them in prayer.

February Prayer Calendar



Birthdays

**The Care and Concern of the
Congregation is with:**

Anniversary Wishes to:

Steve and Marcia Sinner Feb 7
Ken and Diane DeBoer Feb 14

Average January Attendance

In person: 36
Zoom/livestream: 5

Total Average Attendance: 41

FINANCIAL UPDATE - As of December 31, 2023						
			Actual	Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance	
Total Income - YTD			\$156,560.03	\$ 109,595.00	\$ 46,965.03	
Total Expense - YTD			\$168,608.11	\$ 153,268.00	\$(15,340.11)	
Net Income - YTD December 31, 2023			\$(12,048.08)	\$ (43,673.00)	\$ 31,624.92	
Unrestricted Funds as of December 31, 2023			\$358,461.51			

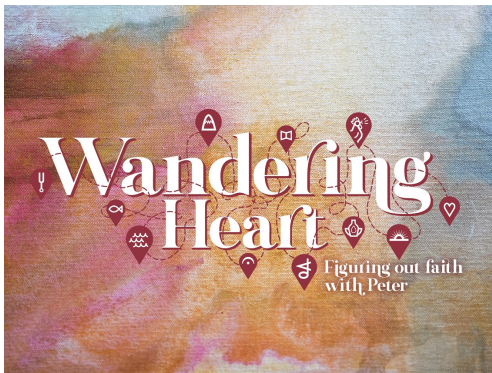


Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesday, February 14

6:30 pm

In person, Channel 966, Livestream or Zoom.
Join us for worship with imposition of ashes
and communion.



Lenten Devotionals and Prayer Cards

Will be available starting Sunday, Feb 4. We are
able to print an exact amount - please sign up
for a Devotional or Prayer Card set if none are
available when you look.



LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Office Hours: Mon and Th 8:30-12:30 (remote email rest of the week)

Clerk of Session: Kathryn Fresch

Treasurer: Steve Sinner

Church Musician: Teresa Ledford

2024 Session Members: Karl Bertram, Michael Brady Joe Fresch, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald,
Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

2023 Deacons: (A-B) Tom Tennyson (C-F) Ann Tennyson (G-K) Diane DeBoer – Moderator
(L-O) Cherie Andrus (P-R) Karen Stephan (S-Z) Mary Dalton and Kathy Mathews