



From the Pastor...

March 2024 Newsletter

The weather this past week definitely has felt like March, but even more so. The wild swings in temperatures and weather almost take your breath away. Sunny and 70 on Tuesday afternoon, then we wake up on Wednesday morning to snow blanketing the ground and 20 degrees. The 50 degree rollercoaster was not welcome.

We've also seen this shifting between extremes this Lent as we have been looking at Peter as an example of our lives. The way he goes back and forth between faith and doubt, bold acts of witness and then seeming to have missed Jesus' point completely, is true for us as well. His enthusiasm for following Jesus is paired with his fear of being associated with him when the stakes are high. If we are honest with ourselves, it is probably pretty similar with us too.

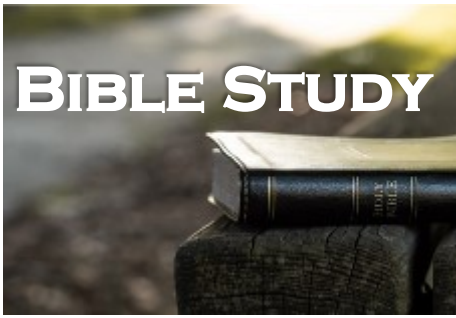
As we come to Holy Week and Easter at the end of this month, we will continue to follow Peter. We will see him join the crowd welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem. We will see him in the upper room and then at the Garden of Gethsemane. We will see the acts of faith and the times where fear and doubt take over. But most importantly, we will see him at the tomb. There Peter is truly a reflection of us. Wonder, confusion, uncertainty, not fully understanding what the empty tomb means. This is who we are, full of complex emotions, struggling with parts of ourselves that pull in different directions. And it is okay. If God can use Peter, God can surely use us. If Jesus called Peter, Jesus calls us as well. If Peter was so full of changes and contradictions, we can be as well, even as we come to Easter.

May the remainder of Lent and the coming season of Easter be times of reflection and deepening our experience of God ever present with us. May we find ourselves welcomed by God, affirmed by God, even gently corrected by God so that we truly can celebrate the Resurrection. May this Easter find all of us, complex as we are, connected more closely to Jesus who knows us more fully that we know ourselves.

In Christ,

The Descent | Rev. T. Denise Anderson
Cotton, applique A Sanctified Art





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.

Mar 4 Matthew 16:21-23; Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 for Mar 10

Mar 11 Matthew 18:15-22; Psalm 119:9-16 for Mar 17

Mar 18 John 12:12-16; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 for Mar 24

We will be off on March 25 and resumes on April 1 (no fooling!)

On the Move



EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM



It is always a joy to see the sanctuary come alive on Easter Sunday with beautiful flowers. If you would like to contribute to this display, please fill out the form below and return it with your payment to the church office by **Monday March 11, 2024**

Lily	\$16 each	qty_____	total_____
Tulip	\$15 each	qty_____	total_____
Hydrangea	\$30 each	qty_____	total_____

Your name: _____ Order total \$_____

Given in memory of : _____

Given in honor of: _____

Plants can be taken home after church on Easter Sunday, or please contact the office to make arrangements. Any plants left at church after Wed, April 3 at noon will be donated.



One Great Hour of Sharing Easter Sunday March 31

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing shares the Matthew 25 vision of eradicating systemic poverty, dismantling structural racism and building congregational vitality. The Living Hope congregation gives generously every year. Thank you for your continued support to all four of our Presbyterian offerings: One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness and Christmas Joy.

Food Pantry Sunday
First Sunday of each month

First Sunday Food Pantry

March 3

April 7

May 5

Please mark any monetary donations "Food Pantry" and they will be split between the two pantries we support. The collection bin is in the church Gathering Place. Thank you for your continued generosity.



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.

March Prayer Calendar



The Care and Concern of the
Congregation is with:

Average February Attendance

In person: 37

Zoom/livestream: 10

Total Average Attendance: 47

FINANCIAL UPDATE - As of January 31, 2024

	Actual	Budget	Fav/(Unfav) Variance
Total Income - YTD	\$ 13,397.10	\$ 10,265.00	\$ 3,132.10
Total Expense - YTD	\$ 10,788.62	\$ 13,865.00	\$ 3,076.38
Net Income - YTD January 31, 2024	\$ 2,608.48	\$ (3,600.00)	\$ 6,208.48
Unrestricted Funds as of January 31, 2024	\$356,067.52		

MARCH 2024



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 3 10 am Worship - Communion, First Sunday Food Pantry

Mondays - March 4, 11 and 18 9:45 am Bible Study

Sunday, March 10 9:15 am Deacon Meeting
10 am Worship - **Daylight Saving - Spring Forward**



Sunday, March 17 10 am Worship
11:15 am Session

Sunday, March 24 10 am Palm Sunday Worship - Deacon "Cookie Sunday"

Thurs, March 28 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday/Good Friday Worship

Sunday, March 31 10 am Easter Worship



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

2024 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