

From the Pastor...

March 2025 Newsletter

There is nothing like the smell and taste of freshly baked bread. The aroma is enough to make your mouth water. The toothy bite into the crust followed by the soft feel of the center of the loaf. I could make a meal of just plain, fresh bread. Every culture has some version of bread, even if it's made with grains other than wheat. Tortilla, naan, pita, steamed buns, injera, breads span the globe and are often a staple of the common diet. Bread is a universal food.

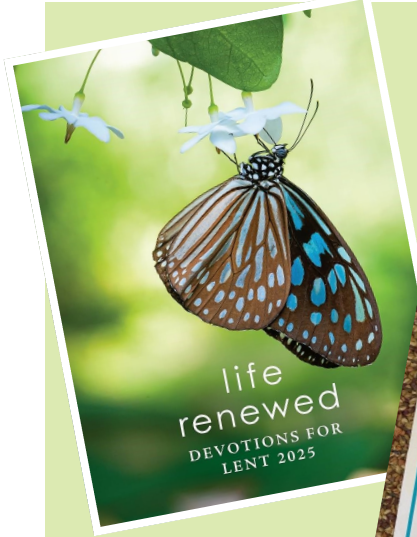
This Lent, we will be looking at how bread is used in the gospels to understand Jesus and what he gives us and the world for sustenance and growth. We will start off Lent on Ash Wednesday looking at how bread does sustain us, but how it is not the only thing that we need to live. During the season we will see how Jesus is the bread of life, how we are given bread to grow and change, how we are given enough for each day and for sharing, how bread creates an invitation to come together with people far and wide, and how bread was central to Holy Week.

My invitation to all of us this Lent is to find ways to connect deeply with the metaphor of bread and see how it provides what is needed to live, and how Jesus used it to show the deeper meaning of growing in him and connecting with God. Consider taking one of the weekly devotionals that reflects on the theme and sit with it during the week, letting God knead your heart. Use our extra worship services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday to leaven your life and allow the Spirit to grow within you. Join us for worship as we feast upon God's Word that gives us life that blooms into eternity.

In Christ,



Ways to Connect Deeply



Lenten Devotionals

This Lenten season we have two devotional options. *Life Renewed* is a daily devotional using old and new testament scriptures, and *Bread of Life* is a weekly devotional that follows our worship theme.

We invite you to take one or the other, or both!

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Savor

Your invitation this week is to **savor**!

How can you practice savoring the sensory delights in your world?

Begin where you are.

When you sit down for your next meal, pause to give your full attention to that first tasty bite.

If the light coloring the clouds, the riff in a favorite song, or the coziness of your favorite pajamas gives your spirit a feeling of fullness, *close your eyes to relish the moment.*

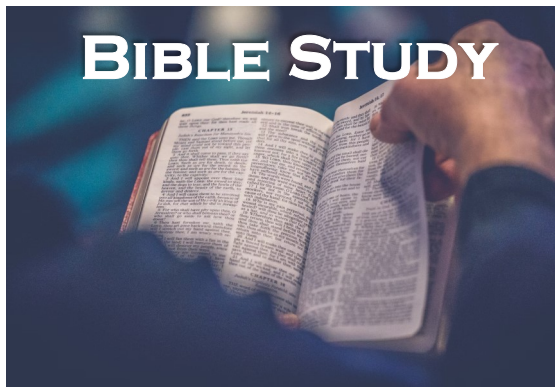
LENT ONE: BREAD OF LIFE



Spiritual Practice and Discussion Questions

Every Sunday of Lent/Easter we will have a bookmark with a Spiritual Practice for the week: Savor | Stretching | Pray | Consider | Welcome | Remember | Feast. Each one has a short meditative thought to ponder or service oriented practice to help others.

We will also be printing the Discussion Questions from the Bread of Life weekly devotional in the bulletins. Find a friend, or several, and listen to each others answers - after church, at lunch during the week, on a weekday phone call - whatever works for you.



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 3	Psalm 34; John 6:25-40	for Mar 9
Mar 10	Psalm 65; Luke 13:18-21	for Mar 16
Mar 17	No Class	
Mar 24	No Class	
Mar 31	Psalm 122; Luke 19:1-10	for Apr 6

Questions about Presbyterians

1st and 3rd Thursdays at 1:30 pm

Our spring Adult Study Series will focus on what does it mean to be Presbyterian. We are using *Presbyterian Questions, Presbyterian Answers* by Donald McKim as our jumping off point for this series.

Mar 6 - God and Jesus Christ

Chapters 3 and 4 [pg 21-36]

Mar 20 - Humanity and Holy Spirit

Chapters 5 and 6 [pg 37-54]

April 3 - Salvation and Church

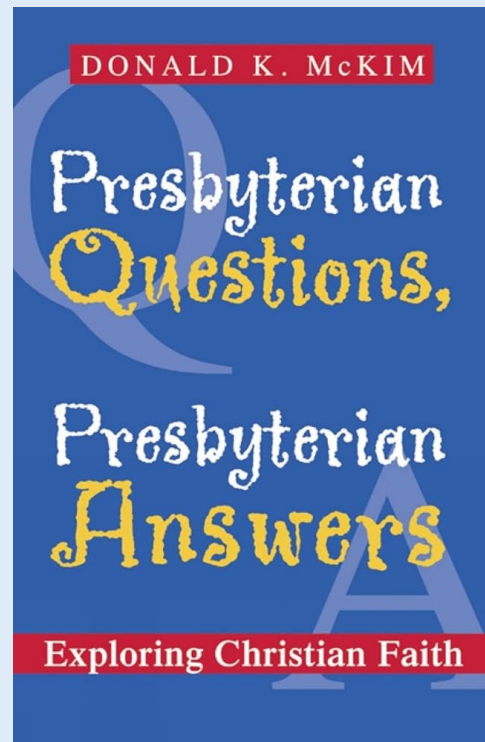
Chapters 7 and 8 [pg 55-70]

May 1 - Worship and Sacraments

Chapters 9 and 10 [pg 71-86]

May 15- Christian Life and Reign of God

Chapters 11 and 12 [pg 87-102]





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



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 **Mon, March 24, 2025**
All colors are assorted.

Lily	\$16 each	qty_____	total_____
Mums	\$17 each	qty_____	total_____
Primrose	\$25 each	qty_____	total_____
Pansy Bowl	\$25 each	qty_____	total_____
Hydrangea	\$30 each	qty_____	total_____

Order total \$_____

Your name: _____

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 22 at noon will be donated.

One Great Hour of Sharing

March 5-April 20, 2025

Ending hunger, repairing after disasters, and promoting the self-development of all people.





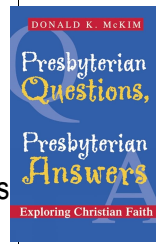


**WE ARE
THERE**

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for justice, resilience, and sustainability.

**PLEASE GIVE
GENEROUSLY.**

MARCH 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 10 AM Worship with Communion 	3 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	4	5  ASH WEDNESDAY 6:30 PM Worship	6 1:30 PM - Questions about Presbyterians	7 	1 8
9 10 AM Worship 	10 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	11	12	13 9 am Finance Meeting	14	15
16 10 AM Worship 11:15 AM Deacon Meeting and Session	17 No Bible Study	18	19	20 1:30 PM - Questions about Presbyterians	21 	22
23 10 AM Worship-Guest Preacher: JP Kastner	24 No Bible Study	For Emergency Pastoral Care Monday Mar 17 thru Thursday, Mar 27, please contact Kathryn Fresch, Cherie Andrus or Karen Stephen.				
30 10 AM Worship	31 9:45 AM Bible Study—CH	1 April	2	3 1:30 PM - Questions about Presbyterians	4 	5



Average February Attendance

In person: 35
Zoom/livestream: 7
 Total Average Attendance: 42

The Care and Concern of the Congregation is with:

Did we miss your birthday
or anniversary? Please let the office
know so we can update our files.

Food Pantry Sundays

Mar 2 Apr 6 May 4

Our food pantry collection bin is now
inside the church office hallway.



FINANCIAL UPDATE - As of January 31, 2025

								Fav/(Unfav)
					Actual		Budget	Variance
Total Income - YTD					\$ 7,771.25		\$ 10,945.00	\$ (3,173.75)
Total Expense - YTD					\$ 15,385.46		\$ 15,526.00	\$ 140.54
Net Income - YTD January 31, 2025					\$ (7,614.21)		\$ (4,581.00)	\$ (3,033.21)
Unrestricted Funds as of January 31, 2025					\$345,663.83			



Bread of Life: Gather Savor Share

The world feels heavy – divided and uncertain. Hearts ache, minds seek peace, and souls hunger for hope. In these moments, many search for a way forward. Amid injustice and tragedies, we remember we must first gather around the table for strength so we can respond with love and grace.

This Lent, let us gather together to break bread, savor the divine generosity of God, and rise to share with the world out of the abundance we have received from the bread of life.

The table is open. Come, be renewed,



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Worship with us Wednesday, March 5

at 6:30 pm

In person, Channel 966, Livestream or Zoom.

Worship with imposition of ashes and communion.

LIVING HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Clerk of Session: Kathryn Fresch

Treasurer: Steve Sinner

Church Musician: Teresa Ledford

2025 Session Members: Karl Bertram, Michael Brady Joe Fresch, Kathryn Fresch, Curtis MacDonald, Mike McBride and Marcia Sinner

2025 Deacons: (A-D) Ann Tennyson
(M-R) Karen Stephan -Co-Moderator

(F-H) Ken DeBoer
(S-T) Martin Gahle

(I-L) Cherie Andrus – Co-Moderator, Secretary
(V-Y) Jan Isbister At Large - Kathy Mathews