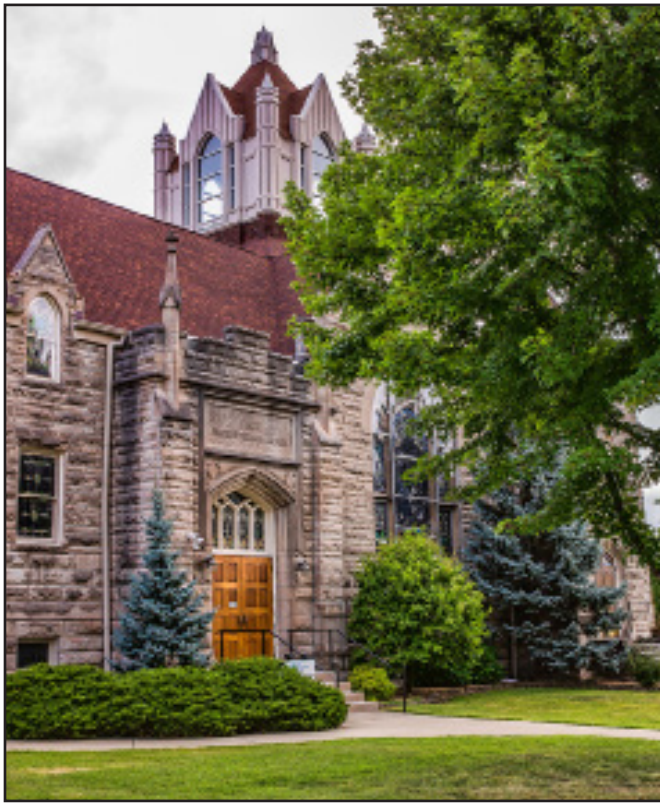


First Presbyterian Church  
221 East Sixth Street at Lincoln  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
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# First Press

*Celebrating Christ and Serving Community*

March 2021 Volume 63, No.3

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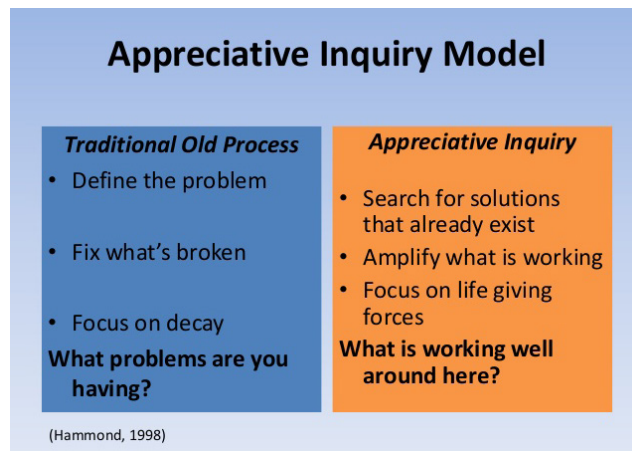
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## “Appreciative Inquiry—More Than Just ‘Positive Thinking’”

I mentioned in a recent email to the congregation inviting participation the “Congregational Questionnaire” that we are using an “Appreciative Inquiry” model. This is likely a new concept to many, so here is some further explanation about the approach:

Many forms of organizational development assume that the job of leaders is to find the problems and fix them. For example, church members may observe that their church has a declining membership, a changing community, and a dearth of young families. Thus, (according to this line of reasoning) church leaders, by “fixing” these problems, should create a new, reenergized way into the future.



However, when this “problem-solving approach” dominates, most discussions are about problems and inadequacies. This is what is called a deficit model. This approach can lead to valuable learning, but it creates the wrong interpretive grid. For instance, it ignores the fact that all organizations (including churches) have significant life forces, and that these forces are available through stories and imaginations. In other words, by discovering the best and most valuable narratives and qualities of an organization, *participants can construct a new way that has the most important links to the past and the most hopeful images of the future.*

It may seem counter-intuitive to some, but this is a much more effective way to address “problems” than the deficit model (it enables an organization to lead with its strengths rather than its weaknesses).

And so, we have begun a four-fold plan of discovery about FPC Bloomington based on the Appreciate Inquiry Model (AI): *Initiate, Inquire, Imagine, and Innovate*. The first two steps, initiate and inquire are designed to introduce the congregation to AI to discover the organizations “best” through its narratives, practices, and imaginations (the tool we are using to accomplish this is the “Congregational Questionnaire”). Then, after questionnaire responses are received, we will start to imagine what might be by interpreting the questionnaire responses and building a consensus of what should be. Finally, we will begin to innovate through discourse, commitment, and equipping, with the largest possible level of participation.

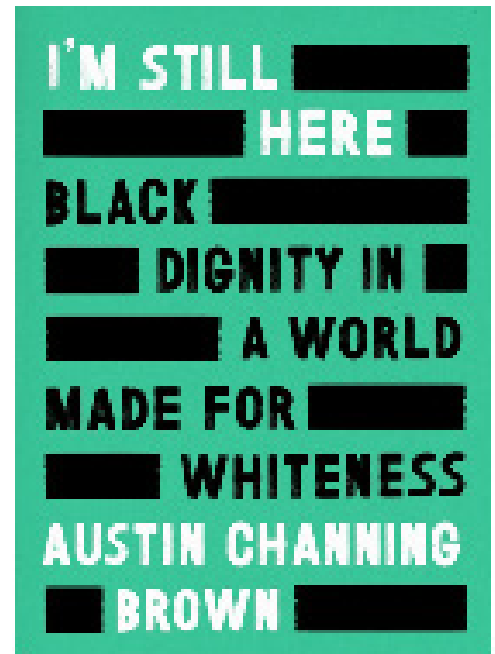
All of this assumes that it is our gratefulness to God and to each other that provides the foundation for all we do. I look forward to helping to lead you through this journey of discovery that will eventually inform the work of the Senior Pastor Nominating Committee (when elected) and help in identifying the needed skill sets, attributes, and leadership strengths future pastoral leaders will need to lead FPC into the future. Your prayerful assistance in all of this is greatly appreciated.

Blessings,  
Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake  
Interim/Transitional Senior Pastor

## Racial Justice Book Review by Pastor Kelley

*I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*  
By Austin Channing Brown

Part memoir, part call to action, Austin Channing Brown's first novel explores her life as a Black woman in America. From her childhood love of the library to maneuvering her way through college and the corporate world, *I'm Still Here* is a delightful read. But don't let that fool you – it still packs some punches. Her call to "justice, then reconciliation" reminds us of the difficult and urgent work that we have ahead of us. Experiencing the world through her eyes made me cringe at times, seeing myself in the well-intentioned people she encountered throughout her life.



One of the pieces that convicted me the most was her reminder was, "Our only chance at dismantling racial injustice is being more curious about its origins than we are worried about our comfort." Far too often, we are trying to preserve ourselves when we do this work. I know I am afraid of embarrassing myself, being ashamed of doing something wrong and at times I let that fear keep me from actually acting when needed. Stepping outside our comfort zone is the only way we will be able to authentically engage in the work of racial justice.

This book will be available in the church library soon, and if you get a chance to read it, please do! And I'm always happy to discuss books or ideas on how to engage in the deeply spiritual work of racial justice.

### Racial Justice Call to Action

Looking for a way to engage in this work? Think about how you are spending your money and which businesses you support. Here are two helpful links to Black owned businesses in Indiana and Bloomington:

<https://indyblackbusinesses.com/>

<https://www.chamberbloomington.org/black-owned-business.html>

## SESSION MEETING NOTES January 10, 2021

### Session Actions:

- The following church officers for 2021 were elected by the Session: Treasurer: Mary McClellan, Financial Secretary: Dave Schwandt, Clerk of Session: Tom Gardner and Commissioner to the Ohio Valley Presbytery: Karen Hahn

### Informational Items:

- The following new Elders were welcomed: Linda Giedroc, Karen Hahn, Sarah Nickel, Deb Prenekert, Joel Schneider, Andrew Swank (youth – one year term) and Jo Ann Main (to serve the remainder of Elena Bya's term).
- Current Elders are: Class of 2021 – Debbi Conkle, Gary Crow, Sarah Harriss, Sandra Tracy and Dan Watts. Class of 2022 – Jean Brown, Randall Burcham, Steve Creech and Nathan Ernest.
- Prior to the regular Session meeting Elders met with Steve Creech and Don Hollinger for a briefing on the City of Bloomington 7 Line Project that will create a segregated bicycle lane on Seventh Street. Don has been meeting with city representatives to work out details regarding access to church property that is affected by the bike project. A compromise that would provide adequate access to and from Seventh St. has been proposed by Don and is under consideration by the city. More on this in the future. Session participated in additional discussion of the project at its regular meeting.
- Rev. Kenefake led a discussion on the mission study to be undertaken in preparation for a search for a new pastor.
- o "The Mission Study is perhaps the most important "Interim Task" that needs to be completed before a Pastor Nominating Committee is elected. It is meant to be (1) a comprehensive evaluation of the church's current mission and ministry and (2) a realistic set of achievable goals that will guide the ministry of the church for the next 3-5 years and serve as guideposts in identifying the skillsets and talents needed in a new Pastor(s)". (Rev. Kenefake)
- Mission Study "tasks" assigned to Session Committees are to be completed by April 11, 2021.

## SESSION MEETING NOTES February 14, 2021

### Session Actions:

- Approved the submittal of the Annual Statistical Report to the Presbytery of Ohio Valley. This report contains membership and financial information that will be published on the PC (USA) website.
- Session decided that a monthly report of Session activity would be beneficial to better inform the congregation about happenings. The Clerk of Session was charged with preparation of the monthly report to be included in the First Press.
- The communion schedule for 2021 was approved.

### Informational Items:

- The Session acknowledged that Cathy and David McFarland have transferred their membership to St. Marks Methodist Church.
- The Clerk reported that the Annual Report to the Congregation 2020 is being formatted for the web and will soon be on the FPC website. All are encouraged to read the report that describes what has been accomplished at FPC even during a pandemic year.
- The Christian Education Committee is beginning to plan for Vacation Bible School for younger children and an outdoor meeting program for youth when the weather improves. Adult education is planning faith forums which will include a book study on spirituality in times of a pandemic and a series of programs revolving around Earth Day. There will be a Lenten series based on the book *Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery* that will be led on Sunday mornings by Rev. Kenefake and Rev. Jepsen during the period of Lent.
- The Outreach Committee is looking for volunteers to staff the Saturday morning breakfast at Beacon Inc./Shalom Center. Please contact Ann Gilbert if you are interested. Winter coats were donated to Wheeler Mission (adult) and the Exodus/Bloomington Refugee Support Network (children's). The spring cleaning drive for Exodus will begin in March.
- The Property Committee reported that electrical usage for 2020 was down 62% primarily the result of closing the building. A new controller system for HVAC has been installed. Cost of the installation was supported by a gift from Julie King in memory of her husband Jack. New audio visual equipment that will make it possible to live stream worship services has been installed but it will be some time before it is ready for services.
- The Small Group Committee reported that some small groups such as the congregational prayer group led by Sherry Schwandt, Theology on Tap, and one Emmaus group are continuing to meet virtually. A group meeting around the C.S. Lewis book *Letters to Malcolm Chiefly on Prayer* is coming to an end. Presbyterians Outdoors plans to resume in March.

<b>Report of the Treasurer</b>		
January 31, 2021		
<b>General Fund</b>		
<b>Balance on Hand January 1, 2021</b>		\$0.00
<b>Income</b>		
Prepaid pledges for 2022		
Current pledges and contributions of record	35,717.00	
Future pledges and contributions of record	-	
Prior pledges	-	
Plate Offering	-	
Building Use Income	-	
Miscellaneous, Reimbursements, Transfers	21,635.73	
Bank Interest	1.06	
Ledger entries		
<b>Total Receipts</b>		57,353.79
<b>Disbursements</b>		
Payroll	(29,735.53)	
Non-payroll GF	(8,806.96)	
Other GF Checks/Disb (includes fund transfers, non budgeted items)	(2,863.99)	
<b>Total Disbursements</b>		(41,406.48)
<b>Balance on Hand January 31, 2021</b>		<b>\$15,947.31</b>
<b>Special Funds, Balance on Hand January 31, 2021</b>		<b>\$82,679.29</b>
<b>Endowment (New Covenant Funds): Balance on Hand January 31, 2021</b>	\$ 88,281.84	
<b>Reserve Fund January 31, 2021</b>	\$ 62,156.52	
<b>Campaign Fund January 31, 2021</b>	\$ 64,381.53	
<b>Campaign Fund Mortgage Balance (monthly payments: 4,934.50, )</b>	\$ (222,870.14)	4.97%
<b>Parking Lot Fund January 31, 2021</b>	\$ 70,992.44	
<b>Parking Lot Mortgage (monthly payments: 2,413.99)</b>	\$ (211,346.51)	2.75
<b>IUCU CD (13 month APY: 2.5%)</b>	\$ 10,343.36	
<b>IUCU CD (13 month APY: 2.5%)</b>	\$ 31,030.18	
<b>IUCU CD (13 month APY: 1.5%)</b>	\$ 50,618.16	
<i>Mary C. McClellan</i>		
Treasurer		



## Announcements

Join Pastor Kelley and Sherry Knighton-Schwandt on the first and third Thursdays of each month for a time of corporate prayer. In February, we will gather on March 4 and 18 at 12:00 noon on zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97299207915?pwd=c0RjSnFvL1lrSi9seHlIK05ZVXRTUT09>

Meeting ID: 972 9920 7915

Passcode: 601375



Please reach out to Pastor Kelley ([kelley@fpcbloomington.org](mailto:kelley@fpcbloomington.org)) if you have any questions or prayer concerns!



Each spring, for the past two years, we have filled over 10 buckets of cleaning supplies for refugee and asylum-seeking families served by Exodus Refugee Immigration in Indianapolis and Bloomington Refugee Support Network locally. This year, due to coronavirus concerns, the drive will be for checks rather than actual supplies. Please do not hesitate to write a check for any amount, no matter how small.

\$5 will purchase 5 bottles of dishwashing soap or window cleaner.

\$10 will purchase 5 good broom and dustpan sets.

\$30 will purchase 3 good floor mops.

Please make your check out to First Presbyterian Church, with "Exodus supplies" on the subject line, and send it to church by March 17.

**Your generosity extends welcome and hope to these new arrivals in our country.**

## Adult Education in February

Spring is coming, believe or not. And participating in adult education opportunities is a great way to welcome in springtime. Commit to supporting your faith journey by engaging in at least one of these offerings.

### **Lectionary Bible Study—Every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm.**

This ongoing class gives you the opportunity to delve deeply into the Lectionary passages for the previous Sunday and be part of a supportive, energetic group. The class discusses Bible passages based on the weekly Revised Common Lectionary and uses the curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*, to enrich the study. Volunteers take turns leading the spirited discussion.

- No prior Biblical knowledge is necessary
- You do not have to take a leader role
- Not necessary to attend every session.

The class meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm through Zoom.

Zoom link and Passcode (**NOTE: you may need a passcode to enter the meeting**)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82820692230?pwd=c016Y0w4eUFUT1BPMEpBRmNiTVFDdz09>

Meeting ID: 828 2069 2230

Passcode: 082786

### **Faith Forum:**

#### **Book study: Walter Brueggemann's Virus as a Summons to Faith:**

**Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Uncertainty. Led by Rev. David Rosen. Thursdays for five weeks, beginning February 25 at 7:30pm.**

Much of our conversation during the last almost one year have centered on the medical issues of the COVID-19 virus. While this is understandable, the virus has spiritual implications around the loss, grief, and uncertainty many of us feel during this period. Walter Brueggemann, an outstanding Old Testament scholar and a professor emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary enriches our reflections of how Old Testament teachings bring to this pandemic a deeper understanding of our relationship to God and to each other. Rev. David Rosen, an ordained Presbyterian minister, a student of Brueggemann, and an active partner with us at FPC will lead this discussion. The book study will meet once a week for five weeks, beginning on Thursday evening, February 25 at 7:30pm but you can join anytime. The group meets via zoom.



Brueggemann's book can be purchased through Amazon (either paperback or Kindle) or other book outlets.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85616277112?pwd=T09naVVwd3NCZVh1dkc5VS9LUk1HUT09>

Meeting ID: 856 1627 7112

Passcode: 202457

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,85616277112#,,,,\*202457# US (New York)

+13017158592,,85616277112#,,,,\*202457# US (Washington DC)

## Koinonia Circle

We invite all church women to join the only circle that meets most months during the evening on the second Tuesday at 7:00. This year because of Zoom, we have been able to meet in the winter months and hope to continue meeting that way when it is dangerous for driving. **If you'd like to join this circle, please contact Gail Dunning, gdunning45@sbcglobal, to be added to our Google Group.**

We are a service/support/social circle that supports FPC mission trips and organizes and hosts the Christmas Store/Auction, not only providing a Christmas shopping opportunity for our children, but also providing Christmas presents for the children of Posoltega with our proceeds. On a continuing basis we have generated enough funds to send \$1000 to our sister church, as well to make local donations to MCUM, Middle Way House, Salvation Army and New Hope.

The store was a challenging project last year, but we managed to surpass our goal and make the customary donations. **We thank you so much for making that happen by generously donating and purchasing sale items.** Looking forward to more customary activities as COVID recedes.

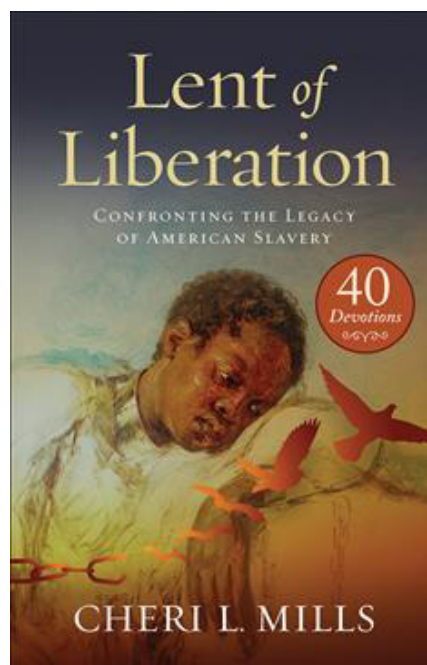
# LENT OF LIBERATION

## A Lenten Sermon Series + Sunday Study

First Presbyterian Church invites you to join us Sundays in Lent for our sermon series: Lent of Liberation.

We will be using Cheri L. Mills' devotional book *Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery* as our basis, weaving in the Scriptures and taking this holy time for reflection on the history of slavery.

After worship on Sundays (10:00 a.m. on [fpcbloomington.online.church](http://fpcbloomington.online.church)) we invite you to gather for further reflection and study on zoom. The details can be found below.



### **Lent of Liberation Study**

Time: Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dates: March 7, 14, 21, 28

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99527078857?pwd=TTF2cHVjbzFpc2N5NWlvUWR0cUFHUT09>

Meeting ID: 995 2707 8857

Passcode: 955949

“Lent is a time for personal reflection as we march toward Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. The forty days of Lent are to remind us of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and praying, practicing self-denial to commit himself fully to the will of God. This time was a prelude to his great Galilean ministry, in which he would say “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (Matt. 16:24). . . . Lent is a time of denial, but not denial of the truth—the spirit of Lent must lead us to confront the legacy of American Slavery head-on if we are to overcome the centuries of White privilege at Black expense.”

—Cheri L. Mills, *Lent of Liberation*, p. xiii

## Drive-through coffee anyone?



We still cannot gather in Lyman Hall for coffee, but we can gather outside in the parking lot, buy bags of fairly traded Equal Exchange organic coffee, tea, and chocolate, and help support small scale farmers and our own church's ongoing projects in Posoltega, Nicaragua.

**Sunday, March 7, in the FPC parking lot 12:00-12:30,  
or call for free delivery to your front porch any time.**

Contact Debbi Conkle at [debbiconkle@gmail.com](mailto:debbiconkle@gmail.com) or 812-333-1712.

1. Place your **order before coming**. See contact info above.
2. Write checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church**, with "Coffee" on memo line, or have exact change.
3. **Drive through the church parking lot between 12:00 – 12:30, on Sunday, March 7.** Please wear a mask. There will be no direct hand-to-hand transactions. We will place items in your car, and you can place payment in a box. If the weather is nice, people may want to stay and visit with others.
4. If you prefer delivery to your home, let Debbi know.

**Coffee \$10:** Breakfast Blend Drip, Organic **Decaf** Drip, Breakfast Blend BEAN, Café Nica French Roast BEAN (dark)

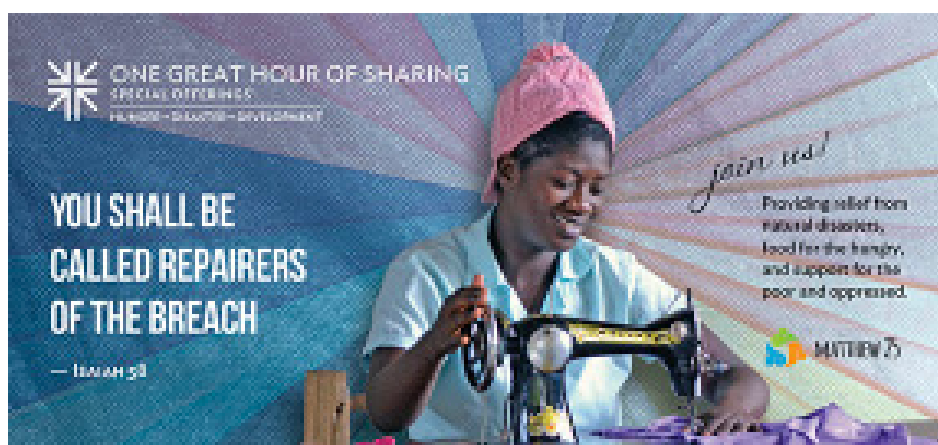
**Coffee \$12:** Sisters' Blend Drip (1 lb.)

**Tea \$4:** English Breakfast, Earl Grey, Chai, Green, **Decaf** English Breakfast, Ginger Caffeine free, Peppermint Caffeine free, Rooibos Caffeine free

**Chocolate bars \$4:** Panama Extra Dark (80%), Very Dark Chocolate (71%), Dark Chocolate w/ mint crunch (67%), \*(**new**) Dark Chocolate w/ Orange 65%, Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch w/ sea salt (55%), Dark Chocolate w/ Almond pieces (55%), Dark Chocolate w/ Whole Almond & Sea Salt (55%)

**Cocoa \$6.50** (**only 3 cans left of each**): Organic Baking Cocoa Mix (8 oz.), Organic Hot Cocoa Mix (add water) (12 oz.)

*Thank you!*



Received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. **In fact, One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work toward a better world.**

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees. (Receives 32% of funds raised)

Presbyterian Hunger Program takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. (Receives 36% of funds raised)

Self-development of People invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues. (Receives 32% of funds raised)

Sarah Nickel, the newest member of our Outreach Committee, will provide a Minute for Mission on Palm Sunday, March 28. In the meantime, if you wish to learn more about how your donations help, visit the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA) One Great Hour of Sharing site - <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

Here at First Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, we receive offerings throughout the season of Lent and send them in together as one special gift after Easter. This includes the offerings made by our children placing their coins in their fish banks. Last year, your generous donations totaled \$2,280 – thank you! We hope that you will again consider giving generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

Please mail checks made out to First Presbyterian Church, with OGHS on the memo line, or go to <https://www.fpcbloomington.org/> and click Give Now, listing OGHS in the Notes.

First Presbyterian Church 221 E. Sixth Street, Bloomington, IN 47408

## March 2021 - Who Cares? by Pat Stackhouse

We know when we feel joy, when we feel sadness; there is always someone we can turn to. That is of course God. God cares for us above all others. But we need people on earth to care also.

Many people find that source lacking.

For instance, I am reminded of a young man who was threatening to jump from the Brooklyn Bridge to the depths of the water below him.

A team of psychologists tried to talk him out of it by telling him,

“There is a better way out,” but he was determined to end his life. Finally, one of the psychologists asked him, “Why do you want to die?”

He answered, “Because no one cares.”



The story did have a happy ending as one of the on lookers shouted sincerely, “Will you come down and have dinner with me?” The man looked surprised, seeing someone cared and came down from his perch from when he had threatened to jump.

This is not a lengthy, but a powerful story. We don’t know how many people are feeling, “No one cares.” They may not threaten to end their lives as this man did, but may be feeling miserable and think, “Does anyone care?”

How can you show you care? Think for a moment.

Have you ever thought of asking a lonely person out for lunch? Maybe you could visit that person in the nursing home who has no family or one who has few visitors.

What about sending a note or making a phone call to perk up someone’s spirits.

I bet you know someone who could use a friend.

Yes, you may be busy, but please don’t let that stop you. Take time for someone else. That’s what it’s all about.

Let someone know you care. God may be guiding you toward someone. You don’t know where you might come in contact with that person. But be assured of this. God will bless you over and over in many ways if you show him you care.

## Baked-in Global Warming It's Getting Hot, Hot, Hot

By Allan Edmonds & Norm Holy

It's time to hit the brakes. The latest report from thousands of sites around the world is now in. Despite pandemic-related reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, 2020 was another record hot year for the world over all. Even La Niña, which has a cooling effect, didn't help much. Last year tied with 2016 as the hottest year in the modern record, which was actually fueled by El Niño warming effects.

Weird, unusually cold winter weather does not mean anything for longer term trends, either.

Currently we are at about 1.25 degrees C above pre-industrial levels.

Do you remember that the goal of the Paris Climate Accords was to keep the increase below 2 degrees C? Some climate scientists had even dared to hope we could limit the increase to 1.5 degrees, which seems virtually impossible now.

Climate scientists continue to refine their models and it appears increasingly likely that we will crash through the 2 degree C barrier no matter what we do in the coming years. The problem is that the most important greenhouse gases stay in the atmosphere for a long time. The current best estimate is that the carbon dioxide and methane already emitted will push global temperatures to about 2.3 degrees Celsius (4.1 degrees Fahrenheit) of warming since pre-industrial times, even if we magically stop emitting these pollutants today.

It is as if we are hurtling down the highway at high speed and then easing our foot off the gas. Even if we were to stop emitting carbon into the atmosphere today, actually hitting the brakes, we'll still be heating up the earth for decades.

We as a society will have to deal with much disruption. Hold onto your hat! We have a wild ride ahead.

Reference links:

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/ninonina.html>

<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/371/6527/334> 2020 temps

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/warming-already-baked-will-blow-climate-goals-study-finds-rcna216>





3/1 - Joe Harrell, Evan Darling

3/3 - Hank Ruff

3/5 - Tom Gardner

3/6 - Julie Farris

3/7 - Nona Melton

3/8 - Steve Schechter

3/10 - Dick Darling

3/12 - Jim Coppedge, Clara Voskuil

3/14 - Ann Schechter, Wes Ratliff, Cooper Harriss

3/15 - Wendy VanderZee, Garth Goodlett

3/19 - Nancy Gettinger

3/20 - Hana Elliott

3/21 - Carol McGregor, Bill Adams

3/22 - Ginny Coombs

3/25 - Dana Holy

3/27 - Eric Swank

3/29 - Bill McGregor, David Burkhart

3/30 - Sue Connell

# MARCH 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom) 1	7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm 8pm Bible Study (Zoom) 2	7:30pm Deacons Meeting 3	5:45pm Outreach Committee 7:30pm Book Study (Zoom) 4	5	6
10am Worship Service (Communion) 7  11am Children Choir	8	7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm 8pm Bible Study (Zoom) 9	10	7:30pm Book Study (Zoom) 11	12	13
10am Worship Service 14  11am Children Choir	7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom) 15	7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm 8pm Bible Study (Zoom) 16	17  St. Patrick's Day	7:30pm Book Study (Zoom) 18	19	20
10am Worship Service 21  11am Children Choir	22	7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm 8pm Bible Study (Zoom) 23	24	7:30pm Book Study (Zoom) 25	26	27
10am Worship Service 28  11am Children Choir	29	7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm 8pm Bible Study (Zoom) 30	31			