

GRAPEVINE

"The Pastor's Page" February 7, 2018



Ash Wednesday Worship

**February 14th
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.**

In the *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* (Geneva Press, 2003, 109-110), we read:

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes— placing a cross on one's forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19) are repeated again and again. We are to remember that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter.

Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one's faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

Trusting in the "accomplished fact" of Christ's resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church's Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed "on the way" to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of *metanoia* ("turning around"), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.

See you in worship on Ash Wednesday as we begin the journey toward the cross and beyond. Together we will realize our finiteness and God's greatness. Together we will partake of Communion & have the choice to receive the imposition of ashes. Together we will worship.

Inside

- Who is a Greeter?
- Adult Sunday School Classes
- Lenten Devotional
- Dinner for 7 or 8
- Spring Women's Retreat
- Course for Personal & Spiritual Growth
- Combined Worship
- Buz Myers Lenten Series
- PW Circles
- Hershey Park Tickets
- Different Way of Donating
- Troop 73 Spaghetti Dinner

Lou

Bev Weber, a member of the Welcome Committee, and a true “people magnet,” shares her answer to the important question our committee wishes to pose to the congregation :

WHO IS THE GREETER?

Did you say “the people who stand by the door with the Ask Me buttons ? WRONG!!!

The greeter is the one who says hello to those sitting in nearby pews.

The greeter is the person who talks to the person sitting alone in Fellowship Hall.

The greeter notices when someone hasn't been to church for a few weeks and gives them a phone call just to “touch base.”

The greeter welcomes and invites visitors to have coffee in Fellowship Hall after the service.

So, who is the greeter?



The correct answer is: **YOU!**

Now put on your best GPC smile and start greeting!

Dear GPC,

We are so appreciative for your thoughts and prayers. What a meaningful visit from Rev. Dave while I was in the York Rehabilitation Hospital.

I continue to improve with time, physical therapy, and prayers.

Gratefully,

Linnette & Dan Murray

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Happy Birthday
to Art Pore
who turns 90
on February 25th

Communion Bread Change

Previously, all bread used for communion at GPC was gluten-free. A recent survey found that very few people require gluten-free bread, so beginning on Sunday, March 4, 2018, we will have regular bread for communion, but will offer gluten-free wafers as a communion option. Prior to distribution of the elements, those wishing to receive the gluten-free wafers will be asked to raise their hand. The plate of gluten-free wafers will be brought to them at their seat.



If the Sacrament of Communion is served by Intinction, as will occur each month at the 9:30 a.m. Contemporary worship service and during the Ash Wednesday Noon, February 14, 2018 service, those wishing the gluten free option will be asked to come forward first, before the other congregants, to receive the elements to avoid cross-contamination.

Upcoming Events:



GPC 2018 SPRING WOMEN'S RETREAT

FLUNKING SAINTHOOD: *Living life in the Spirit with Courage, Compassion and Creativity!*

Women of all ages are invited for an uplifting day of spiritual renewal and encouragement in the journey of faith. Our theme will focus on ideas from the book "Flunking Sainthood" by J. Riess and Jesus' words in Matthew 22: 37-39 calling us to love God and neighbor with heart, soul and mind.

This will be a relaxing day including study, conversation, worship, food, friendship, and laughter. We will be exploring creative ideas and activities for growing as human beings aspiring to be "saints" in the family of faith!

Our retreat facilitator will be Rev. Candace Veon-Nyiri. Invite a Friend!

WHEN: Saturday, April 14, 2018
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
WHERE: The Lodges
COST: \$40.00
Scholarships are available - see Cheryl Betts.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 1, 2018

HIGH SCHOOL FELLOWSHIP February

February 11	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
February 14	6:45 a.m.	Lenten Breakfast Begins
February 18	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
February 21	6:45 a.m.	Lenten Breakfast
February 27	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship

MidSHIP Schedule February

February 11	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship
February 14	6:45 a.m.	Lenten Breakfast Begins
February 18	4:00 - 8:00	Sky Zone Trip
February 21	6:45 a.m.	Lenten Breakfast
February 27	5:30 - 7:00	Dinner & Fellowship

Combined Worship Service & Reception!!

We will all worship together
at 10AM
in the sanctuary on
Sunday, Feb. 11.

No Sunday School, but we will offer
Children's Church ages 3 - grade 3.

PW CIRCLES

Elizabeth Circle

Monday, February 19, 1:00 p.m.
Paideia House - 1st floor
Leader: Joan Pore
Hostess: Jean Holder
Lesson 6: Hebrews 2: 10-18
10:34-35 and Mark 8:31-38

Mary Martha Circle

Thursday, February 8, 5:00 p.m.
Eisenhower Lounge at GPC
Lesson 6

Esther Circle

Thursday, February 15, 9:30 a.m.
Eisenhower Lounge at GPC
Lesson 6



REACH Workcamp Meeting

February 11, 2018

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

in the MacAskill Room



Plan on joining us at this meeting if you are a high-schooler having completed ninth grade and are interested in going to South Carolina June 15 - 23, 2018

Combined Worship Service And Reception!

THIS Sunday, Feb. 11 at 10AM. No Sunday School, but children's church for those ages 3 – grade 3. If you are able to park off-site on our property along Wall Alley or at the elementary school, that will help those who need to be closer to the entrance to find a space in our lot. We'll run a shuttle van to the elementary school.

Come and enjoy worshipping with the whole congregation!

The Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 14 will be held at 12:00 noon in the sanctuary.



It will include the Lord's Supper and Imposition of Ashes. If you could serve as a greeter/usher for this service, please contact Rev. Nyiri or sign up in Fellowship Hall.

"God Moments" Lenten Devotional Guides

Members of our congregation have written daily devotionals based on their own "God Moments!" They are available in Fellowship Hall beginning on February 11. They also tie into the Lenten preaching series on "God Moments."

Condolences

Our thoughts and prayers are with:

- Dave & Melany LaRochelle on the recent death of Melany's aunt.
- Andy Farkas on the recent death of his father.

8-WEEK COURSE FOR PERSONAL AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Begins April 8th @ 11:00 a.m.

What is the church, really? At least one answer to that question is this: The church is the body of Christ on earth. Paul wrote, "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27).

The Holy Spirit has given each of us unique gifts to carry out God's work in the world. It is not necessarily easy, however, to discover our gifts or to develop and use them effectively. That's why our congregation is offering the course "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts."

Where do you fit into Christ's body, the church? The answer lies in the unique gifts God has given you. This course will provide a renewed understanding of who God created you to be and God's design for Christian community. Participants will find clues to their spiritual gifts in the "Haugk Spiritual Gifts Inventory" and other gifts discovery activities. They will then explore opportunities to further develop and use their gifts in the congregation and community.

You must attend all 8 weeks. Sign up in Fellowship Hall. Course fee- \$17

Hershey Park Tickets

Thinking of going to Hershey Park this summer? Want to buy tickets at a cheaper rate? We've got the answer for you! You can order and buy tickets through the church group rate. These tickets can be used ANY DAY of the 2018 season. The rates are:



\$29.95 for AGES 3 - ADULT (regular rate is \$67.80)

You may order these tickets by signing up in Fellowship Hall on February 11, 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25. FINAL DATE TO SIGN UP & PAY FOR THESE TICKETS IS PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25. Please make checks out to "Gettysburg Presbyterian Church." There will be no refunds for tickets not used. You do not have to be a church member to participate. Thanks!!

Stephen Ministry



All Alone?

Don't be. God doesn't want us to be all alone. He wants us to turn to others when things are both-ering us. Stephen Ministers will walk with you through your troubles and be there for you when you need them. Please contact Lou at the church office 334-1235.

Did you know that

Lower Marsh Creek Presbyterian Church
has called a new pastor,
Rev. Mark Englund-Kreiger,
who will start his ministry there in March.
You may recall that Mark previously served
as our Presbytery Executive.
Congratulations to both Mark
and Lower Marsh Creek!

NEED A RIDE?

If you are having trouble attending church services and/or church functions due to not having transportation, let the Deacons help you. We are only a phone call away. The transportation Deacon for January 8-February 11 is Pat Lowe at 717-337-9903 and February 12 - March 11 is Kelly Jones at 717-752-0668.



CHARLESTON, SC MISSION TRIP – Interest Meeting

April 22 -28, 2018

For those who might have a desire to find out more about this wonderful opportunity to serve others, obtain experience in building a home and having some fun please stop by our table in Fellowship Hall on Sunday March 4th.

Anyone who would like to sign up or have additional information can contact me @ 717-359-0419. Jerry Cleaver

“As part of our effort to keep everyone safe at church, beginning Sunday February 18th, all exterior doors of the church will be locked to entry, except for the two Narthex doors and the Fellowship Hall sliding doors. All locked doors will remain available for exit. This will occur during all three Sunday morning worship services”.

COME TO DINNER – Support Boy Scout Troop 73 and Ruth’s Harvest

Monday, February 19, 2018 from 4 pm to 7 pm

General Pickett’s Buffet 571 Steinwehr Ave Gettysburg, PA

Boy Scout Troop 73, sponsored by GPC for 68 years, is hosting its annual all-you-can-eat spaghetti buffet. The cost is \$9.00 per adult and \$4.50 for children (ages 5 to 10). As in the past, Troop 73 will give half the proceeds to a local organization. This year Troop 73 is partnering with Ruth’s Harvest, which GPC has supported since its inception. Tickets may be purchased from Diana Miner, Bob Smith, Scout Gabe Delacruz, and Rev. Lou Nyiri.

Mexico Mission Trip Update

If you are interested in the Mexico Mission trip this year, please contact Pastor Dave for more information (717-334-1235)

Dates are July 9-16.



We will not be accepting any more donations for the South Dakota Mission Trip.



Men’s Interfaith Luncheon

All men are invited every Wednesday, February 21 – March 21 at 12:00 noon for light lunch (\$3.00) and camaraderie in Fellowship Hall, followed by humor and worship in the sanctuary. This is an interfaith gathering and is open to all men who would enjoy the time together and appreciate a message from a local minister.

Per Capita

The envelope labeled "PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT" found near the front of your offering envelope box is a special offering that is not used by GPC. Per capita is an amount of money per member (\$25.81 for 2018) that our congregation pays to our larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This money is part of the glue

2018	Total Per Capita - \$25.81	Mission Dollars %
General Assembly	\$7.73	20%
Synod	\$2.30	0
Presbytery	\$15.78	80%

that holds Presbyterians together as a connectional church and links the individual church, presbytery, synod and General Assembly. Some of the money supports the administrative expenses of the whole church, of which GPC is a part. A major portion of the per capita is used for mission. The breakdown of GPC's 2018 per capita share is shown in the table. The Session is requesting that each member consider making a special offering of \$25.81 per member this month in the envelope provided as their share of GPC's per capita to reduce the impact on the regular offerings that support the annual church budget. Thank you for your faithfulness in giving.

Bill Sterrett, Stewardship Committee

Dinners for Seven or Eight

The Dinners for 7 or 8 Program provides an opportunity for sharing a meal and fellowship with your fellow church members, in the relaxed atmosphere of individual homes. Three casual, adults-only dinners will be held in March, April and May. We particularly encourage new members to participate as an easy way to get to know your new church family. Although the option is offered to only substitute if needed, we encourage everyone to be a regular participant as groups are often full and substitutes are not called.

Those agreeing to host a dinner at their home are asked to prepare the main dish, and notify the other participants in their group of 7-8 so they may bring an appropriate vegetable, salad or dessert, as assigned on the schedule. Rather than have all participants meet on a fixed date, the host for each month is asked to coordinate the best date in the month for their group.

Participants are requested to sign up for the program by 21 February 2017, and Group Schedules will be sent out by 25 February. You are encouraged to send your information via email to the Dinner Coordinator, but you may also fill out the paper Registration Form and leave it at the church office, or call the Dinner Coordinator with your information.

Coordinator: Randy Smith (717)398-2414 rksmith71@comcast.net

Dinners for Seven or Eight Registration Form 2018

NAME: _____

ADDRESS : _____

TOWN: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

Service normally attended: ___ 8:15 ___ 9:30 ___ 11:00

I WISH TO BE A: ___ Regular ___ Substitute Only

I WISH TO HOST: ___ March ___ April ___ May

Place a 1/2/3 to prioritize the month you prefer.

I can host more than one month, if needed: ___ Yes ___ No

New Adult Elective Sunday School Class at 9:30 a.m. (and 11:00 if enough interest)

THE CHRISTIAN HOPE:

The Apostle Paul's Gospel for Today (A Study of 1 Corinthians)
By The Rev. Dr. Charles (Buz) Myers, Ph. D.

You already recognize the importance of **faith** and **love** in the Christian life. But what is **hope**, and how does hope empower believers to face the challenges of the future? Here is your chance to learn about Christian hope and its significance in a six-session Lenten study led by the Rev. **Charles (Buz) Myers**, an ordained Presbyterian minister and faculty member in the Department of Religious Studies at Gettysburg College. Through a careful consideration of 1 Corinthians, especially the fifteenth chapter, you will confront the core of the Apostle Paul's profound message to a church not unlike our own. Let the Apostle challenge you to re-examine the roots of your Christian faith and explore the implications that that faith has for the believing community in the twenty-first century. Find out where the church is headed and what this direction has to say to our lives in the present. You will not want to miss what promises to be an enlightening and thought-provoking study during Lent of 2018. The schedule of sessions is as follows:

- February 18, 2018 **SESSION I:** "Paul and the Corinthians: Who Are These People?"
(An introduction to Paul and his relationship with this early Christian community of faith)
- February 25, 2018 **SESSION II:** "Unity within the Community of Faith"
(A study of 1 Corinthians, chapters 1-4)
- March 4, 2018 **SESSION III:** "And You Think Your Church Has Problems!"
(A study of 1 Corinthians, chapters 5-9)
- March 11, 2018 **SESSION IV:** "Indecent and Out-of-Order: Worship in Corinth"
(A study of 1 Corinthians, chapters 10-14)
- March 18, 2018 **SESSION V:** "Back to Basics: What Is Essential to Our Faith?"
(A study of 1 Corinthians, chapters 15-16)
- March 25, 2018 **SESSION VI:** "Silence in the Church: Paul and the Role of Women
in the Early Church Christian Movement"
(A study based on 1 Corinthians 14:33b-36 and related texts)

"Calendar of Giving"

The Calendar of Giving is an opportunity for our congregation to support numerous local organizations. Through this program, we identify local organizations that are in need of smaller donations. Each month, we will be collecting specific items for the identified organization.

For the month of:

February

We will be collecting items for

Tender Care Pregnancy Centers: Baby supplies - new hooded baby towels; Similac Formula; bottles; Diapers size newborn, 4 & 5; diaper rash ointment; baby wash & lotion; baby wipes, cooler weather outfits 24 months, 2T - 4T



Middle School & High School

Lenten Breakfast begins February 14

from 6:50 - 7:10 a.m.
for grades 6 - 12

Donating Your IRA Distributions to a Charity

Qualified charitable distributions (QCDs) have been permanently extended. Individuals can donate up to \$100,000 per year directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to qualifying charities. This is attractive to some investors because QCDs can be used to satisfy required minimum distributions (RMDs) from an IRA without having the distribution included in their income.

Eligibility

A qualified charitable distribution may be made:

- When the IRA holder is age 70½ or older
- Directly from the IRA to qualified charity
- From a traditional or Roth IRA

Qualified charities

Generally, a qualified charity includes most public charities that are eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions - including religious institutions, certain veterans' organizations, fraternal societies and community foundations that provide scholarships.

Limitations on distributions

Restrictions set on QCDs include the following:

- \$100,000 maximum per person per year
- Distributions transferred to the charity no later than Dec. 31 of the current tax year
- Must be a direct IRA distribution from the IRA custodian or trustee to a qualified charity
- Not all charitable organizations qualify
- Applicable only for traditional and Roth IRA distributions (excludes SEP and SIMPLE IRAs)

Making a QCD provides an opportunity to make a charitable contribution that you might otherwise not have been able to make and/or receive potential tax benefits for charitable contribution that you are already making. You should consult your tax advisor and estate-planning attorney about your situation.

Key Benefits

- **For those who give larger gifts**
Deductibility limits do not apply to QCDs, which means the QCD can be made in addition to other charitable contributions that may be limited by the annual maximum deductible percentages of income or phase-outs of itemized deductions.
- **For those who don't itemize deductions** - if QCDs are used as the funding source for charitable donations, the donor will receive tax benefits when there otherwise would have been none due to the use of the standard deduction.
- **For those whose income level subjects them to tax on Net Investment Income, or phase-out of personal exemptions or itemized deductions** - A QCD made in lieu of an RMD will result in lower Adjusted Gross Income for the IRA holder, which may lessen the effect of this tax or applicable phase-outs.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church Mission Statement

Gettysburg Presbyterian Church believes that God calls us to invite people to faith in Jesus Christ, and equip them to grow as His fully devoted followers. As disciples we:

- * study regularly
- * pray daily
- * witness boldly
- * live faithfully
- * serve passionately
- * give generously
- * worship weekly



Next Newsletter Deadline:
Noon, Thursday, February 15, 2018

February/March 2018 GPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditional Worship @ 8:15 & 11:00 a.m.
 Contemporary Worship @ 9:30 a.m.

February 11	10:00 a.m. Combined Worship Service! Anxiety and Nehemiah
February 14	12:00 noon Ash Wednesday Worship Service "Stones"
February 18	God Moments Series: Jesus Heals the Leper First Sunday of Lent
February 25	God Moments Series: Call of Moses
March 4	God Moments Series: Nathan Confronts David Communion