

First Presbyterian Church
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First Press

Celebrating Christ and Serving Community

March 2024 Volume 63, No.2

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Pastoral Letter

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace.

- Philippians 1:3-7a NRSVUE

Dear First Presbyterian Friends,

I've spent the last few weeks anticipating a lot of goodbyes. If you've seen me in a meeting, perhaps you've noticed my reticence to acknowledge that I will actually be leaving here in a few weeks. "Oh, we've got time!" has been my common refrain. But when asked to write my final First Press letter, it was hard not to come to terms with the finality of our time together.

The opening of Paul's letter to the Philippians has given me great comfort these last few weeks, a comfort that I hope and pray will sustain and encourage us as we go our separate ways. Paul is writing to a community that he loves, one that has continued to support and sustain his ministry while away from their presence. Taking Paul's lead, I'd like to offer my own note:

I thank God for all this time we've had together. You will always hold a place in my prayers, for the joy of being with you since the day I stepped foot in Bloomington. There is no doubt in my mind that God has been at the corner of 6th and Lincoln for quite some time and surely intends to stay here. Not only will you have a place in my prayers, but a place in my heart as well. I give thanks to God for our partnership in ministry, sustained by God's grace which has pulled us together into this journey of life.

One of the hardest parts of being a Pastor is knowing that when we leave, we have to leave. Inevitably, our relationship with the church and with individuals we deeply care for will change. My deep excitement for the next chapter of FPC's ministry reminds me of the importance to step fully aside, allowing the work of Pastor Tommy and the next Associate Pastor to lead forth into the future God is ushering in. And what an exciting future it is sure to be!

Although you will not see or hear from me for some time, know that I will always be cheering from behind the scenes and praying whole-heartedly for the good work happening at FPC.

With a heart so full of gratitude that it hurts,
Pastor Kelley

Lent Zoom Study, Tuesday Evenings 6 - 7 pm



We invite you to join members from First Presbyterian (Columbus), Fairlawn, First Presbyterian (Bloomington) and Grace Hope Presbyterian (Louisville) as we study and pray together this Lent. We will be reading the book *Pause: Spending Lent with the Psalms* by Elizabeth F. Caldwell. The book will help us “take up the spiritual practice of encountering, sinking into, and deeply engaging with one psalm each week during Lent and Holy Week.”

10 books will be available in the church office for use.

Questions: Please contact Pastor Kelley
kelley@fpcbloomington.org

We will meet on Zoom from 6-7pm on Tuesdays in Lent
(Feb 20, 27; March 5, 12, 19, 26) at this zoom link:

Meeting ID: 868 5841 9229

Passcode: 383786

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86858419229?pwd=cjZYaTh1OXFTUG55RHV5NkJja3krZz09>

Upcoming Special Services

Thursday, March 28th (7:00 pm) - Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Friday, March 29th (7:00 pm) - Good Friday Worship Service

Sunday, March 31st (9:00 am & 11:00 am) - Easter Worship Services

Sunday, March 31st (10:00 am) - Easter Brunch

FPC Needlework & Prayer Shawl Ministry

All FPC needleworkers are invited for this informal time of fellowship and needlework on Monday, March 4th from 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm. Please join us in the church parlor with supplies for a project you're currently working on or join us to help with materials we have on hand.



Senior Singles - Sunday, March 10th



For single men and women 50+. We meet after church service for good food and fellowship at Sakura Restaurant. Contact Maggie Knust at knustma@yahoo.com for more information.

Presbyterians Outdoors - March



Presbyterians Outdoors will walk the Clear Creek Trail on Saturday, March 9th at 1 PM. Then Tuesday, March 26th at 10am to experience the Spring flowers at Amy Weingartner Branigin Preserve. Contact Maggie Knust for details and to RSVP. Let's pray for kinder weather!

Men's Breakfast - March 15th

The Men's Breakfast will once again be scheduled for the third Friday of each month. Mark your calendar for the next gathering on March 15, 2024 at The Bedrök Café. Contact Don Hollinger for more information, drhollinger1@comcast.net



Christian Men's Retiree Group - March 19



Christian Men's Retiree Group (4:30pm - 6:00 pm)—For men approaching, contemplating, and enjoying retirement, an opportunity to get together and develop faith and relationships on the third Tuesday of the month in the parlor. For more information, contact Gary Crow at gcrow@iu.edu or (812) 361-6603

Film Event - March 22nd-24th



Resilience Productions presents a new Remarkable Women production, written by Gladys DeVane in collaboration with and directed by Danielle Bruce. With a gifted mind and unrelenting determination, that is how Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray met every one of life's obstacles. Take a glimpse into the life of this 20th-century trailblazer, gifted scholar, visionary writer, and fearless champion of truth and justice. Resilience Productions is a collaboration of the writer and

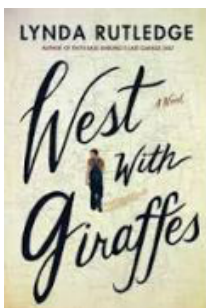
director of this production, along with Liz Mitchell, who addressed the Faith Forum recently, (February 4). I'm going to the showing on March 24 at 3:00. \$20 per ticket, age 10 and under free. I hope you can join me! -Laura Gardner

Youth Mission Tulip - Order Now!

It's time to order tulips for the sanctuary for Easter! The fundraiser will benefit our FPC youth mission. The plants will be various colors, in 6 1/2" pots. They will arrive on Good Friday for placement in our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Please pick up a form at the welcome center along with your check in the collection plate or drop off or mail to the church. If you need a form emailed, please contact Kirma at office@fpcbloomington.org and she will send you one. The last day to order is March 15th, so don't wait.



FPC Book Group - March 25th



FPC Book Group - March 25th (7:00 p.m.) - Meetings are held on the 4th Sunday of every month, either at Bell Trace or on Zoom in the winter. This month's book is Lynda Rutledge's "West with Giraffes" with discussion leader Karen Bush Watts. Please contact Allan Edmonds at allan.edmonds@gmail.com

Faith & Film Special Event

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL FAMILY FAITH AND FILM

APRIL 14, 2024 – 3:00 P.M., LYMAN HALL

(NOTE CHANGE IN DATE AND LOCATION)

THE MAGICIAN'S ELEPHANT

“Things are only impossible ‘til they’re not.”

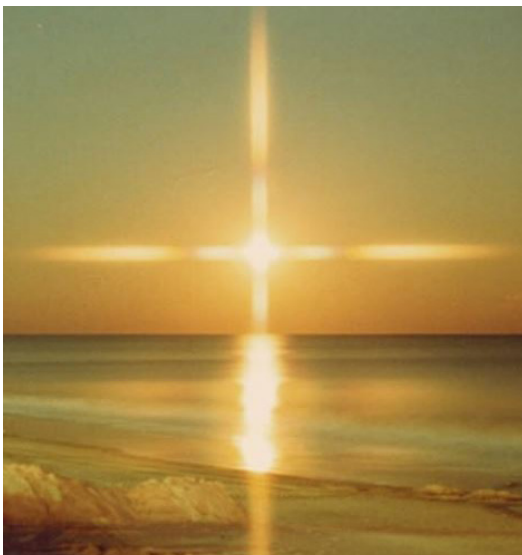
Based on a story by Kate DiCamillo (Because of Winn Dixie and The Tale of Despereaux), this animated tale features Mandy Patinkin and Dawn French as voices of two of the main characters.



Peter, an orphaned boy, is told by a fortune teller that an elephant will help him find his lost sister. He must find the mysterious elephant and the magician who will conjure it, setting him off on a journey to complete three seemingly impossible tasks.

Following the movie and discussion, the Membership Committee will provide a simple meal for everyone.

Art installations of photos of Crosses



As a spiritual practice during Lent , please take photos of places where you see crosses in everyday life. Suggestion would be looking at the sky and seeing a cross in the cloud. Maybe in a window pane, or in nature such as a tree branch. Send photos to labarrett2017@gmail.com by Sunday March 10th to be displayed.

Bereavement Support Group

Have you experienced the death of someone close to you in the last few years? Has it been at least 3-4 months since their death? A bereavement support group may be a helpful way to support and assist in your healing. First Presbyterian Church is offering a bereavement support group beginning in March. Six to eight members will gather once a week for six weeks in the parlor. Each session will last 1 ½ hours and consist of learning about grief, as well as sharing our experiences including what has been helpful and what the challenges have been. Our time will also include moments of prayer. Participants are asked to commit to attending the entire six weeks. The facilitator will be Rev. Wendy Baptist VanderZee, retired Hospice Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator with I.U. Health Bloomington Hospice. If interested, please email Kirma at office@fpcbloomington.org for more information.

Session Meeting Notes - February 18, 2024

Session Actions:

- Authorized the Columbarium Task Force to begin informing the congregation about the Columbarium project in order to gauge interest in a columbarium at FPC.
- Approved the Outreach Committee's request to begin to participate in Bread for the World Christian advocacy to support programs that address world hunger.
- Authorized the Capital Campaign Task Force to enter into a contract with Horizons Stewardship to assist in preparing a campaign to address financial needs of FPC.
- Approved a grant application to the Center for Congregations to support mental and spiritual health.
- Consensus that all requests for contributions at FPC should have the approval of the Session.

One Great Hour of Sharing

75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



Received during the season of Lent (February 14 – March 31), each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. **In fact, One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way Presbyterians come together every year to work toward a better world.**

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. 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. For details of each program, visit <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

There are *light blue envelopes* for One Great Hour of Sharing donations on the back of each pew and at the Welcome Center. Thank you! -from your FPC Outreach Committee

Celebrating & Sending Pastor Kelley with Gratitude



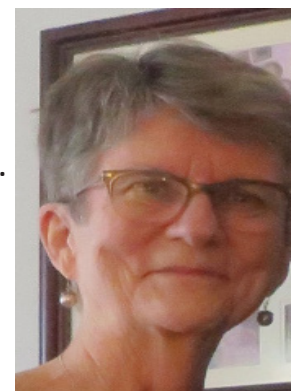
Reception - March 17th after 10am Worship

After three and a half years of ministry, Pastor Kelley will be preaching and leading worship with us for the last time before beginning a new call as the pastor of John Knox Presbyterian in Indianapolis. Let's celebrate her well and send her off with our love. All are welcome to this reception in Lyman Hall, with cake and refreshments. You might consider coming with a card to give to Kelley, naming one way her ministry has touched you.

Love Offering - Additionally, the church is collecting an offering that will be given to Kelley as a form of thanks for her dedicated, whole-hearted ministry among us. If you'd like to contribute, you can mail a check or place one in the offering plate to FPC with memo, "Kelley Love Offering." You can also give online with this in the note. Thank you for helping us to show our gratitude for all Kelley has done and all she has been for us these past several years.

Dine & Give Dance for PD - Farm Restuarant - March 19th 6:00 pm

As a retired physical therapist, I am interested in and familiar with mobility issues and the benefits of regular exercise and social integration. I discovered Dance for Parkinson's when we moved to Bloomington and joined the dance shortly after my retirement in 2018. This event is a great opportunity for people with Parkinson's Disease to stay active in the community and reap the benefits of regular exercise. The classes are open to those with PD but also to anyone interested in dance, socialization and fun. DFP Bloomington is dependent upon donations to cover the costs involved in providing weekly classes at Windfall Dance Studio. Our once yearly fundraiser is the Dine and Give event at the Farm Restaurant. For more information please contact Beth Sharer at ronbeth53@gmail.com



MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joe Harrell Evan Darling 	2
3 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Coffee Cart 11:15 am Education Hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hank Ruff 	4 11:30 am Emmaus Group 1:30 pm Needlework/ Prayer Shawl Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Jensen Scott Haebertle 	5 6:00 pm Lenten Book Study - Zoom 6:30 pm Deacon's Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tom Gardner Katie Hull 	6 4:30 pm Committee Night <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Julie Farris 	7 1:00 pm Circle Mary 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Steve Schechter 	8	9 1:00 pm Presbyterians Outdoors
10 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Education Hour 11:30 am Senior Singles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dick Darling Chris Callaway 	11 5:30 pm Racial Justice Ministry Team	12 6:00 pm Lenten Book Study - Zoom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clara Voskuil Jim Coppedge 	13	14 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wesley Ratliff III Cooper Harriss Ann Schechter 	15 First Press Deadline 8:00 am Men's Breakfast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wendy VanderZee Garth Goodlett 	16
17 10:00 am Worship Service 11:00 am Farewell Reception for Rev. Kelley 6:00 pm FPC Session St. Patrick's Day	18 11:30 am Emmaus Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bailey Fassler 	19 4:30 pm Men's Retiree Faith Group 6:00 pm Lenten Book Study - Zoom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nancy Gettinger 	20	21 5:45 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bill Adams Carol McGregor 	22	23
24 10:00 am Worship Service 11:15 am Education Hour	25 7:00 pm FPC Book Read	26 10:00 am Presbyterians Outdoors 6:00 pm Lenten Book Study - Zoom <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mary Eileen Donovan 	27	28 Area 10 Grocery Bagging & Delivery 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eric Swank 	29 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David Burkhardt Bill McGregor 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sue Connell
31 9:00 am & 11:00 am Easter Sunday Worship Services 10:00 am Easter Brunch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anemarie Galin 						