

February 25, 2018
Second Sunday of Lent
First Presbyterian Church
2230 Harriet St. Port Charlotte, FL 33952
Worship 10:00 a.m.
(941) 625-5045
www.fpcpc.com



Welcome to All!

We are delighted that you are here today and hope you have a meaningful worship experience. If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we extend a special welcome! Your presence is important to us so we encourage you to sign the Friendship Pad and pass it to those seated near you. Also, if you have a prayer need please complete one of the Prayer Cards and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher. It will be our privilege to pray for you.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Chimes

Greetings

Leader: The grace of the Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship.

Prelude

Simple Gifts

Judy Prier

Shaker Tune Setting by Wilbur Held

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**All: Lent calls us to journey:
to the place where God covenants with us,
to receive the new names we are given.**

Leader: Lent calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations the Good News.

**All: Lent calls us to practice justice,
to bring God's hope to all people.**

Leader: Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

**All: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

Leader: Lent calls us to journey with God.

**All: Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.**

Introit

Come, Let Us With Our Lord Arise

Chancel Choir

Opening Prayer

All: God of Abraham our father, God of Sarah our mother, we remember with gratitude your covenant that undergirds our lives with certainty and gives us peace. Through the gift of your Son, you freed us from sin and death. God, you have given us everything. What can we give in return for our lives? Be our guide on our Lenten journey. Help us to deny ourselves, pick up our cross and follow Jesus. Help us to reorient our lives toward you as we worship you today. Amen.

*Passing of the Peace

*Opening Hymn

All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name!

Blue Hymnal #142

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of Sarah and Abraham, in this holy place, we know how weak is our discipleship. We can spend hours at the computer, but only give you fleeting moments of our time. We can talk endlessly on our cell phones, but fall silent when it comes to sharing our fears, our worries, our hopes with you. We seek quick fixes for our problems, rather than seeking your vision and future for our lives.

God of Peter, Paul, and the psalmist, forgive us:

for our lack of trust;

for our faithless living;

for our closing our ears to the call of Jesus.

Forgive us, so we may lay aside all that keeps us from you, so we may take up the life you offer to us, through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

(Silent Prayer of Confession)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: This is the Good News: God does not go back on the promises made so long ago. God does not reject us, God redeems us. God does not withhold love, God pours it into our barren lives.

All: Forgiven of our sins, filled with hope, living in relationship with God and one another - we are a new people. Thanks be to God.

*Congregational Response

Gloria Patri

Blue Hymnal #579

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16

Page 13

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

Take Up Your Cross

Chancel Choir
by Giamanco

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation

What Does It Mean To Lose One's Life?

Insert

Prayer for Illumination

Second Scripture Reading

Mark 8:31-38

Page 44

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Proclamation of the Word

Promises That Change Our Lives and Living

Rev. Terri Jo Crego

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

* Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offering

A Lenten Meditation

by Robert J. Powell

* Congregational Response

Doxology

Blue Hymnal #592

* Prayer of Dedication

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

* Hymn of Dedication

God Of Grace And God Of Glory

Blue Hymnal #420

* Charge and Benediction

Leader: Go now with God, on your journey through Lent.

All: We will discover the new name given to each one we meet.

Leader: Go now with Jesus, walking wherever he leads.

All: We will put all our fears, as well as our longings, behind us.

Leader: Go now with the Spirit, who is always full of surprises.

All: We will share the good news called Jesus with everyone.

Postlude

Trumpet Tune in C

by Robert J. Powell

PRAYER LIST

Dottie Messick, AudreyAnn Parent, Paul Doczy, Leila Rohlehr, Lesley Shane, Betty Brooks and Louise Carpenter.

If you would like to be added or removed from this list call the church office (941-625-5045).

MEMBERSHIP

If you would like to join our church family, we encourage you to call the Church office at (941) 625-5045 to speak with Rev. Terri Jo Crego. New members are welcomed by Profession of Faith, Reaffirmation of Faith, Letter of Transfer, or as an Affiliate Member if you wish to retain your membership in another congregation.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

If you would like to have intercessory prayer for yourself or for others, come to the Chapel following the service. The Chapel is located on the left side of the Narthex as you exit the Sanctuary.



Calendar of Events

SUNDAY, February 25

Sunday School for all ages	9:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service	10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	11:00 a.m.

MONDAY, February 26

Exercise Class Monday – Thursday (All are invited - \$1 per class)	9:00 a.m.
Building and Grounds Meeting	10:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, February 27

Disconnected Quilters	9:00 a.m.
Staff Meeting	9:30 a.m.
Youth Group	4:45 p.m.
Adorn Ave. Neighborhood Alliance	6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, February 28

Peace Picers	9:30 a.m.
Cards & Games	1:00 p.m.
Lenten Class Soul Keeping	5:30 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, March 1

Mahjongg (all are invited)	1:00 p.m.
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FRIDAY, March 2

Office Closed

SATURDAY, March 3

Office Closed

SUNDAY, March 4

Sunday School for all ages	9:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
Worship Service with Communion	10:00 a.m.
Coffee and Fellowship	11:00 a.m.
Peeps Dioramas Family Event	11:15 a.m.

**The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Port Charlotte is:
To be a beacon in the community by leading all people into a life changing,
ever growing relationship with Jesus Christ.**

Ministry Staff

Rev. Terri Jo Crego, Pastor	pastor@fpcpc.com
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Judy Prier, Organist	judyprrier@comcast.net
Joan Byron, Music Director	jfbyron@comcast.net

Session

Class of 2018: Nancy Sharpless, Ron Smith
Class of 2019: Joan Barry, Rebekah Baird, Richard Lund
Class of 2020: Sandy Asaro, Lynn Webster, Elaine Woods

Deacons

Class of 2018: Dottie Gamble, Pauline Paquin, Laverne Sinkia, Donald Whitmarsh
Class of 2019 Andy Buell, Clarence Diersing, Diane Schmidt
Class of 2020: Norma Campbell

Trustees

Richard Lund (President), Ron Smith (Vice President)
Ambrose Woods (Treasurer), Sandy Asaro (Secretary)
Class of 2018: Clarence Diersing (Member at Large)
Class of 2019: Bob Hull (Member at Large)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 25, 2018

Thank you to Elaine Woods who is serving as liturgist this morning.

SOUL KEEPING
6 Week Lenten Class Series
Continues Through March 28th
Wednesdays Evenings
5:30-6:30pm
Conference Room

“You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your might.” (Deuteronomy 6:5)

“Our soul waits for the LORD; he is our help and shield.” (Psalm 33:20)

Jesus said: “Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11:29)

The church is the only place in our culture to ponder the mystery of the human soul. So come to FPCPC to consider profound questions:

What is the soul? What is a lost soul? What does the soul need? How is a soul restored?

For the first four classes, we will be immersed in author John Ortberg’s recent book,

“Soul Keeping: Caring For The Most Important Part of You.” The church office has ordered 12 copies which you can purchase for \$15 each.

Author Ortberg offers personal experience, scholarship, faithfulness, humility and humor in this important study. We will use the book and accompanying short videos to explore scripture, the ups and downs of the human condition and the wonder of God’s infinite outreach to us.



Easter
Peeps Diorama Family Event
Sunday, March 4th
11:15 a.m.
in the
New Life Center

Join us for this pre-Easter event as we get creative with Peeps and eat pizza too! Bring your theme ideas and decorations (shoe boxes and Peeps will be provided) and create a Peeps diorama. There might be a few extra to eat!



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING & CORPORATION MEETING

Sunday, March 11, 2018

immediately following the Worship Service

Our Annual Congregational Meeting has been called for Sunday, March 11, 2018 for the purpose of:

- Electing new Nominating Committee Members
- Electing a new Elder and Deacon
- Electing the Pastor Nominating Committee
- Receiving the 2018 Budget
- Receiving the Session Report

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends of Veronica W. Betts whose father passed away.

EASTER LILIES

If you are interested in ordering an Easter Lily to decorate our Sanctuary and Narthex on Easter Sunday, please fill out an order form located in the bulletin or NLC and turn in to the office or put in the offering plate **no later than March 18th**.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

It's that time of year again..... In fact, it's past that time of year. The Scholarship committee was doing a Rip Van Winkle. Actually, we were all busy with other committees and just woke up to the fact that we needed to get the Scholarship information out..... in January. So pretend this is January!

High school seniors and adult church members who wish to continue their education with college level courses, technical school or to enroll in classes for improving their job skills for advancement or other opportunities in the job market may apply.

Applicants for a scholarship need to meet the following criteria:

- be an active member of the First Presbyterian Church Port Charlotte
- demonstrate leadership abilities
- abstain from using tobacco, alcohol and illegal drugs
- demonstrate academic achievement
- demonstrate a need for financial assistance

Because the Scholarship Ministry Team is late in getting the information out to the congregation, the deadline for applications will be extended to Sunday, March 18, 2018. Scholarship Application Forms may be picked up on the information desk in the Narthex or in the church office. If you have any questions please feel free to contact a member of the Scholarship Ministry Team. Becky Baird, Nancy Sharpless, Veronica W. Betts and Ambrose Woods



The season of Lent is an important one for many Protestant denominations, including Presbyterians. “The season of Lent has served a variety of purposes in the history of the church and the life of Christian communities, specifically a period of preparation for baptism at the annual Easter Vigil; a time for the reconciliation of penitent persons; and an opportunity for spiritual discipline through prayer, fasting, service, and generosity,” says the Rev. Dr. David Gambrell, associate for worship in the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s office of Theology and Worship. “The common thread—whether one is new to the church, estranged from the community, or wanting to grow in faith and faithfulness—is deeper and more authentic relationship with God and one another through Christ. Lent points to the cross, where Jesus is lifted up with arms outstretched in compassion and welcome. And Lent points beyond the cross to the empty tomb, where Jesus offers new and abundant life to all.”

While many people find meaning through a spiritual practice of *giving something up for Lent*, many find a more valuable spiritual exercise in *taking something on* during Lent — a more Christ-like attitude toward others, a humble spirit at work, a special service project or a feeling of gratitude in the midst of scarcity.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (February 14th this year) and ends with Easter, which is on April 1st this year. A baptismal font is often placed at the front of the church to remind the congregation of their birth in Christ. All fasts come to an end. Joyous songs are sung and praise is given for the resurrected Son of God.

Please remember FPCPC in your wills and trusts.