



Weekly E-Newsletter of

The Presbyterian Church

142 N. Fourth Street * Coshocton, Ohio 43812

740-622-0486

tjohnson@presbyteriancoshocton.org

Issue 88

God's Love Is Here for You

March 2, 2022

Tina Johnson, E-newsletter editor

Dear friends,

Our journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins today, on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday. This signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. We will begin our observance with a simple meal at 5:30 p.m. tonight in the fellowship hall, followed by our Lenten study for children, teens, and adults in the parlor at 6:30 p.m. We will begin all together with a brief video clip of *The Way: Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus* and then the children and teens will move to their own classroom for age-appropriate learning activities. The evening will culminate with a worship service at 7:30 p.m. in the chapel, which will include Communion and the imposition of ashes, for those who desire them.

The *Companion to the Book of Common Worship* tells us, "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."

I look forward to seeing you tonight for our meal, study, and worship!

God bless you with peace throughout our Lenten journey together, seeking Christ and seeking to be more like Christ in our daily lives.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Karen



What's Happening with the Church This Week?

Sunday (2/27):	10:00 a.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal
	12:00 p.m.	Lunch/Annual Meeting in the Fellowship Hall
Monday (2/28):		Pastor's Sabbath
Wednesday (3/2):	5:30 p.m.	Dinner
	6:30 p.m.	Lenten Study
	7:30 p.m.	Ash Wednesday Worship
Thursday (3/3):	10:00 a.m.	Prayer Fellowship in the Fireside Room
Sunday (3/6):	9:30 a.m.	Chancel Choir rehearsal
	10:30 a.m.	Worship in the sanctuary



Tina Johnson will return to the office on Tuesday, March 1.

Scriptures for Ash Wednesday and Sunday, March 6 are included in this edition of the newsletter.

In our hearts and prayers:

Wilma Hunt - The Oaks at Bethesda, Rm. 213, 2971 Maple Ave., Zanesville, 43701
 Jan Kobel - Altercare, Room 201, 1991 Otsego Avenue, Coshocton
 Barb Moore - Home
 Donna Westfall - Home
 Barb Wheeler - Home



Happy Birthday to: Dewey Thompson (2/26); Ryan McPeck, Shelley McPeck,
 Wendy Wilke (2/28); Patrick Williams (3/2); John Brems, Sarah Layton (3/3); Jennifer Austin,
 Sarah Loth (3/4); Valeree Bryant (3/5); Harper Mullen, Dwight Ogle (3/6); Betty Salvage,
 Karen Yost (3/7); Sally Bullens, Leslie Griley (3/8); Alice Hoover, Steve Lonsinger (3/9)

OUR 2022 CHURCH BOARDS

Session

Jim Arganbright	Caroline Heading
Debbie Clark	Kirsten McPeck
Nancy Cox	Linda Weber
Loran Fry	Chris Yost

Deacons

Judy Addy	Betty Harrison
Janet Ashman	Glenn Kinkade
Cathy Evans	Carol Moore
Ron Geese	Lew Terrell
Norma Grewe	Cindy Walling

Trustees

John Addy	Stewart Henderson
Sally Bullens	Jeff Sycks
Dave Custer	Denny Walters
Jim Gill	

Prayer to begin our journey of Lent:

God, our guide in wilderness and testing, in Jesus Christ you show us the fast you choose: the practice of justice and compassion. Teach us to follow him in truth and grace, receiving our reward with your saints in glory; through Christ, the treasure of our hearts. Amen.

Readings for Ash Wednesday:

First Reading Isaiah 58:1-12

- ¹ Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins.
- ² Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God.
- ³ "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?"
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers.
- ⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.
- ⁵ Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?
- ⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?
- ⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
- ⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.
- ⁹ Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
- ¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.
- ¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.
- ¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.



Psalm 51:1-17

- ¹ Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.
- ² Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- ³ For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.
- ⁴ Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight,
so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment.
- ⁵ Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

- ⁶ You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.
⁷ Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.
⁹ Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.
¹¹ Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.
¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.
¹³ Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you.
¹⁴ Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.
¹⁵ O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
¹⁶ For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.
¹⁷ The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

- ^{5:20b} We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- ^{6:1} As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see — we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

- ¹ "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.
- ² "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- ⁵ "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- ¹⁶ "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.
- ¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Readings for the First Sunday in Lent:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16

¹You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
²will say to the LORD, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."
⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place,
¹⁰no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.
¹¹For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
¹²On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
¹³You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.
¹⁴Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.
¹⁵When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.
¹⁶With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b}"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him.
¹³For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Luke 4:1-13

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"
⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"
⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"
¹²Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"
¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit
within me.

51

Psalms 51

