

Community Lenten Schedule



**2018 Mission:
Working Hands**

DATE	CHURCH	PREACHER
February 14 noon	Settle Memorial UMC	Rev. Kathy Goodwin
February 14 pm	First Presbyterian Church	Rev. Randy Jones
February 21	Third Baptist Church	Rev. Jane Rothman
February 28	Century Christian Church	Rev. Micah Spicer
March 7	Woodlawn UMC	Rev. Chris Michael
March 14	Trinity UMC	Rev. Keith Switzer
March 21	First Christian Church	Rev. Betty Sivis

Meal: 5:30 pm

Suggested donation: \$5.00 adults, \$3.00 children under 12

Service: 6:30 pm

Please RSVP for dinner to church office by noon each Monday

First Presbyterian Church is an inclusive community of faith called to proclaim the good news of the love of Jesus Christ for all people, and to join God in the building of a just, peaceful, and compassionate world.

May the peace of Christ be with you!

First Presbyterian Church
1328 Griffith Avenue
Owensboro, KY 42301



“People of Grace”

A monthly newsletter for First Presbyterian Church

FEBRUARY 2018

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Quotes of the Month

The Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn’t.



The Bible is the only book whose author is always present when one reads it.

The season of Lent is upon us. Ash Wednesday, which falls on Valentine’s Day (2/14) this year, marks the start of this season, which is often marked by penitence, restraint, and prayer. Many people, religious and non-religious alike, choose this time of year to observe a time of fasting. For most Presbyterians, this notion of “giving something up” is rather new, as may be the very season of Lent. And more recently, church leaders across denominations have encouraged members to *take on* rather than *give up something*. *Make Lent about enrichment, rather than deprivation*, the thinking goes. *Take out the guilt and open up space for growing something new.*

Whether you choose to “take something on” or “give something up,” using this Lenten season as a time for intentionality can be powerful. Each time you reach for that soda, or each day you pick up that reading, you can be reminded of why this season matters—of what it is preparing for.

Lent leads us into a deeper appreciation of Holy Week—that final journey which takes us from Palm Sunday, through the Last Supper to the crucifixion, the burial, and the glorious resurrection. In those 40 days of Lent, we are invited to focus our hearts in such a way that Christ’s story becomes our own, such that we do not simply arrive at Easter without having journeyed through the darkness before it.

As I find myself preparing for Lent, I keep coming back to comments that I have heard from members about their desire to better know the Bible. So many times, this will come up in conversation. People feel as though they just don’t know the Bible like they wish they did. They would like some guide for better understanding; some program for reading it through.

With that in mind, I have a proposal for our church: that we commit to read the Bible—the whole thing, cover to cover—starting Ash Wednesday and ending on Pentecost. There is a program called B90 or BIND (Bible in 90 Days), which leads groups through reading the Bible, cover to cover, in 90 days. Each day, participants are assigned a reading that takes approximately 40 minutes to an hour. Then, once a week, participants gather together to check in, discuss what they’ve read, and have some accountability together. But at the end of those 90 days, everyone will have read the entire Bible.

It sounds wild, but I am excited about it! And I hope that some of you will join with me on this journey. People have great things to say about this program and churches that have used it have overwhelmingly positive experiences with it. So let’s give it a try! Let’s take this goal on - together - and see how God can use this experience to deepen our faith. For more details on how to participate, see page three.

Whether you decide to do BIND or you choose instead to give up soda or take the bus everyday or have evening prayer, I encourage you to try something. See how that intentionality can refocus your mind and reenergize your faith.

Christine



February Birth Flower:
Violet

February

Birthdays

- 2 Jeremy Corkran
- 2 Harper Lashbrook
- 2 Brian Snow
- 4 Patti Price
- 5 Stephen Coy
- 5 Catherine Triplett
- 5 Jerry Nail
- 6 Arlo Johnson
- 8 Kailee Cowan
- 8 Vaughn Sanders
- 10 Le Grand Hisle
- 12 Sally Black
- 13 Esther Jansing
- 16 Marilyn Conley
- 17 Patricia Smeathers
- 18 John Lashbrook
- 18 Wil Smith
- 18 Shannon McKeever
- 19 Betty Harris
- 21 Donna Hankins
- 24 Sherwood Kirk
- 27 Chuck Holcomb

Anniversaries

- 6 Kelly & Bill Duncan
- 6 Suzanne & Dale Guyer
- 12 Mary Dixon & Gene Baker
- 17 Nancy & Ray Kramer
- 21 Jane & Bob Smith
- 26 Carol & Richard Norris



Session Highlights—January 2017

Session met on Sunday, January 8, 2018

- Session Class 2020: Chris Gramelspacher, Debbie Hutchinson, Marsha Nash, Paul Puckett, Brad Smith
- Office of Deacons 2020: Debbie Bowley, Dogabier Gonzalez, Gary Kaba-len, Janice Odom, Charlotte Puckett, Jerry Nail
- Ken Dick to be guest preacher Sunday, January 15, 2018
- Session approved presented budget for 2018

FPC Annual Report Highlights

2017 was our first year doing the work of the church as committees. It has been busy and full of new accomplishments. Here are the highlights:

Christian Education

- Sunday School offered to all ages
- VBS created in-house with theme *Creation* for 40 children
- Worship and Wonder continues
- Youth led Trivia Night, Advent Workshop and Youth Sunday
- Youth mission trip: Chicago; annual retreat: Camp Loucon
- CDO reorganized their classrooms within our FPC space
- New Name: Presbyterian Week-day School

Men's Bible Class

- Benevolences of \$4300 to 19 recipients

Library

- Thirty-four books added

Congregational Care

- 25 Meal Trains
- Annual Blood Drive

Congregational Life

- Monthly Fellowship Nights with meal and activity
- New Member Reception welcomed 19

Finance

- Stewardship Theme: *I Love to Tell the Story*
- In-house annual audit

Outreach and Evangelism

- 211 self-identified visitors
- 4-week Newcomer's Class taught by Christine & Rob Fohr
- Weekly *PresbyNotes*, Monthly "*People of Grace*" and two Facebook pages

Worship

- Hired Patrick Ritsch as organist
- *Creative Spirit* art gallery
- Heritage Sunday hall display
- Spanish Bibles purchased
- Sanctuary Flowers

Mission

- Christmas Baskets for 80 families
- Five Sunday Pitino Shelter meals
- Disaster Response Center Drill in August
- Weekly food deliveries to Help Office

- New refugee ministry

- Benevolences of \$64,000 to 19 recipients

Personnel

- New Spanish Translator position created and approved
- Second Nursery worker position approved

Property

- Monthly Church Work Days
- New roof
- Sanctuary Handrails
- Security Review with OPD
- Church exterior painting
- New exterior security light

FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Every Sunday 9:00 Spanish Worship & Nursery Available 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 Worship 4:00 Spiritual Formation			1	2  Ground Hog Day	3
4 11:30 Worship Mtg	5 9:00 Staff Meeting	6 10:30 Lydia Circle	7 10:00 Book Group 3:00 Coffee Cup Theology 4:00 Prayer Group 4:30 Deacons Meeting 7:00 Choir	8	9  NATIONAL PIZZA DAY	10
11 Transfiguration Sunday 	12 9:00 Staff Meeting	13 Western Kentucky Presbytery Meeting	14  10:00 Book Group 3:00 Coffee Cup Theology 4:00 Prayer Group 5:30 Meal 6:30 Worship 7:30 Choir	15	16	17 8:30 Church Work Day 
18 11:30 Outreach Mtg 5:00 Confirmation	19 9:00 Staff Meeting  President's Day	20 10:30 PrimeTimers	21 10:00 Book Group 3:00 Coffee Cup Theology 4:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Choir	22 10:00 Pastor's Book Study	23 6:00 Church Night Out (babysitting at 5:45)	24  National Dance Day
25 11:30 Christian Ed Mtg 11:30 Mission Mtg 5:00 Youth Group	26 9:00 Staff Meeting	27 4:00 Property Mtg	28 10:00 Book Group 4:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Choir	 BLACK HISTORY MONTH		

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School (preschool - 5th grade class)

Begins at 9:30 in the first floor Kindergarten Room.



Youth Sunday School Class

Meets at 9:30 in the Youth Room to study *Echo the Story* curriculum.

The Adult Sunday School Class

Meets at 9:30 in the Gardenside Parlor to look at various topics related to the church, Bible, current events and social topics.

The Men's Bible Class

Meets at 9:30 downstairs and uses *The Present Word* literature.

Spanish Language Worship Group

Meets at 9:00 in the Chapel. All are invited whether or not you speak/understand Spanish.

Fellowship

SpiritLifters

Tuesday February 13th 6:00 pm

Restaurant: Colby's

RSVP to Patti Price 270-314-6099

pprice0204@gmail.com



PrimeTimers

Tuesday February 20th 10:30 am

Program: Rob Fohr

Lunch will follow (\$5.00)

RSVP to Charlotte Puckett

charlotte214050@yahoo.com

270-926-2532

Church Night Out

Friday February 23rd 6:00 pm (babysitting5:45)

Restaurant: Niko's

RSVP: Christine Coy Fohr

ccofoht@gmail.com

Group Study

Spiritual Formation

Meets on Sundays at 4:00 pm

Dates: February 4, 11, 18, 25

Reading: *Barking to the Choir* by Gregory Boyle

Lydia Circle

Meets First Tuesdays at 10:30, bring a lunch

Date: February 6

Reading: *Cloud of Witnesses Chapters 5 & 6*

PW Coordinating Team

Meets quarterly on the 3rd Thursday at 10:30

Date: March 15

Wednesday Book Group

Meets on Wednesdays at 10:00 am

Dates: February 7, 14, 21, 28

Reading: *The Righteous Mind* by Jonathan Haidt

Coffee Cup Theology

Meets on Wednesday at 3:00 pm

Dates: February 7, 14, 21

Discussion: *Lectionary*

Pastor's Study Group

Meets on the last Thursday of the month

Date: Thursday February 22

Reading: *The Simple Faith of Mr. Rogers* by Amy Hollingsworth



Weekly Prayer Meeting



As a community of love and care, we want to know how we can be in prayer for one another. Because of this, we meet on Wednesdays at 4:00 in the Gardenside Parlor.

Just come if you would like to pray with us - February 7, 14, 21, 28.

If you have a prayer request, email Christine and your person or request will be included.

Prayer Blankets/Shawls



If you knit and/or crochet, the Weekly Prayer Meeting group invites you to make prayer lap blankets or shawls to be given with love to church members with serious and long-term health or personal needs. They can be given to Christine any time.



NEW Bible in 90 Days

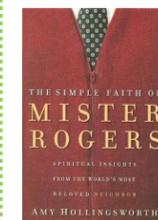


Have you ever had the goal of reading the Bible—cover to cover—but felt daunted by the idea? This Lent and Easter season, let's commit to doing it! Let's take it on as a goal—as individuals and as a community. Churches all over the country have committed to this program with great success. And our church can be one of them!

The B90 program or BIND, outlines a plan for reading the entire Bible in 90 days. Readings are designed to take 40-60 minutes each day and once a week, participants gather in groups to discuss how the reading is going, what's challenging them and what they are learning.

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, **February 11th after worship**, there will be an informational meeting in the Fellowship Hall. If you are even marginally curious about this, please plan to attend. In the meantime, if you have questions, just ask Christine. And if you would be willing to be a facilitator for one of the weekly group meetings, let Christine know.

Pastor's Study Group



Come study with Christine! Each month, she chooses a book that connects somehow to the life of faith. At the end of the month, all who have read the book are invited to meet together for discussion.

This month we will read *The Simple Faith of Mr. Rogers* by Amy Hollingsworth. Ms. Hollingsworth was a longtime friend of Mister Rogers, and through years of correspondence she reveals how this extraordinary man touched her and her family. She takes us beyond the camera to discover the spiritual legacy of this man who, to paraphrase the words of St. Francis of Assisi, "preached the gospel at all times and when necessary used words."

So, plan to pick up a copy of this book and make it "a beautiful day in the neighborhood" as we meet in the Gardenside Parlor to discuss the entire book on **Thursday, February 22nd at 10:00 am.**

Our Board of Deacons



On January 7, 2018, six church members were ordained to the board of Deacons of First Presbyterian Church. They are: Debbie Bowley, Dogabier Gonzalez, Gary Kabalen, Jerry Nail, Janice Odom and Charlotte Puckett.

Many of our church members are already good visitors who stay in touch with members who can't come to church, and the deacons are grateful for every one of those visits and hopes they will continue.

Our deacons will become part of the caring ministries of FPC. Initially their special calling will be to have primary responsibility for making regular visits to homebound members and members who are no longer able to live at home. They will also bring communion to these members on at least a quarterly basis.

The deacons have compiled a list of members and are planning their initial visits where they will introduce themselves and offer home communion. They are very much looking forward to forming strong, ongoing relationships with members who might not be able to attend church regularly but who continue to be a much-loved part of our congregation.

Church Work Day

Our next Church Work Day will be **Saturday February 17th from 8:30 am to noon.**

Work will continue to focus on inside tasks and projects. As always there will be food and beverages. If you have questions, contact Chris Gramel-spacher: 270-316-8519.



Church Bulletin Board



The church library maintains a bulletin board for items of interest that involve our membership. The *Messenger-Inquirer* is a major source of articles, but they sometimes come from other sources as well.

In order to keep the bulletin board current, the library staff is asking members to keep their eyes open for items that feature our church members. If you see something, please save, date and source them and drop them off in the library or with Sasha.

January Happenings



Pitino Shelter Meal Dec. 31



Epiphany Sunday



2018 Trivia Night



2018 Elders & Deacons

Sanctuary Flowers

Have you noticed the beautiful flowers that have been gracing our sanctuary on Sundays? We have a wonderful agreement with Gary's Florist that you can be part of to commemorate special dates and people. For just \$45 plus \$6 delivery (\$51 total), you can order one of these gorgeous and always timely arrangements.



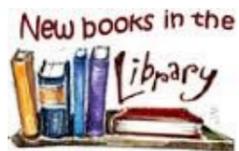
your order on Sunday.

After church on Sunday, you may take your flowers home. Please bring containers for them, however, as the urns must stay at the church for the next week's flowers. Its so simple! If you have any question, just ask Sasha or Brad Smith.



New Books in the Library

February is a good time to snuggle under a blanket with a good book and our church library has some new additions that you might like. The checkout process is easy! Just write your name and date on the card in the book and place it alphabetically by author in the box on top of the card catalog stand. To return, just place book on the stand.



Our new additions:

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff by Richard Carlson. Learn to put stress and anxiety in perspective through small daily changes.

Seeking the Face of God: An approach to Christian prayer and spirituality by William H. Shannon. Author shows us how we can go about praying better.

Open the Door by Joyce Rupp. The image of a door provides a daily prayer guide for the process of discovering your true self.

The Life of Meaning: Reflections on faith, doubt, and repairing the world edited by Bob Abernathy & William Bole. Authors ask "the big questions" and share answers from over 50 contributors.

Breakfast with God: Inspirational thoughts to start your day God's way by Honor Books. One-a-day meditations to get you going each day.

Our Youth

In January, the youth had the pleasure of co-sponsoring our 2nd Annual Trivia Night. They also "sold" themselves to teams in need of additional members. Over \$1000 was raised, so thank you all who came for the fun and made donations for their mission trip this summer.

It is NOT too late to register for the **Summer 2018 High School Mission Trip**. The Youth will be working with Beth-El Farmworkers Ministry in Florida helping with their food pantry, leading Vacation Bible School for children and perhaps doing simple home repairs for families. Their final day will be a trip to the beach on the Gulf of Mexico. The kids are really excited!



Dates: June 16-24, 2018

Eligibility: Rising freshman - graduated seniors
Deposit Due: \$150 per participant due with registration to Stephanie ASAP and no later than February 8 so it can be submitted in time.

Registration Deadline: February 9, 2018.

Worship & Wonder

In February, the children in Worship & Wonder will wonder about the following themes each week:

February 4—The Parable of the Good Samaritan

February 11—A special Lenten Puzzle

February 18—Jesus and the Children

February 25—Jesus and Bartimaeus

Based on the religious education ideas of Maria Montessori, Worship & Wonder acknowledges that children already have a relationship with God and that they are comfortable living in questions. Children have the opportunity to hear Bible stories and form responses based on their own life experiences. At the same time they learn our church traditions and how to participate in worship.



CDO Has New Name



Beginning January 1, 2018, our Children's Day Out program has taken a new name. The new name, which better reflects the mission of the program as well as honors the history of early child education at First Presbyterian Church, is now the **Presbyterian Weekday School**.

Our program has been more than a "day out" for children and break for parents. It is a program dedicated to fostering the development of young children through a competitive educational program. It uses a national curriculum that includes fun and age-appropriate skill building activities.



Our Director, Stephanie Dube, and her staff are excited and looking forward to growing and expanding the program. All are invited to stop by and check out what is going on any time.

American Heart Month



February is National Heart Awareness Month. Here are some time tips for taking care of yours – your heart will love you for it!

Choose a heart-health diet.

Knowing which foods to choose and avoid is a good place to start. Eat more vegetables, fruits, chicken and fish and limit red meat and trans fats.

Manage your stress. Being stressed increases blood pressure, heart rate and muscle tension. Find an activity that helps you lower yours.

Be active 30 minutes 5 times a week. Exercise is anything that burns calories so there are many options.

Know your family history. Your family heart history can show your own potential risks.

Know the warning signs. Pay attention to: chest discomfort, pain in arms, shortness of breath, cold sweat, & lightheadedness.