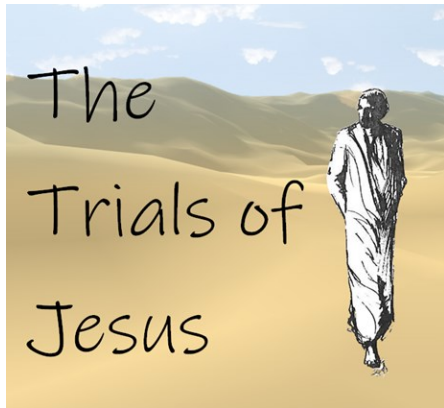


Our Journey Together

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



The Season of Lent will soon be upon us. Our modern world does not truly know how to deal with this season. The stores and society around us are full of Valentine’s Hearts, Spring Flowers, Easter bunnies. Everything is pastel, bright, happy. But in the church, in the 6 weeks leading up to Easter, we turn inward, we get contemplative, maybe even a little dark.

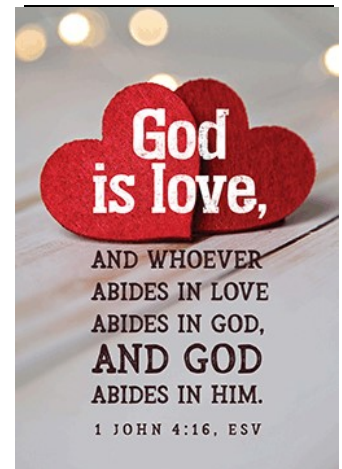
This is the season in which we, with Jesus, turn our eyes toward Jerusalem and all that transpires there during Holy Week. We pre-

pare ourselves to hear again of the struggles, the pain, the anguish that Christ suffered, so we don’t have to. This is a season to reckon with the fact that the punishment Jesus faced was meant for you and for me.

This year for Lent, in place of a traditional sermon, we will hear a monologue told from the perspective of someone who plays an important role in condemning Jesus to death. Like a courtroom drama, a series of witnesses come forward to give testimony about their experiences with the accused – Jesus of Nazareth. Through their accounts, we come to know the truth, that Jesus came to take our place in the defendant’s chair.

It is my prayer that as we move through Lent, we will continue to practice the Spiritual Disciplines we have been learning about, we will hear these testimonies from those Jesus encountered, and we will open our hearts to be better prepared to celebrate fully the amazing, overwhelming gift of the resurrection of Christ come Easter morning.

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ASH WEDNESDAY



Yes, Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day this year. It may be a bit of a strange mash-up of days, but God’s love for us in Christ Jesus is the greatest love the world has ever known. I hope you will join us for worship –7pm at

the Presbyterian Church. We will hear the first of the “Trials of Jesus” on this night, as the one testifying in this instance is “Satan”. This will be a powerful way to begin our Lenten journey to the cross, the tomb, and the Glorious Day.

So, mark your calendars...have date night on the weekend, and join us for Ash Wednesday.



Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month’s newsletter? If so, please have them into the church office no later than February 21.



February Ushers and Greeters

Feb 4 & 11, 14(Ash Wed)
Marvin & Pat Hasart

Feb 18, 25
Bob and Karen Steptoe
Bonnie Hall and Bev Cain

If you need to miss a week in which you are scheduled to usher, it is your responsibility to find someone to fill in for you.

Financial Update from Leadership Team

Financial Update as of December 31, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$128,908.88
 2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$162,202.49
 General Fund Difference: **(\$33,293.61)**



We are in need of someone to teach our little kids' Sunday School class for the remainder of the year. If you can help, even once or twice a month, please contact Pastor Teresa.

Our Lenten series lends itself well to participation by laity. If you would like to participate by presenting one of the monologues (no memorization required) please let Pastor know. The persons portrayed are all men, but women are absolutely able and welcome to participate.

Characters are: Satan, Judas, Herod, Caiaphus, Annas, and Peter.

It would be great to hear a variety of voices portray these amazing stories from Jesus' life.



Birthdays:

Feb 1 Journey Palmer
 Feb 5 Dennis Fawcett
 Feb 10 Robert Steptoe
 Feb 12 Doug Testerman
 Feb 18 Taya VanDerWerff
 Feb 20 Darlene Cox

Feb 20 Emily Rodgers
 Feb 22 Nathan Bertsch
 Feb 22 Edward Fritzsche
 Feb 23 Melanie Bowar
 Feb 23 Eugene Moncur
 Feb 23 Collin Otteson

Feb 24 Glenda Bertsch
 Feb 25 Emma Fritzsche
 Feb 25 Jim Keeter
 Feb 25 Amber VanDerWerff
 Feb 27 Sara Gates

Anniversaries:

No anniversaries for February



*** Please note these minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to modification***

Leadership Team Meeting January 10, 2024

I. Call to Order

Chairman Joe Fiala, called the January 10, 2024 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Library of the church. He welcomed the new members and thanked them for their desire to be part of the Leadership of the church. The sub-committees did not have anything to discuss so they did not meet earlier.

Members present: Pastor Teresa Whetsel, Bev Cain, Joe Fiala, Sara Gates, Merle Jenner, Deb Ko-pecky, Eugene Moncur, Doug Testerman, and JoAnn Testerman. Andrea Fiala, Shirley Hofer, Janice Moncur and JoAnn Morford were visitors.

II. Loving

Opening Devotional – Pastor Teresa lead the opening. In place of a regular devotional, Pastor led the group through a Lectio Divina look at the Great Commission in Matthew 26:16-20.

The Mission Statement of the UMC: “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. Everything we do as a church should contribute to this mission. This was read aloud by Joe.

Where have you seen God at work lately? Joe Fiala shared with the group about an event at the Capitol today. The Governor has invited the Native Tribes to hang their flags in the Capitol building and today two tribes brought their flags. During the ceremony the heads of the tribes each spoke. Joe related that the Crow Creek Tribal Chief ended his speech with the words “I Love You”. Joe said he really felt God was present during this time of celebration. Doug Testerman told of being at church in Sioux Falls with his family at Christmas. The church was running 2023 Highlights on their multimedia screen prior to the service. One of the highlights was showing some baptisms. Doug said he was delighted to see his granddaughter as one being baptized. Pastor Teresa said watching her 1-month old grandson is truly watching God at work.

Pastor Teresa led the group in prayer.

The Team then moved on to the business portion of the meeting.

III Learning

Approval of Consent Calendar

1. Secretary's Minutes - approval of December 2023 Minutes
2. Treasurers Report - (as approved by Finance Committee)

Chairman Joe Fiala explained how the consent calendar worked to the new members. He then asked for a motion to approve all items of the Consent Calendar.

Merle Jenner made a motion to approve the consent calendar items as stated. Doug Testerman made a second to the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

b. Next Meeting: The next meeting will be **Thursday, February 15, at 5:00pm.**

IV. Leading

Work Team Reports:

Outreach: JoAnn Testerman reported Outreach received a check of \$250 for the Community Garden from the Heartland Bank as part of their new “Give Back” project. Vicki Davis presented the check to JoAnn on December 21, 2023.

Worship: We will be hosting the Ministerial Unity Service, January 21, 2023 at 4:00 pm.

Sub-Committee Reports:

Finance:

Treasurer's report for December - The reports were prepared by shared work of Mike Moncur, outgoing treasurer and new treasurer, Sara Gates. They were emailed out to the Leadership Team. Hard copies were handed out at the meeting also. The December report showed revenues of \$13,795.67 and expenses at \$13,630.13 for a general fund difference of \$165.54. YTD general fund difference of (\$33,293.61). Sara asked the Team if it would be alright to make some changes in the layout of the spread sheets that would simplify them. Everyone was fine with any changes she would make.

Trustees: Andrea Fiala, outgoing trustee chairperson reported

- Replacement of rear facing projector

Waiting for Hughes Electric to do wiring work—TV and mount have been purchased and are stored in the storage room between the choir room and the T2G room

- Replacement of light fixture in sanctuary

Waiting for Hughes Electric to do this work on the north side, toward the front

- JoAnn T. reported that the fire extinguishers in the church were inspected today-Jan. 10, 2024
- Parsonage work -

Virg ordered and replaced a broken part on the dishwasher. He will submit his receipts.

- ♦ To do: make plans to replace the carpet in the middle bedroom.

Staff-Parish Relations:

No report

c. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Pastor Teresa made a comment that not all slots of leadership were filled and questioned if the Team wanted to elect the Chairman and Vice Chairman now or wait a month. The Team decided they should go ahead with electing tonight.

JoAnn Testerman made a nomination of Joe Fiala as chairman. Doug Testerman asked that nominations be closed for Chairman. Deb Kopecky seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Joe Fiala will be Chairman of the Leadership Team. Merle Jenner nominated Doug Testerman for Vice Chairman. Nominations ceased as there were no more given. Gene Moncur seconded the motion. All members voted in favor. Doug Testerman will be the Vice Chairman of the Leadership Team.

Thoughts on increasing revenue – This discussion was combined with the Dream Big item on the agenda.

Dream Big Ideas – The Team discussed different things of the list that were possibilities of putting into action. Positives of our church were talked about as things to keep in mind that make our church a place of welcoming others for meetings and gatherings. The main thoughts were greeting and being more welcoming and looking for chances to invite others to our church.

District Superintendent Dan Bader visit tonight- Due to health issues, DS Bader was unable to come.

He did send a Church Profile form for the team to discuss. There was some group discussion of some questions. Chairman, Joe Fiala, asked that the members fill out their form and turn it into the office so JoAnn T. could compile the answers and send a completed form back to DS Bader. This form will help the Bishop and cabinet select a new pastor for the church. Joe asked that these forms get to JoAnn this Friday morning, January 12. DS Bader would like to have a Zoom meeting with as many of the Team as possible this coming Tuesday evening, January 16. The time and link for the meeting will be sent to Leadership next week.

Pastor's Report-Pastor Teresa had to leave to go lead Youth Group before her report.

Lay Leadership openings for 2024—Pastor Teresa said we now have 2 of 3 positions filled in each area. Pastor is still waiting on some people to give her an answer. The Lay Leader position also needs to be filled.

Chairman Joe, gave closing comments to the Team. He summed things up by saying change is hard, but we need to be kind to each other. There is always opportunity in change; dynamics change and we need to grab it and we don't want to be discouraged but have faith that it will all be for good. We should have positive expectations and be open to new ideas.

There was no more business brought before the group.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 6:30 p.m.
JoAnn Testerman, recorder

February 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			 Each Wednesday 6-7:30 pm	1	2	3	
4	 Hymn Sing Nursing Home 6:15 pm	6	7	8	9	10 Master Gardeners Library 9-12	
11	 POTLUCK DINNER	12	13	14	15	16	
18	19	20	 Ash Wednesday Presbyterian church 7:00 pm	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	21 UWF Work Day 10-2 Lutheran church • Senior Boxes	28	29	 22 FEEDING SOUTH DAKOTA Food Truck Noon-1	

← Meals on Wheels →

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Spring training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season “spring training for Christians.” This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God’s favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we’ll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, “Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed” (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.

