



GOOD NEWS

First United Presbyterian Church
40 Institute Street
Wyoming, PA 18644
Worshiping in the Wyoming Presbyterian Church
Office: 570.609.5410
Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan, Pastor
Pastor email: mypastormartha@gmail.com
Office Email: presbywp@aol.com
Website: www.presbywp.org



MARCH 2020

Beloved Is Where We Begin

If you would enter
into the wilderness,
do not begin
without a blessing.
Do not leave
without hearing
who you are:
Beloved,
named by the One
who has traveled this path
before you.
Do not go
without letting it echo
in your ears,
and if you find
it is hard
to let it into your heart,
do not despair.
That is what
this journey is for.

I cannot promise
this blessing will free you
from danger,
from fear,
from hunger
or thirst,
from the scorching
of sun
or the fall
of the night.
But I can tell you
that on this path
there will be help.

—Jan Richardson
from [*Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*](#)
© Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

Dear Friends,

As we begin the Lenten journey, I am reminded that during these 40 days of Lent there are typically two focuses. One is a focus on our human condition, including our sinfulness and the consequences of those choices. The second focus is on the new possibilities offered to us through Jesus. The poem is an excerpt from Jan Richardson who I find makes me stop and pause and reflect. There is a lot that I can't promise on this journey with you as I begin my ministry, but I can tell you that I look forward to walking it with you knowing that God has walked the steps before we have started.

In this season of Lent, as I get to know you and the congregation, may it be a time of reflection. As Christians, we must understand where we have come from. We are quite a ways removed from the historic moments of Christ's life on this earth. Even so, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, we are called to be the church today in Wyoming. We can't ignore the past of who we have been, but we need to reflect on what God is calling us to do today. I look forward to this Lenten season and to walking the journey with you.

Blessings,
Martha

CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Sundays: 9:45 AM @ The Institute – Sunday School
 11:00 AM in The Sanctuary – Worship

Tuesdays: 6:30 PM @ The Institute – Choir Rehearsal
 7:00 PM @ Various Locations (see schedule) – Community Lenten Service
 7:30 PM @ The Institute – Lenten Bible Study

Sunday, March 1: 12:00 PM @ The Institute – Welcome reception for Martha Jordan
 Monday, March 2: 6:30 PM @ The Institute – Financial Peace University
 Tuesday, March 3: 7:00 PM @ The Institute – Deacons Meeting
 Wednesday, March 11: 9:00 AM @ The Institute – Morning Circle
 5:30 PM @ The Institute – Tutoring Table
 Thursday, March 12: 7:00 PM @ The Institute – Local History Presentation
 Wednesday, March 18: 7:00 PM @ The Institute – Session Meeting
 Sunday, March 22: 5:00 PM @ Zeigler house – Mid-Winter Mixer
 Wednesday, March 25: 5:30 PM @ The Institute – Tutoring Table

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS ARE MONDAY – FRIDAY 12:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Pastor Martha will be away following worship from 3/8 through 3/11, and 3/26



March Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 1 | Eli Harding | 14 | Kathryn Golecki | 26 | Avery Wynder |
| 10 | Chad McGinnis | 17 | Beth Christ | 27 | Jack Burke |
| | Hannah Shelley | | Marissa Traglia | 29 | Ben Klaproth |
| | Alexandra Traglia | 21 | Megan Kuffa | 30 | Jennifer Rogers |
| 11 | Dan Christ | 22 | David Todd | 31 | Robert Bullions |
| | Nora Sofa | 23 | Katie Orlando | | Larry Holmes, Jr. |

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: THE PEOPLE JESUS SEES *Five Tuesdays in March at 7:30 pm at the Institute*

Jesus' interactions with others surprised those around him. Jesus was revolutionarily different than others in his society in the way he saw people. These connections, as told through Gospel stories, are not only still relevant in our society, but they are essential to understanding the good news. The purpose of this Lenten study is to examine the Gospel stories about Jesus' interaction in order to shed light on how we are called to be disciples of Jesus in our own time.

NEWS FROM THE TUTORING TABLE



The tutoring program follows the Wyoming Area School District Schedule for winter weather. Tutoring Table will be cancelled if Wyoming Area is closed or has an early dismissal.

We really appreciate our helpers - tutors or hosts or kitchen help. We are making a difference in our community and having a great time! Future dates for Tutoring Table: Wednesdays – March 11th and 25th, 5:30-7:15pm. Would you like to help? We'd love to have you (even for just one session)! Here's what we need:

- **Tutors** - Teachers welcome, but we also need people who can read with children (or flip flashcards)
- **Hosts** - talk with families while their children are being tutored
- **Childcare** - watch and play with little siblings
- **Kitchen** - meal prep and clean up
- **School supplies** – donations of pencils, erasers, notebooks, folders, crayons

Contact anyone on the Tutoring Table team - Michelle Klapproth, Marge Zeigler, Erin Viglione, BJ Ahearn. (Adult helpers need clearances. They are free and we can help you get them.)

Do you know sign language (ASL)? We can use you for Tutoring Table! Contact a team member.

DEACONS NEWS

MOVIE NIGHT Save the date Saturday, April 4, at the Institute for a movie night sponsored by the deacons. Bring family and friends to enjoy a movie to be announced. All are welcome!

SOUP OFF! Thank you to everyone who cooked, ate, and voted on the deacons' annual soup off. Congrats to Evie, Erin and Emily for taking home the prizes!



WELCOME RECEPTION

There will be a reception in the Institute after worship on Sunday, March 1, to welcome Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan as our Transitional Pastor. Light refreshments will be served. Reception sponsored by the Transition Team.

Save the Date!

Our annual Mid-winter Mixer for grown-ups will be more of a spring celebration this year, with the Jordans joining us for a relaxing gathering at the Zeiglers'. Put it on your calendar!

Sunday, March 22, 4:00 PM, 516 Dennison Avenue, Wyoming

Beverages and hot sandwiches will be provided. Please bring some **finger-food** (sweet or savory) to share.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS NEW DATE IN MARCH!

The Community Connections local history presentation organized by the Women's Fellowship has been changed to an earlier date, **MARCH 12**, due to the availability of the speaker. William Lewis will speak about the West Side. Please spread the word about this change.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Women's Association will meet 9:00 AM, March 11th for their Morning Circle, and are hosting the Community Connection event on March 12th as Bill Lewis speaks about the history of the west side.

Memorial Flowers

If you wish to place an Easter flower in the sanctuary for Easter, fill out the form below. The deadline for placing the order is **March 22nd**. Return the form to:

Wyoming: Betty Lou Murdock 570-693-1118
Checks payable to Wyoming Presbyterian Church

West Pittston: Bettie Ann Morgan 570-822-2582
Checks payable to First Presbyterian Church

NAME _____

Lilly - \$7.50 # _____

Hyacinths - \$5.50 # _____

Tulip - \$5.50 # _____

IN MEMORY OF

IN HONOR OF

SPECIAL SERVICES and STUDIES for LENT

If schools are cancelled due to inclement weather, these events will be cancelled.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--|
| February 26 | 7:00 PM | Ash Wednesday Community Service Rev. Roger Griffith, Second Presbyterian Church of Pittston, 143 Parsonage St., Pittston |
| March 3 | 7:00 PM | Community Service Deacon Jim Rose, Queen of Apostles Parish, 715 Hawthorne St., Avoca |
| | 7:30 PM | Bible Study, "People Jesus Meets" Rev. Dr. Martha Jordan, The Institute, 40 Institute St., Wyoming |
| March 10 | 7:00 PM | Community Service Pastor Marge Zeigler, Moosic Presbyterian Church, 625 Main St., Moosic |
| | 7:30 PM | Bible Study, "People Jesus Meets" CP Bonnie Yuscavage, The Institute, 40 Institute St., Wyoming |
| March 17 | 7:00 PM | Community Service Pastor Nate Achterhof, Nativity of Our Lord Parish, 127 Stephenson St., Duryea |
| | 7:30 PM | Bible Study, "People Jesus Meets" Pastor Marge Zeigler, The Institute, 40 Institute St., Wyoming |
| March 24 | 7:00 PM | Community Service Fr. John Polednak, Bethel United Methodist Church, 532 Main St., Avoca |
| | 7:30 PM | Bible Study, "People Jesus Meets" Pastor Marge Zeigler, The Institute, 40 Institute St., Wyoming |
| March 31 | 7:00 PM | Community Service Rev. Sharon Dietz, Moosic United Methodist Church, 609 Main St., Moosic |
| | 7:30 PM | Bible Study, "People Jesus Meets" Elder Dan Klapproth, The Institute, 40 Institute St., Wyoming |
| April 5 | 5:00 PM | Community Agape Meal and Service (covered dish) , Second Presbyterian Church of Pittston |
| April 9 | 7:00 PM | Maundy Thursday Community Communion Service , Presbyterian Churches of Wyoming and West Pittston, 454 Wyoming Ave., Wyoming |
| April 10 | 12-3:00 PM | Good Friday Community Service Langcliffe Presbyterian Church, 1001 Main St., Avoca 12:00 Pastor Marge Zeigler 12:30 Pastor Nate Achterhof 1:00 Pastor Michael Shambora 1:30 Fr. Carmen Bolock 2:00 Pastor Dale Pepper 2:30 Pastor Marge Zeigler |
| April 12 | 7:00 AM | Easter Sunrise Community Service The Grove at The Institute, 40 Institute St., Wyoming |

Joys to Celebrate & Burdens to Share

We fulfill scriptural instruction when we pray for those we know and those who are known to others who ask us to lift their concerns to God in prayer, the names below are the most recent additions to our prayer List. We need not know the specifics of their situation, trusting that God will know what is needed. Please let us know when it is time to remove a name thanks to answered prayer, crisis passed, or entry into “the heavenly host.”

Bill and Susan Butcher, Sandy Knouse, Adelaide, Florence & John Coolbaugh, Paul & Christine Fazio, Jim Williams, Mark and Sharon Weber, Judy Black, Judy Burke, Bill Lawler, the Rugh family, Guy Fasciana, Mark & Ann Williams, Val Burke, Kelly Wynder Rodgers, Dakota Segeda, Amy Wiggins, Andy Kuffa, Patricia & Rich Tolladay, Nora Terran, Zack, Marlene, Amy Gromel, Shirley Weber, Linda Houck, Dorothy Rugh, Ann Crawford, Maverick Schwartzenburg, Maurice Dionne, Rev. John Markarian, Barry and Grace Hosier, Nance Browdie, Margaret Coolbaugh, Bill Kendall, Di Jolley, Donna Salerno, Kennedy, Andrew Maculloch, USMC, Teresa Stacchiotti, Dolores Martini, Douglas Skene, Joan Tilley, Gloria Green, Mary Claire Gallagher, Joan & Jack Finn, Maureen Krokos, Bonnie Houpt, Casen Lear, Jim Coolbaugh, Florence Lombardo, Fulvio Ranalli, Dan Christ, Henrietta Timinski, Jessica Malone, Victoria Everett, Cheryl Scott, Barbara Krohmer, William Sommerville, Sally, Dennis Dalrymple, Jennifer Williams, Julia & Claire Emmert, Michelle Klaproth, Kyle & Corey Loftus, Ron Hagenbaugh, John Jr., Frank, Bernice Ashford, Cassidy Palamieri, Jennifer Beard, Barb & David Fairbrother, Irene Amato, Dennis, Claude Collins, Brenda, Raymond & Bonnie Banaszek, Alberta Simonson.

Let Us Also Pray for our servicemen and women, for peace in the Middle East, for victims of the storms, for the worldwide church and for members and friends of our church in need of our prayers and concern – Matt Ross, Rev. Carol Coleman, Mary Williams, Thad Kanaske, Darren Michael Eaton, Betty Miller, Shirley Butler, Anita Yurek, Raymond Fleming, and Jennifer Helfrich.

As a congregation we extend sympathy and support to Katie Getzie and her extended family following the death of her mother, Ann Crawford, as well as Joe Argenio and his family following the death of his wife, Judy Argenio, a former longtime member of West Pittston.

We learn to pray by praying the prayers others have written. These prayers are from *The Book of Common Worship*, published by the Presbyterian Church (USA) in 2018:

First Sunday in Lent

Almighty God,
your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are but did not sin.
Give us grace to direct our lives
in obedience to your Spirit,
that you know our weakness,
so we may know your power to save;
through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Second Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the cross:
Give us faith to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to bear our cross,
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Third Sunday in Lent

Eternal God,
your kingdom has broken into our troubled world
through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.

Help us to hear your word and obey it,
that we may become instruments of your saving love
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Gracious God, in order that the children of earth
might discern good from evil
you sent your Son to be the light of the world.
As Christ shines upon us,
may we learn what pleases you,
and live in all truth and goodness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Almighty God, our Redeemer,
in our weakness we have failed
to be your messengers of forgiveness and hope.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit,
that we may follow your commands
and proclaim your reign of love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS for MARCH 2020

from The Book of Common Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Mar 1 | Psalm 32 | Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 | Romans 5:12-19 | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| Mar 2 | Psalm 32 | 1 Kings 19:1-8 | Hebrews 2:10-18 | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| Mar 3 | Psalm 32 | Genesis 4:1-16 | Hebrews 4:14-5:10 | Matthew 4:1-11 |
| Mar 4 | Psalm 32 | Exodus 34:1-9, 27-28 | | Matthew 18:10-14 |
| Mar 5 | Psalm 121 | Isaiah 51:1-3 | 2 Tim 1:3-7 | Matthew 18:10-14 |
| Mar 6 | Psalm 121 | Micah 7:18-20 | Romans 3:21-31 | Matthew 18:10-14 |
| Mar 7 | Psalm 121 | Isaiah 51:4-8 | | Luke 7:1-10 |
| Mar 8 | Psalm 121 | Genesis 12:1-4a | Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17 | John 3:1-17 |
| Mar 9 | Psalm 128 | Numbers 21:4-9 | Hebrews 3:1-6 | John 3:1-17 |
| Mar 10 | Psalm 128 | Isaiah 65:17-25 | Rom. 4:6-13 | John 3:1-17 |
| Mar 11 | Psalm 128 | Ezek. 36:22-32 | | John 7:53-8:11 |
| Mar 12 | Psalm 95 | Exodus 16:1-8 | Col. 1:15-23 | John 7:53-8:11 |
| Mar 13 | Psalm 95 | Exodus 16:9-21 | Eph. 2:11-22 | John 7:53-8:11 |
| Mar 14 | Psalm 95 | Exodus 16:27-35 | | John 4:1-6 |
| Mar 15 | Psalm 95 | Exodus 17:1-7 | Romans 5:1-11 | John 4:5-42 |
| Mar 16 | Psalm 81 | Genesis 24:1-27 | 2 John 1-13 | John 4:5-42 |
| Mar 17 | Psalm 81 | Genesis 29:1-14 | 1 Cor. 10:1-4 | John 4:5-42 |
| Mar 18 | Psalm 81 | Jer. 2:4-13 | | John 7:14-31, 37-39 |
| Mar 19 | Psalm 23 | 1 Sam. 15:10-21 | Eph. 4:25-32 | John 7:14-31, 37-39 |
| Mar 20 | Psalm 23 | 1 Sam. 15:22-31 | Eph. 5:1-9 | John 7:14-31, 37-39 |
| Mar 21 | Psalm 23 | 1 Sam. 15:32-34 | | John 1:1-9 |
| Mar 22 | Psalm 23 | 1 Sam. 16:1-13 | Eph. 5:8-14 | John 9:1-41 |
| Mar 23 | Psalm 146 | Isaiah 59:9-19 | Acts 9:1-20 | John 9:1-41 |
| Mar 24 | Psalm 146 | Isaiah 42:14-21 | Col. 1:9-14 | John 9:1-41 |
| Mar 25 | Psalm 146 | Isaiah 60:17-22 | | Matthew 9:27-34 |
| Mar 26 | Psalm 130 | Ezek. 1:1-3;2:8-3:3 | Rev. 10:1-11 | Matthew 9:27-34 |
| Mar 27 | Psalm 130 | Ezek. 33:10-16 | Rev. 11:15-19 | Matthew 9:27-34 |
| Mar 28 | Psalm 130 | Ezek. 36:8-15 | | Luke 24:44-53 |
| Mar 29 | Psalm 130 | Ezek. 37:1-14 | Romans 8:6-11 | John 11:1-45 |
| Mar 30 | Psalm 143 | 1 Kings 17:17-24 | Acts 20:7-12 | Luke 24:44-53 |
| Mar 31 | Psalm 143 | 2 Kings 4:18-37 | Eph. 2:1-10 | Luke 24:44-53 |
| Apr 1 | Psalm 143 | Jer. 32:1-9, 36-41 | | Matthew 22:23-33 |
| Apr 2 | Psalm 31:9-16 | 1 Sam. 16:11-13 | Phil. 1:1-11 | Luke 24:44-53 |
| Apr 3 | Psalm 31:9-16 | Job 13:13-19 | Phil. 1:21-30 | Luke 24:44-53 |
| Apr 4 | Psalm 31:9-16 | Lam. 3:55-66 | | Mark 10:32-34 |
| Apr 5 | <i>Liturgy of the Palms:</i> | | | |
| | Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 | | | Matthew 21:1-11 |
| | <i>Liturgy of the Passion:</i> | | | |
| | Psalm 31:9-16 | Isaiah 50:4-9a | Phil. 2:5-11 | Matthew 26:14-27:66 |

First United Presbyterian Church
40 Institute Street
Wyoming, PA 18644

CURRENT RESIDENT OR