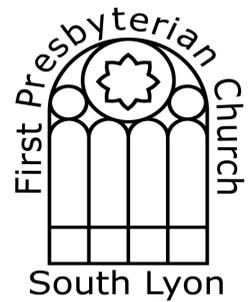


The

First Word



Vol. 18 No. 3 March 2016

First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
205 East Lake Street, South Lyon, MI 48178-0123

The Gift of a New Day

As we continue through the season of Lent, it seems only fitting that I share a confession with you. After a very busy Saturday, and an even busier Sunday, the last thing I wanted to do was to come to work on Monday morning. Having just returned from vacation and a week long sinus infection, all I wanted to do was stay home, sit in front of the television and feel sorry for myself.

It was during that time of discernment that I received a text from Stephanie letting me know that her cousin and wife gave birth to their first child. His birthdate: 2/29/2016. Yes, a leap year baby! I hadn't realized before then that it was "leap day."

I began to think more and more about the day and came to realize that we have been given an amazing gift...an extra day. It's a gift that doesn't come around very often, only once every four years. So that got me thinking as well. In four more years, my daughter will be a senior in high school. Will she have decided on a college or university? Will she go away to school, or stay local?

I thought about our presidential election. In four more years, this term that has yet to begin, will be drawing to a close as we engage in yet another ugly campaign.

Holy Week *Schedule*

PALM SUNDAY
MARCH 20
Worship 10:30 a.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY
March 24
Tenebrae Service
"A Service of Shadow"
8:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY
MARCH 25
Community Service
7:00 p.m.
First United Methodist
Church

EASTER SUNDAY
MARCH 27
Worship 10:30 a.m.

And what about our congregation? How will it have changed? What new ministries will we be sharing with our community? Who will we consider to be our neighbors?

In the book of Jeremiah it is written:

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile. (Jer 29:11-14, NRSV)

This passage brings me great comfort and hope as it reminds us of God's everlasting faithfulness and steadfast love. No matter where we may find ourselves whether it be for better or for worst, God will be with us always.

Leap Day, February 29th, has come and gone. For most of us, it was just another day. While I am grateful for the opportunity to reflect on its significance and dream of a bright future, I am also reminded by the Psalmist that every day is a gift from our Creator. "Today is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24) Each day, we are gifted with a new beginning filled with new opportunities. New opportunities to love, to show kindness, to act justly, to learn, to forgive, and to be forgiven.

What you do with your new day is up to you. However, I encourage you to take a few moments each morning and give thanks to God for the new day which you have been given. Imagine what our days would be like if we approach each one with a sense of gratitude, rather than that of duty or obligation. Sunday worship should be approached in the same manner. Remember, it's not about you, your likes or dislikes. It's about God and gratitude for what God has done for us.

In this spirit, may all your days be filled with gratitude and joy.

With Peace and Grace,
Pastor Mike

From the Deacons

Greetings from your Deacons:

We have dates concerning the Easter Baskets being assembled for " Families Building Faith ". Those who wish to sign up to help assemble these baskets will find a sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside the sanctuary. The baskets will be done on Saturday 3/5/16. *Note we will continue to accept items for the baskets through Sunday 3/13/16.

We are looking forward to spring when we will gain two additional deacons and can better serve our church family.

God bless,
Deacon Jack Rae



BOWL TO HELP SUPPORT ACTIVE FAITH

Join us on Sunday, March 6th from 1p.m.-3p.m. for the **ACTIVE FAITH bowling fundraiser** which will be held at Pinz Bowling Alley in South Lyon.

The \$100 fee (per team) includes pizza, pop and bowling. If you cannot attend and would like to donate to the team donations can be made to the church (be sure to indicate "Active Faith Bowl" in the memo.)



WORLD TEAM VISION 6K GLOBAL RUN FOR CLEAN WATER

On March 19, 2016, in celebration of world water week, people from across the globe will unite and walk or run to provide clean water and fullness of life to children in Africa.

6K: The average distance people in Africa walk for water.

The distance we walk or run, so they no longer have to.

Help support Marci Mulligan as she runs the 6K on March 19th. Donations can be made to the church (be sure to indicate "Marci Mulligan" in the memo.)

Everyone Eats - Monthly Meal

The regular meal is Wednesday 16 March. Cookies donations (orange sign-up sheet by the M&O bulletin board) and volunteers should be at the church no later than 9:30am.

We will be returning by 2pm.

EVERYONE EATS - Easter Meal

This month there is going to be an Easter dinner on Wednesday 23 March. Non-pumpkin pies will be the order of the day. 20 non-pumpkin pies to the Parlor by 10:30 am. (blue sign-up sheet by the M&O bulletin board) Contact Anne Lyke at 248-202-8526.



MARCH

Pantry Needs

for Active Faith

During the month of MARCH, the preferred food donation is:

Canned Fruit, any flavor, any syrup, any size. The donation box is located south of the elevator by the coat racks.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blood Drive is Tuesday, March 15th

The American Red Cross will be in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, March 15th between 1pm-7pm. A pint of blood will be collected from any eligible persons, preferably by appointment but exceptions can be made. Contact Bob Cue at 248-310-9933.



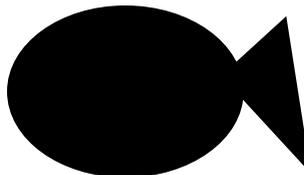
American Red Cross

Together, we can save a life

This Lent, FPCSL is participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing. On Sunday 20 March (Palm Sunday), the fish banks and/or offering envelopes will be received during Worship.

Thank you all for your generous support to provide warmth, food, water, and medical care to those less fortunate than ourselves.

FEED THE FISH



MAUNDY THURSDAY**Tenebrae Service****Thursday, March 24th - 8:00 p.m.**

“Tenebrae” is the Latin word for “shadows” or “darkness,” and our Tenebrae Service takes us into the darkness with Jesus’ disciples as they face Jesus’ betrayal, suffering and death. It is a powerful service, filled with sights and sounds, as the lights are extinguished, one by one, leaving us in darkness at Jesus’ death.



Join us for a special Lenten
Celebration:

AfterDark Candlelight Service

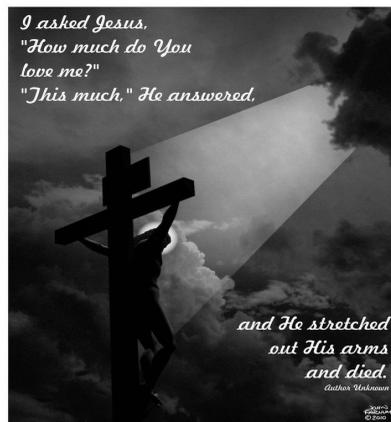
Wednesday, March 9, 2016

Simple Supper 6:30, Service at 7:00p.m.

Our AfterDark service begins with a simple meal of soup and bread, after which we will proceed to the Sanctuary for the candlelight service featuring readings, hymns and the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

**COMMUNITY WIDE
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**

First United Methodist Church
640 South Lafayette Street
South Lyon
7:00 p.m.

**CAPERNAUM HEALTH CLINIC****MARCH 28 - APRIL 1**

From Monday 28 March to Friday 1 April, the health services will be at First United Methodist Church on South Lafayette, just south of the park, and include dental, medical, and a mobile mammogram unit. Appointments can be made. We are responsible for the lunch on Wednesday 30 March. Contact Gwyn McClintock at 810-599-7133.

FOR ... AND ABOUT SOUTH LYON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN!

As we prepare for hosting the Detroit Presbyterian Women on May 7 at our church, we need **Milk Glass Bud Vases**. If you have one or more and would be able to donate for our use, or you could find one at a garage sale or resale shop, please keep us in mind. They can be left on the counter in the parlor for Joyce Johnson. Thank you!

There will be a Coordinating Team Meeting Thursday, March 10 at 10:00 in the Parlor to work on plans for the May 7 PWP meeting.

The Women's Bible Study meets at 11:00 a.m. in the Library on Wednesday, March 9 studying lesson Seven from "Come to the Waters". Topic is "Streams of Mercy—Forgiveness". Join us as we explore various aspects of giving and receiving forgiveness.

If you haven't been able to join us before...come we'd love to have you with us!

Dorothy Esbrook will be hostess for **Circle of Hope** on March 9 at 12:15 in the Parlor. Roll Call word is "Truth". Bring a sandwich to share, dessert and beverages provided.

Eve Circle will meet March 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Anne Lyke. A light supper is provided. A great chance getting to know other women of the church as they have interesting discussions and fellowship time. If you need directions to Anne's, just give her a call.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry continues knitting and crocheting Prayer Shawls for this powerful ministry of Love and Hope for all in need of some comfort as they face a crisis time in their lives. If you know of anyone that would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please let Vonda Boatman know and she can assist you in getting one delivered to the person in need.

Do you knit or crochet? Join us at 7:00 in the Parlor as we stitch and enjoy the time with each other on the 2nd Monday of the month. In March we meet the 14th

Baby Items are now being collected for Missions. The cradle is in place to remind you that we need diapers, wipes, receiving blankets. Items are being collected for the Presbyterian Women of Detroit Presbytery Ingathering.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PURPOSE

***Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit
We commit ourselves to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible Study,
To support the mission of the church worldwide,
To work for justice and peace, and
To build an inclusive, caring community of women that
Strengthens the Presbyterian Church (USA) and witnesses to the promise of
God's kingdom.***

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, March 20, 6:30—8:00 p.m.

Bring your Easter Basket and get ready for some fun at our 2nd annual Kid's Connection Easter Egg Hunt! Both Kid's Connection participants and guests are invited. We'll meet in our classroom for a brief lesson - game on Holy Week, have our Hunt, and then finish up the evening with a special Easter craft.

We ask that you RSVP to the church office (248-437-2875) or Pastor Jo if possible, so that we can be ready with candy, crafts and seats for all attending.

VBS 2016

June 27 - July 1

SURF SHACK: Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love

God's amazing love is never more evident than in our Children's Ministries here at First Presbyterian South Lyon, and as we get ready for another exciting year of VBS, the opportunities to share that love also becomes more clear.

Where do your gifts lie? Do you have a heart for organizing, or with manning the Registration table? Is your gift working in the kitchen, preparing healthy and fun snacks and sharing them with the kids and volunteers? Or are you a crafty sort who would like to have the hands-on experience of imagining and creating crafts that embrace the theme and share God's love? Or perhaps you are the kind of person who works behind the scenes, who donates food or supplies to be used for our VBS program?

No matter the way or ways in which God calls you to participate in our VBS ministry, there is always a place for you to offer your best for the children of our congregation and community. Pastor Jo is beginning to meet with the VBS area chairpersons to begin planning, and there is already a sign-up sheet on the Children's bulletin board across from Pastor Mike's office. There are positions for all abilities!

So won't you check it out and see how God might be calling you to participate? You don't want to miss this awesome opportunity!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Pastor Jo Morgan at the church or on her cell at 734-560-3885.



Telephone Changes

Please update your directory with the following changes:

Millie Turnbull - 734-680-5446

Mary Haack 517-219-3939

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

Easter is just around the corner. Help us decorate the sanctuary by purchasing beautiful Easter flowers. This year, in addition to the Easter Lily, you may purchase tulips and hyacinths. Your plant(s) can be taken home following the Easter service. Just complete this form and place it in the offering plate, or return it to the church office, with your payment, no later than **March 13**.



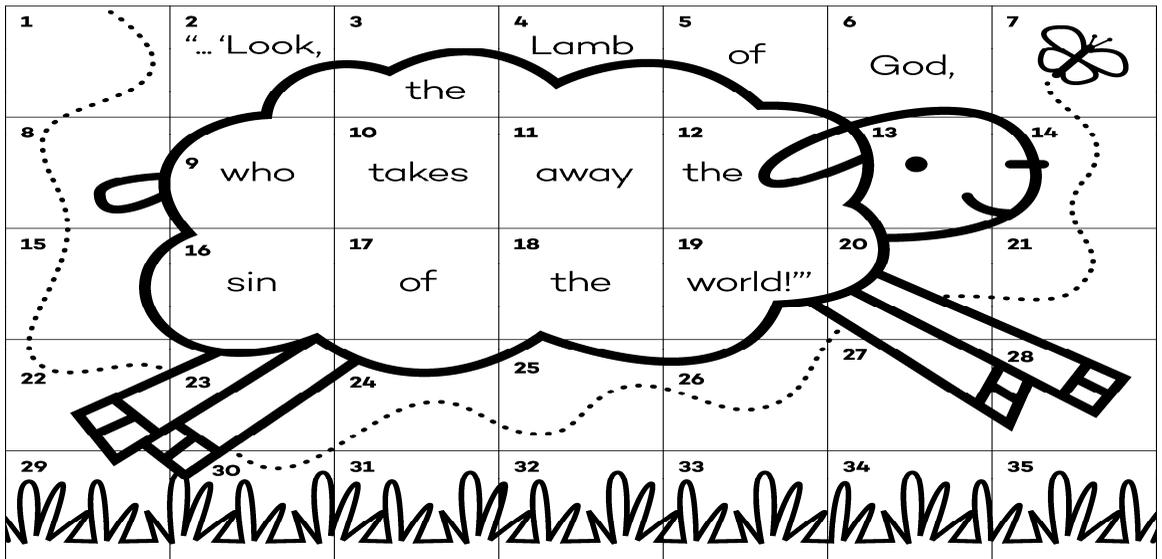
No. of Easter Lilies _____ @ \$15 = _____

No. of Tulips _____ @ \$8 = _____

No. of Daffodils _____ @ \$8 = _____

In honor/memory/celebration of (circle one please):

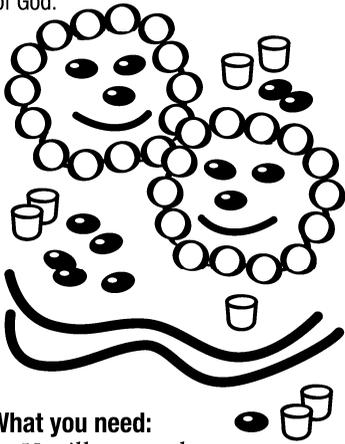
From: _____



Above is the "answer key" to the puzzle on the opposite page.

LITTLE LAMBS

Make these cute treats as a reminder that Jesus our Savior is also the Lamb of God.

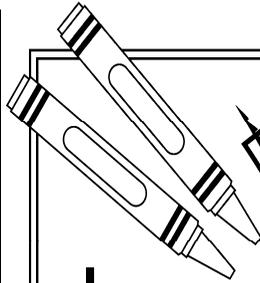


What you need:

- Vanilla cupcakes
- Vanilla frosting
- Butter knife
- Mini marshmallows
- Jellybeans
- Red licorice

What you do:

1. Bake and frost the cupcakes.
2. Place marshmallows around the edge of each cupcake.
3. Cut green or blue jellybeans in half and place two on each cupcake as eyes. Cut pink jellybeans in half and place one below each pair of eyes as a nose.
4. Cut thin strips of licorice, and place one on each cupcake as a mouth.
5. Enjoy!

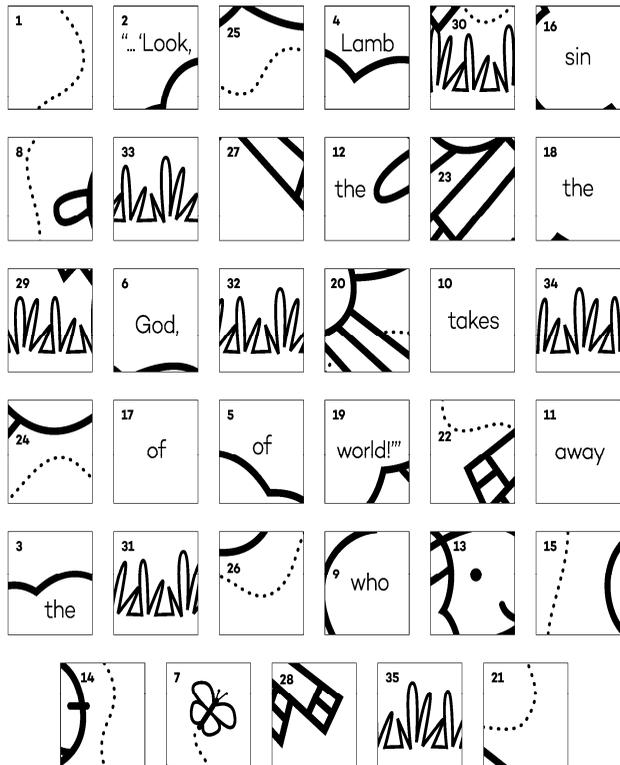


PUZZLE

Lamb of God

 John the Baptist knew Jesus was the Messiah — and offered a special greeting when he saw Jesus. 

Directions: Cut apart the squares and arrange them in a rectangle in numerical order, starting with #1 in the top left and going across to #7. Continue building four more rows of seven squares each, to reveal John 1:29, NIV.



Prayers & Praises

Prayer requests received during the month of February.

please pray for . . .

- the family of Terry Tennant
- Shelly Birckelbaw
- Mary Haack
- Vince LaPorte
- Carol Thompson
- Jason Van Ochten
- Millie Turnbull
- Eleanor Donley
- Bill Clogg
- Ann Clifton's coworker's sister, and Ann's friend, Tim Alassandrie
- Kathy Schultz's daughter in law Alison
- Kim MacNish's uncle John
- the families of those killed in the Kalamazoo shootings
- the cyclone victims in the South Pacific
- the volunteers and guests in the EIE program
- One Great Hour of Sharing

thank you . . . to Sally and our choir for their wonderful gift of music!



Terry Tennant

b June 8, 1930

d February 1, 2016

Our Shut-ins and Homebound

- Jane Beckstein
- Joan Borsh
- Millie Bunn
- Bill & Glenna Clogg
- Eleanor Donley
- Edna Hope
- Betty Ross
- Ann Seden
- Shirley Westacott

Our Men Serving in the Armed Forces

- Kenny Bond
- Ben Bond
- Brian Petersen
- Jared Roth

Our Friends Under the Care of Presbytery

- Anne Lyke
- Ruth Azar

Request prayer by calling the church office at (248) 437-2875 or online at www.fpcsouthlyon.org/prayer-requests. Please let your Deacon know how your prayer is being answered. If you do not know who your Deacon is, contact the church office.

HAPPY TO HELP

The International Day of Happiness is observed on March 20 (also the first day of spring this year; coincidence?). Jesus said we'll be happy (or "blessed") when we're meek, merciful, pure and so on (see his Beatitudes in Matthew 5:3-12). In other words, happiness results from putting others' needs above our own.

Research confirms that helping others boosts people's self-esteem, forges strong friendships, offers a sense of belonging and purpose, decreases stress, increases gratitude and sparks others to "pay it forward." In fact, University of Texas researchers found that the "activism cure" is a great way to overcome bouts of sadness. So get helping — and get happy!

SPECIAL DATES IN MARCH

- World Day of Prayer, March 4, 2016
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 6, 2016
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 13, 2016
- Daylight-Saving Time Begins, March 13, 2016
- Palm/Passion Sunday, March 20, 2016
- Holy Week, March 20-26, 2016
- First day of Spring, March 20, 2016
- Maundy Thursday, March 24, 2016
- Good Friday, March 25, 2016
- Holy Saturday, March 26, 2016
- Easter Sunday, March 27, 2016



SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Rev. Michael Horlocker, Pastor

Email: mhorlocker1@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday

Rev. Joanne Morgan, Parish Associate

Email: joanne.marie.morgan@gmail.com

Office Hours: Wednesday

Laura Goode, Administrative Assistant

Email: office@fpcsouthlyon.org

Office Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs. 9-3

Office is closed on Tuesdays & Fridays

Sally Messner, Director of Music

Email: sally.messner@gmail.com

Bob Weinburger, Treasurer

Peggy Hart, Custodian

Office: 248.437.2875

www.fpcsouthlyon.com

First Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
205 East Lake Street
South Lyon, MI 48178-0123

Mission Statement:

We are sent out by Jesus Christ to feed God's people spiritually, physically, and lovingly; planting seeds of hope, compassion, and justice within and throughout South Lyon and wherever else the Holy Spirit leads us.