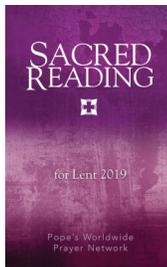


The Circular

MARCH 10, 2019

Lenten Devotionals

Complementary devotionals to enrich your Lenten season are available in the narthex and the church office for you to pick up. This year we are offering *Sacred Reading for Lent 2019*.



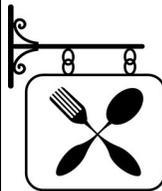
Community Appreciation Cookies Needed



A repeat of last year's enthusiastically received distribution of homemade cookies is scheduled for Sunday, March 24, following worship. How can you help? Please bring to the church before 3:00pm on Friday, March 22, small homemade cookies. These will be plated on Saturday, labeled, and available after worship for delivery to the police and fire departments, hospital, nursing homes, etc., to express our appreciation for the vital contributions of these organizations and individuals who serve our community.

Presby Lunch Bunch

The Presby Lunch Bunch will dine at The Lyn-Way on Tuesday, March 12 at 11:30am. Wear your orange or green, but no bagpipes, please. Please confirm a reservation with Cora by today.



Lenten Theme & Potlucks

Perhaps you are one who "gives up" something for Lent. We also invite you to "take up" something this Lenten season - a spirit of contentment. We will likely find that in order to embrace a spirit of contentment, we must also let go of those things that are causing us to feel discontent. Our Sunday morning messages will relate to embracing a spirit of contentment.

Each Wednesday during Lent, FPC will have a gathering at the church from 5:30—7:00pm. We will have a potluck and fellowship from 5:30—6:00pm followed by a time of reflection and prayer that help us Cultivate Our Contentment in a practical way.



Easter Choir

JoAnne Kash has expressed a desire to retire as choir director of FPC. We all extend our gratitude to her for all she has shared with FPC over her many years of service.

JoAnne will be directing our choir for the last time this Palm Sunday and Easter. We invite all to participate in the choir to prepare to sing for Palm Sunday and Easter. Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, March 13, at 7:00pm following our Lenten Potlucks. We will celebrate JoAnne's ministry during a future date.



March is Complete Meal Month

The Evangelism and Outreach Ministry Team's (E&O) special emphasis for March donations to the Food Bank will be components of complete meals. Suggestions include baked beans, spaghetti and sauce, macaroni and cheese, soup and crackers, etc. Collection boxes remain in the narthex and in the hallway near the chapel. As always, your check(s) made out to Associated Charities Food Bank are very helpful.



FPC Next Couple of Weeks

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Coffee 10:30am Worship	11 Church Office Closed 12:00pm Presbytery Safe Boundaries Event 6:00pm Women's Book Study	12 9:00am Worship Planning 10:00am Worship Ministry Team 11:30am Presby Lunch Bunch @LynWay 8:00pm AA	13 Session Packet Items Due 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Potluck 7:00pm Choir	14	15	16 5:00pm Potluck 6:00pm Chinese Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17 9:00am Confirmation 10:00am Coffee 10:30am Worship 2:00pm Rooted Cohort 5:30pm Small Group @ Eckenroths'	18 Church Office Closed 6:30pm Session	19 9:00am Worship Planning 11:30am Companions Sharing Group 8:00pm AA	20 10:00am Bible Study 5:30pm Lenten Potluck 7:00pm Choir	21 Monthly Newsletter Deadline	22 Cookies Due	23 5:00pm Potluck 6:00pm Chinese Church

**Transforming Lives
in Jesus' Name**

FIRST
SUNDAY



IN
LENT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ASHLAND
March 10, 2019

320 Church Street, Ashland, OH 44805
(419) 289-6205
ashlandfpc.org

GOD GATHERS US

Preparation for Worship

Dear God, we come to worship you today. We come to sing, pray, and listen. You always hear us. Help us to hear you.

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

One: Gentle and patient

All: God, you are calling.

One: Careful and persistent

All: God, you are calling.

One: In grieving and in praise

All: God, you are calling.

One: Through dawn and midday

All: God, you are calling.

One: Unexpected and planned

All: God, you are calling.

One: In a still small voice and in power

All: God, you are calling.

One: Spontaneous and prepared

All: God, you are calling.

One: Willing or protected

All: God, you are calling.

One: Our God is eager to share with us. Wherever we are in our journey may we be diligent to listen.

All: God, you are calling.

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn #332** *Live Into Hope*

Prayer of Confession

Moment of Silent Confession

***Gloria Patri #579**

What Contentment is Not

Taken from *Margin*, by Richard A. Swenson, M.D.

Contentment isn't denying one's feelings about unhappiness, but instead a freedom from being controlled by those feelings.

It isn't pretending things are right when they are not, but instead the peace that comes from knowing that God is bigger than any problem and that He works them all out for our good.

Contentment isn't the complacency that defeats any attempt to make things better, but instead the willingness to work tirelessly for improvement, clinging to God rather than results.

It isn't a feeling of well-being contingent on keeping circumstances under control, but instead a joy that exists in spite of circumstances and looks to the God who never varies.

It isn't the comfortable feeling we get when all our needs and desires are met, but instead the security of knowing, as A.W. Tozer reminds us, that "The man who has God for his treasure has all things in One."

Finally, contentment isn't that pseudo-virtue of the "American Dream" where we claim solidarity with Paul from the easy chair of middle-class America. We profess to having learned the secret of contentment in all circumstances, yet we've never experienced forty lashes, stoning, shipwreck, hunger, thirst, homelessness, or imprisonment.