

March, 2020

Vol. 20-3

Northwest Presbyterian Church

# *Monthly Newsletter*

SPRING  
Forward



"Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ in me..."

from a prayer of St. Patrick



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### **The Lenten Season**

Ash Wednesday on February 27th began the season of Lent in the traditional Church calendar. Lent is a solemn time of reflection and repentance. It is flooded by God's grace and mercy poured out upon us as we recognize and turn from all manner of falsehood and deception that captivated our hearts and minds and drew us away from a focused devotion to God.

Jesus beckons us to come away with him for a time of deep thinking, a time of self-examination, a time of receptive openness to God's grace that seeks to transform us into a better model of ourselves — a new creature.

As we turn ourselves away from the distractions of this world, the silence we experience feels uncomfortable at first, because we are so used to being caught up in the fast-paced bombardment of sound and sight that come at us continually through the many forms of media and communication that have become common in our collective world experience.

In the silence of Lent, if we take the time to linger there, we will find clarification and understanding. God reveals the "whys" and "wherefores" of our many questions as we seek Him in focused attention.

All that Jesus our Messiah has done for us becomes visible to our understanding in that place of silence in the presence of God. We realize that Jesus has taken all of our sins upon Himself and has paid the full price for them, and we have been freed from all guilt.

After six weeks of resting under the shelter of our Father's wings of mercy, bathed in his grace, we can spread our wings and fly out again into the noisy clamor of this world. But this time, we are stronger and more resistant to its magnetic pull. We are able to soar above the clamor, recognizing the temporal nature of all of its busy-ness. The burden of our sins have been lifted, and on Easter Sunday, we are raised with Christ to new life.

*Pastor Elizabeth Coleman*

On Sunday, February 23rd, Rev. Coleman ordained Pam Fonte as an Elder. Pam will now serve on Session as the head of Congregational Care. Following services there was a luncheon in Fellowship Hall for the purpose of getting to know Rev. Coleman.



# The Empty Chair

Mandy Marie asked her pastor, James Lettinger, to come and pray with her father Bob. When the minister arrived, he found Bob lying in bed with his head propped up on two pillows. An empty chair sat beside his bed. The minister assumed that the old fellow had been informed of his visit. "I guess you were expecting me Bob," he said.

"No. I was not expecting you," said Bob. "Who are you?"

"I'm the new minister at your church," he replied. "When I saw the empty chair, I figured you knew I was going to show up."

"Oh yeah, the chair," said the bedridden man. "Would you mind closing the door?"

Puzzled, Pastor James shut the door.

"I have never told anyone this, not even my daughter," said the man. "But all of my life I have never known how to pray. At church I used to hear the pastor talk about prayer, but it went right over my head. I abandoned any attempt at prayer," the old man continued, "until one day about four years ago my best friend said to me, 'Bob, prayer is just a simple matter of having a conversation with Jesus.' 'Here is what I suggest. Sit down in a chair; place an empty chair in front of you, and in faith see Jesus on the chair. It's not spooky because he promised, 'I'll be with you always.' Then just speak to him and listen in the same way you're doing with me right now.'

So, I tried it and I've liked it so much that I do it a couple of hours every day. I'm careful though. If my daughter saw me talking to an empty chair she'd either have a nervous breakdown or send me off to the funny farm."

James was deeply moved by the story and encouraged the old guy to continue on the journey. Then he prayed with Bob, anointed him with oil, and returned to the church.

Two nights later the daughter called to tell the pastor that her daddy had died that afternoon.

"Did he die in peace?" he asked. "Yes, when I left the house about two o'clock, he called me over to his bedside, told me he loved me and kissed me on the cheek. When I got back from the store an hour later I found him dead. But there was something strange about his death. Apparently, just before Daddy died, he leaned over and rested his head on the chair beside the bed. What do you make of that?"

Pastor James wiped a tear from his eye and said, "I wish we all could go like that."

We live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7







## **GriefShare Support Group Meets Every Monday Here at Northwest Church**

If you are grieving the death of a loved one, you will find hope and encouragement when you come to GriefShare. We meet Mondays in the Conference Room from 4:00 to 5:30 pm through April 13th. Brochures are available in the Narthex. This group is for adults both in our church and in the community.

Questions? Go to the website [www.griefshare.org](http://www.griefshare.org) or see Barb Piwonka or Charlotte Ogilvie.

Please pray for the participants to draw closer to the Lord and receive His healing and comfort. Also please pray for God to impart His wisdom and compassion to the leaders of the GriefShare ministry. There were 16 in attendance the last meeting of January.



In February, our friend Pat Tadeena demonstrated her amazing artistic ability. It was a pleasure to observe Pat creating Joseph the Lion.

Afterwards, we all enjoyed an ice cream treat.





# BACKPACKS AND PURSES



Do you have a purse or backpack you no longer use and is in good condition? An article was recently posted on Facebook suggesting a way to downsize “things” in your home is to take these unused items, fill them with feminine hygiene products, combs, brushes, deodorant, lotion, etc. and donate them to an Outreach Program for the homeless, such as we have here at NWP. Adding some single dollar bills or change is also very appreciated. (please remember to **never** include hand sanitizer.)

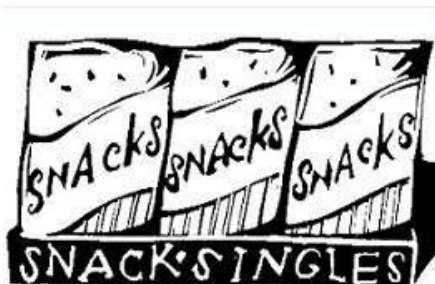


Peanut butter and jelly, Pasta and Rice, Pasta Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Canned fruit and vegetables, Cereal, Cereal Bars, Crackers, Soups, Canned meats and Tuna.

In addition to the every day items:

Canned pumpkin, evaporated milk, green beans and corn, French onions, mushroom soup, cornbread mix, instant potatoes, flour, sugar, cake mixes and canned frosting.

Portable snack items such as cheese and crackers, peanut butter and crackers, cookies, Vienna Sausages, fruit snacks, candy bars, individual chips and pretzels.



## All individual serving size...

Chips, pretzels, dried fruit, nuts, popcorn, candy (chocolate not recommended), hard candy, mints, gum, crackers and cheese, crackers and peanut butter, crackers and cookies.

**WE ALWAYS,  
ALWAYS, ALWAYS  
NEED TOWELS**



**Always needed are men's  
and women's socks,  
underwear and t-shirts  
Sizes medium and large.**



Submitted by: Rose West-Phillips

The choir and I really appreciate praise we receive for our music. Any time you would like to hear us sing something again please put it in writing and give it to one of the choir members. We work very hard and sometimes need to do things over and over before we feel we can sing them in church. We really enjoy your smiles and to often see you singing along. When we enter the sanctuary we put ourselves in a prayerful mood and pray that everyone will do the same. Several Sundays ago, there were people talking during our anthem. It was very disturbing to us and the people in the congregation. We prayerfully hope that this will not happen again.

We usually do our Easter Cantata on Palm Sunday; however, this year Palm Sunday is Communion Sunday. Therefore, the cantata will be presented on Easter Sunday.

On March 15th (St Patrick's Day) we will be singing Irish based hymns. The choir will sing "I Cannot Tell" which is to the tune "O Danny Boy" also known as "Londonderry Aire". Elizabeth will be playing the piano for us that day.

Featured Songs this month as requested by members.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling was the title of the hymn we know now as just "Softly and Tenderly". Will Lamatine Thompson was inspired to write this hymn while attending a meeting with Dwight Moody. Will sang the hymn to Moody as he (Moody) was near death.

"Jesus Loves Me" was written by Susan and Anna Warner as a poem in a book they wrote entitled "Say and Seal". The poem was written as part of the story where a young boy is dying. The music was written by William Bradly who added a verse. The original poem is not the same as what we sing today. The first verse is the same, but other parts of the poem are "Jesus loves me loves me still, Though I'm very weak and ill; From his shining throne on high, comes to watch me where I lie. Jesus loves me, he will stay, close beside me all the way. Then his little child will take, up to heaven for his dear sake. Jesus Loves me, He who died Heaven's gate to open wide; He will wash away my sin, Let His Little child come in.

Prayerfully,  
Rose West Phillips.



Our thanks to all who said they will be holding the Kairos Prison weekend up in prayer. The weekend will start on Thursday March 5<sup>th</sup> and continue through the evening of Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>. Your names are written on the prayer chain that will be brought out on Saturday to surround the ladies with your love. Both Pastor Elizabeth and I thank you in advance for prayerfully joining us on the weekend.

# March 2020

Sun

Mon



Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 Communion Sunday	2	3	4	5	6 Church Office Closed	7 Inside/Out 6:30pm  Spring Forward
8  Rev. Bill Flanagan	9	10  Session Meeting 7pm	11	12	13	14
15	16	17 	18	19 	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27  April Newsletter Deadline	28
29	30	31				

## LOVE AND MANIPULATION

We hear the word “love” so often that sometimes we get it confused. God describes His love in 1 Corinthians 13. If we put our name in the place of the word love, for example, Betsy is patient, Betsy is kind, do we see that kind of love evident in our relationships? Sometimes we try to get our way, or our needs met in our relationships. This is not love, it is manipulation or game playing, and it is destructive to both ourselves and others.

What is the difference between manipulation and love? To manipulate someone is to use that person to get your own needs met, or to treat them as an object. When we love according to God's word we think highly of others and know that we too are loved by God. If we trust God to meet our love needs we don't have to manipulate others to supply those needs.

A common form of manipulation has been termed “game playing”. Games are ways of attempting to get our needs met at the expense of another person. There are three different roles in the Psychological Game Triangle: the Rescuer, the Victim and the Persecutor. We have all been tempted to interact with others by playing one or more of these roles. Even Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness in these same ways (see Matthew 4:1-10).

My hope is that as we go over this theory you can recognize the roles you are most tempted to play and can let God help you resist these unloving ways of relating to others.

The first role that we are often tempted to play is the Rescuer. The Rescuer gets pleasure and importance needs met by being overly helpful to other people. If you say yes to anything people ask without thinking and praying first, you may get caught up in this role. The Rescuer has a compulsive need to save others to bolster their own self worth. Jesus was tempted to “rescue” himself by turning the stone to bread.

The second role we can be tempted to play is the Victim. The Victim avoids responsibility for themselves by acting helpless and hopeless thereby inviting others to take care of them. If you find yourself frequently saying or thinking “this is too hard,” or “I can't ...” and looking to other people to save you instead of God, you may be being tempted to play the Victim. The Victim has the compulsive need to depend on others to take charge or rescue them. Jesus was tempted to be a victim and throw himself off the temple and have the angels rescue him.

The third role that we can be tempted to play is the Persecutor. The Persecutor feels important by having power over others. When you find yourself thinking, “I can do that better” or “I'm right, you're wrong” you may be being tempted to play the role of the Persecutor. The temptation is to derive self-worth through power and control of others even if it involves compromises of justice. Jesus was tempted to compromise and bow down to Satan to gain power. There are a number of powerful strategies for staying out of games.

1. First pray and ask God to give you awareness of when you are playing games and the roles you are tempted to take on.
2. Speak the truth in love and use direct language to invite change: asking “What specifically do you most want from me right now?” or “What am I needing right now and how does God want me to get this need met?”
3. Identify what you currently want in the relationship by asking, “If they loved me they would....” Then bring that need to God and ask Him how He wants you to fill it.
4. Finally, the most important way to resist temptation is to do as Jesus did and speak and know what God's Word says. Here are some scriptures on right relating.

Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others as better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4 NKJV



Therefore as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Galatians 6:10 NIV

Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; He's the One Who will keep you on track. Proverbs 3:5-6 The Message

My prayer for us all is that as we grow in knowing and experiencing God's perfect love for us, we can trust God to meet our needs, and we can operate out of that secure place and reflect His love to others. Then the world will be able to look at us and say that they know we are Christians by our love.

God bless you my brothers and sisters in Christ,

*Betsy O'Callaghan*

# St Patrick's Day

WORD SEARCH Search across, down, and diagonally



Find the following words:

LEPRECHAUN	RAINBOW	GOLD
ST PATRICK	CLOVER	LUCK
SHAMROCK	GREEN	
IRELAND	MARCH	



Nancy Zarich, Claire Brulatour, Ruth Brennan, Dorothy Davis, Sally Ross, Richard Bohle, Tina Lundgren, Roberta Koning and Judy Churchman.



Please notify the church business office or Sue Parrish or Pam Fonte if you would like to add someone to our homebound list or to join the Congregational Care Team that visits our homebound.

## *Prayer Chain*



Requests for prayers may be called in to **Shirley Wildes** at (727) 238-3938. If you are interested in joining the Prayer Chain, please contact Shirley at the above telephone number. You may also post prayer requests on NWP Facebook Page or contact the office and ask that your request be published in the weekly announcement or the monthly newsletter.

Also, at the end of every Sunday service, there is a time when you can ask for prayers from the congregation.

**It is proven...Prayer Works!**



Our Wednesday morning Bible Study is making great progress in our series by Nancy Guthrie: Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament. Currently, we are using the book titled, The Word of the Lord: Seeing Jesus in the Prophets. We have finished Habakkuk and Jeremiah, and we are working our way through Daniel, Ezekiel, and Malachi. In each book, the prophet reveals a new facet of our Lord, showing His matchless glory, grace and holiness. It has been a joy to read aloud from the Bible together, as Nancy Guthrie shares her insights on the scriptures, and as we grow in our knowledge of God's word. We meet at 10:30 am, and everyone is welcome.

In addition, there are 2 Open Bible Studies every Sunday morning at 9am and 9:15am.



# March

## BIRTHDAYS

3  
12  
20  
21  
23

Jane Shaner  
Chuck Barksdale  
Judy Churchman  
Paulette Leiby  
Debra Infante



“...but the only blouses I have are apple, emerald and avocado.”



**Saint Patrick's Day**, feast day (March 17) of St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland. Born in Roman Britain in the late 4th century, he was kidnapped at the age of 16 and taken to Ireland as a slave. He escaped but returned about 432 to convert the Irish to Christianity. By the time of his death on March 17, 461, he had established monasteries, churches, and schools. Many legends grew up around him, for example, that he drove the snakes out of Ireland and used the shamrock to explain the Trinity. Ireland came to celebrate his day with religious services and feasts.



## **Sunday**

9:00am - Open Bible Study  
9:15am - Open Bible Study  
10:00am - Choir Rehearsal  
10:30am - Worship Service

## **Monday**

8:00am - 12:00pm - Homeless Outreach  
4:00pm - 5:30pm - GriefShare (starting January 20th)

## **Tuesday**

9:00am - 11:30am - Alzheimer's Support Group - Conference Room  
8:00pm - Al Anon - Dove Room

## **Wednesday**

8:00am - 12:00pm - Homeless Outreach  
9:00am - 12:00pm - Food Pantry  
10:30am - 11:30am - Open Bible Study  
7:00pm - 9:00pm - Al Anon Family Group - Dove Room  
8:00pm - Narcotics Anonymous in Fellowship Hall

## **Thursday**

3:30pm - 5:00pm - Choir Rehearsal  
7:00pm - 8:00pm - Women's Narcotics Anonymous (open group)

## **Saturday**

7:00pm - 9:00pm - NAR-ANON

## **CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Friday    8:00am - 2:00pm

**After Hours Emergency Only: (727) 433-2115 or (727) 748-5160**

### **Pastor Elizabeth Coleman**

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