

THE FIRST POST

40 Days of Lent | March 2023



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MAKING THE MOST OUT OF LENT

BY STEPHEN WILLIAMS

Lent is an important season of the church year. It is a concentrated period for deepening our awareness that God is with us in every part of life, in the experiences of wilderness and suffering, as well as in resurrection and joy.

Lent has the added benefit of being a truly religious season. We don't have the commercial and cultural overlay through which we have to dig in order to connect with its real meaning.

During the forty days of Lent—plus six Sundays—we can look at the difficult parts of Jesus' ministry and our own lives and claim the healing and redemption that God offers. Since the time of Athanasius in the fourth century Alexandria, Christians have used this season to practice a Lenten discipline—voluntarily to take on a special practice or give up something unnecessary.

I hope many of you will attend the Wednesday fellowship suppers followed by a 40-minute worship service. If you are not already attending an adult education class, here is a door of opportunity—sample one or more of the classes and begin this Sunday! On Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. during Lent there is a 20-minute prayer service with communion led by the clergy and elders. A highlight of that service is meditative Taizé music.

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MAKING THE MOST OUT OF LENT

Continued

Here are a few more ideas to get you thinking about Lenten disciplines:

- Make Sunday morning worship a priority.
- Select a book from the church library to be your companion this season, such as Ben Johnson's Hearing God's Call or Walter Brueggemann's The Bible Makes Sense.
- Read the Bible passages suggested in These Days devotional.
- Practice regular, private prayer in a way that feels right for you.
- Make a casserole and put it in your freezer. Call Allison Johnson of the Congregational Care Committee and tell her you can offer food next time there is a need.
- Sign up to help Backpack Buddies, packing food for an hour or so for food insecure children attending Pulaski Elementary School.
- Abstain from something unnecessary and redirect the money or time saved to something worthy—like the One Great Hour of Sharing mission offering which will be received on Palm Sunday and Easter.

Our relationship with Jesus is transformed when we see that he meets us not just in the heavenly places but in the wilderness places. And the promise of Scripture is this: "Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:30-31). –SCW

PALM PARADE

SUNDAY, APRIL 2 | 10:30AM

Come wave a palm and shout Hosanna! The palm parade will begin at 10:30 on April 2 and we will meet in Tiedeman Park to begin. All are welcome!



MUSIC + ART + FAITH CAMP

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 | 9:00 AM -12:30 PM



Come out on March 4th for a fun-packed day full of art, music, and faith exploration!

- Meet in Stewart Hall for the festivities
- For 3-year-olds to 5th grade
- *Lunch is included*



MUSIC + ART + FAITH

TUESDAYS | 4:30-6:00 PM
STEWART HALL

3-year-olds through 5th grade

Each week stands on its own, so come as often as you can for making music, creating art, and exploring our faith together.

Winter/Spring dates would include: Session 2: February 28 - March 28 Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/VGAk54WQsymnqcPJ6>

TOUR AT P.A.C.K.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 | 1PM



As we explore ways to continue supporting our children through Backpack Buddies and navigate some new regulations with food assistance programs, we are taking a tour at P.A.C.K. to form a partnership with this hands-on mission. Come join us to witness this ministry and tour the facilities.

Location: 4 Mall Terrace, Savannah, GA 31406



MISSION TRIP INTEREST MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 5 | 12PM

Any youth and adults interested in joining us on our mission trip in July to work with Frontera de Cristo at the Arizona-Mexico border, please join us for this meeting.

John Knox Room

PROPERTY COMMITTEE SPONSORS ANNUAL SPRING CLEAN UP MORNING

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 | 9:00 A.M - 12PM



Join members and friends of First on Saturday, April 1, 9:00 a.m. – Noon, as we spruce up the building and grounds for Holy Week. All skill levels are appreciated as bushes are trimmed, windows washed, and pine straw is spread. There will be painting, cleaning and polishing chores too. It will be held rain or shine, all morning or just what your schedule permits. The coffee will be piping hot and the donuts straight from the bakery!



LENTEN PRAYER SERVICES WITH HOLY COMMUNION

SUNDAYS | 9AM

Attend a prayer service led by the minister and elders during the season of Lent on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in the sanctuary. The 20-minute service includes Scripture reading, prayer, silence, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

YOUTH MISSION TRIP

JULY 15-22 | 6TH-12 GRADE



We will work with Frontera de Cristo at the Arizona/Mexico border.

After 5 days of mission work, we will have an opportunity for a pilgrimage to the Grand Canyon.

Housing: The group will stay in a dormitory at Frontera de Cristo and then at a nearby home to the Grand Canyon.

Cost: Cost of airfare to Tucson (Fundraising, scholarships and mission budget will cover the other 2/3 of trip cost.)



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
**CHANCEMAKERS
LAB**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAVANNAH
MONDAY, JULY 10-THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2023
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
AGES 3-RISING 5TH GRADE

CONTACT ALLISON SHEAROUSE FOR
MORE INFORMATION

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 10-13

It's time to sign up for this year's VBS. Use this form to register:
<https://forms.gle/QP5VqFKHLjZKeAP88>

YOUTH GROUP

SUNDAYS, MARCH 5, 12, & 19



- 4:45 pm Youth Music
- 5:30-7:30 pm Dinner, Activities and Games for all 3 youth groups
- Junior Lows (3rd-5th grade), Junior Highs (6th-8th grade), Senior Highs (9th-12th grade)



YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT

SUNDAY, MARCH 26
5:00 -7:30 PM

Tybee Beach Clean Up
Depart and return from church with a picnic dinner at the beach after the clean-up.

All 3 youth groups and friends are invited!



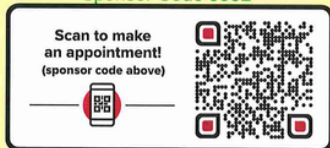
DONATE BLOOD

**Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
Student Visionaries of the Year**

520 Washington Ave
SAVANNAH, GA 31405

03/04/2023 | 02:00 PM-07:00 PM

Sponsor Code 9552



\$40 eGift Card + \$20
charitable donation to the
Leukemia and Lymphoma
Society per donor

**All blood donors receive a scratch off ticket (\$10 Value)
that will reveal a bonus prize! Tag us and use
#tbcluckofthedonor on social media.**

*Bonus points take 24-48 hours to upload

BLOOD DRIVE

SATURDAY, MARCH 4
2 - 7PM

The blood drive will be held at First I Stewart Hall on March 4. You can scan the QR code to the left to make an appointment or just show up!

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, APRIL 1 | 10AM

Please join us at Tiedeman Park as our kids hunt for eggs!

One thing you won't have to hunt for is coffee and donuts, along with some juice and milk for the little ones.

Easter Egg donations are needed. Please bring in 1 dozen candy filled eggs per child.

Are you willing to help? Please contact Allison Shearouse.



FIRST LADIES LUNCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

All women at First and friends are invited to join in the fellowship! Please contact Allison for reservations. We hope to see you at Ardsley Station.

FIRST LADIES LUNCH

TUESDAY, MARCH 28

11:30 AM

ARDSLEY STATION
102 E VICTORY DRIVE,
31405

All women at First and friends are invited to join us for fellowship. Contact Allison Shearouse to make a reservation.

WOMEN'S CIRCLES

MARCH 2, 14, 16

- Jubilee- March 14 @ 10:30 am in John Knox
- Grace & Joy- March 2 at 6:30 pm
- Agape- March 16 at 7:00 pm at Imlay House
- Questions? Contact Allison Johnson



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: WHO ARE WE?

We are a congregation of 480 members affiliated with the Presbyterian Church USA, the main body of about 1.3 million Presbyterians in this country. As a confessional church, we are guided by a variety of confessional statements including the Westminster Confession, 1647; the Barmen Declaration, 1933; and the Brief Statement of Reformed Faith, 1990. Our style of church government is representative, with elders elected by the congregation serving on a governing board called the Session. Our Reformed style of theology stresses the sovereignty of God, the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, the authority of Scripture as the rule for faith and practice, and salvation by grace through faith. Organized in 1827, First has a long history of mission involvement in Savannah and the world.

A PRAYING PEOPLE DURING LENT: THE LORD'S PRAYER

Buffet Dinner served at 6:00 p.m. in Stewart Hall

Service of Worship at 6:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 1

"Your Kingdom, Your Will"

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Christina Fenstermaker

Wednesday, March 15

"Our Daily Bread"

Mark 6:35-44

Emily Salzer

Wednesday, March 8

"On Earth as It Is in Heaven"

Matthew 26:36-46

Bill Sparks

Wednesday, March 22

"Forgiving and Forgiven"

Matthew 18:21-35

Arnie Correa

Wednesday, March 29

"Temptation and Rescue"

Matthew 16:21-23

Sharon Eswine

SPOTLIGHT ON PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**HELP US HONOR
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S DAY!**



WOMEN'S SERVICE SUNDAY, MARCH 12

Join us for the 4th annual Women's Service honoring International Women's Day 2023 on Sunday, March 12, 2023. Anne McNair, Allison Shearouse, Marti Stein and Christina Fenstermaker will be reflecting on various stories in the Bible about women and the women of the church will lead us in worship.



4TH ANNUAL WOMEN'S SERVICE BRUNCH

Following the service, a brunch prepared by men of the church will honor all the women. Michael Johnson will lead a cooking crew to prepare a grits bar with vegan options along with traditional breakfast fare including scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, fruit salad, green salad and miniature cheesecakes. There will be a Zoom visit with Susan Jackson Dowd, the Executive Director of Presbyterian Women, speaking on "Celebrating the Gifts of Women." As leader of the national organization, she will discuss the Horizon Bible study, missions funded by the annual Birthday Offering, and new initiatives of Presbyterian Women. While reservations are not required, they are strongly suggested. Email mallory@savannahfpc.org. \$8/adult; \$4/child under 12; \$25 family maximum.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

Presbyterian Women's Retreat on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at Wesley Gardens Retreat from 8:30 AM - 3 PM. The cost is \$35. Mark your calendar for now and more information to come.

SOME CONSIDERATIONS FOR MARCH



AROUND THE CHURCH

Many thanks for the hospitality extended to Farsijana Adeney on her recent trip to Savannah where she talked about her mission work in Indonesia. Those helping organize events, host visits, and meals, or serve as tour guides include Janet and Terry Yon, Larry Stuber, Becky Rowden, and Gay Mayfield...Session members are wearing a name badge on Sunday mornings. It is an idea picked up from Sea Island Presbyterian Church in Beaufort, SC where the name badges help make the church more welcoming to members and especially newcomers...

KEEP THE CONFIRMATION CLASS IN YOUR PRAYERS

This year's confirmation class began meeting on February 19 on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Lewis Room. During the course, youth will be learning about the doctrine, polity, and history of the church, memorizing Scripture, and helping lead the Good Friday Tenebrae service. A key feature of the course is linking each confirmand with an elder-mentor who is an active Session member. They will meet at least three times over the next three months. Sixth graders enrolled in the class include Nuum Lek, Mikala Nielson, Nuum Nuum, Campbell Salzer, and Norah Taylor.



MARKS OF A VITAL FAITH

Bring a Friend to Church: An article in Presbyterians Today magazine cites a survey that 83% of all people who come to church for the first time do so because a friend invited them. If you know someone who does not attend church regularly, invite the person to come along with you this week. It could make all the difference!

Walking the Talk "The most pressing challenge to the twenty-first century church may be the recovery of the language of faith. Church members must embrace faith more fully and learn to express it in their lives. This faith must be a deep, daily trust in God, not a mere assent to Christian beliefs. Persons living their faith will find ways to communicate it." Ben Johnson, New Day, New Church: Evangelism for Mainline Denominations.

Summer with First

MONTREAT | June 4-10

Youth Conference for rising 9th-completed - 12th grade. They would stay with high school youth from around our presbytery in William Black Lodge.

Cost: \$500 (all inclusive) Register with our presbytery group here as soon as possible:

<https://www.savannahpresbytery.org/events/children-youth-events/montreat-youth-conference/>



MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE FOR 6TH-8TH GRADE.

Stay in the home in Montreat with a middle school small group. The week would include Montreat Keynote & Worship as well as Clubs adventure programs. Our group will do a mid-week service project together as well.

Cost: \$425 (all-inclusive with registration fee/food/housing/church transportation)

To register, let Allison know via email: allison@savannahfpc.org



MONTREAT FAMILY WEEK

Families with children 5th grade and under would stay in the home in Montreat. We would offer group meals in the home, devotions, hikes, with art classes available. Montreat Worship services would be available to join in. Children can be enrolled in the Montreat clubs program. To register, let Allison know via email at allison@savannahfpc.org

Cost: \$200 per person (food/housing/church transportation)

Clubs Registration Fee: \$190

Register children for Clubs program here on March 1. <https://montreat.org/events/clubs-23#:~:text=The%20Clubs%20program%20is%20a,age%20counselors%20supervise%20each%20group>

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

WOMEN'S LENT STUDY
THURSDAYS AT 9:00 AM
MARCH 2, 9, 16, 23, AND 30
COFFEE DELI (4517 HABERSHAM STREET)

Join us to share coffee, fellowship and discussion using the
Seeking Lent Devotional

WOMEN'S LENT STUDY

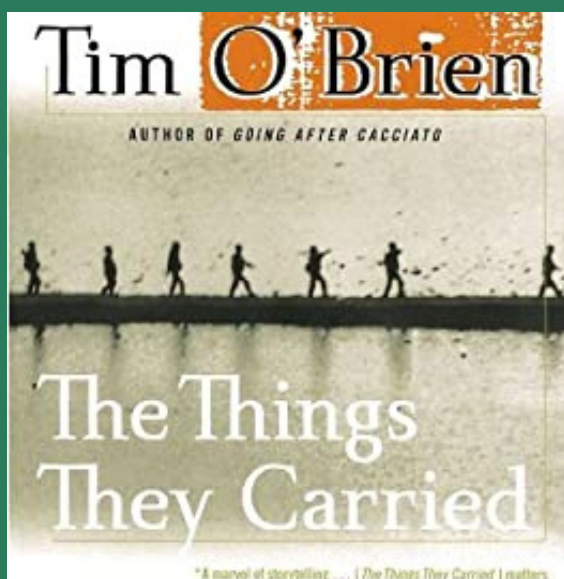
Coming in March!

Women's Lent Study

Thursdays at 9:00 am at Coffee Deli

March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

This group will use the Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith devotional.



Tim O'Brien
AUTHOR OF GOING AFTER CACCIATO

The Things They Carried

*A marvel of storytelling... (The Things They Carried) Letter

MEN'S BOOK STUDY

The Men's Book Group will gather on Tuesday, March 28 at 5:30 p.m. in Room 115. Peter Foley will lead a discussion about the book, *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien.



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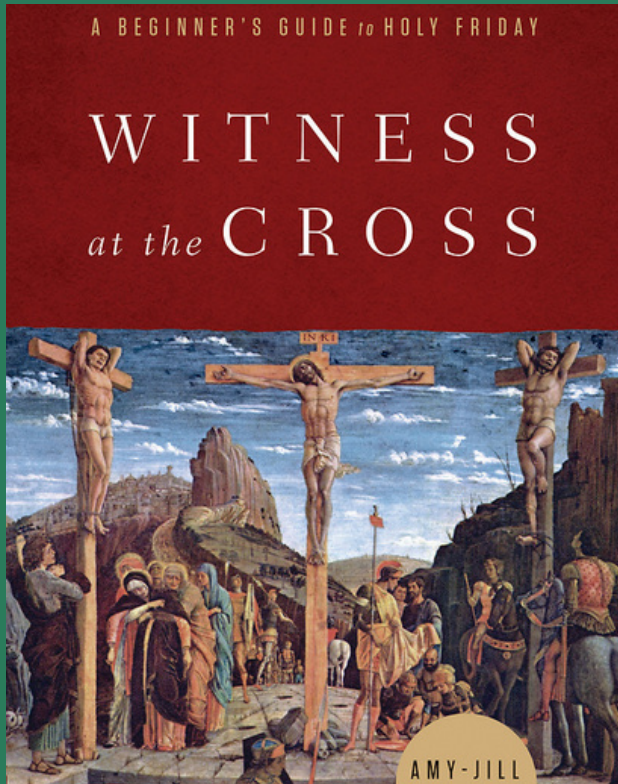
Some items require purchase of participating items only in the US. Not valid with other discounts or promotions. Tax and gratuity excluded. Prices may vary, including in Alaska and Hawaii. © 2023 IHOP Franchisor, LLC.

MEN'S BREAKFAST AND STUDY

The Men's Breakfast and Study will meet on Monday, March 20 at 7:30 a.m. The new location is the International House of Pancakes, 1800 East Victory Drive. All are welcome.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDY MORNINGS AT FIRST



Fidelis-Covenant Class (Room 115)
with Bob Morgan

Sojourners (Room 209) with Howard
Crawford and Peter Foley will use
FaithLens and then transition to
Witness at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine

Timothy Class (Imlay House) with Eric
McManus uses FaithLens to guide
their Bible study and discussion

**Love God,
Neighbor, Enemy**



CHILDREN & YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAYS AT FIRST

Follow Me "Love God, Neighbor,
Enemy" curriculum

Babies to Age 3- Nursery

3's-Kindergarten- Room 8

1st & 2nd Grades- Room 202

3rd-5th Grades- Room 221

6th-12th Grades- Room 212



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1st Barbara Lanier

4th Daisy Price

5th Matthew Chase, Chad Griffin

6th Ryleigh Parker

11th Vernice Rackett

12th Ashley Gaddy, Thomas Snipes

13th Felix Etinge

14th Carol Booker, Campbell Salzer

17th Kimberly Price

18th Jane Armstrong

19th Kris Parrish

20th Cal Lundy

21th Daylin Peteranetz, Lisa Team

22th Lisa Bennett

23th Mary (Penny) Pennington

24th Sara Hiltzheimer, Pam Patterson, Elizabeth von Trapp

25th Miriam DeYoung, John R. Timm

26th Juliette Jouffrault

27th Emma DeRosa

29th Heather Lundy

31th Joseph Markwalter

