



March 16, 2020

**For the Next Two Weeks:
Church Worship Services
and
Activities are cancelled.**

**Office Open
9:00-Noon**

**Prayer Requests can be emailed to:
office@trinitypresbyfairfield.org**

In a Nutshell

A Sunday school teacher gave her second-graders a month to memorize Psalm 23. One little boy was excited about the task but just couldn't remember the whole chapter.

When the day came for the children to recite Psalm 23 before the congregation, the nervous boy stepped up to the microphone and said, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know!"



Upcoming Dates for Your Calendar

- | | | |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| April 5 | 10:15 AM | Palm Sunday
One Great Hour Sharing |
| April 9 | 6:00 PM
7:00 PM | Maundy Thursday Meal
Service |

We thank, Worship Leaders for their service:

All Worship Volunteer Leaders please watch future Newsletters to know when the Worship Schedule will resume.



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Prepare for Worship Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm 23—A Psalm of David

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 he leads me beside still waters;^[a]
 he restores my soul.^[b]
 He leads me in right paths^[c]
 for his name's sake.
 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,^[d]
 I fear no evil;
 for you are with me;
 your rod and your staff—
 they comfort me.
 You prepare a table before me
 in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil;
 my cup overflows.
 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
 all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
 my whole life long.



LOOK AT THE BIRDS. THEY
 DON'T PLANT OR HARVEST
 OR STORE FOOD IN BARN,
 FOR YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER
 FEEDS THEM. AND AREN'T
 YOU FAR MORE VALUABLE TO
 HIM THAN THEY ARE?

MATTHEW 6:26, NLT

Reflection

Samuel is told that God does not look upon outward appearances, but looks upon the heart. Then God chooses David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be Israel's next king. We know that as he grew and as life became very challenging, King David's heart was not pure. He was a mixture of great courage and faithfulness—and great sin and failure. What do you suppose God saw and loved in David's heart? What do you think God loves when God looks upon your own heart?

Morning Prayer

Good morning, Lord. The day has dawned with the gift of sunlight, and I awaken from sleep into the light and grace of Christ. Thank you for this new day. Stay with me, I pray, shepherding me through all that the day will hold. Lead me into pleasant places, and give me the provisions I will need if I find myself in difficulty or danger. Whenever the cup of gladness overflows, help me to recognize that it is filled with your goodness and mercy. In praise and anticipation I begin this day; in Jesus' name. Amen.

—adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year A, Volume 1* © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press

Shall Not Need

Despite the traditional wording (“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want”), Psalm 23 declares that God provides everything we *need* — not everything we desire.

“**He makes me lie down ...**” Sometimes our busyness is useful; other times it's how we feel in control or superior to others. God knows we need to rest and sometimes must make us do so!

“**He leads me beside still waters ...**” Although we often prefer noisy distractions, God knows we need quiet to hear him and have our souls restored.

“**You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.**” Rather than a boast (“Ha! See how God spreads a banquet in my honor while others look on!”), this is a reminder that God wants us to dine with our enemies. We might not be able to stand those people, but God pursues reconciliation.

In the process, “**goodness and mercy ... follow me all ... my life.**” That's what we need the most.

Book Club—Cancelled until further notice

For March they will be reading *The Whispers of War* by Julia Kelly. A novel written in the 1939 era. As war with Germany approaches Britain three childhood friends must choose between friendship or country.

Session meets this Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

Women's Lunch—Cancelled until further notice

In the future, the women of Trinity will be visiting the Trinity Gastro Pub located at 8953 Princeton Glendale Rd, West Chester, OH 45069. Please watch the Newsletter for future date.

Lenten Bible Study—Cancelled until further notice

The Lenten Bible Study is reading and reflecting on Max Lucado's *He Chose the Nails* for their study. Please watch the Newsletter to see when the class will resume.

New Address Change

New address for Elizabeth Jamison: 784 Woodfield Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45231.

New Phone: 513-834-9716. Please update your directory.

Lenten Mission Project

If you need a Lenten bag, you will find the calendar and bags are on the Information Table in the narthex. The bag is to collect items listed on the calendar. Please put in the bag what you are able to donate even though it may not be all the items on the calendar. **Bags are due back on Maundy Thursday.**

Missions at Work

- ♦ Sewing of dresses for Mission Project in Appalachia will be held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM
- ♦ Knitters /Crocheters: Mercy and our church are in need of prayer shawls and baby blankets.
- ♦ NON food Pantry needs: shampoo and dish soap for February.
- ♦ Collecting plastic lids, soda pull tabs, and cancelled stamps

Passing the Peace—When Worship Resumes

With the Coronavirus being found in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, Trinity will begin a new practice in exchanging the peace.

- **Stay in your seat.** Allow the peace of Jesus Christ to pass to everyone in the congregation as it goes from person to person. We do not need to greet each person individually. The Spirit will flow and not the germs.
- Be creative. Find a non-contact method of acknowledging the person you address. This may be with a fist bump, elbow bump or my preferred method when I am concerned about passing germs is a **gentle wave of the hand**—a hand blessing.
- Most importantly, if you feel sick stay home. It is a charitable act to guard the health of your brothers and sisters.

With these new practices it is hoped that we will remain healthy until the threat of Covid-19 and influenza have passed.—*The Worship Committee of Session*



PEACE
BE WITH
YOU

Tax Information

“If you have an IRA and you have reached the age of 70 1/2, then you know that you must begin taking required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA each year. These required minimum distributions are included in taxable income. However, you may direct a part of your IRA RMD to be sent directly to the church. If you do that, the amount sent directly to the church still counts as part of your required minimum distribution but it is not included in taxable income. Talk with your financial advisor or those who manage your IRA for more information.” —George Fraley, Treasurer

PASTORAL LETTER

Greetings, everyone. I missed all of you for worship and fellowshiping (is that a word?) yesterday morning. And yet, closing for three Sundays, (beginning March 15) at this time of uncertainty in both our world and immediate environments was an appropriate decision in so far as it is our responsibility as Christians to do our part in service to the whole of humanity. As Americans, we are accustomed to doing as we please without an authoritarian government enforcing our behavior. So our compliance with Governor DeWine's suggested prohibitions is still largely voluntary. Had it not been for the four confirmed cases in Butler County last week, we would have worshipped per usual yesterday. But those were a little too close for comfort so session decided to err on the side of caution as did two thirds of other churches in the Presbytery.

That being said, closing is not something we wish to continue beyond three Sundays. Future developments may dictate otherwise, of course, but we are aware of the liability of doing so. Because while the virus does indeed pose risks, so does dangerous isolation and tearing the fabric of our social systems where we receive support and nurture.

Our fervent goal will therefore be to reopen on Palm Sunday, April 4th. Doing so, however, will come with a caveat. This virus will now be part of our lives for many months to come. There will not realistically be an "All Clear" pronouncement until the entire world has been vaccinated. So we must continue to exercise common sense. If you do not feel well or are uncomfortable in coming to worship, don't. And for the time being, let us avoid physical contact, keep our hands washed and cover our sneezes and coughs.

I hope to see you sooner than later. If you would happen to be quarantined and you need something at a store, let us know and we will get it for you. In the meantime, be of good cheer and know that the Spirit is with all of us during this time of crisis and will lead us through it together.

Peace be with you...Tom

As printed in March 15 Communicator

Keep in your Prayers

Vickie Murrell, Harrings' request	Healing/recovering from heart surgery
People of Nashville	God's providence and comfort
Jerry, D. Schuler's brother	Thanksgiving/cancer free/improving
Moses Nyamusa, Valentine's father	Thanksgiving for his life/
Jack Kraft, K. Kessler request	Healing/severe leg infection
Joe and Brenda Luebbe	Thanksgiving/great grandson birth and
	Healing/improved blood sugar
Caleb Erickson, D. Hess request	Continued healing/fighting infection
John Marshall, D. Hess request	Healing/dialysis and tumor concerns
Cassie, J. Reese request	Continued healing/improving/infections
Robbie, B. Pratt request	Healing/hearing threatening voices
Charlene Stumpf, K. Kessler request	Healing/knee surgery
Nancy Miracle, Schuler request	Healing/in decline from ALS
Billy, D. Hess request	Healing/heart surgery and mini stroke
Fran Thomas	Healing/pain relief
Natasha, B. Pratt request	Healing/recovery surgery on legs
Jean Parsley	Continued healing
Pam Harring	Continued healing/guidance with treatment
George Liles	Continued healing/home recovering
Dee Burkhardt	Continued healing
Diane Niehaus, B. Luebbe request	Continued healing/several health concerns
Gerald Reese, M. Reese's father	Continued healing/swallowing problems
Margie, Fran Thomas' sister	God's peace and comfort
All peoples in the Middle East	Peace and reconciliation
All Elected Government leaders	Wisdom/support/enlightenment
Support for all our military	Strength/discernment/God's protection
For all missionaries (Especially for S. and B.)	Protection/blessings/fruitful mission work

Names that have been on the Prayer List for more than 4 weeks are marked with an asterisk (). If you would like them to remain on the list, please contact the office by Tuesday.*

Financial Information

Donations Received 3/8/20	\$1,533
Kroger Rewards	\$55
Per Capita 2020 Donations	\$363
Property Fund Giving 2020	\$3,000
Property Fund Goal 2020	\$5,000

Per Capita for 2020 is \$33

Preaching Schedule

April 5	Rev. Tom Dunlap
April 12	Rev. Tom Dunlap