



CHIMES

MARCH

Dear Church Family,

Today I am writing to **request your help**. We are in desperate need of **substitute teachers** in the PCC. As you know, the PCC has been our main mission for almost fifty years. We have strived to keep childcare affordable in our community, which we have done with great success. Yet, running a low-cost, non-profit childcare center means that we did not have much money in reserve for a major catastrophe, such as a pandemic.

Two years ago when the pandemic began, the state reduced the number of children that were allowed in each classroom. As a result, the PCC expenses remained nearly unchanged, yet the number of children (and the PCC income) was reduced dramatically. Obviously, this was not a recipe for financial success. Luckily, we were able to get two PPP loans (which were forgiven) from the government, which kept us afloat the last two years.

During 2021 the PCC expenses exceeded its income by an average of \$12,000 per month when one-time sources of income, such as the forgiven PPP loans, were excluded. Unless we can get the center filled with children again, we will have to close down the center this year for lack of funds. Because we are the largest childcare center in the area, closing the PCC would leave many families without childcare, making low-cost childcare a thing of the past for our community.

Even though the state has lifted its restrictions on class size, we have not been able to return to full capacity because of staffing issues. At first we could not hire enough teachers and assistant teachers, which is the same problem that

most companies in the US have been facing. Because of the state-mandated ratios of teachers to children, we could not bring in more students until we had enough teachers.

Our staffing issues weren't over even after hiring more teachers and assistant teachers. Because the PCC is open eleven and a half hours a day, from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM, fully staffing our center without overstaffing it and without paying overtime continues to be a challenge. We have many teachers and assistant teachers who work eight hours a day, but we have very few part-time teachers. We especially need help at the beginning and the end of each day. If you know of anyone willing to work part time, please encourage them to apply to our center.

Right now, we have enough staff (though we could use more) to start filling the center once more. We have a lot of children on our wait list, and parents call every day to see if we have any openings. We currently have 93 children in our center, and we could easily handle 148 children. Yet, staffing remains an issue because we also lost our pool of substitutes during the pandemic. Many people who can afford to work only when called upon are just plain choosing not to work right now. We need a pool of substitute teachers before we can fill our center. Many of our teachers are single mothers, and they have to stay home if one of their children gets sick or if they get sick. These unscheduled absences happen more often than anyone would like. Without a pool of substitute teachers to cover these absences, there is no way for us to fill the center to capacity.

So, if you or anyone you know can substitute for us at the PCC, you would help save our childcare center. Please come in and apply to be a substitute teacher. Our center is fully masked and follows COVID-19 precautions. The children are delightful, and they will bring you as much joy as you will bring them.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Désirée





PCC NEWS



PCC had a lot fun in February. We celebrated Valentine's Day with our class parties, and we had a door decorating contest. The winner of the contest was our Reach for the Sky Pre-K class. The classroom gets to pick a new classroom item as their prize. We are getting ready to start planning for our spring activities, which we are very excited about.

We have welcomed two new teachers. Mr. CJ and Mr. Drew are working with our school-age group. We are working on our enrollment numbers, and we are also planning to post ads on Facebook and other apps to get the word out.



Our contest winner!



MARCH 2, 2022

Ash Wednesday marks the start of the Lenten season. It is a holy day of prayer and fasting. The practice of marking worshippers' foreheads with ashes in the shape of a cross is one of Christianity's most visible rituals.

While Ash Wednesday is perhaps most closely associated with Catholicism, there are many faiths that recognize it, including Lutherans, Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and some Baptists. The first Ash Wednesday ceremonies were likely held sometime in 11th century CE. It's never mentioned in the Bible, but there is a verse in the Book of Daniel that links fasting to ashes, and some scholars believe this is the origin of the Lenten practice.

On Palm Sunday, our church passes out palm fronds like those used to welcome Jesus Christ to Jerusalem days before his crucifixion. Our church saves those palms to burn them and make the ashes that are applied to peoples' foreheads roughly 11 months later.

The ashes used on Ash Wednesday are meant to represent dust. When receiving ashes on their foreheads, members hear the words: "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is a reference to what God says to Adam when exiling him from the Garden of Eden. On Ash Wednesday, the saying is a reminder to be humble in the face of mortality.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ...

IMPORTANT DATES

March 2—Ash Wednesday. In person service, 7:30 pm
March 13—Blood Pressure Screening, immediately following the service
April 10—Palm Sunday
April 14—Maundy Thursday. In person service, 7:30 pm
April 15—Good Friday, 7:30 pm Zoom worship service
April 17—Easter Sunday

PER CAPITA FOR 2022

The per capita has increased to \$40.00 per member. The Presbytery collects this to be used for expenses for the Presbytery, the Synod, and for the General Assembly. The church is asking for each member to pay their per capita if they are able, due by March 15, 2022. Make the check out to 1st Presbyterian Church, and be sure to write in the memo line, (or on the envelope if paying with cash), that this donation is for the per capita expense. Thank you for your generosity in helping to offset this expense for the church.

HEADS UP KIDS & PARENTS

The Christian Education Committee is going to try to stir up some fun with bringing the Church Pals back again. Adults of our congregation will “adopt” the kids of the church and “mail” them cards, small gifts, or snacks, etc. (No live animals please) in the children's mailbox that will be set up in the church narthex. Adults can also give hints about their identity as the “gift-giver”, since the kids will be trying to guess the identity of the Church Pal Adult. The kids will know that they are “adopted”, of course, because they will receive their gifts ... but they just won't know by whom they're adopted. We thought this would be a good way for the kids and adults of the church to connect. And let's face it ... who wouldn't like to have something fun to think about. Kids will be matched up with adults through a random drawing. We would like YOUR family to participate! There will be more information and sign up forms for the children and adults in the bulletins soon! ***Let the fun begin.***

Contact: Cody Smith, Christian Ed. Director

COVID-10 WORSHIP GUIDELINES

SAFETY

- Vaccinations ARE NOT required to enter the church building.
- Masks ARE REQUIRED to enter the church building except in the case of children under two years of age or anyone with compelling health issues. We will provide masks for those who forget to wear theirs.
- We encourage all who are able to get vaccinated and boosted.
- We encourage at-risk individuals to stay at home when the community transmission of COVID-19 is high.
- We request that those with symptoms of illness stay at home.
- Hand sanitizer will be available at several locations in the church building.
- The doors will remain open to promote air circulation and so that people don't have to touch the door handles.
- When weather permits, we ask that pre- and post-worship socializing be done outside. The deacons will provide some prepackaged snacks.

WORSHIP SERVICE

- We will provide bulletins, but we will also email them for those of you who would prefer to print your own or view them on your phone.
- We will provide the prepackaged communion elements, but you are welcome to bring your own.
- The offering will not be received during the service. Instead, the offering plates will be available at the back of the sanctuary for receiving the offering before and after the service.
- Worshippers may use the hymnals and pew Bibles because the virus lives on these surfaces only for a short while, and no one else is using the sanctuary during the week.
- Households and families should sit together; different households and families need to be six feet apart in the sanctuary, unless you are in the same COVID bubble.
- We will allow congregational singing of the hymns (with masks on and normal singing voices) - the organist will play hymns, the worshippers may sing behind their masks.
- The choir members, who are all fully vaccinated and boosted, may take off their masks when singing special music.

WHAT DO WE DO IF SOMEONE IN THE CONGREGATION HAS COVID?

- Congregants will be notified if an exposure occurs at church, and the session will determine, in consultation with Madison County Public Health, what precautions to take.

Do you know what Ordinary Time is? By Rev. *Kathleen Long Bostrom, a retired PC(USA) minister*

A recent cartoon in our Sunday newspaper depicted an exhausted mother, sprawled in a chair surrounded by typical birthday party chaos: torn wrapping paper, balloons, toys spread everywhere. Standing next to her, a little boy with a party hat tilted on his head asks, “When’s the next birthday?”

I can relate to that as both the exhausted mom — ready for a break from the party planning, implementation and aftermath — and as a pastor — physically, spiritually and emotionally drained from the liturgical seasons of Advent or Lent/Holy Week/Easter. We eagerly anticipate the high holy days that frame so much of our lives, even though the preparation, expectation and effort they take leave us worn out and yes, even ready to pack up the decorations and get back in our routines. Those periods in between holidays give us time to catch our breath and return to regular life. That time in the church is known as “Ordinary Time.”

Ordinary Time comprises all the days not marked by a specific season. It stretches on for 27 to 29 Sundays (not counting the Sundays of the Transfiguration, All Saints and the Trinity), or 33 to 34 partial weeks depending on how early or late Easter falls on the calendar and whether the year has 52 or 53 weeks.

The name “Ordinary Time” does not mean ordinary as we use the word. It comes from the word ordinal, an adjective denoting a numerical position of an object. It’s “first, second, third,” instead of “one, two, three.” Originally, all the Sundays that weren’t contained in the Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter seasons were indicated by ordinal numbers, hence the designation. Ordinary Time is basically “counted time.”

Yet there is something about the word “ordinary” that fits. Not in the sense of boring or dull but as an “in-between” season, a time to breathe after the culmination of the celebratory days. Just as most of our days are lived between the big events, so the church year is filled with more ordinary days than holidays. The holy days are the mountaintops, whereas Ordinary Time is the slopes, valleys and flatlands. All are beautiful — and necessary.

The Scripture passages assigned to Ordinary Time set the tone. They focus on the day-to-day life of Jesus. We read what it means from a practical standpoint to follow Jesus and the social and practical implications of doing so. Scripture and sermons focus on building a community of believers, people who would be Jesus’ wounded hands, aching feet, awkward elbows and soothing voice. Jesus told stories and broke bread with a few folks at a time, not always the boisterous crowds. He listened carefully and hung out with the no-names. He fell asleep in a boat during a storm. The ordinary abides in the extra ordinary, and vice versa.

Ordinary Time is a time for us to discover that in Christ, our lives are filled with grace, forgiveness and hope. We live as people of faith, “new creations in Christ,” not just on Christmas and Easter, but also during the times in between where most of life takes place.



PRAYER LINE

All requests to be submitted to Shelley Bailey at sjbailey19@gmail.com or call 614-425-7570.

IMPORTANT: Due to privacy issues, please make sure any prayer request is with consent of the person concerned.

Let the pastor know when her presence is needed.

If you wish to have prayer concerns lifted during the worship service, please email the church office.

PRAYER REQUESTS FROM PASTOR ABOU OF THE REFORMED NATIONAL CHURCH OF THE SAHEL (RNCS)

Ebrima, the boy who was seriously ill, is recovering very well. Thank you for your prayers for his healing.

With your generous donation, we were able to pay for the school fees of 19 students. Again, thank you so very much for your kindness and generosity.

The nation of Guinea Bissau is going through a military uprising. There is much fighting and gunfire in the area. A major radio station in the capital was destroyed. The kids are very scared, and Pastor Abou is making visits to them to help assure them of God’s love and protection. Please pray that this uprising will come to a quick end, and that the children will remain safe.

FAMILY
LIVE LAUGH
LOVE
BE HONEST
FORGIVE OTHERS
PLEASE & THANK YOU
SAY YOUR PRAYERS
ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL

Wow, is it March already? We know Spring is just around the corner, but it just won't warm up fast enough for us. BRR...

So to help keep thoughts of spring fever in the background, here are some ideas to help pass the time until warmer temps prevail. March will see all kinds of weather, so be prepared. Check out some of these ideas, or visit ...

<https://lifefamilyjoy.com/31-fun-things-march-family> for more details and more ideas.

- **March 2nd is Dr. Seuss's birthday** so dust off those old Dr. Seuss books and make it story time with a side of green eggs & ham for breakfast!
- **Visit Botanical Gardens.** Visit the Franklin Park Conservatory and see the Chihuly glass artwork and the butterfly exhibit. It is a truly wonderful place to see.
- **Visit the Zoo.** The Columbus Zoo is offering half-price tickets through March 11. If you have a zoo membership, not only do you get in for 'free', but parking is also free. Turn the day into an educational experience by teaching the kids fun facts about each animal they see.
- **Go Fishing**
- **Celebrate St. Patrick's Day!** Find a local parade, make a family dinner of traditional Irish foods, or make plans to find the leprechauns' pot of gold! Be sure to wear your **GREEN!**
- **Host a Tea Party for Two or more.** Your kids aren't the only ones who can play 'tea party'. Invite a friend and serve glasses of iced tea and small sandwiches. Have your kids host a fun tea party. Invite their friends over for brunch! Make it as fancy or as simple as you like!
- **Visit the Columbus Museum of Art**
- **Volunteer at the local Animal Shelter**
- **Celebrate National Waffle Day** with homemade waffles. Let everyone choose their own favorite toppings. Chocolate chips and pecans, with a hint of cinnamon. Don't forget the peanut butter. Oh yeah!

If you were born in March, your birth flower is a daffodil!

You have two birthstones: aquamarine, which represents serenity and the bloodstone—which symbolizes courage.

If you are born between March 1-20, your zodiac sign is Pisces.

Born between 21-31, your sign is Aries.

The Anglo-Saxons called March "Hlyd monath" meaning "Stormy month" or "Hraed monath" meaning "Rugged month."

The 1st day of Spring is March 20, 2022

FUN MARCH FACTS

IF MARCH COMES IN LIKE A LION, IT WILL GO OUT LIKE A LAMB!

DO YOU EVER KEEP TRACK OF THIS TO SEE IF IT IS TRUE?

It Is time to 'Spring' ahead ...
Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 13.

The Vernal Equinox occurs around March 20 or 21st. This is when the sun is directly above the equator, making the day and night equal length

ON MARCH 10, 1876, ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL MADE THE FIRST-EVER PHONE CALL. IT WAS TO HIS ASSISTANT AND HE SAID "MR. WATSON, COME HERE. I WANT TO SEE YOU."

President John F. Kennedy founded the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961.

ST. PADDY'S DAY IS MARCH 17!

FACT OR FICTION ... DID ST. PATRICK REALLY BANISH ALL SNAKES FROM IRELAND?

Statistically, March is the most unproductive month of the year in the U.S. This is the result of "March Madness"

WHO WAS ST. PATRICK? ... History.com

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is one of Christianity's most widely known figures. But for all of his prevalence in culture—namely the holiday held on the day of his death that bears his name—his life remains somewhat of a mystery.

Many of the stories traditionally associated with St. Patrick, including the famous account of his banishing all the snakes from Ireland, are false, the products of hundreds of years of exaggerated storytelling.

St. Patrick was born in Britain, to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. At the age of 16, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity, most likely in County Mayo, near Killala. During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. After more than six years as a prisoner, Patrick escaped. According to his writing, a voice—which he believed to be God's—spoke to him in a dream, telling him it was time to leave Ireland (in a second revelation, Patrick was told by an angel, in a dream, that he would return as a missionary).

After escaping to Britain, Patrick began religious training, a course of study that lasted more than 15 years. After his ordination as a priest, he was sent to Ireland to minister to Christians already living in Ireland and to begin to convert the Irish. Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish.

The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth. When this is considered, it is no surprise that the story of Patrick's life became exaggerated over the centuries—spinning exciting tales to remember history has always been a part of the Irish way of life.

Next month, you will get to
meet Meox Mix, Foxie's
little sister!

MEET MY BEST
BUDS ...

FOXIE



Foxie Lloyd was rescued in 2011 from the Humane Society of Madison County. She and her siblings were brought to the shelter when their owner couldn't sell the Poodle-Beagle-Shih Tsu mix puppies. She was adopted as a puppy, but returned to the shelter when her owner lost her job and couldn't afford to keep her.

We met Foxie at the shelter and fell in love with her. She was working as a greeter for new dog and cat arrivals to test their temperaments around dogs because of her congenial personality.

Foxie is our forever friend. She gave Joyce so much love and companionship through many surgeries. She is friendly, smart, loves walks, kitties, and FOOD! She developed diabetes and is insulin dependent, but accepted getting shots 2 times a day from the very first shot. Don't be afraid to have a pet who is diabetic. It is expensive, but not difficult to manage ... and well worth it to help them live a happy and healthy life with you.

Tom & Joyce Lloyd





Happy
Anniversary

Emmett & Jamie Schrock 3/15

Gary & Marci Bogenrife 3/16

Jim & Nancy Smith 3/22

Emmett & Crystal Schrock 3/23

Don & Rachel Herman 3/31

An Old Irish Blessing

May love and laughter light your days, and warm your heart and home.

May good and faithful friends be yours, wherever you may roam.

May peace and plenty bless your world with joy that long endures.

May all life's passing seasons bring the best to you and yours!



March Birthdays

For those who are lucky enough to be born in the month of March, count yourself among a select group of natural-born leaders who are empathetic and optimistic. You are happy, charismatic, affectionate and generous. Known as super creative and imaginative, March babies enjoy getting lost in their own thoughts and are content to spend time alone.

Dot Morlock	3/1	Bill Turvy	3/15
Linda Ridenour	3/5	Kelly Armfelt	3/16
Bob Fischer	3/6	Lauren Hart	3/18
Tom Lloyd	3/10	Janet Hunt	3/18
Robert McConnell	3/11	Esther Wheeler	3/21
Charles Remsey	3/12	Gina Wells	3/23
Nancy Smith	3/12	Russ Walls	3/27
Paul Oswalt	3/15	Nancy Baker	3/29

MARCH 2022						
	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
9	27 ● 10am Worship ● 3pm Commission Meeting ● 4pm Pastor Steve's commissioni	28 ● 6pm Paul Oswalt Barbershop Qu	Mar 1 ● 7pm Property Committee Meetin	2 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 5pm Stewardship Commission ● 6:45pm Choir Rehearsal ● 7:30pm Ash Wednesday Service	3 ● 4:15pm Mission Committee ● 6pm Worship Committee Meeting	4
10	6 ● 10am Communion ● 10am Worship ● 11am Deacon Meeting	7 ● 11am PCC Leadership Meeting	8	9 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 6pm PCC Committee Meeting ● 7pm Session Meeting	10 ● 11am Session Review ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	11
11	13 ● 10am Worship	14	15	16 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting ● 5pm Christian Education Zoom M	17 ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	18 Pastors D & M Vacation
12	20	21	22	23	24	25
	Pastors D & M Vacation ● 10am Worship					
13	27 ● 10am Worship	28	29	30 ● 1pm PCC Leadership Meeting	31 ● 7pm Choir Rehearsal	Apr 1



The Chimes
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED