



# The Good News

March 2015

For the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsford

## FROM THE PASTOR'S PEN-CELL

### LECTIONARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

#### 2nd Sunday in Lent March 1

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalm 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38

#### 3rd Sunday in Lent March 8

Exodus 20:1-17  
Psalm 19  
1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
John 2:13-22

#### 4th Sunday in Lent March 15

Numbers 21:4-9  
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
Ephesians 2:1-10  
John 3:14-21

#### 5th Sunday in Lent March 22

Jeremiah 31:31  
Psalm 51:1-12 or  
Psalm 119:9-16  
Hebrews 5:5-10  
John 12:20-33

#### Passion/Palm Sunday March 29

**Palms:** Mark 11:1-11 or  
John 12:12-16  
*Psalm: 118:1-2, 19-29*  
**Passion:** Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalms 31:9-16  
Philemon 2:5-11  
Mark 14:1-15:47 or  
Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

Yogi Berra was a brilliant baseball player and manager. (Just my opinion) He was also famous for "sayings" which are now called 'Yoglisms'. My favorite of which is on the topic of making decisions: *When you come to a fork in the road, take it.*

The precise quotation was printed in the salient 1998 work "The Yogi Book: I Really Didn't Say Everything I Said!", and its author Yogi Berra provided some context for his statement:

*I was giving Joe Garagiola directions from New York to our house in Montclair when I said this. Garagiola was a long-time friend of Berra and a fellow baseball player. Intriguingly, this same statement was printed in several U.S. newspapers over a hundred years ago in 1913. At that time the phrase was based on wordplay and referenced a 'fork' as a dining utensil.*

*"When you come to a fork in the road, take it."  
"I will, if it is a silver one."*

In 2009 the biography "Yogi Berra: Eternal Yankee" was published by Allen Barra and it included a wonderfully appealing rationale for Berra's famous remark. While traveling to Berra's house one may choose the left fork or the right fork and both are acceptable decisions because both efficiently lead to his house. So that was the Barra Berra insight.

I have tried to sort out the difference between genuine Yogisims and pseudo-Yogisims. It sort of goes like this. The things Yogi said that he actually said usually make sense in fewer words than most anyone else would use. "When you come to the fork in the road, take it" refers to the quickest way to get to his house (it's the same distance whether you keep to the right or left).

Now, why bring this up for a March Good News article at First Presbyterian Church? Because Spring Training is around the corner? No, at one time I thought that I might put together an entire Lenten Worship and Sermon series based upon Yogisims.

- \* The towels were so thick there I could hardly close my suitcase. (Ash Wednesday)
- \* We're lost, but we're making great time! (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent)
- \* A nickel ain't worth a dime anymore. (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent)
- \* If you don't set goals, you can't regret not reaching them. (3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent)
  - \* If it ain't the heat; it's the humility. (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)
  - \* If you can't imitate him, don't copy him. (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent)
- \* The future ain't what it used to be. (Palm/Passion Sunday)
- \* Anyone who is popular is bound to be disliked. (Maundy Thursday)
- \* You should always go to other people's funerals. Otherwise they won't come to yours. (Good Friday)
- \* No, you didn't wake me up. I had to get up to answer the phone anyway. (Easter)



So, this still sits as a potential series for the future. I'm not sure how some in the congregation would take such a Lenten approach. But it did get me thinking about a book that has long sat on my shelf. I have it in the original Norwegian where it is entitled, *Vägmärken* (which translates as "road signs" which was eventually printed in English as *Markings*. It was written by Dag Hammarskjöld. The late theologian Henry P. Van Dusen has described it as "the noblest self-disclosure of spiritual struggle and triumph, perhaps the greatest testament of personal faith ever written ... in the heat of professional life and amidst the most exacting responsibilities for [world peace](#) and order." He notes that "among the approximately six hundred 'Road Signs' staked down along the road of Dag Hammarskjöld's pilgrimage, almost exactly a hundred are concerned in greater or lesser measure with God.

Hammarskjöld wrote, for example, "We are not permitted to choose the frame of our destiny. But what we put into it is ours. He who wills adventure will experience it—according to the measure of his courage. He who wills sacrifice will be sacrificed—according to the measure of his purity of heart."

So from this ruminating comes some of the themes we will explore this Lenten Season at FPC. We are putting together our "CrossRoads" Series that will take us to places like:



- When We Feel Estranged from God
- When We Are Tempted
- When We Feel Paralyzed
- When We Are Uncertain About the Future
- When the Drought Gets Really Bad
- When We Feel Lost
- When We Feel Like We Don't Know God
- When We Feel Unwanted
- When We Feel Judged and Abandoned
- When We Feel Vindicated

See you at the Cross Roads – in church.

Bruce

**HOW IMPORTANT IS HOPE?** ~ It is easy to become depressed. The state of our World and our own problems can overwhelm any of us. There are family issues, losing a loved one, a job loss, a serious diagnosis, constant pain, either physical or spiritual. Or you may just be "feeling down" most of the time without understanding why. Hope is one of the connections between heaven and earth. It is a beautiful golden cord woven of faith and believing. Stephen Ministers are trained to provide you with the confidential, one-to-one Christian care you need to make it through difficult times. They are filled with God's love. They will walk closely with you until you find hope and are whole again.

To find out more about Stephen Ministry for you or someone you know, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: *Jane Hunter, Alice O'Dwyer, Barbara Smith, Dick Sprenkle or Carol Tiemann or one of our pastors.* Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!



**THANK YOU!**

So many have given me support and love this past month through a card, or food, or a hug, but all of it has given me the strength to get through a difficult time. Never before have I realized how necessary The Church Family is. My family appreciates this care also. With sincere thanks, Pat Miller

**REMINDER** ~ Daylight Savings time starts on March 8. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



**MARY/WELLER** ~ will meet on Monday, March 9 at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your lunch and least coin and enjoy the fellowship and help work on a new blanket. All women of the church are invited to attend. If not a regular member, please contact Shirley Lawrence.

**NAOMI CIRCLE** ~ Monday, March 16, 12:30. Bring your mug and sandwich and enjoy lunch and fellowship together. Drinks and dessert will be served. After a short business meeting, Pat Ward-Baker, a retired investment broker, will present a program titled Altering Old-age Stereotypes. Pat will share how She earned her PHD at the age of 74 and, at 82, is authoring a book titled *Eighth Inning Advantage*. Non-members always welcome.

**ANTHONY CIRCLE** ~ is a group of women who emphasize the fellowship and mission aspects of Presbyterian Women. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 9.30 am. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday March 17 at 9.30 am in Room 200 (upstairs) at the church. All women are welcome. Why don't you give us a try in the new year? For more information, contact Janette Henderson.

**EVENING CIRCLE** ~ will meet Monday, March 23 at 7:00 pm in Room 200 for fellowship and discussion of Lesson 9 from The General Epistles. Lesson 9 will be on the office counter. Any questions call Margaret Mecredy.

### **KNITTING GROUP** ~

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 24

Time 11—1:30 (or whenever you can make it)

Bring your lunch and we'll serve coffee/tea

We would appreciate any yarn you have and aren't going to use. We always have people who will turn it into finished projects. We call it RECYCLING at its BEST. There is a basket in the church office where you can leave it.

All are welcome—no membership, no dues.

Any questions? Kay Saxum

### **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

What: World Day of Prayer

Date: March 6, 2015

Time: 1:30 PM

Place: St. John's Lutheran Church  
800 East Ridge Road  
Rochester

### UPCOMING DEACON FUN ACTIVITIES

**SUPPER CLUB** - Sunday March 1 at 5pm. Fellowship Hall. Cost \$7 - Taiwanese Cooking.

Cost is \$7.

**EUCHRE** - Friday March 27 at 7pm.

**YOUNG ADULT GAME NIGHT** - Fellowship Hall

Saturday February 28 at 2pm

Friday March 6 at 7pm

Saturday March 28 at 3pm



### News from the Nursery School

Here at the preschool we are hoping the groundhog was wrong and spring will soon be here. This month we will have our pictures professionally taken, celebrate St. Patrick's Day and enjoy a Spring Egg Hunt. March is National Literacy Month; we will focus even more on the literature in our classrooms. We are enjoying several afternoon enrichment classes as well. At the end of the month we will begin our Spring Break. As always, please come downstairs for a visit when you are in the building. We love to show off!

### TREASURER'S REPORT

We have been truly blessed by the congregation's generosity. In 2012 and 2013 annual operating deficits exceeded \$60,000, necessitating use of Endowment funds equal to nearly 10% of our annual budget. In 2014 and in the 2015 budget the annual operating deficit is less than \$20,000 with 98% of our expenses covered by member contributions and only 2% from Endowment. And perhaps the most tangible and meaningful benefit has been our increased support for Mission and Outreach programs and projects. In 2011 a combined \$72,000 was available for Mission activities from Endowed Mission gift distributions and our annual operating budget. In 2015 over \$85,000 is available to support Mission, an increase of nearly 20%.

This past Valentine's Day 30 women came to the church amidst snow flurries for a special luncheon for widows. Over 30 people helped make this day a success. The food was wonderful, the music amazing, and the fellowship a true blessing. Some of the comments by these lovely ladies were:

"We were shown God's love today. Thank you!"

"I am thankful for this wonderful congregation that doesn't let you go! This was a great idea. Thanks to all!"

"I haven't celebrated Valentine's Day in years. Thank you!"



# Youth Happenings {7th-12th Grade}



World Vision's 30 Hour Famine gives students a chance to help overcome hunger — by going without food so others don't have to. It's an unforgettable experience that will make an incredible difference around the globe!

Students learn about hunger and fundraise to help feed and care for children living in poverty. On Famine weekend, students get up close and personal with hunger by going 30 hours without food. There will be activities and community service opportunities during the 30 hours that will make the no-eat overnighner memorable and meaningful.

2015's Make It Your Fight 30 Hour Famine is on March 13th & 14th.

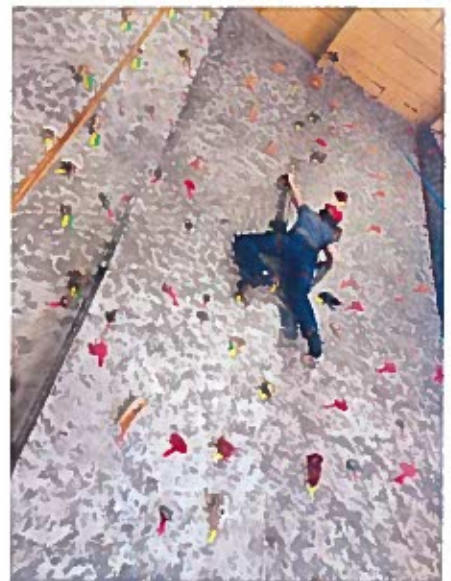


**Ticket to  
Mission**

**March 8, 15,  
22, 29**

**COMING  
SOON...**

**Rock  
Climbing**



**Laser Tag: Friday, March  
27th**

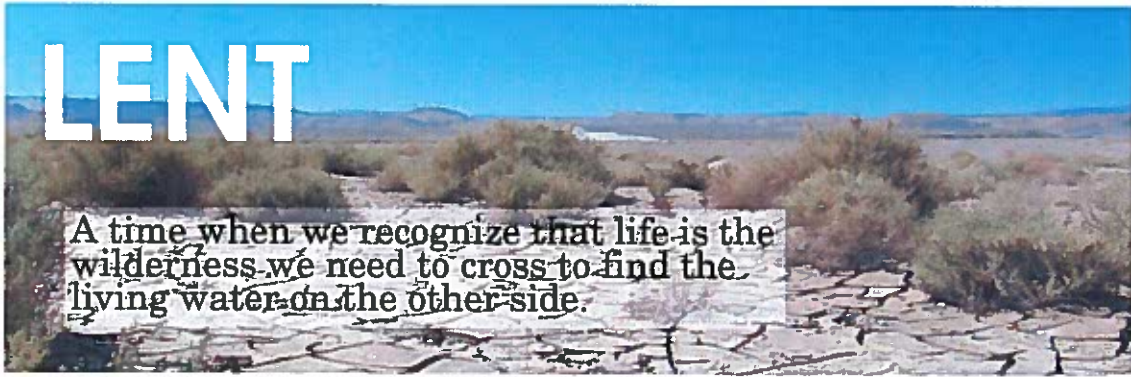
**7-10pm**

**2 Games & Pizza**

**Cost: \$15**



For more information or to RSVP, contact Joelle at (585)993-0142 OR  
[joelle.truax@pittsfordpres.org](mailto:joelle.truax@pittsfordpres.org)



A time when we recognize that life is the wilderness we need to cross to find the living water on the other side.

## Lenten devotionals

This year we have several choices for Lenten devotionals. There is a daily adult devotional, a calendar based devotional for families, and devotionals for kids 4-6 years old and 7-10 years old. We hope this gives you the flexibility to use what best fits your family.

They can be picked up in the office or in the Narthex.

## Young Adult Fellowship

First Presbyterian Church would like to invite adults ages 18-30 to board game night. Bring your own or play Carcassonne, Settlers of Catan, Dominion, Magic, Forbidden Island, Nuns on the Run, Red Dragon Inn, Heroes of Waterdeep, and more. Snacks and drinks available. Meets twice a month in Fellowship hall.

Upcoming dates: Saturday February 28 at 2pm; Friday March 6 at 7pm; Saturday March 28 at 3pm

## Exploring the Desert

Join us for a Bible study that looks at 6 types of rest. Each week explore aspects of following Jesus' example of going off alone to pray. These themes cover all aspects of the overwhelming in our lives and helps us understand God's concept of spiritual and emotional rest. The classes will be offered Wednesday evenings until Holy week at 7:15 in room 200 and Wednesday mornings on 3/12, 3/19, 3/26 at 9:30.

## Coming in lent

Egg decorating is a traditional Lenten way to connect to the season. Thursdays in March join us in creating Pysanky. These intricate designed eggs are used as a way to make your prayers tangible during the Lenten season. These are eggs decorated while reflecting on renewal. 6-7:30 on 3/5, 3/12, 3/19, 3/26.

This is open to all ages, however eggs are raw when decorated.



## Upcoming Events

Men's Prayer Breakfast	3/1 7:00 am
Mary Weller Circle	3/9 11:30 am
Optimists	3/13 12:30 pm
Naomi Circle	3/16 12:30 am
Anthony Circle	3/17 9:30 am
Evening Circle	3/23 7 pm
Not so Basic Bible study	Mondays 7:30 pm
Prayer Support Group	Mondays 11:30 am
Wednesday Evening Book Club	Wed. 7:00 monthly
Lectionary Study	Wed. 7:15 pm
Men's Ecumenical Group	Thursdays 7:15 am
Women's Bible Study	Fridays 9:30 am
Adult Study	Sundays

## Coming up for Kid

March 15 Sunday school starts studying "The Last Supper"

LOGOS

March 4: Gavett Tales

March 11: Picnic on the beach

March 18: Kids Choice Awards

March 25: Pot luck family dinner

# Join the Blue Out!



**Who:** Volunteer Teams and others (like our congregation!) who stand in the GAP for disaster survivors by supporting Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

**What:** Join the Blue Out! Wear your PDA t-shirt or something *BLUE*.

**Where:** Here!

**When:** February 22, 2015

**Why:** Wear a visible reminder that *One Great Hour of Sharing* makes a difference for disaster survivors around the world.

**How:** Be Creative!

Wear your PDA volunteer t-shirt or something blue: clothing, hat, a flower...

**Then what?**

Take a photo of your Blue Out creativity!

Send it to [pda@pcusa.org](mailto:pda@pcusa.org) so we can share with others.

**Together let's tell the story of hope out of chaos.**



**PRESBYTERIAN  
DISASTER  
ASSISTANCE**

**OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE**



Photos: Dwight K. Morris, Patti Lanford, FPC Covington GA; GEd Uzun PC; FPC South Hampton, VA; PC of Chatham Township, NJ; Kathy Temple, Monroeville PC