

The Good News

March 2018

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

A WEE WORD FROM DR. WEENINK

LOGGING INTO LENT

On Ash Wednesday, February 14 (Valentine's Day), we turned a page in the liturgical calendar to enter into the season of Lent. The word "Lent" comes from the Old Saxon word for springtime "lencten." It describes the gradual "lengthening" of days. From the earliest of times, Christians prepared for the annual Easter feast each Spring by fasting for two days in preparation for what was considered the holiest of times. In the third century this fast was extended to all of Holy Week. By the fourth century Christians began to observe a distinct and lengthy "season" of preparation for the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord.

Besides being the time in between the 'Carols of Christmas and Crocus of Easter'; beyond being the season when human life hangs suspended between the deep rich tones of autumn and the fresh young greening of spring; beyond being a time when you are 'between' having an installed Pastor/head of staff in place; the Lenten Season is a time for reflection and insight. It is a time to open our minds to be more clear and receptive to the sacred nourishment of God's word and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. It is a time for introspection and spiritual examination. Consider some modern analogies to this ancient liturgical observance.

If we were knives, Lent would be a time to sharpen our cutting edges.

If we were cars, Lent would be a time for an oil change and a tune-up.

If we were swimming pools, Lent would be a time to filter the dirt out of our water.

If we were gardens, Lent would be a time to fertilize our soil and dig out our weeds.

If we were carpets, Lent would be a time to get power-cleaned.

If we were computers, Lent would be a time to overhaul our disk drive.

If we were highways, Lent would be a time to repair our cracks and fill our pot-holes.

If we were TV sets, Lent would be a time to adjust our focus and our fine-tuning.

If we were silverware, Lent would be a time to clean away our tarnish.

If we were batteries, Lent would be a time to get recharged.

If we were seeds, Lent would be a time to germinate and reach for the sun.

As an intentional part of our Lenten journey you are invited to engage in an exercise called Appreciative Inquiry. Appreciative Inquiry emerged more than 30 years ago as an alternative to problem-based approaches for organizational transformation. It is a future-oriented process that focuses on congregational assets, core competencies and strengths. It engages the entire congregation in conversation about our greatest experiences; core values; and highest hopes and aspirations for the church. It is an approach to organizational change that shifts the focus of the church culture from deficits to assets, the past to the future, finger-pointing to collaboration, and solving problems to sparking possibilities. It intentionally incorporates consultation with all members and therefore seeks to involve the entire congregation. It cannot be completely successful without you.

One primary goal is to hear from everyone either through small group gatherings or an interview process. The more who are involved—the better it will be. The commitment of your officers and staff is to provide everyone with a voice; to make sure everyone is heard.

Multiple Appreciative Inquiry gatherings have been scheduled for your convenience (please see following pages). In these sessions you will be invited to respond to questions about our past, present and future. They will not be difficult. In fact, this promises to be a fun time of introspection and expression. The areas of inquiry are intended to help you express a narrative that reveals appreciation, achievement, success, and important experiences, big or small, rather than breakdown or failure. The responses will be themed and woven together to determine the most common wishes, ideas, hopes, dreams, and aspirations that will engage us in the best practices for ministry. Come prepared to engage in honest and open communication about your own experiences in the life of this fellowship of faith as we log into Lent together.

Alongside you in work and witness –
Yours in faith,

~Jeffrey

The **Annual Congregational/Corporate Meeting of the First Presbyterian Society**, Pittsford, NY is called by the Session for **Sunday, February 25**, in the sanctuary **after the 10:00 am service**. The business to be covered will include: receiving of annual reports from organizations and Session (information only), financial reports of the preceding year, budget of the current year (information only), and a report of the Nominating Committee. In preparation for the meeting, copies of the **2017 Annual Report** will be available in the narthex starting Sunday, February 18.

Would you like to become American Heart Association certified in CPR and AED?

Join First Presbyterian Church Pittsford members and friends for an American Heart Association CPR and AED class on Saturday, April 21, between 9am-12pm. The class will be taught at the Pittsford Volunteer Ambulance center at 40 Tobey Road. Cost is \$35 and will be payable that morning. The certification is good for two years and gives you added confidence to help others in times of need. Please sign up through our church offices connect@pittsfordpres.org. We need just a few more people to make this class happen so secure your slot today!

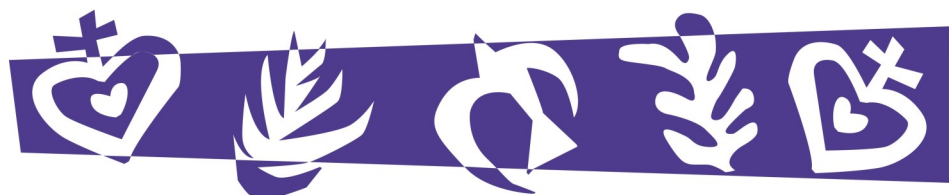
New Officers' Biography

Mark W. Pedersen – Elder, Class of 2020

Mark has been a member of First Presbyterian since he was confirmed here—in 1975! Mark has been a Captain, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy (Retired), served over three years on full-time active duty, and more than 26 years of Reserve duty in various billets including on board USS NIMITZ (CVN 68), and as an appellate judge on the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Appeals. He has also served in the Monroe County District Attorney's Office as a prosecutor. Since 1997, he has served as a career elbow law for a U.S. District Judge, Western District of New York. Mark is deeply involved with Boy Scouts of America and several local organizations.

Lectionary for March

March 4	March 11	March 18	March 25	March 29	March 30
Third Sunday in Lent	Fourth Sunday in Lent	Fifth Sunday in Lent	Passion/Palm Sunday	Maundy Thurs- day	Good Friday
Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31-34	<i>Liturgy of the Palms:</i> Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16	Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10), 11-14	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
Psalms 19	Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22	Psalms 51:1-12 or 119:9-16	Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29	Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19	Psalms 22:1-31
1 Corinthians 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 5:5-10	<i>Liturgy of the Passion:</i> Isaiah 50:4-9a	1 Corinthians 11:23-26	Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16, 5:7-9
John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21	John 12:20-33	Psalms 31:9-16	John 13:1-17, 31b-35	John 18:1-19:42
			Philippians 2:5-11		
			Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39 (40-47)		



2018 Lenten Schedule

Upcoming Services during the Special Season of Lent

Sunday	March 25	8:30 am	Palm Sunday Service
		10:00 am	Palm Sunday Service (Requiem by Mozart, with chorus and orchestra)
Thursday	March 29	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Service
Friday	March 30	7:00 pm	Good Friday Service (with FPC Choir)
Sunday	April 1	7:00 am	Easter Sunrise Service (Port of Pittsford)
Sunday	April 1	8:30 & 10:30 am	Easter Sunday Services

Mission Study Appreciative Inquiry Gatherings

Listed below are the events at which we will complete the Mission Study Appreciative Inquiry process. Please go to our website pittsfordpres.org, click on the MISSION STUDY banner and indicate which gathering you will attend. This will help us make sure there is enough space in any room and that we have sufficient supplies. If you cannot find a way to participate in any of the sessions that have been scheduled, please indicate that you would appreciate an individualized session or simply call the church office.

Standing Groups:

Bell Choir - The date and time will be determined based on the groups other participation.

Not So Basic Bible Study - Monday 3/5 7:30 pm. The MSAI will be done first with the Bible Study following, time permitting. There will be food.

Prayer Group Monday 3/5 11:00 am in the library. The MSAI will be done first, followed by normal business.

Outreach Tuesday 3/6 7:30 pm in the library. Meeting will start with the MSAI, then shortened meeting to follow.

Worship & Music Tuesday 3/6 7:30 pm in room 204. Meeting will start with the MSAI then shortened meeting to follow.

LOGOS Wednesday 3/7 from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm family members connected with LOGOS are invited to come. Adults will participate in Fellowship Hall while children will get dinner and a movie in the youth room until parents are done.

Choir will have a special event in early April to go over the MSAI. This will not be during a normally scheduled practice.

Wednesday Night Bible Study Wednesday 3/7 7:15 pm in the library. The MSAI will be the topic for the evening.

Anthony Thursday 3/8 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall. Meeting will start with the MSAI then a shortened meeting to follow. There will be food.

Trustees Thursday 3/8 7:30 pm in room 201. Meeting will start with the MSAI then a shortened meeting to follow.

Optimists Friday 3/9 12:30 - 2:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, bring your own lunch and \$2. Reservations can be made the previous two Sundays and by calling the office. MSAI will be done in the normal speaker time.

Cooking Club Sunday 3/11 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. MSAI will be done while the food is in the oven.

Session Tuesday 3/13 7:00 pm (earlier time) in room 201. Meeting will start with the MSAI then a shortened agenda to follow.

WEB Club Wednesday 3/14 1:00 pm (earlier time) in the library. The MSAI will be done at 1:00 pm with the normal meeting starting at 2:00 pm

PW Board Wednesday 3/14 10:30 am in room 204. Short meeting before the MSAI.

SO-SO Sunday 3/18 7:00 pm in the youth room. Food provided. MSAI led by youth will be the main topic.

Naomi Monday 3/19 12:30 pm in room 200. The group will bring their own lunch and mug, have a business meeting, and in place of a program participate in the MSAI at 2:00 pm.

Deacons Monday 3/19 7:00 pm (earlier time) in room 201. Meeting will start with the MSAI then shortened agenda to follow.

Youth Forum Sunday 3/25 10:00 am in the youth room. Food provided. MSAI led by youth will be the topic.

EVE Circle Monday 3/26 12:30 pm in room 200. MSAI will be entire meeting.

Knitting Tuesday 3/27 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall. The Knitters will have food and participate in the MSAI while knitting.

Christian Education: Tuesday 2/27 7:00 pm in room 204. MSAI is the only agenda item.

One Time Open Forums:

Sunday 3/11 after worship 11:30 am. The MSAI will be held in Fellowship Hall. Food will be provided.

Wednesday 3/14 noon. This will be a brown bag (bring your own lunch) session confined to the lunch hour in Fellowship Hall.

Thursday 3/15 7:00 pm. MSAI will be held in Fellowship Hall. No food will be provided.

Friday 3/16 6:30 pm. MSAI will be held in Fellowship Hall. Food will be provided.

Sunday 3/18 after worship 11:30 am. MSAI will be held in Fellowship Hall. Food will be provided.

Wednesday 3/21 noon. This will be a brown bag (bring your own lunch) session confined to the lunch hour in Fellowship Hall.

With Weekly Lenten Devotional Small Group:

At each of these gatherings one part of the MSAI will be addressed. Along with the MSAI there is a time for intentional prayer, Bible study and fellowship.

Thursday nights, March 1, 8, 15 at 7:30 - 9:00 pm led by Dick Sprenkle in his home

Wednesday nights, March 14, 21 and 28 at 7:00 - 8:30 pm led by Barb Smith in her home

Thursday days, March 8, 15 and 22 at noon led by Rev. Carrie Mitchell in the Library

Sunday Morning Bible Study, February 25, March 4, 11, 18 at 9:45 am in the library

For **Members Living at the Highlands** there will be a meeting on Monday, February 26, at 3:00 pm with food provided. You will receive an invitation from your zone deacon.

Camp Whitman

As we enjoy the inevitable melting of the winter snows, Camp Whitman is heating up plans for the 2018 camping season at their beautiful Seneca Lake facility. Their traditional camping experience is for school-age youth between 6 and 17 with another camp program for teens and adults from 12 to 65 with developmental disabilities.

This Presbyterian-owned and operated camp has started the online registration for 2018 with discount rates for early registrations. At the camp's website, www.campwhitman.org, you can learn of the lifelong memories available to establish by participants. Camping schedules and rates are also available through the website including scholarship programs.

The best way to learn about the camp first hand is to attend the "Family Fun Day" on Saturday, May 12. The day's worth of camping experiences is planned for the whole family when you'll be sure to catch the camping fever. The 'Events' tab on the website gives plenty of information. You'll also find a "Volunteer Work Day" scheduled for Saturday, April 28, when hearty hands and spirited enthusiasts gather in fellowship to ready the camp for the warm days ahead.

Please contact the camp directly or our church office to learn more about building lifelong memories during the summer of 2018.

Deacon Events

- Friday, March 9 - Eastman School of Music - Studio Orchestra at Kodak Hall - Meet at church at 7:15 pm to car pool - Free
- Sunday, March 11 - Cooking Club - Portuguese Themed Meal - 5 pm in Fellowship Hall - Learn to cook new dishes - Cost \$7
- Saturday, March 17 - Game Night - Fellowship Hall 7 pm - All are welcome to play Euchre and board games.

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or call Debbie Matrachisia at 752-5584.

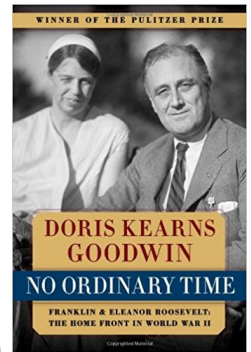
WEB Club

The Wednesday Book Club will meet on March 14 from 2-4 pm in the church library. All are invited to attend whether you have read the book or not. Please contact Nancy Sprenkle at 381-8990 for further information.

March 14 - *No Ordinary Time* by Doris Kearns Goodwin

From Amazon: Winner of the Pulitzer Prize for History, *No Ordinary Time* is a monumental work, a brilliantly conceived chronicle of one of the most vibrant and revolutionary periods in the history of the United States.

With an extraordinary collection of details, Goodwin masterfully weaves together a striking number of story lines—Eleanor and Franklin's marriage and remarkable partnership, Eleanor's life as First Lady, and FDR's White House and its impact on America as well as on a world at war. Goodwin effectively melds these details and stories into an unforgettable and intimate portrait of Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt and of the time during which a new, modern America was born.



Upcoming:

April 11 - *The Gilded Age* by Mark Twain—First published in 1873, Twain satirizes the post-Civil War and its fall into greed and political corruption. Ironically that era is now known as the "Gilded Age".

May 9 - *Luther and Katharina* by Jody Hedlund—A Christy Award-winning novel chronicling the forbidden romance between Martin Luther and his wife, Katharina von Bora, set against the Protestant Reformation of the sixteenth century.

Optimists

Friday, March 9, 12:30 pm

The Mission Study Appreciative Inquiry will be the topic. Reservations are \$2. Sign up in Fellowship Hall two Sundays before March 9. Bring your own table service or wash dishes. Paper products for Pittsford Food Cupboard are deeply appreciated. All are welcome to attend.



News from the Nursery School

Here comes March! A long month, but fun filled ☺ This month we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, enjoy a visit from Mrs. Fine's daughter Lena and her Irish Dance group and participate in a Spring Egg Hunt. March is National Literacy Month; we will focus even more so 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. Thank you for your continued support, Happy Spring!

Teresa Zatyko, Director, Pittsford Nursery School

Eve Circle

Eve Circle will meet Monday, February 26, at 12:30pm in room 200 to discuss chapters 5 and 6 of *Rising Strong*. On Monday, March 26, same time and place, the circle will discuss chapters 7 and 8.

Post Logos Children's Music Opportunity

will take place during the Sunday school hour during the month of April. We will explore Psalm 98: *Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord*, and the children will learn a song to share in the Children's worship service on May 6.

Wonderful Wednesday Bell

Opportunity 4:15-5pm in the Choir room. Ensemble ringing can be done by a small group and if you've rung bells and would like a challenge, please join us. In ensemble ringing you may ring many bells, or just a few, depending on your comfort level. Rehearsals will begin after Easter break on April 11. Let me know if you are interested! Email Dede Holmes at dmh91654@frontiernet.net



Pittsford Food Cupboard

Our congregational dollars, donations and talents support the Pittsford Food Cupboard (PFC). Last year, 7433 people were served by the PFC including 858 seniors and 1783 children. Our decrease in number of people served from 2016 (8729 people) reflects a more vigorous control on serving our designated 5 zip codes only.

In 2016, 25,000lbs of food was ordered from Foodlink and 112,948lbs of food was donated. 75% of the food that the PFC distributes is donated by the community. Food collections are organized with the Pittsford school district schools, local businesses, religious organizations including of course, First Presbyterian Pittsford, community locations and events. PFC works with the Pittsford Rotary to realize the awarding of grants and freezers. PFC is also affiliated with Foodlink. When our Optimists gather each month, they all bring paper goods for the PFC (Foodlink does not supply paper goods) which are much appreciated.

Our 8th grade confirmation class annually visits the PFC as well as members of the Logos program. Many members of our congregation are volunteers for the PFC in various capacities. Come visit us in the Pickle Factory building at 1 Grove St, Ste 103A, and see our newly re-organized and upgraded food store.

Lee Fox, PFC board member

Knitting Group, Tuesday, February 27, 11:00 am—1:30 pm. Y'all come, set a while, knit a bit, have coffee and lunch—and leave happy.
Kay Saxum 385-9807

Naomi Circle meets Monday, March 19, 12:30 pm, in room 200. Please bring lunch and mug. After lunch, devotions, and business meeting, we will be meeting with a representative of the Mission Study Appreciative Inquiry Team and will share our stories, values, and hopes concerning our congregation. This information will be used toward the selection of a permanent pastor.
Non-members are ALWAYS welcome.

Scientific Research on Health and Happiness

It doesn't take a neuroscientist to know that doing nice things for people feels good. But now, researchers say they've discovered that even thinking about doing something generous has real mood-boosting benefits in the brain. In a new study published in *Nature Communications*, researchers from the University of Zurich in Switzerland told 50 people they'd be receiving about \$100 over a few weeks. Half of the people were asked to commit to spending that money on themselves, and half were asked to spend it on someone they knew.

The researchers wanted to see whether simply pledging to being generous was enough to make people happier. So before doling out any money, they brought everyone into the lab and asked them to think about a friend they'd like to give a gift to and how much they would hypothetically spend. They then performed functional MRI scans to measure activity in three regions of the brain associated with social behavior, generosity, happiness, and decision-making. Their choices—and their brain activity—seemed to depend on how they had pledged to spend the money earlier. Studies have shown that people who are generous tend to have better health, and other research has indicated that spending money on others can be as effective at lowering blood pressure as medication or exercise. Next time you think that the best way to make yourself feel better is to buy yourself a treat, consider that the opposite is likely true. It is worth giving it a shot, even if you think it would not work... Of course, all this is nothing new to a faithful steward who has known and practices this principle all along. May their tribe increase.

Remember there are a number of ways to give: Weekly during worship, on-line, memorial gifts, estate planning and more.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

It will be collected on Palm Sunday, March 25, as a vital part of our Lenten Pilgrimage. Giving to this offering is a positive form of self-denial. It is a creative way to give thanks to God for personal, spiritual and tangible blessings. Your gifts through the One Great Hour of Sharing help combat the root causes of hunger and distress. All are invited to set aside a portion each day of Lent for this offering. Your gifts provide food for undernourished children; windmills pumping clean, fresh water; tools, seeds and fertilizer; help with housing and needed medical care. One Great Hour of Sharing dollars help in disaster assistance. Hunger and malnutrition still haunts one in every four children worldwide. There are about 12 million refugees. Natural disasters, political crises, and social/economic oppression are situations that demand the response of the Christian community.

In a world with war and rumors of war, during Lent we have the opportunity to fill the world with love. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Christians from nine denominations work together,

sharing God's love with all humanity. While the offering alone will not accomplish this great task, it is a way for Presbyterians to demonstrate the transforming love of Christ at work within us.

Envelopes are provided for adults in the pew pockets. You may mail your gift to the church and mark it accordingly. Through the One Great Hour of Sharing we acknowledge with gratitude God's gift of love in Christ and bring hope to the lives of others. Please help.

Lay Leaders —

If you are interested in assisting in either the 8:30 am or 10:00 am worship service by leading a prayer, a response, reading scripture, or playing a role in service in helpful ways, we would love to hear from you. The Worship and Music Committee is scheduling participants. If you would like to be included, please contact Judy Messenger at messenger5@aol.com or 340-2822.

An Immersion in the Village of Maya Balaam

Three from our fellowship assembled with a team of 16 Presbyterians from four sister churches for a cultural work-study-mission immersion among the Maya in the southern region of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. The purpose was to come alongside the Presbyterian congregation Manantial De Via Eterna (spring or source of the way eternal) for the construction of a concrete pavilion with a stage for worship and other events, because their tidy Sanctuary cannot always accommodate the crowds. The group also poured concrete slabs to compose a plaza seating area, which will also be used for recreation. Villagers are primarily Guatemalan who escaped the civil war some 30 years ago over the border, which is nearby to the South West. They carved out of the jungle wilderness a thriving agricultural cooperative that grows and markets fruits and vegetables. This immersion is an annual endeavor. Members and friends are invited to prayerfully consider participation in the 2019 project.



Upcoming Youth Events—Seems Winter doesn't feel like leaving yet! Make sure you are keeping warm!

LOGOS—February 28, March 7, 14 + 21 from 4pm-7pm @ Church

SOSO—March 4 + 18 from 7pm-8:30pm @ Church

Ticket to Mission—March 4, 11 + 18 after both services in the Fellowship Hall

Messy Game Night—March 10 from 2:30-5pm @ Church

Flower City Work Camp—April 2-6 in Rochester

Pittsburgh Mission Trip—July 21-27 @ Pittsburgh Theological Seminary

Our youth did wonderful on Youth Sunday once again and we couldn't be more proud of them! We hope you enjoyed worshiping and celebrating with us on that wonderful day!



Youth Mission Trip going on right now!!!!

Remember that the youth are on a mission trip right now! February 19 through 23 the Youth take a trip to do some mission in Washington D.C.!!

There we will be working with several different homeless shelters and other mission organizations in the city's downtown area.

We will also be having some fun and educational experiences each day. Some of these experiences will be a tour of the Capitol Building, a trip to Arlington Cemetery and a Monuments by Moonlight Tour!!

The youth are having a great time and we can't wait to tell you all of our amazing



Ticket to mission is coming up very soon! We will have many wonderful and different basket up for grabs after services on March 4th, 11th and 18th! Make sure to come and check them out, or even think about donating your own basket!

If you have an event you want your fellow youth, or Tyler to attend make sure to let us know! From sports events, to musicals, to anything else you have going on we would love to come and support you! Maybe we can even get a group together to come and cheer you on in our own loving way!!



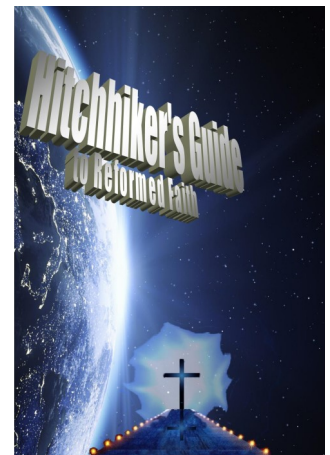
Teacher Appreciation April 15

All Teachers and Shepherds are invited to join together for a lunch on Sunday, April 15, at 11:30am. Please bring your partner and children if you desire. We will eat together and then briefly talk about the Christian Ed. program. This is provided to say thank you for enabling Christian Education to happen. Look for an email with signup.

A Hitchhiker's Guide to Reformed Faith

Last month we talked about the reformed ideas in the acronym T.U.L.I.P. This month we will explore the five solas. If you have a desire to learn more about your Presbyterian faith and what we believe, this is the class for you.

This class meets on the first Sunday of the month through June 2018, at 11:45 am in room 200. Childcare will be provided upon request.



Lenten Devotionals Available

This Lenten season we have available both electronic and paper devotions from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The paper devotions will be available in the Narthex. These devotions are daily devotions with both scripture and reflection included. Instruction on how to obtain digital copies are included.

Men in Shorts

On Sunday March, 4 men from the morning prayer group will be wearing shorts and their "I love my church" T-shirt. We invite any other members to join us. We do this every year because "our church is so warm we can wear shorts in the winter." Help us celebrate the warm personalities around us.



First Watercolor Collaboration

Cindy Barben and Craig Kunkle invite ALL to sign up for the First Watercolor Collaboration. The next date is Thursday, March 15, at 6:30 pm in room 204 upstairs. Painters of all ability levels welcome. We will collaborate on technique and form. Some brushes, paint, and paper provided or bring your own. Bring something to work on yourself or paint the easy picture provided with guidance.

Christian Education

Coming up for Kids

February 28 LOGOS - In and Out

March 7 LOGOS - Over and Out

Parents: Mission Study AI

March 14 LOGOS - Kids choice awards

March 21 Last LOGOS - Pot Luck dinner

March 25 Children Sing in worship

April 1 Children join family in worship

May 6 Children lead worship

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

*If we were seeds, Lent would be a
time to germinate and reach for
the sun.*

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Worship With Us

Please join us for Sunday morning
worship.

Worship Services: 8:30 & 10:00 am

Communion is offered on the
first Sunday of each month.

