

Lent Begins March 2

The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days — like the flood of Genesis, Moses' sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent and Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness. (The Sundays in Lent are not counted in this reckoning of the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter, as every Lord's Day is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

In the early church, Lent was a time of preparation for the celebration of baptism at the Easter Vigil. In many communities of faith it remains a time to equip and nurture candidates for baptism and confirmation and to reflect deeply on the theme of baptismal discipleship.

The Paschal mystery

An excerpt from the [Companion to the Book of Common Worship](#) (Geneva Press, 2003 110-111)

What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. "I die every day!" asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31). Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the "old self." In dying, we live.

Therefore, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God's gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the "old self" in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, "Death is no more!" and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" leads to the destination of Easter.

During the final week, Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ's passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ's path of servanthood through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus.



March 2022 Lenten Worship Schedule

We continue our Sunday morning worship at 11:00AM in the sanctuary with various guest pastors, liturgists, and members of our music ministry. The service is livestreamed on Facebook and then posted to YouTube and SoundCloud within the next day or 2 for online viewing and listening.

March 2: Ash Wednesday Service at 7:00PM

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent with a public act of confession and contrition. Acknowledging that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, we stand in solidarity as fellow creatures before our Creator, acutely aware of our mortality. In the face of our transience, we pledge ourselves anew to live unto God's Word in Jesus Christ, the eternal Word that remains forever. The Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower leads our service in the sanctuary, which includes Communion and the Imposition of Ashes.

March 6: We begin our Lenten Sundays with the return of the Sanctuary Choir to worship after our music ministry pause in January & February. A service of Taizé will allow us to enter this season of self-reflection as members are invited to join in the sung prayer and lighting of candles. Heather Henkel preaches.

March 13: On this second Sunday in Lent, the Rev. Fairlight Collins Lower will preach and lead us in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

March 20: The Worship Ensemble returns for a Lenten Emerging Worship service with Heather Henkel preaching.

March 27: Rev. Fairlight Lower preaching

April 3: Rev. Fairlight Lower preaching, Communion

Looking ahead to Holy Week:

April 10: Palm/Passion Sunday will include a Reader's Theater presentation of the Passion of Jesus.

April 14: Maundy Thursday. Our service will recall the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus, including the Last Supper where we will share in communion. Rev. Bob Ruefle leads the service.

April 17: Easter Sunday will be a Resurrection Celebration! Honorably Retired Pastor Michael Rucker will return to the pulpit to share in this special day. You will recall that his last Easter with us was when we were doing audio-only worship on SoundCloud, so it will be a wonderful reunion and celebration of in-person worship with communion.



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*Believing we are
called together
by God's love
through Jesus Christ,
our mission as the
First Presbyterian Church
of Edgewood
is to love God,
to love each other,
and to love our neighbors.*

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

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**LOVE GOD
EACH OTHER
OUR NEIGHBORS**

Session Notes

At their February 8 Zoom meeting, Session approved:

- A memorial service for Connie Black on Saturday, February 19 at 10:30AM
- Rehearsal dates for Vocal Confluence on February 25, 7-10 PM and February 26, 12-3, 4-6 PM
- \$3,000 design fee to UpStreamPgh for a preliminary design proposal for a rain/contemplative garden upgrade for the South lawn of the church.



Joint Session & Deacon Meeting
Tuesday, March 8, 7PM, Gathering Place
All current elders and deacons are asked to attend

Mission Update: Crop Walk 2021-2022

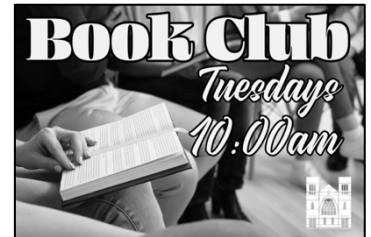
CROP WALK has raised \$24,000 to fight hunger around the world and in the East End! Thanks to all FPCE who gave donations toward this wonderful project!



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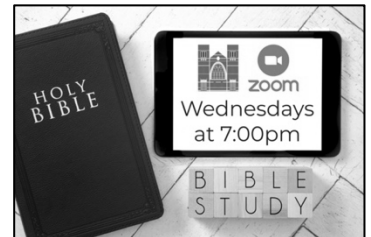
Tuesday Book Club

Our weekly Book Club is currently discussing “The Scrolls from the Dead Sea” by Edmund Wilson. This group meets at 10:00AM on Tuesdays at the home of Rhonda Apossos, 361 Maple Avenue, just a few blocks away from the church. All are welcome!



Wednesday Night Zoom Bible Study

Our weekly Bible Study is held on Zoom each week and is led by Elder Tim Hoffman. The Zoom link is available on the website and in the weekly member email updates. No password is needed, just the link. Tim will let you in from the waiting room as you join. Come and join the discussion on Wednesday nights at 7:00pm online! Questions? Shoot an email to Tim at HoffmanTL@gmail.com.



Sunday School

Sunday School for our littlest ones takes place during worship in the Gathering Place. Just drop your child off and Rhonda, Nancy, or Lorraine will lead them in a Bible activity while you are in worship!



PNC Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee continues to meet regularly and is working hard on behalf of the congregation. We’ve held several first round and are now into second round interviews via Zoom. Next is communicating with Brian Wallace at Presbytery some of the candidates we are interested in so he can conduct some executive references with his colleagues in other presbyteries. We’re hopeful that as we enter this second round of deeper questions and getting to know the potential pastors better that the person God is calling to lead us next here at FPCE will become clearer. Please continue to pray for our search and the discernment needed.

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S) 7:00 PNC (Zoom)	2 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service (S)	3 2:00 Flute (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B) 7:00 PNC (Zoom)	4 5:00 Flute (L) 8:00 AA (SR)	5 8:30 AA (SR)
6 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S) 12:00 Worship Committee (GP) 7:00 PNC (Zoom)	7 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	8 10:00 Book Club 7:00 Session/ Deacon Mtg. (GP) 7:00 ESO (S)	9 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	10 2:00 Flute (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	11 5:00 Flute (L) 8:00 AA (SR)	12 7:30 Edgewood Symphony Concert (S) 8:30 AA (SR)
13 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship/ Communion (S)	14 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	15 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	16 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	17 2:00 Flute (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	18 5:00 Flute (L) 8:00 AA (SR)	19 8:30 AA (SR)
20 9:30 Ensemble 11:00 Emerging Worship (S)	21 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	22 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	23 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	24 2:00 Flute (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	25 5:00 Flute (L) 8:00 AA (SR)	26 8:30 AA (SR)
27 9:30 Choir (S) 11:00 Worship (S)	28 7:00 VC (S) 7:00 Scouts (SR)	29 10:00 Book Club 7:00 ESO (S)	30 7:00 Bible Study (Zoom)	31 2:00 Flute (L) 7:00 Milepost6 (B)	April 1 5:00 Flute (L) 8:00 AA (SR)	8:30 AA (SR)
Meeting Locations: Book Club – Apossos Home AA – Social Room Vocal Confluence & ESO – Sanctuary Milepost6 – Basement Band Room		PNC – Pastor’s Study Flute Lessons – Lounge Session – Gathering Place Choir, Ensemble, Worship – Sanctuary Scouts – Scout or Social Room				

Don't forget to "spring ahead" on March 13th!



Join the Edgewood Symphony's next performance on Saturday March 12 at First Presbyterian Church of Edgewood. Say goodbye to winter with a fun and spirited performance of Sergei Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, narrated by renowned mezzo-soprano Demareus Cooper. Prokofiev's classic features the first combined performance of ESO strings and woodwinds since December 2019.

Then our brass section will shine through Paul Dukas' *Fanfare pour précéder la Péri*, Humperdinck's *Abendsegen* & *Pantomime* from *Hansel & Gretel*, the Premiere of ESO's own Justin Miller's *Strife*, and an arrangement of Shostakovich's *Suite* from "The Gadfly."

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at edgewoodsymphony.org



First Presbyterian Church of
EDGEWOOD
The Community Church
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EASTER FLOWERS

We seek your help in making our sanctuary a place of graceful beauty and meaning on Easter morning. Through your donation, we can accomplish this:

I wish to contribute an Easter plant. Lily ____ Tulip ____ Daffodil ____ Hyacinth ____

The wording for the bulletin is:

__ In honor of _____

__ In memory of _____

Order placed by _____

Please check: I would like to take the plant
 I would like it to be planted in the Prayer Garden



The cost of each plant is \$8.00. Please send check (payable to FPCE or pay online at fpcedgewood.org/donate) with form and return it to the Church Office. Deadline is April 4, 2022 .