

# Church Bell



fpcro

## *From the Pastor's Desk...*

My friends,

I think it's time to dig deep. I think in these next few months we need to press into our prayer life, our seeking out of God's presence, and our calling on the Spirit for sustenance. I don't know about you, but my tolerance is wearing thin for all the precautions needed in our pandemic way of life, and the news events in the world aren't helping me any. Don't hear me wrong, I remain committed to all of it: masks, social distancing, and continuing to create ministry and worship opportunities that we can all engage in safely. But still...it's hard. I said this fall I thought we would hit the year mark of worshipping online, and next month, unfortunately, we will get there.



Some of you have been able to get vaccinated and for that I give deep thanks to God. Many of us are still waiting and may have to continue waiting for many months ahead. The new variants of this virus are leading case counts higher by the day, as I write this, and the experts say we have a long way to go before things get more under control. The Pandemic Response Team meets monthly to review the situation and to determine how our church can respond. We continue to adjust our restrictions on being in the building based on the severity of things. And though we have had things in the building ready for a return since the summer, we continue to believe that worship at home and online is the safest choice for our congregation. You can read more in this newsletter about how you can contribute to our plans to upgrade technology to ensure we can livestream worship services into the future, even after we are back in-person.

This month, Lent begins. Lent is a season that asks us to turn away from things that call us away from God and instead, to return to God with renewed intention. In the midst of feeling tired of and grieved by the world as it is, Lent offers a path to turn our emotions into seeds that can sprout and blossom into growth. This season, I hope you'll consider these ways to dig deep and allow our faith to sustain you.

- Make plans to mark the start of Lent—put a note in your calendar to pick up a *Way of Love Lenten Kit*, or to come for drive-up ashes on Ash Wednesday, February 17 (12-1 pm & 4-6 pm).
- Choose a Lenten practice or discipline. This doesn't have to be something you give up, though it could be. Choose to pray or meditate, or just have quiet while you drink one cup of tea each evening (no phones or TV to distract you). Choose to call one fellow church member each week of Lent on the phone. Choose to read your kids a Bible story every Sunday or every day during Lent. Whatever you choose, be intentional and look for God's presence as you do it.
- Connect your financial giving with your commitment to God this season. We will **dedicate our pledges for 2021-2022 on Sunday, February 21 in worship**. Traditionally, giving alms was an important Lenten practice, and this coming year we are all invited to dedicate an additional \$5 per week to God's work. When we do that together, we will add \$55,000 to our church's funding for ministries. Look for your stewardship packet in the mail, and mail your pledge card back to us soon, before you forget. Or, submit it online this year!
- Attend the online **Lenten Reflection services** which invite us into stillness as we contemplate scripture.
- Sign-up and commit to attend the **Lenten retreat** on March 5-6. While staying at home, we will enjoy dedicated times to worship together on Zoom, reflect on our lives, and find ways to strengthen our devotion to God.

May God bless your intentions and sustain you in all that you are doing,

*Pastor Emma*

## WORSHIP ONLINE WITH FPCRO

Worship continues in an online format. Each week, we offer a worship service video that includes scripture, music, thoughts for kids, preaching, prayer, and even online communion. Worship God from wherever you are, at anytime you choose!

Access the video each weekend on our website: [www.fpcro.org/home-worship-resources](http://www.fpcro.org/home-worship-resources). From there, you can also download a printed copy of the sermon.

Or, watch worship on our Facebook page and share comments with other worshippers: <https://www.facebook.com/fpcro/> (Clicking "like" and/or sharing posts on the church Facebook page is another way to help increase our reach.)



## our staff

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*newsletter editor* **Tere Ryan**

*tenor* **Ryan Hurley**

*baritone* **Miroslav Pavle Manovski**

*soprano* **Audrey Frieberg**

*mezzo soprano* **Julie Anne Smith**

## our soloists



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The **Church Bell** is published monthly, September through June. Email contributions to [newsletter@fpcro.org](mailto:newsletter@fpcro.org). Deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.

## OF NOTE:

### Deaths:

Andy Wesa, December 8, 2020

Robert "Bob" Cafmeyer, January 1, 2021

Russell "Russ" Sandri, January 7, 2021



What initial thoughts, impressions, and prayers do you have for your star word?

## FROM THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE TEAM COVID-19 FYI of the Month

### **Do I have to wear a mask even after I have received the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Two weeks after you have received the complete COVID-19 vaccine, you are protected, but it is not fully understood yet whether you can transmit the virus to your unvaccinated neighbor.



Clinical trials have been focused on preventing exposed individuals from becoming sick. Researchers say it will take some time to understand if the vaccinated individuals can still transmit the virus. This is why it is vital, **even after receiving both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine**, that everyone **wears a mask, practices social distancing and washes their hands**. Protect thy neighbor.

### SHINING GOD'S LIGHT INTO THE FUTURE...

Sunburst Stewards honors members who have included the church in their estate plans with a gift to the endowment. Knowledge of future gifts offers the church an opportunity to thank donors and allows church leadership to plan for the future. The ultimate benefit comes from knowing that we have recognized the importance of God in our lives and have made a powerful witness of that love through a gift to the church.

For more information about Sunburst Stewards, please contact Rev. Emma Nickel or the chairperson of the Finance and Investment Committee. All information given will remain confidential.

## memorials & gifts

*Memorial gifts were given in memory of James Barta, Margaret Brom, Robert "Bob" Cafmeyer, Barbara Cochran, Richard "Dick" Evans, Tom & Dorothy Fraser, Kathy Irwin, Peggy Kleckner, Russell Sandri, Annette Watson, Norman & Barbara Weber, and Andy Wesa.*

*Celebration Gifts were given in honor of Kathie Brom, Ron & Shirley Gillham, and Marilyn Sutton.*

## SPECIAL DATES

- African-American History Month
- Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 14
- Valentine's Day, Feb. 14
- Presidents Day, Feb. 15
- Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17



## First Presbyterian Church of Royal Oak Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Information packets available

Questions:

Ken Bissey 248.709.4849

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

FPCRO is a Stephen Ministry church. Stephen Ministers are lay caregivers trained to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.



## IS YOUR INFO CURRENT?

Please let Sally Gilreath ([sgilreath@fpcro.org](mailto:sgilreath@fpcro.org)) know of changes to your contact information so we can maintain current and up-to-date records of your member information.



# Worship and Music

## ASH WEDNESDAY IS FEBRUARY 17

You're invited to receive the imposition of ashes in a **Drive-Up format** this year. We'll offer ashes from **12-1 pm** and **4-6 pm** on **Wednesday, February 17**. Drive your car up to the sidewalk in front of the Christian Education lobby entrance, roll down your window, keep your face mask on, and remain in your vehicle. Pastor Emma or Joelle Jarrait will greet you wearing full personal protective gear to keep everyone safe. They'll impose ashes with a clean, disposable cotton swab to anyone in the car who would like to receive them, whether on the forehead or the hand. You can also receive a small temporary tattoo with the sign of the ashes to apply to a hand or just to keep with you as a reminder of this meaningful symbol. The Way of Love Lenten Kits will also be available for pick-up at this time.



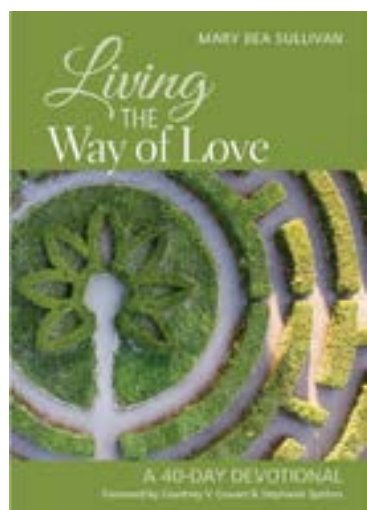
A short, online Ash Wednesday worship service will be available on our website and Facebook page for you to watch anytime that day.

## TRAVEL THE WAY OF LOVE THIS LENT

From Ash Wednesday on February 17, until Easter on April 4, we are invited to focus on traveling the Way of Love. This is a set of practices that embody what it means to follow Jesus Christ. Conceived by Bishop Michael Curry in the Episcopal Church, this notion reminds us that disciples are people who live their lives in a certain way, patterned after Jesus. These seven practices are simple, yet deep. We will Turn, Learn, Worship, Pray, Bless, Rest, and Go. We will focus on one practice each Sunday in Lent, ending with Pray on Good Friday.



To guide and focus your journey, the Worship and Music Committee is providing a **Way of Love Lenten Kit** for you to use at home. The kit will include symbols of the seven practices (Turn, Learn, Worship, Pray, Bless, Rest, and Go) followed in worship during Lent. Our hope is these practices help each of



us turn back and restore our walk with Jesus. Items in the kit are used to make a simple centerpiece for your Lenten worship. Kits will be available **Sunday, February 7** from **11 am to 1 pm** at the **Pick-Up and Drop-Off** and on **Wednesday, February 17** at the **Drive-Up Ashes** from **12-1 pm** and **4-6 pm**, as well as at the church during office hours. For those who would prefer to have a kit delivered, please sign up using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/y553dxvb>



## THE WAY OF LOVE Practices for Jesus-Centered Life

If you want to go deeper with the Way of Love this Lent, consider purchasing this small devotional, **Living the Way of Love: A 40 Day Devotional** by Mary Bea Sullivan. It includes a short reading for each day during the season. Each devotion highlights one of the seven practices from the Way of Love.

# Lenten Evening Reflection Services



Fourteen years ago, I had the idea to provide a brief service during Lent where people could reflect in silence as a response to scripture and poetry; a service of prayer where we might listen for what God is saying to us, a respite from the clamor of our everyday lives. And so, the Lenten Evening Reflection service was born and has continued for these many years. It had always been at 6:00 pm on Thursday evenings, which kept many from being able to attend. This year, the weekly service will be available online each week beginning with the week of February 21, and run for five weeks. I hope you will consider joining me for one at your convenience.

I am sure you ask “a musician promoting a service with silence in it?” Silence is of utmost importance in this service. Silence helps us be more deliberate than rushed in our worship and encourages a contemplative attitude. Silence follows the readings, allowing not only time to reflect on the meaning of the word, but time to absorb it as a personal prayer. In this way the words of scripture give guidance to the words of our own prayers, and we learn to listen to the prompting of the Spirit within us.

The services follow the order of Evening Prayer, which comes at the end of the workday. It is the offering of the past day to God, reflecting on what has happened, offering to God our praise for the gifts we have received, and confessing our failures as well. We commit it all to God, recommitting ourselves at the same time.

Join me for these brief twenty to thirty minute services which I hope will enhance your Lenten journey.

—Joseph Jackson

## Lenten Retreat: March 5-6

### LOST AND FOUND: CROSSING THE THRESHOLD FROM LAST YEAR TO THIS

March marks the time when we will have been ‘at’ our pandemic lifestyle for one year. At our retreat, we’ll reflect prayerfully on the changes that have taken place in our lives this past year. We’ll listen for the Spirit of God to give us wisdom and insight about where we have been, where we are headed, and what we wish to bring with us into this next year. How has this last year informed the dream of God in our lives?

We’ll gather on zoom for opening and closing worship services on Friday and Saturday evenings, and for a workshop during the day on Saturday. Participants will receive suggested activities to structure your retreat time when we are not in session on Zoom, or you can simply devote the time to rest and refreshment. The retreat is appropriate for high school youth, college students, and adults of all ages!

### Friday, March 5 at 7 pm to Saturday, March 6 at 8 pm

- Opening Worship
- Workshops: Select the method that helps you best reflect and grow
- Finding our Values through Art, or Finding Our Values through Reflection and Conversation
- Closing Intergenerational Worship

Please **sign up** for the retreat **by March 1** at <https://tinyurl.com/y5s9zyqd>

Our retreat leader is **Beth Scibienski** who is an imaginative thinker and an entrepreneurial Pastor with the PCUSA. Her leadership style is deeply rooted in relationship and collaborative action. As a Pastor, she led the creation of a Wellness Center and the merging of two churches. She also helped design a new versatile building for worship and community outreach. She is a twice published author: a memoir on faith and loss, and a collaborative work on creative church initiatives. She is an Executive Leadership and Team Effectiveness Coach. She has two sons, two daughters-in-law, and two grandchildren. For fun she cooks, crochets, and plays with her Bernedoodle, Sam.

Questions? Contact Pastor Emma at [enickel@fpcro.org](mailto:enickel@fpcro.org).



Photo credit, April Mills

# Congregational News

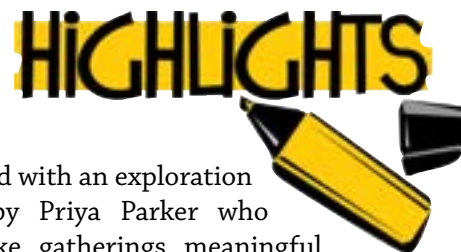


## LIVESTREAM UPGRADES AND WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

In January, the Session approved the purchase of new equipment and technology for livestreaming worship. Church leaders believe we are called to continue offering worship in an online format, even after we return to the sanctuary for in-person services because we will then no longer pre-record worship. We plan to livestream the 10:30 am service each week. There is value in continuing to make online services easily available to those searching for a church community and also to current members who may be away, sick at home, or unable to attend church for other reasons. This is a way to do evangelism in our local community, as well as to minister to those we may never meet. Just as we seek to offer our best to God in the sanctuary service, we believe it is important to provide a high-quality worship experience for those at home and we will be able to do that with this equipment.

The cost of these upgrades is \$6,000. The Session is **inviting members and friends to make a gift toward this cost and to future technology enhancements**, which were not anticipated during the budgeting process for this year. Your gifts will allow us to move forward with the installation, and be prepared to use this technology sooner. If you would like to donate, you can mail a check to the church marked "livestream" or donate through our GIVE button online, being sure to type 'livestream' as your gift designation. We are grateful for your contributions to this ministry!

## JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The meeting opened with an exploration of a TED Talk by Priya Parker who invites us to make gatherings meaningful and transformative. We brainstormed ways to incorporate her ideas in church gatherings from meetings to potlucks.

- Approved a minor change to our current COVID-19 restrictions recommended by the Pandemic Response Team. For purposes of worship or mission, two to three church members will be allowed to gather in the building to complete their ministry through February 16. Other precautions remain the same.
- Noting the continued challenges surrounding hunger and food insecurity in these times, Session agreed to send donations of \$1,000 each to Lighthouse, Blessings in a Backpack of Royal Oak, and the Presbytery of Detroit for Shared Mission.
- Approved the purchase up to \$6,000 of upgraded technology and equipment to enhance our livestreaming capability into the future. And agreed to invite the congregation to make direct gifts toward this effort, which will allow us to reach members and potential members at home, even after a return to in-person services.
- Discerned that God is calling us into a mutual partnership with Hope Presbyterian Church in Detroit, a predominantly black congregation. We plan to explore an initial shared event, such as an online concert and fundraiser for local mission.



**P**ictured at left, from December 2020, is a FPCRO 5Fs group celebrating their annual Christmas Party. 5Fs groups are fellowship groups of members devoted to faith and fun. It looked a little different this year meeting via Zoom, but they had lots of fun. This 5Fs group has been meeting for 15 years!

Members are: Bill and Sylvia Miller, Denise Savino, Bill and Debbie Schramm, Laurie and Barbara Gerald, Barbara Ferriby, Julie Matthews, Pam and Gary Moultrup, and Barbara and Kevin Gardiner.



## MISSION AND BENEVOLENCE UPDATE

On behalf of FPCRO, the Mission and Benevolence Committee continues to support neighbors in need. Since November 2020, Session has approved gifts totaling \$2,000 to Lighthouse of Oakland County and gifts in the amount of \$1,000 to each of the following organizations: Blessings in a Backpack (Royal Oak), Cass Community Social Services, Gleaners, Open Hands Food Pantry (St. John's Episcopal Church), Royal Oak Youth Assistance, and The Presbytery of Detroit for their Shared Mission ministry. All funds were from the Mission and Benevolence budget.

Operation Paperback is currently on hold until we can work in the church again. **But, we would still like your donation of used paperback books.** No hard covers please. We mail the books to GI's all over the world. The books can be dropped off in the bin by the CE Lobby door. Ring the bell for large donations.



## FEBRUARY H.O.M.E. PROJECT

We will be celebrating the dedication of front line workers in the Cardiac Care Unit at the DMC during February. The 70 person unit will be the recipients of the H.O.M.E. mission project for February.



Each H.O.M.E. bag will contain two cards and two goodie bags that you can fill and return. Since wintry February is when Valentine's Day is celebrated, hearts and snowmen would be great inspiration for your artwork. Inside the card has room for a positive message and/or a favorite Bible verse. If you sign the card please use only a first name. We aim for 70 cards, one for each person in the Cardiac Care Unit. In addition to pre-packed snacks and treats as goodies, a nurse from the hospital has said that small hand sanitizer, lip balm, and unscented hand lotion to carry with them are greatly appreciated. The constant wearing of projective gear and hand washing are taking a toll on the staff's hands.

## MITTEN TREE

Dear church family and friends,

Thanks you so very much for the wonderful outpouring of love in the oh so many gifts of warmth received at the church for those in need. **We collected more than 700 warm gifts!** They have been given to many agencies for distribution into the community.



These gifts of love were given to 2nd Mile Center in Detroit (a Presbyterian mission), Common Ground Sanctuary, Lighthouse of Oakland County, Salvation Army's Bed and Bread Trucks in Detroit, and Royal Oak Youth Assistance. Know your gifts of love were very well received!

*In His Love, Julie Matthews*

## FEBRUARY 7 PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF

On **Sunday, February 7** from **11 am to 1 pm**, you can drive your car in front of the Christian Ed lobby entrance at the church, and a member will come out to do a contactless pick-up from your trunk, or grab items through your car window. No need to call ahead, members will be waiting for you during this time.

### Drop-off:

- Offerings
- Food donations for Souper Bowl of Caring
- Completed January H.O.M.E. Bag (No-Sew hats)
- Paperback books for Operation Paperback

### Pick-up:

- Way of Love Lenten Kit
- February H.O.M.E. bag to make cards and goodie bags
- (For children) Journey Through Lent At-Home Kit

## THANKS, ONCE AGAIN!

The Christian Education Committee is so thankful for your faithfulness. The first week in January, 35 No-Sew Hat H.O.M.E. Project Bags were distributed.



We hope all who volunteered for this project enjoyed the task of making hats, the reflections, and also the joy that comes from knowing that many people will be kept warm this winter with your kindness and dedication to helping all in need. We all know how it feels to be cold. We do not all know how it feels to be cold and have no relief from it. Providing a respite is truly a way to adhere to a hallmark of our belief to take care of others.

We are so pleased with the overwhelming response that we have seen with every project. Please check the article (above left) about the H.O.M.E. Project for February.

*Marilyn Sutton for the Christian Education Committee*

# Stewardship

With 2020 behind us, many of us are feeling both sad and grateful. Sad for the losses we have personally experienced, and for the losses in our country and the world, yet grateful for the ways in which God has blessed us and continues to do so, even in these socially distant times. As we enter our church stewardship campaign this month, church member **Debbie Schramm** reflects on the faithfulness of God and FPCRO.

## CONNECTIONS

*“When Bill and I moved to Midland over a year ago, my greatest fear was that our connection with First Presbyterian Church, my church family throughout my entire life, would gradually slip away. I felt a bit like the psalmist in Psalm 137 who lamented, “How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?” Of course, our son’s congregation, Memorial Presbyterian Church of Midland, was overwhelmingly welcoming to us. But it takes time to build friendships and a sense of belonging. We all need shared experiences and a faith walk with friends to bring us close connections over time.*

*And then the pandemic hit. Suddenly, everyone seemed to be adrift. We were asking ourselves how we could maintain our connections when we could not be together physically. While online church services have been a challenge and many people have been disappointed that we cannot worship in person, for us it has been a wonderful gift! What a joy to discover that we were once again connected to our church family in Royal Oak! Each week we look forward to “attending” church. The glimpses on the screen of the familiar locations in the church building and the faces of friends are comforting in such uncertain times. Stewardship, our giving to FPCRO, is a natural extension of our gratitude to God for giving us this nurturing family of faith. Out of a challenging and sad situation, we are rejoicing that our connections can remain strong with our FPCRO church family even while we all may face an uncertain future.”*



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## PLEDGE DEDICATION SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 21

Look for your stewardship packet in the mail this month. We invite you to return your financial pledge card to the church on or before **February 21, 2021**. Or pledge online at [www.fpcro.org/pledge](http://www.fpcro.org/pledge). On February 21, we will dedicate our pledges to God during the worship service. Thank you for your gifts and faithfulness!

### 2021-2022 Pledge of Financial Support

great  
is your  
faithfulness

*lamentations 3:21-24*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pledge Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 per week     per month     per quarter     per year  
Envelopes Requested:  yes  no  
For **Electronic Giving** complete the reverse side. ➔  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*(All pledges may be changed as circumstances require.)*

I have left a gift to the church in my will, or would like information about estate giving through **Sunburst Stewards**:  yes  no



## KIDS' JOURNEY THROUGH LENT AT-HOME KIT



Ash Wednesday, February 17, begins the season of Lent. This is a time we reflect on Jesus' journey that leads to the events of Holy Week. To recognize the season, children will receive a Journey Through Lent At-Home Kit. Inside are activities for families to share each week of the season. Kits will be available for pick up on Sunday, February 7 at the church drive up event from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. They can also be picked up during church hours during the week. If you would like your kit delivered to your porch, please contact Joelle Jarrait.

## GROWING IN GOD'S LOVE IN SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our At-Home Joyful Journeys Sunday school continues with videos and resources available on the church website. We are reading stories about "God's Messages" from our Growing in God's Love Storybook Bible. As Lent begins, we will read about the "Parables Jesus Taught."

- Feb 7 I Used All My Courage (2 Samuel 17:17-24)
- Feb 14 Speak Up Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:1-10, 31:31-34)
- Feb 21 The Sower (Luke 8:4-15)
- Feb 28 The Good Neighbor (Luke 10:25-37)

## KIRKMAN SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



Are you discerning a personal higher education? Church members who are high school seniors and older are eligible to apply for a one-time scholarship through the Kirkman Scholarship Fund.

This fund allows us to award members who are seeking higher education. Most forms of higher education are eligible for scholarships. They are not limited to colleges and universities. It is not necessary to name your place of learning at the time you apply. Award checks will be mailed to the school later in the year.

Applications are available on the church website at [www.fpcro.org](http://www.fpcro.org). If you would like more information or would like an application emailed to you, please contact Joelle Jarrait at [jjarrait@fpcro.org](mailto:jjarrait@fpcro.org).

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING DRIVE-UP EVENT



The Souper Bowl of Caring is a project churches across the country participate in to collect non-perishable items to donate right in their own communities. On Sunday, February 7 our church is hosting a Drive-Up Event to collect items for our own Little Food Pantry. Members and friends are invited to drop off items between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will be available to collect your donations in a safe manner. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, you may do so by sending a check to the church labeled "Souper Bowl of Caring" or "Food Pantry."

Since its installment, the Little Free Pantry at FPCRO has been a tremendously helpful source for people in our neighborhood. Your generous contributions help make that possible.

### Pull-Tab Cans: (work best for)

- Stew (beef and chicken)
  - Fruit (cocktails, peaches, pears, etc.)
  - Vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, etc.)
  - Baked Beans
  - Soup (any variety)
  - Beefaroni or Ravioli (ready-to-eat)
  - Canned Juice (6 or 8-pack)
  - Canned tuna, chicken, or turkey
- 
- Bottled Water (8 oz. bottle size)
  - Drink Boxes / Pouches
  - Dried Fruit (individual sizes: raisins, cranberries, banana slices, apricots, etc.)
  - Granola Bars (soft / chewy, any flavor)
  - Cereal (small individual boxes, variety pack)
  - Tuna / Chicken (ready-to-eat pouches)

# Sunflowers Christian Preschool



Love is in the air at Sunflowers Preschool! We so enjoy the month of hearts and happy sentiments, especially as winter weather keeps us inside. God's love keeps us warm on the coldest of days! This month, our preschoolers will paint with pink paint, and wear pink clothing on "pink" day. Special valentines for Moms and Dads will also be carefully crafted in each class. We will share valentines with all of our classmates, and make a delicious dessert for our Valentine party.

Our three-year-olds will be practicing more with scissors this month, and working on printing our names independently. It's not easy!

Our four-year-olds continue alphabet study, and the 'Friday Centers' that gets us ready for the routine of kindergarten. Due to COVID-19, we will not be able to start our extended day on Wednesdays. We will do a group science project during our Friday Centers to help prepare us for kindergarten.

Our January monthly mission was a success with collecting puzzle books for our troops with Operation Paperback.

Registration for the 2021-22 school year opens early in February. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please call 248-541-0108, x220 so we may mail out a registration information to you. There will also be scholarship applications available, if needed, this year. Our Three-Year-Olds meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9:15 am to 11:45 am. Our Four-Year-Olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 9:15 am to 12:00 pm. Please spread the word to family and friends. At this time, we are still limited to 10 children per class. We are hoping in the fall to be able to go back to our full classroom size of 16. But, for the continued safety of our students and their families we are continuing to limit our numbers at this time.

Mrs. Gibson and Mrs. Heitchue

## Puzzle!

Discover the identity of a biblical person. First, assign a number value to each letter, starting with M = 1, H = 2, C = 3, A = 4, etc. Then use the code to complete the clues.

M 1 H 2 C 3 A 4 B 5 D 6 E 7 F 8 G 9 I 10 J 11 K 12 L 13 M 14 N 15 O 16 P 17 Q 18 R 19 S 20 T 21 U 22 V 23 W 24 X 25 Y 26 Z

FIRST CLUE: 15 7 1 5 13 3 2 2 21 19 2

20 10 25 26 26 10 15 23 19 3 14

SECOND CLUE: 12 11 11 15 7 11 17 14 21 24

1 22 14 14 14 1 12 14 14 14 14 14

11 22 14 3 21 3 15 17 15 26 26 19 13 22 22 1

THIRD CLUE: 11 7 11 12 15 14 15 22 15 1 14

20 12 13 20 26 3 15 22 22 22 22 15

16 15 21 14 1 12 1 22 14 1 21 26 14 1 21 11 14

What's the answer?



What you need:  
 1. A bowl of soup  
 2. A glass of water  
 3. A pair of chopsticks  
 4. A spoon  
 5. A napkin

What you do:  
 1. Wash your hands  
 2. Fill the bowl with soup  
 3. Add water to the glass  
 4. Pick up the chopsticks  
 5. Use the spoon to eat the soup  
 6. Wipe your mouth with the napkin

### PUZZLE

## A famous friendship

In the Bible, Ruth and Naomi are known for their loving friendship.

Directions: Using the key, fill in the blanks to see what Ruth says to Naomi.

“

J Q U O U O E O E S E E  
 J E O O S E' U O O J O U O U  
 E O O A C U O E J E O O  
 A C U O' E O O O A U E O O  
 J E O O S U F O  
 A U E O O U O O  
 E O O S E O  
 F O S E O

“ RUTH 1:16, NIV

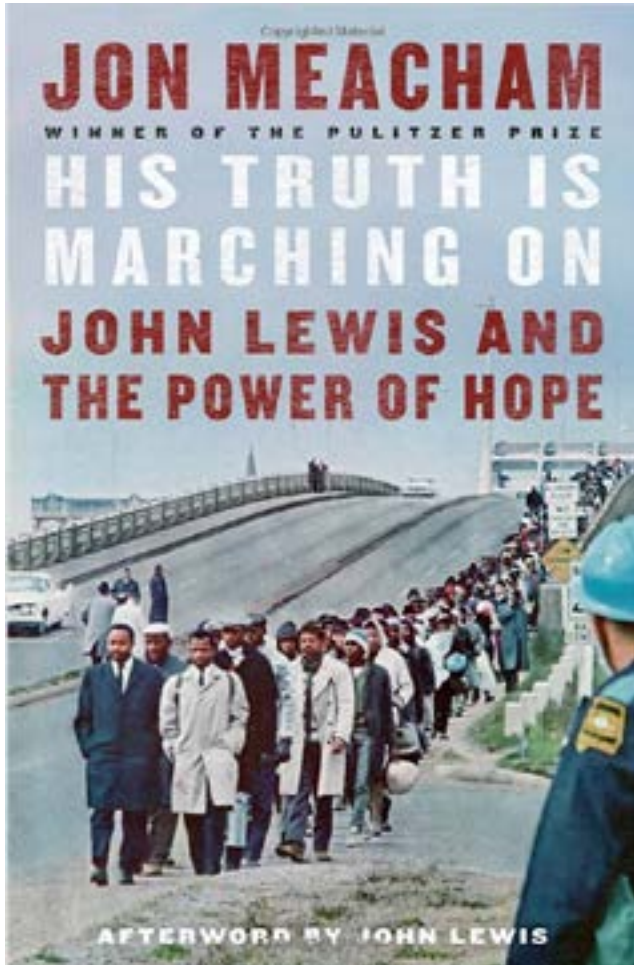
W	A	E	T
B	U	H	D
G	R	L	Y
N	S	P	M

Answer: "Then you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God." Ruth 1:16, NIV



# 2021 Book of the Month Challenge

For the first half of 2021, Pastor Emma will be leading a monthly book discussion group. We'll meet once each month to discuss that month's book and you can read as many books as you like. But Pastor Emma is challenging **each member of the congregation to read at least one of the books and participate in the discussion!** Specific times and dates beyond January and February will be announced as the months draw closer. Get your own copy of the book (or e-book or audio) and read the book before you attend the Zoom discussion.



## February 2021

His Truth is Marching On:

John Lewis and the Power of Hope

by Jon Meacham

A joint discussion with Kevin Ball and Pastor Emma. This title is an in-depth review of events during the Civil Rights era, as well as an exploration of the way Christian faith, especially in the Black church, has deeply informed the struggle for equality and civil rights in America. Discussion will be **Thursday, February 18 at 7:30 pm.**

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82529166637>**

**Meeting ID: 825 2916 6637**

**Passcode: 296953**

**Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799**

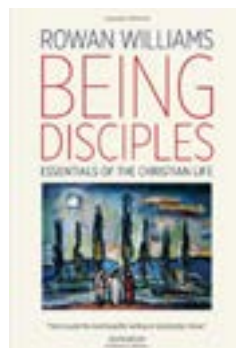


## March 2021

Raising White Kids

by Jennifer Harvey

A challenging book that asks parents (and grandparents and all those who love kids) to take an honest look about how we can nurture children to be anti-racist, and how we can adjust our practices when they are unintentionally doing otherwise. **Monday, March 22 at 7:30 pm on Zoom.**

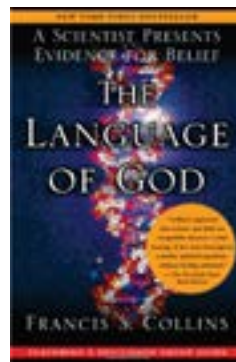


## April 2021

Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life

by Rowan Williams

A slim, classic approach to topics of faith and discipleship that offers fresh views on the touchstones of our faith.

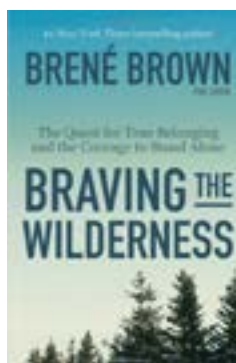


## May 2021

The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief

by Francis S. Collins

A compelling work that describes one scientist's take on Christian faith.



## June 2021

Braving the Wilderness: The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone

by Brené Brown

A book about belonging, communities, and culture.



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## Upcoming February Events

**Pick-Up and Drop-Off • Souper Bowl of Caring**  
Sunday, February 7, 11 am-1 pm

**Ash Wednesday • February 17**  
Drive-Up Imposition of Ashes: 12-1 pm and 4-6 pm  
and Online Service Available All Day

**Book of the Month Discussion**  
Thursday, February 18 at 7:30 pm

**Lenten Evening Reflection Services**  
February 25 through March 25

**Pledge Dedication Sunday**  
Sunday, February 21

**Lenten Retreat at Home**  
March 5 from 7 pm to March 6 at 8 pm