



Dear Friends,

A certified public accountant did something that maybe all of us should do. He decided to open a journal with God. He wanted to write down everything that God gave him and everything he gave to God. He started a debit and credit book with God.

If someone did him a favor, he put it down as God's gift to him. He credited God with the sun, his food, his health, his friends and relatives and a thousand other benefits he received.

On the other hand, he put down what he did for God. Finally, he gave up, saying, "It is impossible for me to balance the books. I find that God is indeed my creditor and what I have done for him is next to nothing."

A police car pulled a man over near the high school where he taught. As the officer asked for his license and registration, his students began to drive past. Some honked their horns, others hooted and still others stopped to admonish him for speeding.

Finally, the officer asked him if he was a teacher at the school, and he told him he was. "I think you've paid your debt to society," he said with a smile, and left without giving him a ticket.

The truth found in these preceding stories has many of the ingredients needed for making our Lenten experience more personally meaningful and spiritually transforming.

Let's look at the first story. If each of us were to make an honest and comprehensive list of all the ways God has blessed our lives and compared that list with a list of things and ways we've given back to God, I think, the lopsidedness of such a list would be astonishing. I can assure you that the lopsidedness would favor God's list. Lent is a good time to seriously look at our lives considering God's grace and blessings. It is a time to marvel at how a forgiving and merciful God can forgive us despite all our sins. Lent, as defined, is a time for personal reflection, repentance, and a time to turn back to God through Christ. We are so accustomed to see our lives in relation to how God has blessed our lives. But have we ever considered seeing this same relationship regarding how we have blessed God's life? Do yourself a favor! Make those lists and ponder them.

The second story really hits home with me...but not in the way you might think. As I remember, my boys used to, at times, yell at me for beeping or waving at people as I drove by them in my car. My reason for doing it is, of course, was not to embarrass the person on the street, but to make them think that someone they knew has seen them and possibly making them feel a little better. Now I must be honest and say that I've had an urge to do it to someone who has been pulled over by a police officer, but I never have. But think about the thoughts and questions that might be going through the person's mind awaiting his possible ticket. "I hope nobody I know sees me...I can't believe I got pulled over right outside my place of employment...I hope the officer goes easy on me...this is taking way too long...is my registration and insurance up to date..." Think of all those anxieties and stressed filled thoughts during the time you await the police officer's decision. Perhaps thoughts that punish you with guilt for speeding and being so stupid. Perhaps a thought that would wish you were back home, place you back in your car, and do it all again. The reality of the situation is this: your thoughts will never change the action that will be taken against you. Your hope is that the officer will know your true heart, see your situation and find the grace to give you another chance. This is what Christ does for us. He sees our sin, sees our guilt, sees our situation, and answers it with love and forgiveness. The officer acted so much like Christ in this second story. He saw the man's situation, felt his pain and embarrassment, felt the pain of his mistake, and chose to free him by giving him another chance. Lent is a time to marvel at Christ's love and receive God's grace and forgiveness. I pray you might experience the true love, grace, and forgiving power of Christ.

Have a Blessed Lent!

Pastor Jim

Mark Your Calendars

Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Jan 31
Facebook Live 8:30 am/Brown Bag 11:30am.....	Feb 1
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Feb 2
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Feb 3
Needles & Pins 10:00 am.....	Feb 4
Church School/Adult Bible 9:00 am/ Worship/Communion/Facebook Live 10:30 am/ Chili Cookoff 11:30 am.....	Feb 5
Facebook Live 8:30 am/Deacons 7:00 pm.....	Feb 7
Facebook Live 8:30am/Brown Bag 11:30 am.....	Feb 8.
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Feb 9
Facebook Live	Feb 10
Confirmation Class/Church School/Adult Bible 9:00 am Worship/Facebook Live 10:30 am/Congregational Mtg.....	Feb 12
Facebook Live 8:30 am/Happy Valentine's Day.....	Feb 14
Facebook Live 8:30 am/Bible Study Brown Bag 11:30.....	Feb 15
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Feb 16
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Feb 17
Confirmation Class/Church School/Adult Bible 9:00 am Worship Live 10:30 am.....	Feb 19
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Feb 21
Facebook Live 8:30 am Lenten Service/Brown Bag 11:30am...	Feb 22
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Feb 23
Facebook Live 8:30 am.....	Feb 24
Confirmation Class/Church School/Adult Bible 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am/.....	Feb 26

First Presbyterian Church

Phone 908-689-2547 Fax 908-689-7911

Web site: www.washingtonfpc.org

Pastor, James Scovell; Directors of Music, Peter and Julie Stevenson;
Administrative Assistants Kerri Caldaro
Church School Coordinator, Jean Bowers.

Worship: **10:30 a.m.**

Fellowship Time: **10:00 a.m.**

March issue will be published on **February 28th**. The deadline is **February 20, 2023** . Please submit articles to the church office or by email to: office@washingtonfpc.com

CURRENT EXPENSES



Amount pledged \$116,080.00

Anticipated monthly contributions \$9,673.33

Contributions should be: \$9,673.33

Contributions to date \$24,043.50
Short +\$14,370.17

CLOTHING DRIVE: The Clothing Drive this year will be in March. Stay tuned for more details. Start cleaning out your closets!

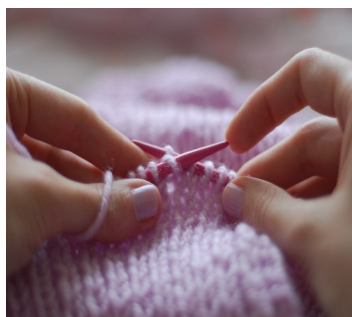
donate



Deborah/Rachel/Ruth

Circle will meet on
February 14,,2023,1 pm here
at the church.

Needles & Pins: Saturday
February 4, 2023 at 10:00 am.



SPAGHETTI DINNER: I

am organizing this years
spaghetti dinner but need
to be sure I have enough
volunteers to make this
event happen. Please call
the office or send me an
email to let me know if you
would be able to help. The
dinner is scheduled for
Saturday April 22nd. This
event is for the Chancel
Choir and Carillonaires. I
will be placing a signup
sheet in the Narthex this
week.



Prayer: Holy and loving God, we rejoice knowing that you are a God who communicates. We rejoice in the One who wrote upon tablets of stone is the same One who writes the divine word upon our hearts and minds. These divine words tell us that you're a God who loves, forgives, sustains, and heals. Let us remember this as we now pray for our loved ones and friends.

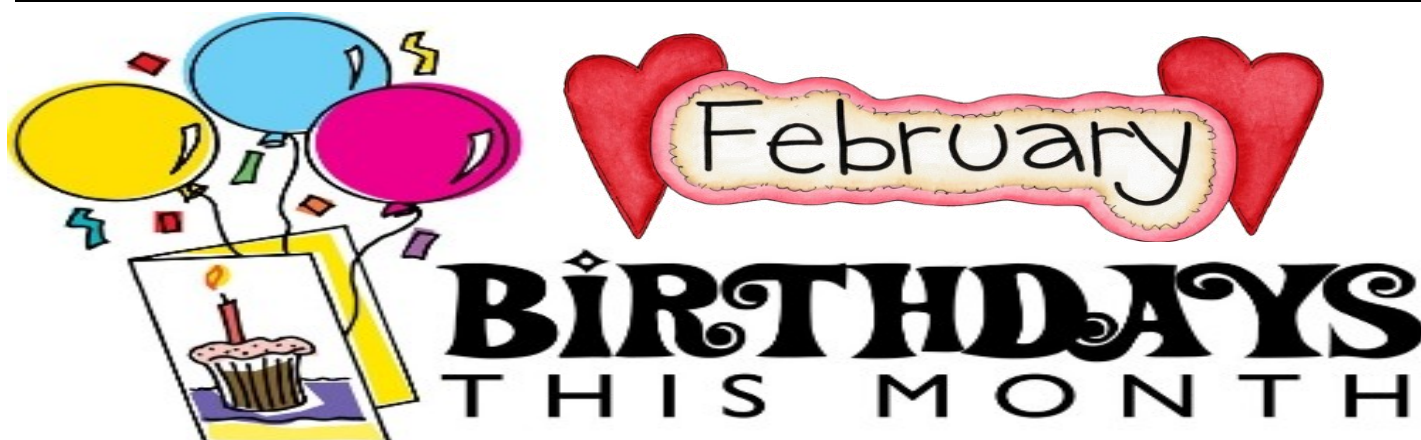
Those ill or recuperating at home: Don Johnson, Martha Kenny, Linda Walsh, Rik Atkinson, Joan Vasko, Joyce Parsons, Ronald & Joan Weber, Michael Housman, Alfred Bowen, DJ Pesaniello, Carley Miller Heatley, Sue Wiedman, Bob & Joan Anderson, Tempe Schramm, Bob Schuch, Charlie Wright, Marion Kingsbury, Kerry Webb, Peggy Westlake, Grace Murphy.

Relatives of church members: Patricia Handlos's great nephew Bear Shaw, Barbara Miller's great nephew, Colin Winkler, Robert Stacie Ullrich's dad, Roberta Kegelmeyer's niece Sharon, Dorothy Thoms son Don, Martha Kenny's brother Fred Wilson, Bob Pesaniello, John Westlake, Bart Schott, Pauline Albrecht's cousin Pete Lekousis, Elinor Bettis' sister Jane, Laura Housman's mother Betty Machauer, Fred Kulick's brother in-law Jon, Bob & Joan Anderson's son Robert Scott, Tami Phelps cousin Jimmy, George Van Veldhuisen's brother Bill, Elaine Boreman's mom Florence, Jean Scovell, Sarah McLeod's son Lawrence Lewis, Barbara Miller's cousin Kayla Norvis, Eleanore Jensen's son Scott, Phyllis & Warren Kearns' son, Joan Miller's sister in-law, Nancy Vlossak's niece, Ken Dirkes' wife & great grandson, Betty Ann Roseberry Wright's sister, Vicki Tensfeldt's mother & niece;

Those in care centers: Connie Allen.

Friends of the church: Melinda Velez friend of Don Johnson, Thomas Vera, Pastor Jim's mom Jean Scovell, Phyllis Fyfe friend of Joan Miller, friend of Fred Graf and Pastor Jim, Bart Trachin, Barbara Miller's friend Diana Dunlap Weidner, Pauline Albrecht's friend Christine Kowal, Jean Bowers friend and his family Thomas Ferranti Jr, Joan Millers friends Walter & Pat Reedell, Elinor Bettis friend Ginna Zukswert, Carol Novak, Marion Hoskin's daughter Michelle, Joan Miller's friend Sarah Armbrecht, Florence Hagemann Philip Hagemann's mother, Joan Miller's friend Patty Fratticcioli, Christine Otto, Jason Ford, Lisa Groff, Hoskins & Gerard Families, Fred & Gail Mosher, Gale Soler, Ellen Gulick, Jessica Yerance, Robin Halozan, Tori Reade, Kris Miller, Bob Best, Markie DeVoe, Mark Christie, Vlossak family's friend Hallie.

Also, pray for our servicemen and women and their families: Albrecht's nephew Captain Kyle Mogensen, Vimp Smith's grandson Cory, Stephanie Farley's nephew John, Kathy Perry's nephew Jimmy, Bob Schuch's grandson Adam, Elaine Boreman's nephew Drew, Linda Darwin's friend Sean Devine.



February 1

Stuart Penman

February 3

Gavin Volckmann

February 8

Bonnie Gardner

February 11

Fred Kulick

February 12

Luke Hanshaw

February 16

Elaine Boreman

February 17

Dylan Caldaro

February 21

Liz Buwen

February 24

Bob Sanders
Nicholas Vlossak

February 25

Elly Kresser



MUSIC NOTES

When was the last time you were awed? We use the word “awesome” in our vocabulary far too often and for things that are actually quite mundane. To be truly awed means to be so completely blown over by the mystery of how something was accomplished. We do not understand many, many things in this life. We may think we are smart but so much escapes our understanding. Look at the beauty of a sunrise or sunset. It is almost as if God is painting that landscape just for us to appreciate its beauty. But HOW does he do it? That is not for us to know, just to enjoy. Ah, such is life.....filled with beautiful mysteries.

Music is one of those mysteries that can be beyond understanding. Art in any form is a creative endeavor that springs forth from an individual who is inspired. That in itself is awesome! When was the last time you listened to a piece of music that transported you, that touched your spirit so deeply that you were left in a state of awe?

For me it was this morning. In our home we have a “reading room” which is my refuge, my Zen zone. Every morning I read, enjoy 2 cups of coffee, write in my journal, gaze out the window...Every evening before bed, I revisit the reading room to read until my eyelids become heavy and I put myself to bed. Over the years, Peter and I have collected quite a number of CD’s of music in many genres. This listening library is also located in our reading room. In this age of streaming it might be considered “unfashionable” to keep physical CD’s but I guess we are old-fashioned that way! We also prefer reading a real book rather than listening to it or reading it on a digital device. But I digress. Let’s get to my awesome experience this morning.

Today I did not feel like reading so I randomly chose a CD to listen to while sipping my morning cafe. I pulled off the shelf a recording of 7 choral works by Thomas Tallis.

1. Spem in alium
2. The Lamentations of Jeremiah - part 1
3. The Lamentations of Jeremiah - part 2
4. Videte miraculum
5. Dum transisset sabbatum
6. Honor, virtus et potestas
7. Loquebantur variis linguis

I had a general idea of what I was getting into since I do know a bit about music history. Tallis was alive (1505-1585) so I could predict the style of music (motet) that I was about to hear but I was *completely in awe* for the first 9 minutes of this recording sung by the King’s College Choir.

The piece “Spem in alium” is a 40-part motet! Read that last sentence again. 40 PARTS! Now, I am used to choral music sung in unison, 2-parts, 3-parts, 4-parts, even 8-parts. The more divisi in choral music, the more complicated it gets to sing. I cannot even fathom singing a motet with 40-parts, let alone COMPOSING it. I certainly have a new admiration for Thomas Tallis and was spurred on to read the program notes and learn more about this musical genius. For all of his adult life Tallis worked as a church musician, organist, composer, choirmaster, singer. He also was in the service of four successive English monarchs: Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth. Although the four monarchs for whom Tallis worked espoused different religions (variously Catholic and Protestant) his principal duties remained constant and he carried them out with great success.

As I listened to this 40-part motet I felt as if all the angels in heaven were singing to me. God must have inspired Tallis to create music that we mortals could have a glimpse of heaven...

AWESOME!

~ Julie Stevenson ~



and All-Church Luncheon

Sunday, February 5, 2023 after church

NO COST

Deacons will provide a garden salad & cornbread.

Please bring a dessert to share.



AND...We Need YOU to enter the CHILI COOK OFF!

WHO HAS THE BEST CHILI RECIPE???

ENTER our CHILI COOK OFF ! Turn over for info!

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		31 Facebook Live 8:30 am	1 Facebook Live 8:30 am B B Lunch 11:30am Carillonnaires 7-7:45 pm Chancel Choir 7:45- 8:30 pm	2 Facebook Live 8:30 am	3 Facebook Live 8:30 am	4 Needles & Pins 10:00am
5 Confirmation/ Sunday School/ Adult Bible Worship/ Communion 10:30 am Facebook Live Chili Cookoff 11:30 am	6	7 Facebook Live 8:30 am PW 1:00 pm Deacon's Meeting 7:00 pm	8 Facebook Live 8:30 am B B Lunch 11:30am Carillonnaires 7-7:45 pm Chancel Choir 7:45- 8:30 pm	9 Facebook Live 8:30 am	10 Facebook Live 8:30 am	11
12 Confirmation/ Sunday School/ Adult Bible Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live Congregational Meeting	13	14 Facebook Live 8:30 am Happy Valentine's Day 	15 Facebook Live 8:30 am B B 11:30 am Carillonnaires 7-7:45 pm Chancel Choir 7:45- 8:30 pm	16 Facebook Live 8:30 am	17 Facebook Live 8:30 am	18
19 Confirmation/ Sunday School/ Adult Bible Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	20	21 Facebook Live 8:30 am	22 Facebook Live 8:30 am Lenten service/B B Lunch 11:30am Evening Ash Wednesday Service Time TBA Carillonnaires 7-7:45 pm Chancel Choir 7:45- 8:30 pm	23 Facebook Live 8:30 am Session Meeting 7:00 pm	24 Facebook Live 8:30 am	25
26 Confirmation/ Sunday School/ Adult Bible Worship 10:30 am Facebook Live	27	28 Facebook Live 8:30 am				31
			7			