

THE WITNESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
130 MAIN STREET, WELLSBORO, PA 16901



FEBRUARY 2012

(570) 724-3431

fpcwells@epix.net

www.firstpresbyterianwellsboro.org

Easter is coming!!! Seem too fast? Christmas is just over and we're already there? Well, no, not exactly, but we're on our way. This month (Feb. 22) is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season (so named for the Olde English "lenten" or "lengthening" of days (coming of Spring).

Lent is a period of preparation for Easter just as Advent (the four weeks prior to Christmas) is a season of preparation for Christmas.

The date of Easter is forever changing and you might reasonably wonder why. Easter is always on the first day of the week, Sunday, because that was the day on which the Lord was resurrected. It, also, always occurs around the time of the Passover. His crucifixion is best dated in accordance with the Passover Feast described in narratives on the Last Supper (Upper Room), and which confirms the image of Jesus as the Paschal (Passover) Lamb.

The Council of Nicea (325 A.D.) established the date of Easter as the Sunday following the Paschal (Passover) Full Moon, which is determined through amazingly intricate calculations. Read the Paschal Full Moon article on Wikipedia if you want a brief synopsis (and call me if you understand it). Roughly, it usually means the full moon that falls on or after the vernal (spring) equinox – meaning anywhere between March 22 and April 25.

The season of Lent, which we enter on Ash Wednesday, is traditionally a forty day (excluding Sundays) period of fasting, prayer, and penance, serving to remind us of the Paschal Mystery – the suffering of Jesus Christ – and leading us to a renewed excitement of Christ's work for us.

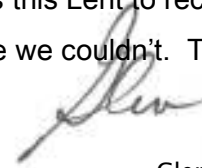
There are many who simply cannot comprehend how a loving God could humble himself and die for us, some not even being able to understand how a death can serve to advance the cause of a loving God. The truth of the matter is that it is a "mystery." This does not mean that it is not explainable; simply that comprehending it is an act of faith. It is the very suffering of God, himself, for us that must be received in faith. It is nothing that we have any control over. It is nothing that we can change. It is nothing that we

can fully understand. It is simply that the justice of God required payment for sin; and that God, himself, bore that price for us, because of His love.

In short, it is the basis of our faith, the confession, which sets us apart as Christians, apart from which we reject the love of God found in Messiah Jesus. This Lenten season I invite you into a time of reflection on the mystery.

- Without a death, there is no resurrection.
- Without a resurrection, there is no conquering of death and sin.
- Without the conquering of death and sin, there is no salvation for there is nothing to be saved from.

God took our sin upon himself and paid the price. May we prepare ourselves this Lent to receive the gift of Easter - that God, in Jesus, loved us enough to save us, and paid the price we couldn't. Thank God!



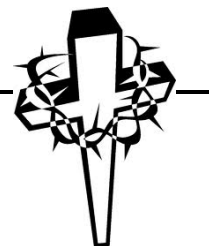
Glen

February Worship

Services

February 5	Romans 5:1-11	The Justified of God
February 12	Romans 5:12-21	The Grace of God
February 19	Romans 6:1-14	The Death of Sin
February 22	Romans 6:15-23	The Slaves of Righteousness I

Worship Assistants



Lent 2012

February 5

Flowers :

Communion Servers: Tom Janeski, Elaine Perry, Lynne Coolidge, Cathy Janeski, Craig Devenport, Doris Wagner, Ray Miller

Lay Reader: Andy McIlvain

Fellowship Hour:

Ushers: Caleb, Jacob, Natalie and Carol Hallead

February 12	Flowers: Lay Reader: Allen Gettle Ushers: Caleb, Jacob, Natalie and Carol Hallead	Fellowship Hour: Fellowship Committee
February 19	Flowers : Lay Reader: Molly Long-Meddaugh Ushers: Caleb, Jacob, Natalie and Carol Hallead	Fellowship Hour:
February 26	Flowers: Lay Reader: Ann Cole Ushers: Caleb, Jacob, Natalie and Carol Hallead	Fellowship Hour: Mission Committee



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 2	Daniel Giantisco
February 3	Wren Gastrock
February 6	Mindy Cole, Mary Gridley
February 8	Robert Cox, Jr., Fred Hadley
February 10	Jeff Cole
February 12	Teresa Capuzzo
February 14	Heather Kissinger
February 16	Richard Ford
February 17	Lynne Coolidge, Ed Owlett, Stella Brugger
February 21	Nicholas Smith
February 22	Erma Hotchkiss
February 24	Michael Giantisco, Matthew Hildebrand
February 25	Mary Beth Owlett
February 26	Mary Murphy
February 27	Gabe Hakvaag
February 29	Don Gfroerer

God's Valentine gift of love to us
Was not a bunch of flowers;
It wasn't candy, or a book
To while away the hours.

His gift was to become a man,
So He could freely give
His sacrificial love for us,
So you and I could live.

He gave us sweet salvation, and
Instruction, good and true--
To love our friends and enemies
And love our Savior, too.

So as we give our Valentines,
Let's thank our Lord and King;
The reason we have love to give
Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs



God's Valentine Gift

Recipes for the Soul ...

"Love seeks one thing only: the good of the one loved."

~Thomas Merton

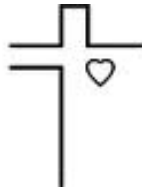
Definition of "Love" ...

The very definition of love begins with God, and the very definition of God begins with love. Love is more than His character; it is the essence of His being. And the miracle, the wonder of it, is that God poured out that love, poured out Himself, **for you!**

Before you ever breathed your first breath, spoke your first word, took your first step, He loved. You. Why? Because you are His unique creation, the work of His hands. He made you in His own image, and He loves you as deeply as He loves Jesus.

Don't run from God's love - run to it! He left the decision in your hands when He gave you a free will. Now He waits for you to return His love.

(God's Daily Answer, Elm Hill)



MARCH WITNESS DEADLINE:

Friday, February 17, 2012 – 12:30PM

WITNESS articles received **past** the published deadline **may not appear** in the Newsletter. Our goal is to have the newsletter prepared for mailing, in time for home delivery, by the **first of the month**. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

2011-2012 CONTRIBUTIONS Through January 15, 2012

Budget YTD

\$125,094.00

Received YTD

\$142,514.62

Valentine's Fellowship Hour

On **Sunday, February 12th**, Fellowship Committee is hosting a Valentine's coffee hour fellowship time. Come and enjoy some special 'heart' treats and good conversations with your FPC friends. While you're enjoying your friends, you will have the opportunity to create a beautiful valentine for the one you love. Come and enjoy.



Family Bowling Afternoon

Come on out and join us on **Saturday, February 18th from 2-4 PM** at the Route 6 Bowling Lanes for an afternoon of fun, family bowling. The cost will be \$7.00 per person and will cover 2 games of bowling. The Fellowship Committee will be covering the cost of shoe rental for each bowler. In as much as we are bowling earlier, (from 2-4 PM instead of 4-6 PM) we will not be having a pizza party afterwards; However, we will be providing snack items during our time at the lanes. We hope to have a great turnout. Can we top last year's 30+ bowlers?

Please call Connie Gettle at 376-2313 if you plan to attend.

Coffee Hour Musings



It has come to the attention of the members of the Fellowship Committee, that even though our past three 'special' coffee hours have been very well attended and appreciated, that some people are feeling very intimidated by

hosting a coffee-hour by themselves because ours have been so large with so many choices. It was never the intent of this committee to make any potential hosts feel like they have to 'live up to our example.' **Please remember that we have the resources of 6 people, not just a single family, putting on these special coffee hour celebrations.**

We encourage you to find a friend and sign up for a future coffee hour. They do not have to be extravagant, just welcoming. The sign-up sheet will be available in fellowship hall during coffee hour so please pick a Sunday, there are **many** still open.



Ash Wednesday Observance

On **Wednesday, February 22nd**, at **6:00 PM**, there will be a pot-luck supper followed by a communion service in Fellowship Hall to observe Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season.

To facilitate the more likelihood of having a 'balanced' menu, it is being **suggested**, that if your last name begins with A-F you bring a dessert; G-L you bring a salad; M-R you bring a casserole/meat dish; and S-Z you bring a vegetable. **Please remember these are only suggestions. If you would rather provide something other than the suggested food item, please feel free to do so. We also ask that you bring your own place setting.**

Immediately following dinner, we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Upcoming Events ... Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, March 11th- Spaghetti Luncheon immediately following church

Friday, March 16th- Night out at Babbs Creek Restaurant

On the Lighter Side ...

A minister told his congregation, "Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17."

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17.

Every hand went up.

The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only 16 chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying."

The Witness

February 2012

Letter of Thanks ...

Women's Association
First Presbyterian Church
130 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901

Dear Presbyterian Women;

Thank you for your generous gift this Christmas of \$265.00 toward work of The Salvation Army Wellsboro Services Unit. The winter season is always difficult for people in need. Your willingness to open your heart to meet these needs ensures that the work of The Salvation Army continues in Tioga County.

I hope you saw the Wellsboro Gazette this week where your generosity for filling the Back-to-School backpacks was mentioned. That was a real kindness to the children and you had such good ideas about things they could use.

May you each one have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of God's love throughout this new year!

God Bless You!

Doris Wagner

Doris Wagner
Social Service Secretary
The Salvation Army Wellsboro Service Extension Unit

Property Committee Minutes

January 2nd Property Committee Meeting Highlights:

The committee obtained an insured contractor for snow and ice removal.

The committee reviewed the Manse upgrade schedule. A question was raised on whether to invest long term in upgrades and maintenance or to sell the Manse as is. A memo will be brought before Session.

Work has begun in replacing damaged wall molding in the sanctuary.

SATURDAY WORK DAY

The next congregational workday is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th.

Please plan to gather at the church at 8:30am for donuts and prayer to begin our Work Day!

Missional Food for Thought:

As our congregation continues to reconsider what it takes to be the church of Jesus Christ many issues will present themselves. Currently under discussion is the question of "What is our mission?" Note that this is not a how are we to do mission as if it were just another program or just another part of our budget. The question is far bigger. What is the purpose of the church – in our lives, in our culture, in the world? Here are a few questions for those who want to ponder this question in more depth...

1. How does the fact that we have certain "inalienable rights" in America tend to be reflected in our faith?
2. How does the rugged individualism and independence found in American thought affect our understanding or scripture?
3. How does our relative prosperity assist or inhibit our understanding of any other country's poverty and our role in poverty alleviation (personally and corporately)?
4. How does our relative comfort affect our ability to live more simply or interfere with the formation of meaningful relationships?
5. What assumptions do we make in our faith that result from our western upbringing rather than from scripture?

6. What traditions interfere with our understanding of what is really important in life?

Reel Spirituality Continues ...



Films are the most influential sermons in the modern world. So what are these stories preaching?

Come join us as we watch a film and discuss its themes in light of the Christian worldview.

February 25, 2012 Inception 7-10 pm

March 24, 2012 True Grit 7-10 pm

First Presbyterian Church Wellsboro (130 Main St)
Fellowship Hall from 7PM- 10:00 PM

For more information contact Andy [_mcilvain@ptd.net](mailto:mcilvain@ptd.net) or Gabe - hakvaag@aol.com

ADMISSION FREE and open to all

Member Care News

Coffee Hour "Alert"

In an attempt to fill the coffee calendar, it was suggested that the last Sunday of the month be designated a 'potluck' coffee hour. You are asked to bring a snack to share with everyone.

This will begin the last Sunday in February.

The committee hopes that everyone will support this effort and participate in this great hour of Fellowship.

Knitting for a Cause

Like to knit? If you can knit and purl and would enjoy the fellowship of other knitters, join us in knitting for a

cause.
patient:
the hon



for chemo
ankets for

The first meeting will be on February 1st, from 12:30pm-1:30pm in the fellowship hall, led by Liz McLelland. Supplies to bring: knitting needles, size 8 or 10, and used balls of yarn (acrylic and worsted weight yarn.) Extra yarn and needles will be available if you have none. A light lunch will be served.

Questions? Contact Liz McLelland at (570) 549-2299 or Lynne Coolidge at 724-2242.



Worship Committee Volunteers

If you are interested in helping to design our worship services, please contact Pam Davis (724-3968) or Nancy Bair (724-2152). We are in need of more members to serve on this committee.

Ushers Needed!

The Worship Committee is looking for people willing to usher for Sunday morning worship. If you don't know how to perform this duty, a member of the committee will join your team and show you how painless it is. Please contact Nancy Bair if you are willing to usher for the months of March, April or May. Call (570) 724-2152 or e-mail nbair@wellsborosd.org.

Fellowship and Flower Calendars

The 2012 Flower and Fellowship Calendars are posted on the bulletin board. If you are interested in donating flowers in honor or memory of a loved one; or if you are able to host Fellowship Hour, please indicate your wishes by signing the appropriate sheet. We need volunteers!

Those who order flowers are asked to contact Don Matthews (724-5809) to open the building for the florist to deliver the arrangements.

