



the Herald

Volume XXXXXXI
No 3

Lenten Series



This year's Lenten series continues for the month of March. Most event take place at the church in the fellowship hall.

Inside this issue:

- Christian Educa- 2
- Children in Wor- 3
- ship/14th &
- Chestnut
- Grandparenting 4
- Calendar 6
- Church Happen- 7

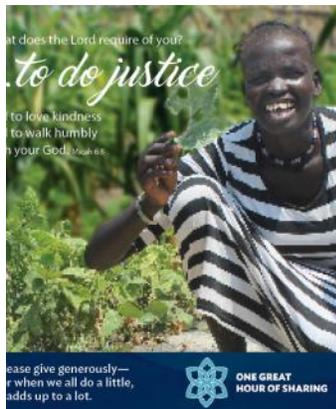
March 8 will be the Wisdom of the Fig Tree Painting Party.

March 15 is Sacred Sound and Rest led by Jaci Cooper.

March 22 will be a labyrinth Walk at Hawthorne Park led by Valeri Kershaw.

March 29 will be a class on journaling led by Jonathan Sutter

All meetings begin at 3:30 and last approximately 1 hour.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering to be received on Sunday, April 5. Envelopes will be available in the church bulletins.

OGHS supports three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People.

Highpoint Youth Updates

Highpoint Youth

Highpoint youth continues to meet regularly at Central. The group will meet at Central during the month of February. Friday, March 6, will be a lock-in with activities planned for the youth. On Sunday, March 29, the youth will be traveling to Plainfield for an afternoon of fun at Urban Air. Please talk to Tim Ghogle if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to assist with the youth.

Souper Bowl of Caring

The annual Souper Bowl of Caring event was hosted by the youth and held on February 8 at Central. Over 188 lbs of food and \$20 was collected to be donated to United Campus Ministries Food Pantry. We had a wonderful turn out for our meal and lots of delicious soups and desserts. Thank you to all who donated canned goods, money and soup to the meal for your support!



5th Sunday Lunch

The Church Life Commission will host a 5th Sunday Lunch on Sunday, March 29 following worship. A main course of ham will be served and drinks will also be provided. We invite all to attend and bring a side dish or dessert if you are able for the meal.

- 1—Megan Harder
- 6—Sally Rubey
- 12—Jack Ragle
- 16 — Diane Giltner
- 17 — Peter Christ, Caroline Christ
- 19 — Henry Darke
- 20 — Shirley Slutz
- 21 — Christopher Moulton, Annabeth Spencer
- 23 — Ridge Holder
- 25 — Brad Bough, Allen Holder
- 29 — Steve McCullough



Children in Worship & Children's Worship Schedule: some updates

We are grateful for the life and joy our children bring to our church family. As part of nurturing our community together, children will join the full worship service on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays.

Children's Worship will take place on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

We warmly welcome our children into worship and look forward to sharing prayer, song, and sacred moments together as one community of faith.

A note for congregation and caregivers: Children's voices and quiet noises are always welcome in worship. Activity bags are available in the back of the sanctuary to help children stay engaged during the service. The nursery downstairs is available for birth through 4-year-olds during worship.

Questions? Please contact our Director of Christian Education, Joy Sutter



14th and Chestnut Banquet

14th & Chestnut annual fundraiser banquet is coming up in April. Please consider attending to support his wonderful organization who does so much for our local disadvantaged youth.

Tuesday, April 14th

Starts at 6:30 with doors opening at 6:00 at Maryland Community Church

It is free to attend with an offering during the banquet.

Dinner is provided by Stables Steakhouse.

RSVP by April 7 at 14ccc.eventbright.com or by calling (812) 232-3126

Grandparent/Grandchild Ministry

You do not need to be a grandparent to know of or take advantage of opportunities to nurture the grandparent/grandchild relationship, which are precious and valuable. Grandparent relationships do not need to be by family blood ties, matter of fact within the church there are great opportunities for adoptive grandparents to step in to share and love “grandchildren”. There are a variety of ways to develop, share and nurture those grandparent/grandchild relationships whether blood related or not.

I am fortunate enough that for 10 years I was part of Grandparent & Grandchild Camps at Highlands Camp & Retreat Center in Colorado. Kids and grandparents, aunts, adoptive grandparents would gather for 3 ½ days to just be and play together while developing and nurturing a relationship that feels different than one with parent(s) nearby. It is special one-on-one time, time for storytelling, sharing, rituals and traditions practiced and just opportunities to play together. I have fond memories of grandparents chatting and supporting one another in addition to playing and sharing with the children amongst them. Many Camps offer this opportunity especially in the summer and there is also a retreat model designed through a partnership between POAMN and PCCCA (Presbyterian Church Camp & Conference Association) - “Grandparent Retreat: Building Memories” (<https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/Retreat-Module-Grandparent-Camp.pdf>) An opportunity to host a day or two, or weekend retreat to nurture that precious relationship with not a lot of fuss or mess. Building upon memories that can last a lifetime. In addition to retreats, congregations can also provide activities that bridge or cross the generations. Offer a simple indoor or outdoor carnival with good old fashioned ring toss and bean bag throws, host a tea party with kool-aid “tea”, snacks and maybe a stuffed friend. Play board games together, share in a story time, playground time, kite making & flying, craft day or scavenger hunt. The activity can be simple, just a time to gather, spend time together, share stories, laugh and play together. Some congregations sponsor Grandparent Days – quarterly outings or on-site visits focused on Fire Department & Firefighters, City Trucks, an Art Project – creating a mural, picture frames, plant pots, memory book, visit to a Children’s Museum, playground, Nature Preserve or park. An invitation for “grandparents” to hang out with ‘grandkids’ for an hour or so and build memories together.

I also believe that the church can equip grandparents to build relationships with their grandkids whether they are close or far away. While I have a granddaughter close by, my second grandchild will be living in another country. I also am blessed to serve as Nana to a neighbor and daughter of my daughter’s best friend. Those relationships are all precious even in their distinct differences.

My mother started the tradition of receiving a Christmas ornament around Thanksgiving time for each year as a child. By the time my kids were grown up and on their own they had their own collection of ornaments from when they were just born. I have continued that tradition with my own grandkids. I have also found personalized storybooks (Storybug.com) that are designed to resemble the child, call them by name and personalize the story just to them.

A very fun way to connect without being close by. Stuffed animals that record a voice, story books that record your voice or Tonies that provide a way to record stories songs whatever you choose to be played on the music box. Long-distance grandparenting is a little tricky but with technology there are lots of ways to keep in touch as well as nurture that relationship. I found a Grandma Book—"Grandma Wishes" by Julia Lobo, Cottage Door Press, that reminds a little one that grandma is always close by. Facetime/Video Chat/Zoom all provide opportunities to check in but also share stories, sing and just be together over the distance. I have a friend who writes notes regularly to her granddaughter, asking questions, journaling, adding stickers or little craft projects, anything that fits into an envelope. Start a make-believe story and keep adding to it my mail, email or phone. Set up a consistent schedule for calls/video chats, share activities that you enjoy. If you are gardening, when you plant a garden send the kids a few seeds, encourage them to start their own garden too and compare notes as it grows. Play a game online together or in a video chat. Today's technology really can be advantageous for building long distance relationships with grandkids.

Holidays can also present opportunities to nurture the relationship. Birthday adventures where you spend a day together as the gift. Vacationing together or setting an annual trip that the whole family schedules for time away. A special trip or outing, fishing trip or campout that is just grandparents & kids. Create your own Christmas/Easter tradition, maybe have a nativity creche (purchase or created together) that you each always have in your homes. Set up a subscription to a kid's magazine that they receive monthly that you can enjoy together or ask questions about.

- o Natl Geographic KIDS - nationalgeographic.com/subscribe/kids-magazines
- o Zoobooks - zoobooks.subscriptioncore.com
- o Highlights (various ages/Spanish) – shop.highlights.com
- o Ranger Rick Jr. – ranger-rick.subscriptioncore.com
- o Ladybug – ladybug.subscriptioncore.com

Whether close by or far away one of the greatest gifts is for grandparents to share their stories with their families, especially grandchildren. Telling the stories as well as writing them down. One of the best gifts we ever gave to my grandmother was "Grandma, Tell Me Your Memories", "Mom/Dad/Grandpa, Tell Me Your Memories" – A Memory a Day Series, written by Kathleen Lashier (Walmart, Amazon) They are a small day by day booklet that invites sharing every day and special seasonal memories. I have one from my grammie, my mother and father, my in-laws. Little memory books that share details that sometimes never get shared in conversations yet hold memories and common experiences that share a precious story.

So many opportunities to spend time together to nurture the grandchild/grandparent relationship whether blood-related, near or far. Share stories, play together and build

lasting memories of spending time together and sharing experiences. Congregations can play a part as well as just encouraging and supporting adults in building those lasting memories with a younger generation.

By Sandy Safford
 Faith Formation Ministry Leader & Grandma
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MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Lenten series 3:30 Youth 5:30	2	3	4	5 Women's Book Club 2:00 Bible study and brew 7:30	6 Youth Lock-in begins 6:00	7 Youth lock-in ends 9:00 
8 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Lenten series 3:30 Youth 5:30	9	10	11 Deacons 5:00 Session 7:00	12 Bible study and brew 7:30	13	14
15 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Lenten series 3:30 Youth 5:30	16	17 Commission/ Committee meetings	18	19 Bible study and brew 7:30	20	21
22 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Lenten series 3:30 Youth 5:30		24	25 Personnel Committee 12:30	26 Seekers and Searchers 10:00 Bible study and brew 7:30	27	28
29 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Carry in dinner Lenten series 3:30 Youth to Urban Air 4:00	30	31				

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Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Mike Riggins, Pastor

Elie Templeton, Christian Educator/Communication Coordinator

Sarah Kelsheimer, Church Secretary

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Church Happenings

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will be meeting on March 5 in the fellowship hall. The book to be discussed is The Lst Train to Key West by Chanel Cleeton.

Seekers & Searchers Bible study will meet on Thursday, March 26 at 10:00 a.m. in the fellowship hall. All women are invited to attend.

Don't forget to "Spring Forward" on Saturday, March 7 before you go to bed.



**Next Herald
Deadline —
March 25, 2026**