Join In Wednesday Worship During Lent:

Services below will begin every week at 7 pm:

- March 4th: First Baptist Church - 909 SW 11th Ave. Weekly Wednesday meal at First Baptist at 6 pm, ($6 suggested donation)
- March 11th: FPC with Brenna Dykman, our Interim Associate Pastor (service only at 7 pm)
- March 18th: First Christian Church - 1314 SW Park Soup Supper at 6 pm
- March 25th: First Congregational Church - 1126 SW Park Ave. Soup Supper at 6 pm
- April 1st: St. James Lutheran Church - 1315 SW Park Ave. Soup Supper at 6 pm

J. Herbert Nelson III Preaching on March 22nd

Our Special Guest Preacher on Sunday, March 22nd, will be The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Dr. Nelson will also be speaking at the meeting of the Cascades Presbytery, at Westminster Church, Portland, on Friday, March 21st.

The Reverend Dr. James Herbert Nelson, II, serves as the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). He serves as the chief ecclesial officer of the denomination and speaks on behalf of the denomination regarding ecclesial, judicial, ecumenical, interfaith, and spiritual matters. As the highest-ranking officer of the PC(USA), Nelson is calling the denomination to explore deeper spiritual and communal relationships while engaging a world that is rapidly changing. — (continued on page 3)
Rev. Audrey Schindler

Overlapping the changing seasons, there are times in the church year, seasons of sacred time, that invite us to a journey deeper than the passing days. In this season of Lent, leading up to Easter, we are invited to step back from the usual round of life, and to re-devote ourselves to the things that abide when all else is fleeting. Lent is a time of reflection in preparation for Easter, when we give thought to what it means to live as a person of faith in such complex and challenging times as we are given, and to consider how we might more faithfully follow Christ.

During this season you might take up or strengthen a spiritual practice like morning prayer or journaling, to ask for God's wisdom for the decisions and directions of your life. To begin the day in prayer before focusing on a screen or turning on the radio can help us reclaim the day for the deeper things of God.

Attending one of the shared Wednesday worship services with our sister churches downtown (details on the front of the Spire) can re-focus and renew our spirits.

We are graced this month to have The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, the Stated Clerk of our Presbyterian Church (USA) denomination, as our guest preacher on Sunday, March 22nd. Dr. Nelson is a person of bold faith, calling the church to new faithfulness in its life and witness in the needs of our day.

We will also celebrate a rare and joyous occasion on March 29th at 2 pm in the sanctuary, when the Presbytery of the Cascades will ordain our Interim Associate Pastor, Brenna Dykman, to the ministry and to this role with our church. I hope you may attend this special service as we celebrate with Brenna!

Jan Richardson calls us to the deep reflection of Lent, in her poem, “Rend Your Heart,” drawing on a Scripture from the book of Joel:

Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
rend not your clothing, but your hearts.

To receive this blessing, all you have to do is let your heart break....
Let it fall apart so you can see its secret chambers,
the hidden spaces where you have hesitated to go.
Your entire life is here, inscribed whole upon your heart’s walls:
every path taken or left behind, every face you turned toward or turned away,
every word spoken in love or in rage,
every line of your life you would prefer to leave in shadow....
It could take you days to wander these rooms. Forty days, at least.
And so let this be a season for wandering, for trusting the breaking,
that will return you
to the One who waits, who watches, who works within the rending
to make your heart whole.

May God’s blessings of Lent keep your heart through these days,
Menucha Forums
For the past year, a Session-appointed working group has been considering the merits of making Menucha Retreat and Conference Center an independent nonprofit corporation. Menucha currently is part of the First Presbyterian Church of Portland nonprofit corporation.

Highlights of the Proposal Under Consideration:
- Menucha would become its own nonprofit tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization, with its own board of directors.
- FPC would be the sole member of the new Menucha corporation and would retain control over certain corporate actions.
- The Session would elect a majority of the Menucha board of directors and a designated number of FPC members would be Menucha board members.
- If Menucha ceased operations in the future, its assets would be returned to FPC.

Advantages of the Proposal
The workgroup has identified at least four reasons why this proposal would benefit FPC and Menucha. It would:
1. provide better risk management protection for both organizations;
2. expand the funding opportunities for Menucha;
3. optimize best governance systems and structures for FPC and Menucha, who have different operational needs; and
4. enable both FPC and Menucha to get stronger and continue to thrive.

Continued Strong Partnership Between FPC and Menucha
If this proposal is adopted, FPC and Menucha would become two separate nonprofit corporations, but there would continue to be a strong partnership between both, as illustrated in this Venn diagram:

The proposal and a covenant agreement would spell out the continued relationship between FPC and Menucha. For example, the FPC retreats that are currently held at Menucha would continue to be held at Menucha. Spencer Parks would remain on the pastoral staff and would remain as Menucha’s Executive Director.

February 2nd Forum: approximately 100 members of the congregation attended the first Menucha forum. Members of the workgroup made presentations about the proposal and Spencer fielded questions and comments from the audience. Attendees also received handouts summarizing the proposal and showing a seventy-year timeline for Menucha.

Questions? Want to Learn More?
A second Congregational Forum will be held Sunday, March 22nd, from noon to 1 pm in Geneva Hall. Please join us. Or feel free to contact any of the workgroup members: Jon Bates, Joyce Evans, Rick Lee, Bill Nelson, Spencer Parks, Brenda Peterson, Tim Sercombe, and Audrey Schindler.

Ordination Service for Brenna!
You’re invited to attend a special service of worship for the ordination of our Interim Associate Pastor, Brenna Dykman. Brenna is a candidate under care of our Presbytery of the Cascades, and under care of the Session of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Salem. She will be examined for ordination at the March meeting of Presbytery (at Westminster Presbyterian in Portland), March 20-21st and we are planning her service of ordination on Sunday, March 29th, at 2 pm in our sanctuary. We hope you can attend to take part in this special day!

J. Herbert Nelson III Preaching on March 22nd
— (continued from page 1)
Dr. Nelson is also calling the denomination back to its historic justice advocacy roots. Having served as the director of the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., he is acutely aware of the need for the whole church to become engaged in the pursuit of justice for all. J. Herbert, as he is commonly known, is a pastor at heart. He served two congregations in his twenty-four years in parish ministry: St. James Presbyterian in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Liberation Community Presbyterian Church in Memphis, Tennessee. A native of Orangeburg, South Carolina, Nelson is a third generation Presbyterian pastor. Dr. Nelson received the B.A. from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina; the M.Div. from Johnson C. Smith Presbyterian Seminary in Atlanta; and the D.Min. from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.
The children of the congregation in preschool through fifth grade are invited on all non-Family Sundays to attend a time of Children’s Music before Sunday School with Daniel Nyounai-Herrera, and this group will again serve as worship leaders this month on March 15th, offering a song in worship. A highlight of the new year so far has been Confirmation, in which five youth are participating this year. The confirmands have special guests contributing to the conversations each week, helping them connect to the broader congregation and its life. Sometimes the guests are their mentors. Other times, the guests are pastors or church members representing an area of the church’s life. It’s been a delight to see these cross-generational connections and conversations taking place. Several First Presbyterian youth attended the Youth Winter Retreat at Suttle Lake Camp in mid-February as a part of the Downtown Youth Collective, joining with other youth groups in the region for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and faith. In March, the Downtown Youth Collective will have a Lenten-themed outing to The Grotto on March 8th at 1 pm, exploring the themes of the season from an ecumenical perspective. The Confirmation sessions will continue weekly, taking a break at the end of the month for Spring Break, and the next Youth Coffee Chat will be on March 29th.

High School Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser (March 1st-15th)
Six FPC high school youth and three adult chaperones will be serving at Camp Attitude, a summer camp for children and youth with disabilities in Foster, OR, on June 20-26, 2020 as their High School Mission Trip this coming summer. They will be buddies for the campers (or the campers’ siblings), making sure that each and every camper has the best week possible!

This year’s mission team will be sharing a Moment for Mission on March 1 to kick off their Mission Trip Fundraiser events, which will take place during the coffee time in Geneva following worship for three Sundays, March 1st-15th. Each Sunday will have a fun theme that the congregation is invited to participate in:

- **March 1st** – The Mission Trip is Headed to Foster, OR! Free bananas foster themed ice cream for all to celebrate going to Foster, OR!
- **March 8th** – Join the Mission Team at the Camp Fire! Free s’mores bars, dry s’mores trail mix, and wrapped mini hot dogs for all to celebrate going to camp!
- **March 15th** – How Sweet! Support the Youth Mission Team Bake-Off!

Everyone in the congregation is invited to bring a homemade sweet treat to enter into this year’s food competition since the camp is near Sweet Home, Oregon and because it just isn’t camp without eating lots of fun sweets! Entries encouraged to be camping themed – get creative! The congregation will sample the entries and vote for their favorite! The top winners will receive specials prizes from the mission team! To enter, please let Emily Stecher or the church office know that you plan to bring in an entry to the bake off.

All who are inspired to donate to the team’s fundraising goal of $1,200 are invited to their annual envelope and informational wall at the back of Geneva Wall to claim an envelope, all with numbers representing various dollar amounts, which, if all claimed, total the team’s fundraiser goal. Please note that any donations received in excess of their expenses each year are saved in their Youth Mission Fund to support future years’ experiences. There will be planning meetings later this spring regarding a possible international experience for 2021, so the congregation is encouraged to donate beyond this year’s fundraising goal so that the group can continue to grow this fund! The Youth Mission Team will have a team day in April where they will engage in a service project and write thank you notes to the donors to thank all for their support. All donors will also receive a postcard from camp – how exciting!
Adult Ed Lenten Series: The Passion Narratives of the Four Gospels

The writers of the four Gospels give us distinct accounts of the passion, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus. In these Lenten adult education sessions led by Dale Hess from noon–1 pm in the Whitman Room, we will look at the three distinct accounts given in the Gospels (Mark and Matthew will be considered together) and reflect on how they are the truth and what that means for us as disciples.

- March 1st – The Gospels as Narratives about Jesus
- March 8th – Mark/ Matthew as Total Despair
- March 15th – Luke as Healing
- March 22nd – John as Mission Control
- March 29th – Passion Narrative and Lent

Higher Education Scholarship

Application deadline is Monday, May 11th. (Formerly known as the college scholarship.) For high school seniors or others who may have delayed entrance to further education and have been accepted into an accredited two-year, trade, license or certification program or full college and who were or are currently active with the community of First Presbyterian Church in their high school years. You can obtain more information about the requirements and an application form from the office or from Emily Stecher.

Make One Great Hour of Sharing A Part of Your Lenten Practice

You will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repaire of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell. —Isaiah 58:12

Traditionally, the period of Lent between Ash Wednesday and Easter is a time of prayer and sacrifice for Christians. We can join believers around the world at this sacred time by remembering our sisters and brothers who are in need through gifts to the annual One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. This offering works in many different ways, from initial disaster response to ongoing community development. We will dedicate our contributions on Palm Sunday, April 5th. The One Great Hour of Sharing is a direct response to God’s call to us to become “repairers of the breach.”

FPC Musicians at Trinity Cathedral

Members of the FPC Chancel Choir will provide musical leadership for a service of Evensong at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral at 5 pm on Sunday, March 8th. Evensong is an ancient contemplative service of music and scripture, and will last about 45 minutes. All are welcome. Trinity Cathedral is located at 147 NW 19th Ave (at NW Everett), and there is a parking lot on the East side of 19th Ave (it is normally metered, but parking is free during service times.)

Mark your calendar!
Day of Service 2020

Our third annual church-wide Day of Service will be Saturday, May 9th! This year we are offering opportunities such as volunteering at the Northeast Emergency Food Program, supporting the Oregon Humane Society Doggy Dash event, writing a caring letter to a veteran, making a card for a Meals on Wheels recipient and more! Stop by our table in Geneva Hall during coffee hour or sign-up for these and other exciting opportunities online: (bit.ly/2H3ML98).

Capital Campaign Mission Giving – Third Round!

The Capital Campaign Mission Giving Committee is calling for application submissions for its 3rd round of giving! Ten percent of the Forward in Faith Capital Campaign funds are designated for mission work to share God’s love and to benefit the greater community and world. We’re seeking a mixture of projects that are impactful beyond an organization’s general operating budget. Projects should have the potential for ongoing FPC congregational involvement. You can find the submission criteria and application form online at the FPC website (www.firstprespotland.org). To apply, please return a completed form to the church by April 1st, 2020. If you have questions, please contact committee members: Greg Aldrich, Kathryn Hill (hillka@teleport.com), Steve Primack or Linda Killen. We look forward to your proposals!
Membership & Stewardship

Last fall, our church set a stewardship goal that each FPC member was asked to bring a visitor to a church service and/or church-sponsored event. Have you yet been able to fulfill that part of your stewardship goal? A family member, co-worker, neighbor, acquaintances from your gym, local coffee shop, dog park or retirement facility --- the list of visitor possibilities is endless. With the days growing longer and warmer, now is the time to fulfill your pledge to introduce a member of the community to worship in our Sanctuary. A Membership committee member is located by the grand piano every Sunday during the Postlude and can answer any questions that a guest may have about FPC participation and even provide a Commitment to Membership form for those ready to join. “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” —Hebrews 13:2

FPC Women’s Retreat

This year’s FPC Women’s retreat is April 17-19th at Menucha. This year, the Women’s Retreat will be from late afternoon Friday to Sunday morning. For new attendees, this retreat is a special time of togetherness for the women of First Presbyterian Church, and a wonderful opportunity to build and strengthen relationships with other women in our church. Our theme is In the Sanctuary of Women, led by our Interim Associate Pastor, Brenna Dykman. Brenna comes to us with ministry experience including leadership in Women’s Ministry in Hong Kong. Over the weekend we will be looking at topics such as where we find refuge, understanding, belonging, blessings, and more. We will be drawing on the work of poet and UMC minister Jan Richardson. Be sure to reserve your spot as soon as possible! Registration is now open! Questions? Please contact a member of our planning team: Nancy Callison (nwcallison@att.net), Lori Webb (lorilwebb@comcast.net), or Amy Wood (awood6961@gmail.com).

Tuesday Women’s Book Club

The Tuesday Women’s Book Club will meet on Tuesday, March 3rd, at 11:30 am for a brown bag lunch in the Whitman Room. Beverages and cookies are provided. Book discussion begins a 11:45 am. Suzanne Cusick will present on The Alice Network by Kate Quinn, a historical novel based on a true story of a female spy network in WWI. RSVP by February 25th to Marilyn Weber: (schatzimlw@gmail.com).

Lenten Carbon Fast Calendar

Six downtown churches have collaborated on a Lenten calendar with reflections and ways to reduce your carbon impact on the planet: (bit.ly/37UjZau), and another link to resources: (drawdown4creation.org). Also, stay tuned for details on an Earth Day collaborative event with other downtown congregations. Have you taken the PC(USA)’s Climate Care Challenge at (bit.ly/2HPbK4M)? Please email Jenny (jehrestore@gmail.com) to be interviewed or submit your written story.

Senior Luncheon at Menucha

Soon the tulips and daffodils will be blooming and it's the perfect time to gather for a spring luncheon at Menucha! Seniors and recent retirees are invited to gather for lunch and fellowship in the gorge on Tuesday, May 12th. More details will be available in next month’s Spire. RSVP to Gail by calling the church or email at (office@firstpresportland.org) by Sunday, April 19th.

Palm Sunday Brunch at Menucha

Plan ahead to join other FPC members at Menucha for brunch on Palm Sunday, April 5th, 2020. This beloved annual event features a bountiful buffet with dozens of delicious items prepared in Menucha’s kitchen. After lunch, children enjoy an Easter egg hunt and everyone is free to walk Menucha’s gorgeous grounds or linger for conversation with friends. Newcomers are especially welcome and encouraged to attend! Buy your tickets on Sundays in March after worship or by calling the church office at (503) 228-7331. Tickets are $18.50 for ages 13 and up; $10.50 for ages 7-12; and kids 0-6 eat for free. Rides can be arranged. Scholarships available upon request; please speak with a pastor.

Upcoming Menucha Concerts

Menucha hires outstanding, nationally recognized musicians to teach our music programs. In April and May you’re invited to concerts at the Corbett Grange Hall - 37493 Grange Hall Rd, in Corbett, just a mile from Menucha. To purchase tickets: (Menucha.org/tickets). April 1st: Ukulele Band Camp’s “Menucha-Ilele” Concert featuring Grammy winners Marcy Marxer and Cathy Fink (who taught Bette Midler to yodel); the Canote Brothers; Kevin Carroll; Aaron and Nicole Keim; Nova Devonie; and Matt Weiner. April 11th: Bluegrass in the Gorge’s concert featuring Grammy winner Laurie Lewis with Tom Rozum, Justin Hiltner, Brandon Godman, Eli West, and Hazelden Ciaccio. May 29th: Gospel in the Gorge’s concert featuring Grammy and Emmy winner Terrance Kelly, LaRhonda Steele, Marilyn Keller and John Gainer.
**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

- **8 am** Calvin Library
  - Adult Bible Study
- **9 am** Art Exhibit Opens
  - Adult Bible Study
- **9:30 am** Choir Rehearsal
- **10:15 am** Nursery for Infants (0-2 yo)
- **10:30 am** Worship Service
- **10:45 am** Children's Music
  - Godly Play (Pre-K - 2nd gr.)
  - Fish Tank (3rd - 5th gr.)
- **11:45 am** Coffee & Fellowship
  - *Every first Sunday is Family Sunday, when children and youth remain in the Sanctuary for worship*

**Spring Break Week, Monday, March 23**
- **6 pm** Handbell Choir Rehearsal
  - AA Mtg.

**Spring Break Week, Tuesday, March 24**
- **10 am** Disciple III In Action
- **1:30 pm** Christian Ethics & More
  - Book Group
- **5:30 pm** Personnel Mtg.

**Spring Break Week, Wednesday, March 25**
- **10 am** Finance Committee Mtg.
- **Noon** Practical Theology
- **12:30 pm** Pastor Program Staff Mtg.
- **7 pm** Lenten Worship: First Congregational Church

**Spring Break Week, Thursday, March 26**
- **7 am** BIG Bible Study
- **7:30 pm** Chancel Choir Practice

**Spring Break Week, Friday, March 27**
- **9:30 am** Quilters

**Fifth Sunday in Lent, Sunday, March 29**
- **9 am** Adult Bible Study
- **10:30 am** Worship
- **10:45 am** Youth Coffee Shop Chat
- **11:30 am** Prayer Chain Mtg.
- **11:45 am** Coffee Fellowship
  - Noon Adult Ed: Passion Narrative
    - in the Four Gospels
  - 2 pm Brenna Dykman's Ordination Ceremony

**Monday, March 30**
- **6 pm** Handbell Choir Rehearsal
  - AA Mtg.

**Tuesday, March 31**
- **1:30 pm** Christian Ethics & More
  - Book Group
- **6 pm** Strategic Planning Team Mtg.

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**First Sunday in Lent, Family Sunday, March 1**
- **9 am** Adult Bible Study
- **10:30 am** Worship - Communion
- **11:30 am** Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
- **11:45 am** Coffee Fellowship
  - Confirmation Class
  - Noon Adult Ed: Passion Narrative
    - in the Four Gospels

**Monday, March 2**
- **6 pm** Handbell Choir Rehearsal
  - AA Mtg.

**Tuesday, March 3**
- **10 am** Finance Committee Mtg.
- **11:30 am** Tuesday Women's Book Club
- **1:30 pm** Christian Ethics & More
  - Book Group
- **6 pm** Strategic Planning Team Mtg.

**Wednesday, March 4**
- **Noon** Practical Theology
- **12:30 pm** Pastor Program Staff Mtg.
- **6:30 pm** Session
  - **7 pm** Lenten Worship: First Baptist Church

**Thursday, March 5**
- **7 am** BIG Bible Study
- **10 am** Open Circle
- **7:30 pm** Chancel Choir Practice

**Friday, March 6**
- **9:30 am** Quilters

**Second Sunday in Lent, Sunday, March 8**

**Remember: Spring Forward**
- **9 am** Adult Bible Study
- **10:30 am** Worship
- **11:30 am** Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
- **11:45 am** Coffee Fellowship
  - Noon Adult Ed: Passion Narrative
    - in the Four Gospels
  - 1 pm Downtown Youth Collective
    - Gathering

**Monday, March 9**
- **6 pm** Handbell Choir Rehearsal
  - AA Mtg.

**Tuesday, March 10**
- **10 am** Disciples III In Action
- **1:30 pm** Christian Ethics & More
  - Book Group

**Wednesday, March 11**
- **Noon** Practical Theology
  - Safety Committee Mtg.
- **12:30 pm** All Staff Mtg.
- **7 pm** Lenten Worship: FPC
  - with Brenna Dykman

**Thursday, March 12**
- **7 am** BIG Bible Study
- **10 am** Open Circle
- **11:30 am** Open Circle Brown Bag Lunch
  - **6 pm** Mission Standing
    - Committee Mtg.
  - **7:30 pm** Chancel Choir Practice

**Friday, March 13**
- **9:30 am** Quilters

**Saturday, March 14**
- **9 am** Northeast Emergency
  - Food Pantry Service
  - Time (4800 NE 72nd Ave)

**Third Sunday in Lent, Sunday, March 15**
- **9 am** Adult Bible Study
- **10:30 am** Worship
- **11:30 am** Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
- **11:45 am** Coffee Fellowship
  - Confirmation Class
  - Deacon's Mtg.
  - Noon Adult Ed: Passion Narrative
    - in the Four Gospels

**Monday, March 16**
- **6 pm** Handbell Choir Rehearsal
  - AA Mtg.

**Tuesday, March 17**
- **12:30 pm** Faith Development Mtg.
- **1:30 pm** Christian Ethics & More
  - Book Group
- **6 pm** Strategic Planning Team Mtg.

**Wednesday, March 18**
- **Noon** Practical Theology
- **12:30 pm** Pastor Program Staff Mtg.
- **7 pm** Lenten Worship: First Christian Church

**Thursday, March 19**
- **7 am** BIG Bible Study
- **10 am** Open Circle
- **7:30 pm** Chancel Choir Practice

**Friday, March 20**
- **9:30 am** Quilters
  - **7 pm** *Celebration Works* Concert:
    - Bach & Sons

**Fourth Sunday in Lent, Family Sunday, Sunday, March 22**
- **9 am** Adult Bible Study
- **10:30 am** Worship
- **11:45 am** Coffee Fellowship
  - Second Congregational Forum
  - on Menucha and Lunch
  - Noon Adult Ed: Passion Narrative
    - in the Four Gospels
Columbarium Now in Place

Located on the eastern half of the Plaza, the first plinth of two planned for the Columbarium* has now been installed. Future work will include landscaping, seating, lighting and security as well as another plinth. The Columbarium will be dedicated after a Sunday morning worship service later this spring. The Columbarium may be used by members of First Presbyterian Church and their families. Information and pricing is available in the church office or from any member of the Columbarium Committee (Joyce Evans, Laurna Shively and Ann van Bever).

*A Columbarium is a holy site with niches for interring ashes.