



CORNER STONE

March



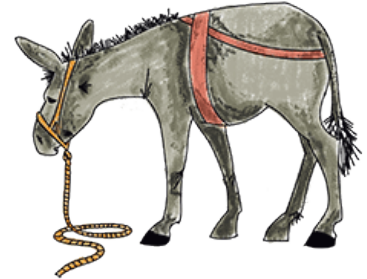
Special dates

- World Day of Prayer, *March 1, 2024*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 10, 2024*
- First day of spring, *March 19, 2024*
- Holy Week, *March 24-31, 2024*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 24, 2024*
- Maundy Thursday, *March 28, 2024*
- Good Friday, *March 29, 2024*
 - ◆ Easter Sunday, *March 31, 2024*

March 2024						
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31						

Be the donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.



"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?

Resurrection rumblings

In *Easter Earthquake*, James A. Harnish explores the "earthshaking promise" of Jesus' resurrection. Easter Sunday "shatters the power of fear," he writes. "Because Christ is risen, we no longer allow fear to dominate, control or manipulate us. We don't remain imprisoned in the tombs of our past failures or buried under the weight of present anxiety. In the risen Christ, old things pass away and everything becomes new."

Easter, Harnish adds, is proof that God hasn't forsaken us and is present among us. "The Resurrection contradicts the assumption that Christ resides on an ethereal cloud in a distant heaven. Rather, we find him on the dusty road that leads to the real stuff of our ordinary world."

Jesus' followers can find him everywhere, Harnish concludes. "The risen Christ will meet us along the confused, chaotic, fearful paths of our lives and speak the same words the women hear at the tomb, 'Do not be afraid.'"

By faith

'Tis by the faith of joys to come
We walk through deserts dark as night,
Till we arrive at heaven our home.
Faith is our guide, and faith our light.
...

Cheerful we tread the desert through,
While faith inspires a heavenly ray,
Though lions roar and tempests blow
And rocks and dangers fill the way.

So Abraham, by divine command,
Left his own house to walk with God;
His faith beheld the promised land,
And fired his zeal along the road.

—Early American hymn



A note from Pastor Allen

Why We Do What We Do?

The simple question “Why”? has grabbed my curiosity over the last couple of years. When we examine our personal goals, professional aspirations and the purposes of the church, we often describe WHAT we do and even HOW we do it, but we can struggle to answer the question “Why”?

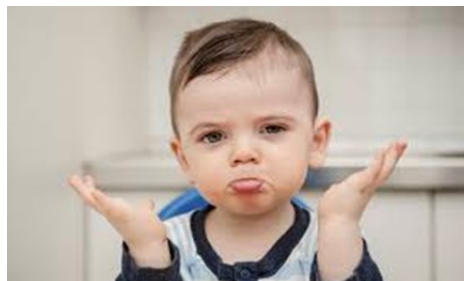
The sermon series has been focusing on looking at the church from God’s vantage point...if that’s possible. We’ve been trying to get past “*we’ve always done it that way*” and the force of tradition. Tradition is indeed a force because what we’ve always done may give us security and a sense of comfortability. As we examine Scripture, we discover that this is nothing new. In Jesus’ day He had to combat the influence of tradition in order to return to biblical theology.

Reformed theology does exactly that. We are constantly in the practice of re-forming according to the word of God. With the “form” being God’s Word. In a past sermon you learned the latin phrase, “*Eccelesia Reformata, secundum verbum dei*” which means, “the church reformed, always reforming, according to the Word of God.” This is a healthy process where we are always examining what we’re doing and are willing to stop doing anything that impedes the worship of God.

As children, the question “Why?” comes naturally. We are born curious, but as we age we can unlearn this trait and become comfortable with the status quo.

I hope that as I ask this question over and over that it will reveal any stagnation that has occurred and spur us on toward spiritual health that will benefit our church body as well as our community.

Lastly, the emphasis is on keeping the good and throwing out the bad. And I am encouraged that there is much good going on at 1st Presbyterian. And to quote the video that I used as an introduction to a sermon we won’t devolve into what they called “Contemporvant” or “Growtivation.”



"WHAT DO YOU WANT?"

February 21, 2024

After this ... Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. ... One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" (John 5:1-3, 5-6)



It's a strange question, isn't it? Of course a sick man wants to be healed! Why would Jesus even ask?

But then I think again. What does being healed mean? Clearly it will change the man's life in many ways, good and bad. He will have to work instead of lying by the pool. He may become a caregiver instead of a care receiver, a provider instead of a dependent. Some people will adapt to these changes with great joy. Others might have trouble. Does he want this change?

And what about us? Jesus offers to heal us, too—of the sin and evil that have broken and ruined our lives. But that change comes at a cost. For Him, the cost is suffering and death on a cross. For us, a life made new—and some of the newness might be hard or painful. Friends or family might be angry. We might lose out on pleasures or opportunities.

Following Jesus is a great blessing—but it comes at a cost. And so Jesus asks us, too: "What do you want?"

WE PRAY: Lord Jesus, help me to want what You want—my life, salvation, and blessing. Amen.

Morning breaks upon the tomb

Morning breaks upon the tomb,
Jesus scatters all its gloom.
Day of triumph through the skies—
See the glorious Saviour rise.
Christians! Dry your flowing tears,
Chase those unbelieving fears;
Look on his deserted grave,
Doubt no more his power to save.
Ye who are of death afraid,
Triumph in the scattered shade:
Drive your anxious cares away,
See the place where Jesus lay.

—William Bengo Collyer

Trust in God

We cannot attain to the understanding of Scripture either by study or by the intellect. Your first duty is to begin by prayer. Entreat the Lord to grant you, of His great mercy, the true understanding of His Word. ... Hope for nothing from your own labors, from your own understanding: Trust solely in God, and in the influence of His Spirit. Believe this on the word of a man who has experience. —Martin Luther

A well-used Bible that is falling apart usually belongs to someone who isn't.

In a world filled with causes for worry and anxiety — we need the peace of God standing guard over our hearts and minds.
—Jerry W. McCant



- March 3 Erminio Marquez
- March 5 Dennis Burch
- March 10 Kimmy Pargin
- March 10 Kandace Pargin
- March 18 Christina Burch
- March 23 Jo Huseby
- March 27 Peg Dalby

LENTEN LUNCHEON SCHEDULE
All begin at 12:00 noon

- March 1 St. Stephen Episcopal Church
- March 8 Grace & Mercy Christian
- March 15 First Presbyterian
- March 22 Assembly of God

As a believer in Christ, don't focus on yourself. Focus on all that you have in Christ! Are you so focused on what you don't have that you're blind to what you do have? Paul asks in Philippians 2:1: "Have you received any encouragement? Any fellowship? Any consolation? Then don't you have reason for joy? You're blood bought and heaven-made. A child of God. So be grateful. Be joyful. Don't focus on yourself; focus on all that you have in Christ! —Max Lucado



Thank you to fellowship hosts for February

- February 4
- February 11 Lyla & Lyza
- February 18 Laurie & Steve Maxfield
- February 25 Jo & Les Huseby



The Deacons will be hosting the Easter breakfast on March 31!



"The story of Easter is the story of God's wonderful window of divine surprise." —Carl Knudsen

Bible Quiz

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth

Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11.)



In Our Prayers

Joy for Dolores Cruz celebrating her birthday!

Prayers for the family of Jack Bever

Joy & continued prayers for Dennis Burch for a quick recovery after a recent fall

Prayers for Tim Eck and his family in the loss of his father

Continued prayers for Tracy and Allen dealing with treatments for Tracy

Joy for Allen & his meaningful and inspiring messages

Prayers for our nation and community

Joy for Rod, Gary, Loren, Allen & Tracy trimming bushes and cleaning the church grounds

Prayers for Brenda TeBrink's friend in the unexpected loss of her husband

Joy for Brenda's niece having successful heart surgery

Joy for our faithful musicians sharing their talents—the choir, Rachel Van, Lyla Hathaway & David Hinkley

CARRY EACH OTHER'S BURDENS AND IN THIS WAY YOU FULFILL THE LAW OF CHRIST.

————Galations 6:2



Lay Leaders

March 3 Lottie Whitmer

March 10 Dennis Van

March 17 Cheryl Morgan

March 24 Ken Dalby

March 31 Jake Pargin

Ushers

March 3 Lorelyn & Loren Buss

March 10 Dennis Burch & Ken Dalby

March 17 Stephanie & Javie Archuleta

March 24 Catie & Maddie Van

March 31 Jo & Les Huseby

Communion

David Hinkley



Christian symbol

BUTTERFLY — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

The Reverend Dale L. Powell passed from this life on January 21, 2024, at Mercy Hospital Joplin, MO. At the age of 89 years old.

He was born September 29, 1934, in Kansas City, MO to his parents Walter and Faye (Maxwell) Powell. He lived his early life in Iola Kansas, graduating from Iola High School in 1953. He served in the US Army from 1953 to 1956 and graduated from Iola Junior College in 1958. He then graduated from Missouri Valley College in Marshall, MO in 1960 and then from Dubuque Theological Seminary, Dubuque, IA in 1966. He was ordained into the ministry in 1966 in the United Presbyterian Church.

Dale married his high school sweetheart, Nina Beal, in 1954 and they had just celebrated the 70th anniversary a few days prior to his passing. Dale and Nina and their children served many churches through his over 50 years in the pulpit. They lived in Kansas, Iowa, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and Colorado, and returned to the Southwest Missouri area in 2013 where they lived on a small farm with their son.

Throughout his life, Dale enjoyed trout fishing, camping, gardening, and stamp collecting. Dale is survived by his wife Nina, his daughters Joyce Koogler of Woodward, OK, Jennifer Reeve of Joplin, MO, Julia (& Dan) Crawford of Mooreland, OK, and their son Jeffery (& Rose) Powell of Jasper, MO. He had 11 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He is survived by brother Don Powell of Lenexa, KS. He was preceded in death by his parents Walter and Faye Powell.

"Being negative only makes a journey more difficult. You may be given a cactus, but you don't have to sit on it."

—Joyce Meyer

Because Jesus said so

One intriguing person in the Passion account is the thief on the cross whom Jesus promised a same-day entrance to paradise (see Luke 23:43). Pastor and radio host Alistair Begg says he can't wait to meet that man and ask how everything unfolded. "You were cussing [Jesus] out with your friend," Begg says. "You've never been in a Bible study. You've never been baptized. You didn't know a thing about church membership, and yet you made it!"

In a sermon, Begg pictures an imaginary angel at the pearly gates, growing frustrated during the sinful thief's entrance interview. After receiving no clear answers from the thief about doctrines such as justification, the angel finally asks, "On what basis are you here?" The thief simply replies, "The man on the middle cross said I can come."

"Everything that seems empty is full of the angels of God."
—Hilary, 4th-century bishop of Poitiers

Pressed

Gethsemane, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for "olive press." During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

"All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances," the authors write. "We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive."

Our feeble prayers, our Father's response

In *He Still Moves Stones*, Max Lucado recalls the story of Derek Redmond, a 1992 Olympic competitor in the 400-meter race. Halfway through Redmond's semifinal run, a torn hamstring sent him tumbling to the ground. His dad, Jim, immediately ran onto the track. He met up with Derek, who, though crying, had managed to stand and was hopping forward.

"You don't have to do this," Jim said. But Derek insisted. "Well, then, we're going to finish this together," said Jim, who supported his son as he hobbled to the finish line. The crowd cheered and wept as Derek, with Dad's assistance, finished the race.

Lucado writes: "What made the father do it? ... Was it the strength of his child? No, it was the pain of his child. ... God does the same. Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble. But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference."



Transformed

Before becoming a Christian late in life, British journalist Malcolm Muggeridge denied that Jesus was God's Son and had risen from the dead. If Jesus' body was missing, he said, someone probably snatched it and abandoned it to the vultures, leaving the bones to whiten in the sun.

For Muggeridge, the turning point was encountering a living Lord. "If you should ask me by what authority I talk about the power of Christ to change human nature, I should reply to you simply ... because he has changed me," Muggeridge said after discarding agnosticism. "I can look anybody in the face today — my friends, my colleagues and what, perhaps, is most difficult of all, the members of my family — and be sure that they know, as I know, that I am really and literally a new creature in Christ Jesus since the day when he came into my life." —adapted from *The Wired Word*

Take time to "examen"

I'm grateful to live in an area with distinct seasons. Each time of year has unique characteristics that give way to the next. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven," says Ecclesiastes 3:1 (ESV).

Each change of season also lends itself to *examen*, a spiritual practice that involves reflection. Typically done daily, examen invites people to recall past events (highlights, struggles, even mundane activities) and consider when they especially sensed God's presence or when he seemed distant.

Try a deeper examen four times a year as the seasons change. As a starting point, use your answers to these questions:

- Looking back at the past season, when did I see God at work? What was life-giving to me?
- In what areas did I need God to work? What was life-draining?
- As I enter this next season, how is God inviting me to engage more with his presence?

—Janna Firestone

God's provision while we wait

A November 2023 landslide trapped 41 construction workers in a tunnel they'd been excavating for a Himalayan highway project. For 17 days, they were stranded nearly 3 miles from freedom. When rescuers' drilling equipment broke, miners drilled through the last 2 meters of rock and gravel by hand. Finally, all the workers were pulled to safety through a 3-foot-wide steel pipe. Because they had received food, water, medicines, oxygen and even light through a narrow pipe while underground, all were in good health.

We are trapped in sin and brokenness: our sin and that of others, fragmented relationships and systems, nearby and across the globe. Christianity teaches that God's way of goodness will win in the end. But before full rescue comes, what keeps us alive and hopeful — even healthy?

As water was faithfully provided to the laborers through that narrow pipe, God quenches our thirst through baptism. Scripture and the sacrament of communion are the food and medicine that nourish and strengthen us. Prayer — our own and others' prayers for us — along with the Holy Spirit's gifts such as comfort and joy flow into our lives like the light of hope and the oxygen of life. Though complete rescue seems slow to come, God provides for us while we wait.

—Heidi Hyland Mann



Bless you!

On March 17, when we remember the Christian missionary St. Patrick, Irish blessings abound. Here are two benedictions to share with friends in the faith:

Deep peace of the running wave to you,
Deep peace of the flowing air to you,
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,
Deep peace of the shining stars to you,
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

May there always be work for your hands to do;
May your purse always hold a coin or two;
May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;
May the hand of a friend always be near you;
May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

Our Purpose:

We endeavor to be a Christ-Centered Presbyterian Church with the following primary aims:

- To bring men, women and children to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ
- To nurture one another in the work of God and in the spiritual fellowship of the congregation.
- To serve those who are in need in our community and in the world beyond.

The Corner Stone is published monthly for the purpose of promoting communications within the church family and community.

Church Office (719) 852-2555

Do you have something you would like to share in the newsletter? E-mail to Lyla at: lyla@notes-numbers.com Or leave it in the newsletter tray. All items are appreciated.

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"This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."
—Leonard Bernstein

OUR CHURCH

Our church is composed of different people with different gifts. We make it what it is. It will be friendly, if we are. The pews will be filled, if we help fill them. It will do great work, if we work. It will make generous gifts to many causes, if we are generous givers. It will bring other people into it's worship and fellowship, if we bring them.

Our church will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if we, who make it what it is, are filled with those things. Therefore, with the help of God, we shall each dedicate ourselves to the task of being all the things that we want our church to be!

CHRIST AROSE

Low in the grave He lay,
Jesus my Savior!
Waiting the coming day,
Jesus, my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose!
Halleluja! Christ arose!
—Robert Lowry (1826-1890)

Robert Lowry wrote the words and music to this hymn in 1874, while he was professor of literature at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania and pastor of a nearby church. It's hard to match this hymn for sheer drama: it begins dimly, strikes a note of hope, and then the chorus explodes with joy!

PUZZLE

A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.

A branch that was waved
How Jesus was put to death
A stick attached to the vine
People shouted this to Jesus
Jesus washed these
This was broken and eaten
The Messiah
A drink from grapes
Jesus drove the money changers from here

"I am the vine; you are the branches.
If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear
apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Answer: palm, crucified, branch, horizontal, feet, bread, Jesus, wine, temple, much fruit