



## seeking: honest questions for deeper faith

We have begun our Lenten journey. As we move through the next six weeks we will be seeking: seeking for understanding, seeking for connection, seeking for a love that makes us whole. As we search, questions will arise. That's not a bad thing. In bringing our questions to God we open our hearts. Let's be brave enough to ask the hard questions. And may these questions bring us to the heart of God.

*"In the gospels, Jesus is asked 187 questions.*

*He answers (maybe) 8 of them.*

*He himself asks 307.*

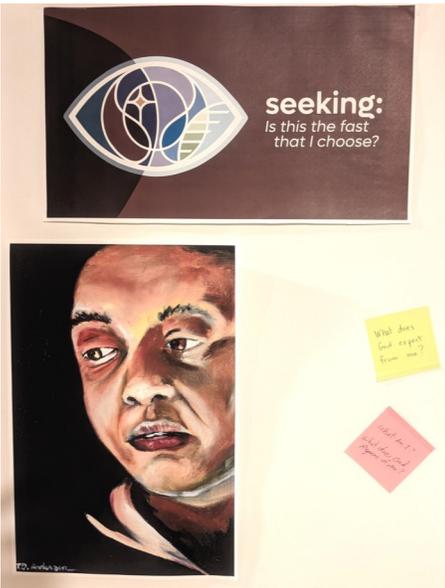
*Maybe faith isn't about certainty,*

*but about learning to ask- and sit in the complexity of-good questions."*

Kevin Nye

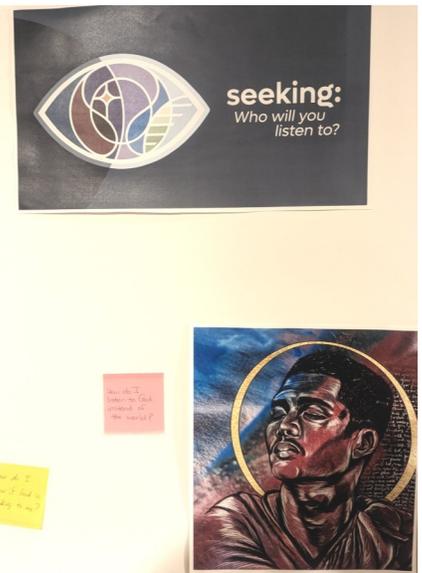
We are passing out bundles with Lenten devotional booklets and cards for use at home, so make sure to ask for yours at church. If you need one mailed to you, email or call the church.

## From the Worship Committee



Lent began February 22 and will continue through Easter. The Committee prepared at-home packets of devotional materials that encourage us to seek out God and to ask questions. The theme (**Seeking: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith**, from A Sanctified Art) will be explored during our Sunday worship services as well as in the materials sent home. At the front of the sanctuary will be a display that presents

the question for the weekly theme for each Sunday. Everyone is encouraged to add questions or thoughts to the display using the post it notes provided. Throughout this Lenten season, let's be brave enough to ask the hard questions and be ready to search for God within the asking.



### List of Ministers, Speakers and Scriptures for March

March 5	Jeannie	<i>Who will you listen to?</i>	John 3:1-17
March 12	Mary Jane	<i>Will you give me a drink?</i>	John 4:5-42
March 19	Duke	<i>When was I silent?</i>	Matthew 25:34-46
March 26	Mary Jane	<i>Can these bones live?</i>	John 11:1-15

### Holy Week Services

**April 2nd, Palm Sunday:** Sunday School at 9:15 am and Worship at 10 am

**April 6th, Maundy Thursday:** 6:30 p.m.      **April 7th, Good Friday:** No Service

**April 9th, Easter Sunday:** Sunday School at 9:15 am and Worship at 10 am

Want to donate to our community food and clothing distribution ministry?

We welcome offerings of individually packaged servings of snack crackers, peanut butter, tuna or chicken salad, ramen noodles, fruit or jello cups, protein bars, other portable snacks, jackets, hats and gloves. Bring them to the room across the hall from the church office. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause!

## The Presbyterian Women's Circle

will meet at 10 am on Mar. 21st. Join us!

## The City Expresses Interest in Our Ministries

The Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce wants to start addressing the problems of people in need in a more cohesive way. They are reaching out to organizations like our church that already have community ministries in place. They want to know more about our ministries, and to share that information with other organizations that are helping. Duke and Karen attended a panel discussion on February 16th to explain what First Presbyterian does. There were also two other organizations there: Bayou Meto Baptist Church and First United Methodist Church, who explained their assistance programs. We hope that all charitable organizations in town will be contacted and a comprehensive list of ministries can be created and distributed. If all are aware of the aid available, efforts could be cooperative and duplications avoided. The list would also give individuals the ability to volunteer in a project that is of interest to them.

## Bible Book Study

Lively discussion will follow informative and thought-provoking video each Wednesday at 10 am in the church parlor.

## Summary of the Session Meeting on February 11, 2023

A liaison from the Presbytery, The Reverend Sara Anne Berger, has been appointed to moderate session meetings in the absence of a pastor.

The new class of session members are Mary Lee and Pam. Barbara will begin another term. They will be serving for 2 years and were accepted in a congregational meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>. Karen and Greg have completed their term of service. Karen will now begin her new term as clerk of session. Duke remains the treasurer.

The clerk of session, the church secretary, and volunteers have begun the project of updating the church roll and the archival church register, and reviewing all the minutes for the history of the church to make sure all records are in order.

Four PC(USA) special offerings were chosen for 2023: One Great Hour of Sharing, April 2; Pentecost, May 28; Peace and Global Witness, October 1; and Christmas Joy, December 17. Written thanks for support were received from Jacksonville Care Center (who also mentioned that they would welcome anyone that would like to volunteer at their store) and Mercy Community Church in Atlanta.

The Personnel Committee led a discussion of hours, salary, and structure for office staff; plans for performance reviews were made for the coming year.

The Outreach Committee will send information concerning the warming center to the Presbytery to include in their newsletter. Some members of the committee were acknowledged for their excellent work on the February community lunch.

The 2023 Budget was presented by the Finance Committee and approved.

Materials, speakers, and a schedule of services for Lent was presented by the Worship Committee and approved.

An invitation by the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce for our church to be included in a panel discussion about ministries to people in need was discussed. It was agreed to send Duke and Karen to represent our ministries on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

It is being considered to re-institute the Elder-on-Call role.

The next presbytery meeting will be on March 3rd and 4th at Lyon College. Mary Jane will be our commissioner for this meeting.

Our next Community Lunch/churchwide potluck will be on March 5th from 11:30-12:30. We will be serving an Irish-themed meal and friendship in a welcoming environment.

### Want to Be Involved?

Bring an Irish potluck dish (or any dish!) to share. Wear festive green and stay to break bread together with our neighbors so that they can feel the love of community as we have been blessed to know it. Stop by the kitchen Sunday

to help with set up, clean up or serving . You can sign up to help the April meal by using the sign-up sheet by the offering plate at church.



### Help Us Spread the Word

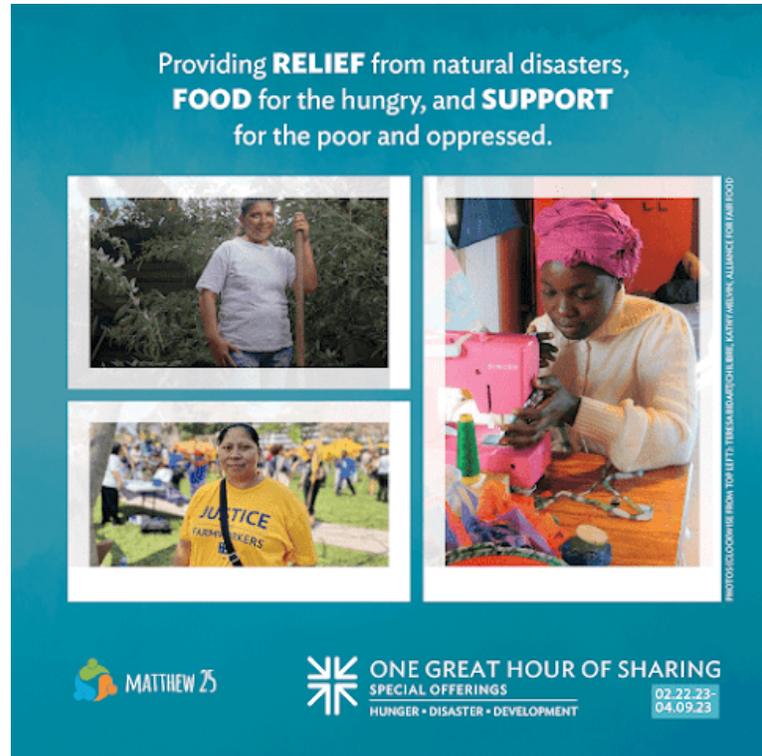
This program will take a few rounds to become known in the community. Help us spread the word by sharing this information in places the local public might gather: other churches, community centers, the library, gas stations, and grocery stores. If you need flyers to hand out, please let us know!

### Ukulele Band is Underway!

The ukulele band played “[Because He Lives](#)” on February 19th for worship. They will continue to bring joy to our worship services as they offer their gifts playing a variety of music .

Even if you haven’t played before, you are welcome to join in. Steve has extra ukuleles, so contact him if you don’t have one and are interested. Everyone is welcome!

# Coming on April 2nd: The One Great Hour of Sharing



**Congratulations** to Brittany on her admission to the Emory University Doctoral Program in Ethics and Religion! This sought-after term was appointed to Brittany after a competitive process and will begin in August. Our prayers are with her during her studies.

## Help Is Needed

Please consider signing up on the tablet in the west lobby to help clean the church one weekend this month. We can do it if we all pitch in!

## Churches of Jacksonville Meet to Unite for Community Need

Several churches of our city met on March 2nd to share information about their ministries and brainstorm ideas about how to unite efforts. Further discussions will continue next month. Mary Jane and Jeannie represented our church at the meeting.

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Fischer*

*request the honor of your presence*

*at the marriage of their daughter*

*Kathryn Margaret*

*to*

*Dylan J. Wildman*

*Saturday, May twenty-seventh*

*Two thousand twenty-three*

*at four o'clock in the afternoon*

*First Presbyterian Church*

*Reception to follow*



The family requests we kindly respond by April 22nd

by phone to Mary Jane or online at

[theknot.com/katiefischeranddylanwildman](http://theknot.com/katiefischeranddylanwildman)

Where there will also be information about registries and other details.

## Covering Our Church, Communities, and World With Prayer

- Pray for our Community Lunch Program, its volunteers, and the people it serves.
- Pray for our Warming Center program, its hardworking volunteers, those who might hear about it and wish to join the work, and those in need that it serves in our city.
- Pray for cooperation among churches and the government in Jacksonville to address the burgeoning needs of our people.
- Pray for our police officers in Jacksonville as they try to deal with growing need and homelessness.
- Pray for the families in need in our community and for the donors who have supplied food, water, toiletries, clothing, and bedding for those families.
- Pray for the people of Ukraine and the leaders whose decisions affect peace in the region.
- Pray for the recovery of all Covid-19/variant patients, for the families of those we have lost, and for those at risk. Pray for countries of the world that are dealing with surges or new strains of the virus.
- Pray for the continuing safe and rapid distribution of the vaccines/boosters and for the protection of vaccine supplies. Pray for them to reach all communities and people equally, for their efficacy against any additional strains that may emerge, and for the reversal of the pandemic in general.
- Pray for the leaders of our nation, state, city, church, and communities.
- Pray for those affected by disasters in Turkey and Syria.
- Pray for all teachers, bus drivers, students, and school employees, especially those in our city.

## Individual Prayer Requests From February

Bill and Etsuko C

Nancy H

Lizzie B

Belle P

President Jimmy Cartrer

Barbara M

Britnee L

Juanita C(sister of Duke)

Michael K

Pat B

Tara F

Matt F

William F

Mackenzie and Baby Jaxton

Lizzy and Baby Penelope

Stephanie P

Kainan S

Heather F

Kara N

Chris D

Mark C

Jerry W

Barbie M

Amie S

Wendell P

Jerry Deen D

Randy N

Beth H

Steven and Elizabeth P

Harvey P

Rod B

Greg T

Buck B

Lauren L

Frances W

Diane and David H

JoAnn K

Frank C

Monica and Nathan S & twins



Nothing Can Separate  
Us From the Love of God  
Romans 8:31-39

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(501) 982-2876

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[firstpresjax.com](http://firstpresjax.com)

*May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you.  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out  
your hands to serve.  
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your  
heart to love.  
And as you leave this place, may you see the face of Christ on  
everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face  
of Christ on you.*

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Jacksonville, AR 72076

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

*If you are receiving this newsletter by mistake or would rather get one at the church in person, please let us know. If you know of someone who would like to receive this newsletter in the mail, please call us at 501-982-2876. God Bless You!*