



everything [in] between

Meeting God **in** the midst of extremes

Preparing for Easter

For Lent this year we will be using the series “Everything [in] between. This series follows the Gospel of Luke beginning when Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem (where he knows he will die) and then flows through familiar stories like the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha and the Lost Sheep. The concepts found in these stories include “intention & action,” “stranger and neighbor,” “faith and works,” and “lost and found.” As we explore these stories we see the complexity they encompass. We are invited to look beyond easy answers and imagine where God is meeting us beyond the categories we create. This Lent let’s trust that God is with us in all the “in between” places of our lives.

*Artwork is by
Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Luke 10:38-42*





Ash Wednesday is March 5

Lent is a time for us to return to our Creator who formed us from the dust of the earth. Our lives are finite, so we want to spend every precious moment in tune with God, living whole, abundant lives—the kind of lives we were created to lead. And so in recognition of our origins in the earth, in acknowledgment of our finite days, we receive ashes and remember: dust we are, and to dust we shall return.

Both, Please

It's one thing to speak of love.
It's another
to hold a newborn in your arms,
to sing someone to sleep,
to lean down and listen for their
breathing.

It's one thing to speak of faith.
It's another
to press your forehead to the floor,
to cry out in prayer,
to ask the hard questions and still
thank God for the meal.

It's one thing to speak of the Divine.
It's another
to walk under a tunnel of wisteria,
to stand barefoot at the edge of the sea,
to hear the birds sing as the sun returns
and whisper, *Thank you, thank you, thank
you.*

It's one thing and another, so I pray,
Give me both, please.
Show me both, please.

*-Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A
Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

Gratitude Board

Throughout the last six weeks you have had an opportunity to list the things that bring you joy for which you are grateful to God. Here are some of the things you listed:

Friends	Family navidad
Beautiful bugs and mighty mountains	God! Love and forgiveness
Spring is coming	Hudson
Friends both near and far	Haley
Chocolate	My church community
My family and God	A Christmas tree filled with memories
Ice cream	Freedom and joy
Family	Saved by God's grace
My church and my church family	The sun
Macias family	Children and youth at church
Our beautiful world	A loving congregation
An amazing family	Nature
health	My parents that taught me
Future plans	My three children and what they taught me
Wife	The love I have from my grandchildren
My church family	The ability to have a well and functioning
This gracious congregation	body and mind

"In the logo, the two hands reaching toward each other represent our longing for connection despite the politics, assumptions, beliefs, and narratives that divide us. The hands look as if they are reaching in for a handshake, but they are paused just before they connect. The negative space in between the hands creates the shape of a doorway,



symbolizing hospitality or a pathway forward. The doorway invites us to look for God in the spaces in between. In the typography, the "in" is bracketed, emphasizing the promise that God shows up in surprising ways and unexpected places, but is present in it all. The shape of the hands further echoes the bracket shape. Grammatically, brackets are used to provide additional explanation or information. The brackets around the [in] represent the charge to each of us: to dig deeper into complexity and nuance, to ask questions and stay curious, and to be open to where God might meet us along the way." (Explanation of the logo from A Sanctified Art)

PC(USA) Leader Formation Webinar: Pondering God with Presbyterians

On March 6 at 6:00 PM, join Martha Moore-Keish, the J.B. Green Professor of Theology at Columbia Theological Seminary, as she explores some basic theological convictions of our faith, including what we hold in common with other Christians and peculiar treasures of the Reformed tradition. Want to learn more about the mystery of the Trinity, justification by grace through faith, or the puzzle of predestination? [Come join the conversation!](#)



The session retreat
was a time for
reflection, fellowship,
and spiritual growth.

Hosting Interns from University of the Ozarks

Our church will host two interns from the University of the Ozarks next summer (June and July). They will be joining us in worship and in all of our activities. They will also provide help with the missions of our church. These young people will become a part of our church family while they are here. We will have opportunities to get to know them, and make a difference in their lives, as I'm sure they will make a difference in ours. Our Intern Task Force has begun planning. If you have suggestions or would be interested in helping with transportation or providing meals, contact the Intern Task Force (Mary Lee, Beth, Amie, Katie, or Pam).

February Report from the Community Care Room

In the month of February, we gave members of our community:

- 4 pairs of shoes
- 18 hygiene packs/individual hygiene items
- 1 bags/backpacks
- 39 pairs of pants or sweatpants and 58 t-shirts, flannel shirts, sweatshirts, or sweaters
- 3 blankets, sheets, or other bedding items
- 73 pieces of clothing such as socks or underwear
- 17 outer accessories such as gloves, scarves, and hats
- 3 jackets or coats
- 180 snack bags
- 3 pet items such as dog food or leashes

Thank you for giving to this ministry—your donations make a difference!

Attendance for February

Feb. 2: 21

Feb. 15: 34

Feb. 16: 32

Feb. 23: 33

Preachers and Scriptures for March

Mar. 2	Mary Jane	Ex. 34:29-35	Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43a)
	Transfiguration		
Mar. 9	Rev. Elizabeth	Communion	Luke 10:25-37
	stranger & neighbor		
Mar. 16	Mary Jane	Communion	Luke 10:38-42
	faith & works		
Mar. 23	Rev. Elizabeth	Communion	Luke13:6-9
	rest & growth		
Mar. 30	Mary Jane	Communion	Luke 15:1-7
	lost & found		

Announcements

The **Bible Study** Group meets on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm. We are working our way through the Book of Acts. Everyone is welcome.

The Ladies Circle will meet March 18 at 10:00 am. All the ladies of the church are welcome.

The Community Care Room is in need of chicken and tuna kits, breakfast bars, and men's and women's underwear, all sizes.

Mark your calendars! April 12 is a Work Day. Be ready to work inside the church any time from 8:30 to 2:00.

Here are your 2025 committee members. Please pray for each committee and consider how your gifts could add to one these ministries. New members are always welcome.

Program Committee

Worship and Christian Education

Mary Jane and Karen (Co-Chairs), Margot, Pam, Kathie, Barbara, Jeannie, Katie, and Beth

Mission Committee

Hospitality

Michael (Chair), Beth, and Mary Lee

Outreach

Ivan (Chair), Mary Jane, Karen, Michael, Bob, and Jacelynn

Administration Committee

Finance

Mary Lee (Chair), Perla, Pam, and Joe

Property and Maintenance

Barbara (Chair), Jonathan, Joe, John, and Don

Personnel

Pam and Steve (Co-Chairs)

Intern Task Force

Mary Lee (Chair), Beth, Amie, Katie, Pam

Social Media Team

Perla (Chair), Mary Lee, Ivan, Denisse, and Mary Jane

Prayer Requests from February

Alex
Ann
Beth
Bill B.
Bill S.
Blake
Bob
Chris
Diane
The G. family
Hoyt
Jill
Jill
Joe
Karen
Larayna
Pam
Pat
Sandy
Tim
Toni
Wayne's family
Our students and teachers
First responders
Those in war zones
Those affected by weather

Prayers of thanks for:

- a successful surgery for Ann
- a good doctor's report for Pam
- successful surgery for Chris
- warmer weather
- this congregation

Suggestions for Lent

Lent is an opportunity to draw closer to God and Jesus through prayer, fasting and service. With this in mind, the Worship Committee is offering some suggestions of ways that you can do this. Perhaps you have already decided how you will observe the Lenten season. If you are looking for ideas, however, here are a few:

- Read and reflect on scripture everyday
- Volunteer at the Community Potluck Lunch, the Community Care Room, a local school or other service organization.
- Give up eating out and use the money you save to donate to a mission organization.
- Pray for others, especially people with whom you have differences
- Phone, visit, or send a card to someone who needs cheering up
- Write a note of thanks to someone
- Turn off your electronics for one hour a day (yes, even your phone!)
- Give up complaining for 40 days (and don't complain about it!)



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

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[https://
www.facebook.com/fpcjax/
firstpresjax.com](https://www.facebook.com/fpcjax/)

*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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PLACE
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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!