

First Presbyterian Church



March 2, 2022

7:00 p.m. In-Person & Live Streaming

525 North Broadway • Wichita, Kansas 67214 • (316) 263-0248
www.firstchurchwichita.org

March 2, 2022	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	7:00 p.m.
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Meditation		See Insert
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Prelude	<i>Lamb of God</i>	Cherwien
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Greetings

*Call to Worship

Leader: "Even now, declares the Lord, return to me with all your heart."

People: Roll up your sleeves.

Leader: Let down your guard.

People: Come in from the storm.

Leader: Make yourself at home.

People: Pull up to the table.

Leader: Release the tension in your jaw. Take a deep breath. Return to God with all your heart.

People: May it be so.

*Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of tenderness, and strengthen us to face our mortality, that we may reach with confidence for your mercy; in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Hymn	<i>The Glory of These Forty Days</i> (vs. 1, 4)	No. 87
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Call to Confession

Lent can sometimes get a negative reputation. It's viewed as the season in our faith when we give things up, we prepare for the worst. However, I cannot help but imagine that God wants more for us than just six weeks of discipline or six weeks without chocolate. I cannot help but imagine that God wants a life for us so expansive that faith, joy, and hope flow over the edges. So let us confess, not because we have to suffer our way through Lent, but because the truth moves us one step closer to that expansive faith. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess: we don't return to you fully. We share with you the pieces of our lives that are convenient. We put on different hats in different rooms. We forget that we are called, invited, and loved with all that we are-including our mess, our beauty, our faith, and our doubt. Forgive us, and give us hearts that long to return.

Silence

Choral Response

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, God sees you. God hears you. God loves you. You are forgiven and claimed with all that you are. Rest in that good news.

People: Thanks be to God, Amen.

*The Peace

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Kid's Connection

Geri Doll & Liz Norris

First Reading

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Second Reading

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Anthem

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

arr. Ferguson

Sermon

"Emptying and Filling"

Rev. Dr. Brent O. Johnston

*Affirmation of Faith

**People: We believe in an expansive love that healed the sick, welcomed the children, and saw this world as it could be.
We believe that that expansive love runs over the edges of our lives, smoothing our rough places and pulling us home.
We call that expansive love Yahweh, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, One who loves us like a Mother holding a newborn close to her so that their hearts beat as one, One who loves us like a Father welcoming the wayward home. Thanks be to God for a Love like that.
Amen.**

Invitation to an Expansive Lent

We begin our journey to Easter with the sign of ashes. This ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life and marks the penitence of this community. I invite you, therefore, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent by prayer, by reading and meditating on the Word of God, and by works of love.

Imposition of Ashes (Modified for Covid Restrictions)

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be for us a sign of our mortality and penitence, and a reminder that only by your gracious gift are we given everlasting life, full to the brim, full of love, that we might be all that we were created to be and to become; in our dying with Christ that we might be raised with Christ. **Amen.**

At the appropriate time, please take the ashes you have been given and make the sign of the cross and say, *"I am empty myself of all self-striving to be something that I am not, so as to be filled with Christ's love in all of his abundance."* In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

*Hymn *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (vs. 1, 2, 4) No. 84

*Charge and Benediction

*Postlude *The Will of God is Always Best* J. S. Bach

*signifies congregation standing (for those able)

Worship Leaders

Pastor	Brent O. Johnston
Director of Music	Steve Bixler
Organist	Mark Sweeney

Production Crew

Dave Muehl, Sound; Sailor Sulier, Computer Graphics;
Bob Moler, Camera Operator; Video Editor, Michelle Edwards



Welcome, Visitors!

We extend a special welcome to those who are visiting First Presbyterian Church this morning. We are glad you are here! If you recently had a change in address, e-mail, or phone number, please feel free to contact the office on Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so that we may update your information.

Please remember to turn off your cell phone before worship this morning. Please sign in at the front entrance prior to entering the Sanctuary for Sunday worship service. Thank you.

Children's Information-Children are welcome in worship. We do not mind a little fidgeting and fussing in the pew. Finally, we encourage you to consider the Nursery, which is located in the south end of the Case Building, where we have trained Staff to supervise and engage your child from birth to Kindergarten. If we need to contact you during worship, just give us your cell number and we will text you, if needed. You and your child's (spiritual, emotional, and social) needs are important to us.

A quick reminder: Under the Child Protection Policy children are not allowed to leave the Sanctuary without an adult escort. In addition, all children and youth group activities including children in the Nursery must be supervised by a minimum of 2 authorized staff or volunteers. -Liz Norris, Director of Children's Ministry

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Meditation

"On My Way"

You said return to me so here I am skin and bones held together with memories and a little bit of duct tape. I am bringing the worst of me, consider yourself warned— the furrowed brow, the achy back, the slew of judgments, a pocket full of assumptions, the track of negativity that runs laps in my head. I am bringing it all because you said return to me, edits not required, so return I will. And not all of it will be bad. Some of it will be lovely. I will bring a wagon full of nostalgia, a melody that won't let me go, a million stories that start with the words, "Oh it was beautiful!" I will bring a mended heart, a glass half-full, two lungs, out of breath from dancing too long, and dreams that taste like honey. I will bring my whole messy human self because I know, I just know, deep in my bones, that you are already running to meet me. There are no cuts on this team. You said you'd take it all, so here I come. Me and all my humanity. We are on my way.

-Written by: Rev. Sarah Speed

News & Events

SAVE THE DATE-MARCH 26!

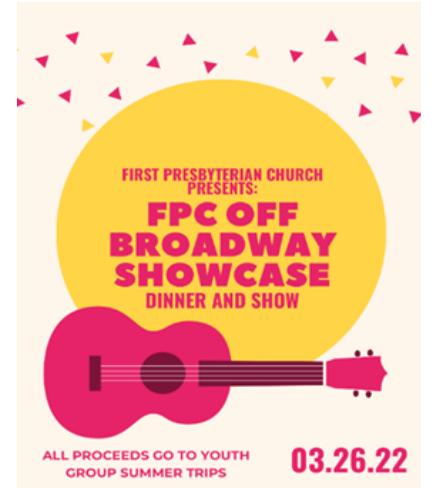
- FPC Off Broadway Showcase Dinner & Talent Show
- March 26 at 5:30 p.m.
- Adults: \$12 in advance/\$14 at the door
- Kids 5-12: \$5 in advance/\$6 at the door
- Under 5: Free

****Group rate:** (for groups of 5 or more) \$10 in advance /\$12 at the door

This talent show is being put on by the Youth Group and is open to all ages. We will have a Talent Show booklet so you can buy an ad or make a donation. The youth will be contacting you to ask about ads or donations. The funds raised from the talent show will go towards the youth group's summer trips.

Please contact Geri Doll with any questions at (316) 737-8855.

As always, thank you for supporting our youth group!



From the Choir

You may have been wondering why the choir is leaving the choir loft after singing the anthem? This is for their protection, so they are not breathing aerosol droplets. The ventilation in the choir loft is not great and they need to reduce exposure. Some come into the Sanctuary to worship. Others worship in *The Well* or the McComb Room. We value our choir members and want to support their need to stay healthy.

Session News

During the February Session meeting, the Elders approved a motion to reopen the Chapel on March 1, 2022. The other COVID safety protocols of worshipping every other pew in the Sanctuary and strongly recommending the wearing of masks while inside the building have **not** changed. There are no changes to the Worship schedule at this time. The Worship and Music Commission will continue to discuss the Sunday morning schedule at their next meeting.

Upcoming News & Events

MARCH MOVIE MADNESS THIS FRIDAY, MARCH 4 AT 6:30

Details: We invite you and your family to come enjoy a night at the movies. We will be showing two different movies, "Sabina: Tortured for Christ" will be shown in our East Dining Room and is for mature audiences only. "Lion of Judah" will be showing in *The Well* for all other ages. We will have a concession stand for your enjoyment. We also encourage those who wish to bring their dinner.



Sunday Morning Lenten Studies Begin March 6

Plan to join us for Lent as the Journeys Class continues its study of *The New Testament in its World* by N.T. Wright and M.F. Bird. Classes will begin at 10:45 a.m. in The Parlor and also via Zoom.

- How did Jesus' teaching and actions relate to the kingdom of God?
- Did Jesus think he was the Messiah? How was Jesus' death on the cross understood?
- What did the ancient people believe about the afterlife?
- How did the apostle Paul view resurrection?
- How did the Gospel writers view resurrection? How can we begin to think through what Jesus' resurrection means for us?

This series will include both video presentations and discussions. For those who want to read the book, we will cover Chapters 9 through 14. **Please plan to join us!**

Wednesday Night Lent Classes Begin March 9

Beginning Wednesday evening from March 9 through April 6, Pastor Brent will be leading a series entitled Full to the Brim, An Expansive Lent. Classes will be held in The Well and via Zoom, starting at 6:30.

Full to the Brim, is an invitation into a radically different Lent, into a full life. It's an invitation to be authentically who you are, to counter scarcity and injustice at every turn, to pour out even more grace wherever it is needed. When we allow ourselves to be filled to the brim with God's lavish love, that love spills over. It reaches beyond ourselves; like water, it rushes and flows, touching everything in its path.

Classes will feature weekly scriptures, employing Lectio-Visio Divina, which incorporates contemplating an image as well as the Word. The images were created by a group called A Sanctified Art, a team of artists in ministry. This bringing of scripture and theological themes to life through the arts will help us all to connect deeply to the abundant life of Christ. **Please plan to attend!**

Calendar

Sunday, March 6

- 9:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Stream, & Facebook Live
- 10:00 WRCC Worship (C204)
- 10:45 Worship & Music Comm. Mtg (Zoom/McComb)
- 12:00 Youth Talent Rehearsal (EDR)

Tuesday, March 8

- 1:00 Staff Meeting (*The Well*)
- 2:30 Pastoral Staff Meeting (*The Well*)
- 5:30 Finance Mtg (Hobbs/Zoom)
- 7:00 Stewardship Comm. Mtg (Hobbs/Zoom)

Wednesday, March 9

- 9:00 Dorcas (C105)
- 10:00 PW Circle (Zoom)
- 6:00 Youth & Kid's Club (YL)
- 6:30 Lent Study (The Well/Zoom)
- 7:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Thursday, March 10

- 9:30 Economy Corner Bd Mtg (EC)

Saturday, March 12

- 9:30 Transportation Mtg (C109)

Sunday, March 13

- 9:00 Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
- 9:30 Worship (Sanctuary) In-Person, Live Stream, & Facebook Live
- 10:00 WRCC Worship (C204)
- 10:30 Journey's Lenten Study (Parlor/Zoom)

Community Breakfast Volunteers Needed!

The Community Breakfast is alive and well. We served 90 community members at the February 5th breakfast. There is a severe need for additional volunteers. We need your help to continue providing this service. **If you are interested in helping, please contact DJ Spaeth at (316) 210-0196. Thank you!**



USHERS

We so appreciate those who contacted Phil Michel with their willingness to serve as an Usher. As more individuals are choosing to worship in person, we would like to have an Usher at the south Sanctuary door to greet people as they enter. This would be on a rotating schedule, and you would be needed once every couple of months. If this is something you feel called to do, please contact Patty Cole by email at pattycole21@gmail.com or call Patty at 316-250-4577. We want to have visitors and members feel welcomed!