

the LANTERN First Presbyterian Church

February/ March 2022

Our Church family is excited to welcome Joshua McKenna as our new pastor starting on March 6, 2022! We pray that he and his wife, Joselynn and 3 children (Anastasia, Keira and Mollie) and their dog, Anakin, have a safe journey as they move and find a home in the Kirksville area! Welcome to the McKenna family to the Northeast Missouri area and our Church! A big thankyou for our hardworking PNC who worked hard during our pastoral search!



Deacon's Corner:

Souper Bowl of Caring Tradition has it that the Pantry for Adair County has a Soup Drive just before the Super Bowl - but time has been flying by. So for this year we will be collecting soup beginning now and going until March 1st . Remember there is a traveling trophy for the Church that collects the most cans. First Presbyterian Church will again be participating with area churches in the "Souper Bowl of Caring". What you can do: Beginning Feb 13 and continuing to March 1: • Bring your cans of soup to the church. • Take your cans of soup to the Pantry of Adair Co (PAC) and tell them you're from FPC • Donate money to the church, designated for Souper Bowl of Caring. Thanks, FPC Deacons

Pack the Pews! Good News!: Rev Joshua McKenna will begin serving our church on March 6. The Deacons want to encourage you to attend church, meet Josh, and show support for our on-going ministries by your presence, prayers, and gifts.



Notes from February's Session

We welcomed Krissy Giovannini and Greg Marshall and Kate Sandefur (who was already serving) to Session! We will miss Elaine and Matt as they were so hard working and kind and helped guide us all! We have big shoes to fill in their absence! We thanked Dale for all his hard work over these past few years, navigating our Church through a pandemic and a pastor search! He stepped up and kept us going through many hard talks and dark times with kindness and humor. We look forward to meeting and growing with our new pastor!

Some of us will be serving on various Church committees.

Clerk of Session - Scott Thatcher/Krissy Giovannini will shadow throughout the year

Christian Education Liaison - Kate Sandefur

Personnel - Scott Thatcher

Budget & Finance - Scott Thatcher

House & Grounds - Greg Marshall

Worship & Sacraments - Sami Shirk

Outreach - Jeanne North

Nominating - Jeanne North

Tech - Sami Shirk

Stewardship - Scott Thatcher/Susan Dublin (backup)

We thank our Church family for having grace and mercy during the past few years and please pray for Session as we begin another season in our Church with Lent and the renewal of Spring and Easter quickly approaching! In our darkest months and times of winter or the pandemic, we can begin to see signs of hope all around us! We discussed new exciting ways to bring all generations of our Church together in celebration, new families and old, kids and seniors... and hope to talk to the Deacons to get these ideas started when we can!---*Kate Sandefur*

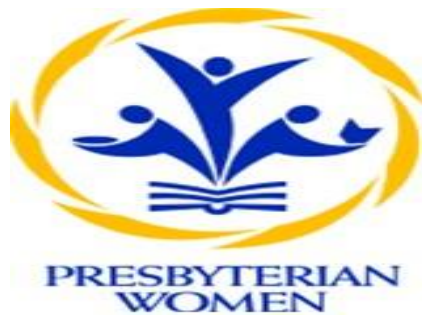


Enjoy some Fellowship, a Good Book and some Laughs at this month's Book Club!

You're invited to join the next Book Club discussion, on Sunday, March 20, after worship, in Fellowship Hall. We've been having a series of convivial yet serious conversations, and plan to have a couple more on Matthew B. Crawford's **The World Beyond Our Heads: On Becoming an Individual in an Age of Distraction**. We'll discuss the book up to Part II on March 20.

In his earlier bestseller, **Shop Class as Soulcraft: An Inquiry into the Value of Work**, Crawford, a philosopher as well as a motorcycle mechanic, called for fresh focus on "manual competence" (p.4). In the later book, Crawford builds from themes of Shop Class, incorporating a series of case studies. Noting a "crisis of attention" (p. ix), Crawford goes beyond discussing contemporary causes to identifying historical intellectual roots for the current state of affairs. He argues that attentive development of those physical skills that connect us thoroughly with the world about serves as crucial contributor to the cultivation of authentic selves during our age of distraction.

That's a mouthful, but I do hope that if you're interested in such themes and in the kinds of conversations that we've been having, you'll feel most welcome to join in on March 20 and beyond. —David Murphy—



Presbyterian Women: *(Note from Kate, I apologize for the February dates being so late, my goal was to have the Lantern done by the weekend AFTER the Session meeting and that caused this portion to be almost out of date! I am including March, so that doesn't happen again and you have the dates well in advance! Thankyou for your kindness and grace as I learn the ropes!)*

February

Presbyterian Women will meet at 2 pm on Tuesday, February 22. This lesson (Ruth and Loyal Love) is the first of two about Ruth. Ruth's story requires two lessons to do her justice. In this lesson, the first half of her story, we hear of loss and famine. Ruth, who is from a despised foreign group, and Naomi, her mother-in-law, show how ordinary people can bring about divine outcomes when they deal with each other with loyal love.

Peace and Justice Calendar for February:

- African American History Month
- National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

1--National Freedom Day

1-7--World Interfaith Harmony Week

12--International Day against the Use of Child Soldiers

13--Souper Bowl of Caring

14--One Billion Rising for Justice

14-20--National Random Acts of Kindness

March

Presbyterian women will meet at 2 pm on Tuesday, March 29. This lesson (Ruth and Redemption) is the second of two lessons on Ruth. Ruth and Naomi, who started out empty and bereft, are filled and redeemed through the honesty and care they show one another. The foreign daughter-in-law is praised for her faithfulness and, in the end, Ruth is shown to be the main reason King David's family line can continue.

Peace and Justice Calendar for March:

- Women's History Month
- Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women

2--Ash Wednesday

4--World Day of Prayer

6--PDA Blue T-shirt Sunday

6--Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

6-12--PW Together in Action for Women's Empowerment

8--International Women's Day

13--Self-Development of People Sunday

14-25--UN Commission on the Status of women

20--Mr. Rogers Day



February Birthdays

Jay Bulen—2/1
Heidi Michael—2/2
Sarah Berke—2/3
Christine Gran—2/12
Robert Sprehe—2/19

February Anniversaries

Robert & Diane Baer—2/10
Mike & Lisa Ahrens—2/15

March Birthdays

Rebecca Shirk—3/4
Elliott Jennings—3/10
Mary Giovannini—3/12
Christopher Marshall—3/13
Murilyn Koutstaal—3/16
Grace Achimbi—3/21
Barbara Stone—3/23
Ellie Dublin—3/25
Beth Shirk—3/30

March Anniversaries

Brent & Ginger Nolker—3/6
Paul & Michele Yoder—3/27
Eddie & Mary Hodges—3/31

Clothes Closet:

The Clothes Closet continues to be closed until COVID cases decline, or warmer weather will allow outdoor events once again. We are still accepting donations and have a few dedicated volunteers who are sorting and organizing so we will be ready come spring.

A big thank you to Elaine AuBuchon for inviting Brenda to speak to her class at Truman. It was a chance to encourage more young people to volunteer in our community and to explain what we are all about. The Take One/Leave One coat rack struggled to make it through the winter with a big increase in people stopping for coats or winter items and limited donations. Community Mission and Hamilton Street Baptist Church really stepped up to help us keep it stocked and we are so grateful for their donations and help.





Outreach News!

Brenda Martin has presented to our committee about a project that some of the other local churches have agreed to prepare Birthday Party packs to be sending to PAC, which is the Pantry for Adair County. Our church has been a long-time supporter of PAC, and we strongly believe that the children of our community should have opportunities to have their own birthday cake. We are asking our congregation to prepare the packs to give to PAC. **Each pack should have a 13x9 cake pan. Inside the pan, please put a cake mix, a can of frosting, and a package of birthday candles, a birthday card and sprinkles if you like. Put Saran Wrap or some other plastic wrap to enclose the package. Please put a bow on it and bring it to church.**

Sarah Berke and I are interested in approaching some of the other local churches in the area to ask if they would offer awareness to their congregation that we want to start a monthly support group for people dealing with mental illnesses. Both Sarah and I have been trained on leading such a group and we hope to build a group here in Kirksville.

Our church continues to work along with the Methodist Church to provide the Clothes Closet. We have some faithful volunteers and are always looking for more. If you would be interested in helping, please let Jeanne North (660-956-5251) know.

The update on what is going on with Take Root is still in development. Take Root's board is working hard on fund raising. There will be a Spring Community Meal, and the announcement will be revealed soon on when it will be. There is a large amount of funds that Take Root is expecting, but it is government related and there is no knowledge yet as to when it will arrive. If anyone is interested, Take Root continues to appreciate donations. We will keep everyone in the loop as more information is available. Please keep our Outreach Committee in your prayers. -Jeanne North



CHILDREN AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES!



Wednesday Operation Joy
Adventures!



Allie Yoder,
Miss Kansas City's
Outstanding Teen, reading a story
about confidence and perseverance!

**The Church Youth are busy getting
reading for the Spring Musical!**

Jocelyn Prendergast who is the director says, "We are so excited to put on **Fired Up!** By Tom S. Long and Allen Pote. It's the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego from the book of Daniel. Like many of our church musicals before the show contains great singing, plenty of humor, and will be entertaining. The case includes high school, middle school, and older elementary youth and will be performed at 7pm on April 2nd in the sanctuary. There is no cost for tickets but a freewill offering will be collected."



Practicing hard for the Musical!