# The Spire

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# UPCOMING SPIRE DEADLINES: March 24th @ 2:00pm

Dear Friends in Faith,

Ash Wednesday is the gateway to forty days of renewing our relationship with God. We do not need a special season to focus on our faith, every moment is an opportunity to grow closer to Jesus. But Lent is a time of intention, which comes from the season in the early Church when those who were going to be baptized on Easter, spent the forty days beforehand fasting, praying, studying, and preparing for that glorious day and foundational experience.

Now we also prepare ourselves for Easter, choosing to focus on repentance, which comes from the Latin re (again) and pent (face) - we are turning our faces away from sin, and toward God. Some of us will add on something special, like using the devotional each day, praying every morning, making a list of gratitudes every night, attending one of the Lenten studies, or putting one item in a box to be given to the Blessing Box. Other of us may give something up: swearing, criticizing people, negative self-talk, or eating fast-food. We will not earn God's love by observing Lent; we may well rediscover God's love as we focus on what and Who really matter.

The church is providing some growth opportunities: Sunday morning worship, a Sunday morning book study led by Lori Sutton, a Wednesday evening meal with a brief time of worship from 5 - 6 pm; and devotional booklets. Other opportunities will be announced. We will have a Seder meal on Maundy Thursday, followed by a Tenebrae service at 7 pm. Please prayerfully discern how God is inviting you to observe a holy Lent.

"Lent" by Steve Garnaas-Holmes Lent is when we go downstairs, down into the basement of our souls, into the dark, dingy, dirty places, and clear out the junk we need to get rid of. In Lent we don't need to beat ourselves up. We need to lighten our load, bag up those fears and desires that are leaking all over everything, take our guilt and shame out to the curb. It's not easy to lay our hands on broken things, to look deep into the gummed up works. That's why Jesus shines with his light, shines so we can see our way down into the dark, see to lift up the junk and hand it over, so he can haul it out into the light of the dumpster. The light Jesus shines is good with dark places, so we know even from the deepest hole down there we'll come out. The light will lead us. We'll be OK. Mucking around down there we get dirty, and we come up with grime on our hands and ashes on our foreheads for everybody to see. But we're free of all that blame and disappointment.

And the darkest, deepest cellar hole becomes an empty tomb.

Grace and peace, Pastor Caroline

# Fiom

# February 2023

### **March Birthdays:**

- 1 Larry Socks
- 1 Marty Swink
- 2 Megan North
- 2 Sarah Stains

4 Alice Karpinnen

- 7 Delaney Stains 10 Kevin Brown

30 Donna Lipko

- 14 Jason Stains

# 17 Kelly Wolford

17 Bernice Solomon



#### **BUILDING FUND**

The Building Fund balance is currently \$13,238.75.

Thank you for your continued support.





Monthly Church Financial Snapshot January 2023

anciai onaponot	<b>Budgeted</b>	Received/Actual	Difference
Weekly Contributions	\$7,916.57	\$9,200.00	\$1,303.37
<b>Outside Support</b> (special collections and Memorials & Facilities Income)		\$2,414.33	Total Income: \$10,725.33 Net Ordinary Income: (\$3,416.28)
Expenses	\$16,920.49	\$14,141.61	

Total funds available in checking and Money Market account totals \$422,090.32 This amount includes gift from Jean Brinser Will that will be designated in the near future.

Now available the January 2023 Statement of Activity

Contact Gloria Socks, Treasurer

#### Session in a nutshell

#### **Highlights from the February Session Meeting:**

- The Fellowship Hall is being painted.
- Community Care Task Force is hosting a pizza and game night with collection to benefit Cross Inc.
- Pastor Caroline will lead a time of meditation with a light meal on Wed evenings 5-6pm through March.



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## February 2023



#### Join us for Mini Meals & Meditation Wednesdays @ 5:00pm beginning March 1st in Fellowship Hall

Palm Sunday - April 2nd @ 10:15am

Maundy Thursday - April 6th Seder Meal @ 5:15pm, Worship Service @ 7:00pm More details to come on the Seder Meal & Worship!

Easter Sunday - April 9th @ 10:15am

**Joy for Jesus Sunday** - April 16th @ 10:15am *More information & explanation to come* 

#### A Journey Through Lent: Reflections on Christ's Sacrifice for Us.

Lent is a time in which we anticipate the victory of the light and life of Christ over the darkness of sin and death. It corresponds to Jesus' time in the wilderness. This 7-week sermon series is from select Psalms which help us in times of self-examination, difficulty, and dryness and invite us to make our hearts ready for remembering anew Jesus' death and resurrection.

We made it half way through this study for Lent 2022. We will finish it in this season of Lent, starting on February 26th after our worship service, roughly 11:40am in the parlor. Contact Lori Sutton by email, <u>bergers@md.net</u>, or by phone 240-291-3418 (daytime) or 301-739-4253 (after 6pm) for more information or if you need a book.







During the Season of Lent we are collecting donations for One Great Hour of Sharing.

Offering envelopes are in the pews.

This offering will be dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 9th.



- zip lock bags (snack and sandwich)
- tall kitchen trash bags
- Dawn
- Clorox wipes
- peanut butter/cheese sand-
- pretzels
- trail mix
- instant oatmeal packets (plain or flavored)

# **NEW Journey Group Forming:**

Do you knit, crochet, cross-stitch, embroider, weave, quilt, or do any other fabric art?

Then mark your calendar for Friday Fiber Art Friends on Friday, April 14 for an evening of doing crafts, working with fiber, and spending time with friends new and old.





#### Knowing Christ, Growing in Christ, & Showing Christ to the World!



Office Hours: Monday - Thursday from 10:15am - 1:15pm

Public worship is posted to The Presbyterian Church of Waynesboro's YouTube Channel every Sunday.

#### CHURCH OFFICE:

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#### **BETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**WAYNESBORO, PA**