

Down by the Riverside February 2018

What Is Lent?

As we moved from the Advent and Christmas season, it is amazing how soon we approach the Lenten season already! What is Lent? Why is it so critical for us in this day and time? How is its meaning relevant today?

To help answer those questions, we read this wonderful excerpt from the Book of Common Worship:

What we hear during Lent is the power and possibility of the paschal mystery, and that the way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death. To appropriate the new life that is beyond the power of death means we must die with Christ who was raised for us. To live for Christ, we must die with him. New life requires a daily surrendering of the old life, letting go of the present order, so that we may embrace the new humanity. "I die every day!" asserts Paul (1 Corinthians 15:31). Resurrection necessitates death as a preceding act. The church's peculiar Lenten claim is that in dying we live, that all who are baptized into Christ are baptized into his death. To be raised with Christ means one must also die with Christ. In order to embrace the resurrection, we must experience the passion of Jesus. The way of the cross, the way to Easter, is through death of the "old self." In dying, we live.

Therefore, at the beginning of Lent, we are reminded that our possessions, our rulers, our empires, our projects, our families and even our lives do not last forever. "You are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). The liturgies throughout Lent try to pry loose our fingers, one by one, from presumed securities and plunge us into unknown baptismal waters, waters that turn out to be not only our death tomb but surprisingly our womb of life. Rather than falling back into nothingness, we fall back on everlasting arms. Death? How can we fear what we have already undergone in baptism?

It is the power of the resurrection on the horizon ahead that draws us into repentance toward the cross and tomb. Through the intervention of God's gracious resurrection, lifelong changes in our values and behavior become possible. By turning from the end of the "old self" in us, Lenten repentance makes it possible for us to affirm joyfully, "Death is no more!" and to aim toward the landscape of the new age. Faithfully adhering to the Lenten journey of "prayer, fasting and almsgiving" leads to the destination of Easter.

During the final week, Holy Week, we hear the fullness of Christ's passion, his death, and resurrection. From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem and on to the Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday), all of Holy Week focuses on the passion. As his followers, we travel Christ's path of servanthood through the Lord's Supper and the suffering of the cross toward the glory of Easter, all of which underscores the inseparable link between the death and resurrection of Jesus.

May this upcoming season of Lent find you exploring both mortality and resurrection; life and death; the power of resurrection above the power of sin and estrangement. May it be for you an opportunity to journey afresh and anew the human condition and divine mercy and love in Christ. Explore. Journey. Pray. Fast. Give of Self. Reflect on the Lord who, in Christ, has claimed you and called you into this community of the resurrection and life.

In Christ,

Rev. Michael Hafele

MINUTE FOR MISSION



“This is Church”

Have you ever taught a child to fold their fingers inside their hands and say the rhyme, “here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors and see all the people?” The wiggling fingers teach children, and adults, too, that the church is not the building — the steeples, windows, or structure, but people gathering to worship God.

There’s something else in the children’s rhyme. As the child breaks open their hands to reveal the people,” they move their fingers back and forth, often as fast as they can. This simple move reminds us that the church is the energy and actions that share the love of Christ.

- + When a disaster strikes, people give, volunteer, and pray so that those impacted receive help and hope, *this is church.*
- + When poverty and violence cause hunger and people join together to respond to the need and address its root causes, *this is church.*
- + When injustice falls on those who are vulnerable and people join hands with one another and lift their voices against the interests of power, *this is church.*

The church is the Holy Spirit’s transforming power emanating into the world sharing the compassion, justice, love, and peace of Christ. Presbyterians join the movement of the Spirit into every corner of the Earth — and in this season, through our church-wide One Great Hour of Sharing.

- + *We share* — and church happens with women who were once trafficked for domestic labor and now own their own cooperative business.
- + *We share* — and church happens with people through land rights training and improvements to farming methods.
- + *We share* — and church happens with those whose homes have been washed away by flood, as the arms of comfort wrap around them, and hands pick up shovels to assist.

The church is happening right now, all around us — because we share Christ’s love.



Let us pray:

*God of Compassion,
move your church into the world
with imagination and love.
May the gifts we give and
the kindness we offer
be shared with the most
vulnerable of your children.
Amen.*

February Birthdays

Barbara	Holden	2/1
Kathie	Spaeth	2/1
Jeanne	Lee	2/2
Cody	Neiman	2/2
Sonja	Buckley	2/3
Jak	Burton	2/3
Harvey	Ringerwole	2/6
Mick	Ray	2/7
Ellen	Tibbits	2/7
Fred	King	2/10
Katie	Tibbits	2/10
Nita	Olton	2/13
Marling	Abel	2/14
JD	Bower	2/15
Sandra	Maszy	2/17
Evelyn	Whitehurst	2/20
David	Martin	2/24
Lucy	McCoy	2/26
Mary	King	2/27
Chuck	Talbot	2/27
Pam	Weiger	2/27
Sherrell	Fischer	2/28
Norma	Skiba	2/29

February Worship Calendar

February 4

COMMUNION SUNDAY

8:45 AM Contemporary Service

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Traditional Worship

February 11

8:45 AM Contemporary Service

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Traditional Worship

February 18

8:45 AM Contemporary Service

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Traditional Worship

February 25

Soup Sunday

8:45 AM Contemporary Service

10:00 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM Traditional Worship

*Passing the peace each
Sunday is
wonderful, and in
Fellowship Hall, after
either service, YOU can
pass the peace again
and again and again!
Join us!*





February News from the Riverside Presbyterian Women
The Presbyterian Women give our thanks to the congregation for their generous support of the Blanket Offering on Jan. 28th.

Upcoming events will include a “Soup Sunday” to be held on February 25th in Fellowship Hall. Hot soup will be available after both services. Donations will be accepted to further the mission outreach activities of Riverside’s Stitchin’ Sisters. Great soup cooks will be coming from our PW circles.

The Presbyterian Women will join in to celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday on March 4th. They will assist and participate in both worship services.

We ask the ladies of Riverside as well as winter residents and visitors to please save the date of Saturday, March 24th, for a Communion Service and White Breakfast. The communion service will begin at 8:45 AM in the sanctuary to be followed by a breakfast in Fellowship Hall. Come and join us in this communion service and fellowship.

Gail Marshall, Publicity



February in the Kid's Corner One Room School House

In February, the students of the One Room School House may start each 10:00 Sunday morning class with Children’ choir, or may come directly to the Pfeiffer Room after Fellowship Hall time. We look forward to stories of Jesus ministry, to include Jesus power and compassion in the healing of a blind man, and exploring “Who is the Greatest” (being last instead of first). We continue with the all-time favorite of children everywhere... Jesus Loves all the Children, and where we fit into God’s family. Finally, we will review the Great Commandment and how we are all called to obey. These lessons continue to provide glimpses of God’s Compassion, Healing, Power, and Peace. Miss Vicki Geiler and her group of volunteers welcome children pre-kindergarten through third grade (and sometimes beyond), for lessons enhanced with activities. Come and join us in the Pfeiffer Room next to Fellowship Hall.

And we can always use an extra set of adult volunteer hands!

Happy Valentine’s Day !!!

For God

so loved the world,
that he gave his
only
begotten
Son,
that whosoever
believeth
in him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.



John 3:16



SOUP SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 25, 2018

Hot soup will be available after both services. Donations will be accepted to further the mission outreach activities of Riverside's Stitchin' Sisters.

Great soup cooks will be coming from our PW circles.

The Dr. Vernon Boushell Concert Series

Presents...



10TH ANNIVERSARY VARIETY SHOW

Sunday, February 11th
at
3:30 & 7:00 PM

For a free ticket, call 321-525-7825 or
visit riversidepres.org





Family Promise®

EMERALD
CITY



Family Promise of Brevard

Friday, March 2nd, 2018 - 6:00 PM

Church at Viera - 9005 N Wickham Rd

Come on out to the Church at Viera for a fun race with a great cause! Your contribution/participation to Family Promise provides homeless families (nearly 60% are children) with safe shelter, nutritious meals and the comprehensive support necessary to obtain housing and a more a promising future.

Register by copying the following link to your browser:

<https://secure.runningzone.com/Race/FL/Melbourne/TheresNoPlaceLikeHome5KRunWalk>

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Michael Hafele
Pastor

Elizabeth Britton
Office Manager

Judy Bartine
Acting Music Director

Diana Amtower
Organist

Chuck Torgler
Sexton

Cecilia Quist
Nursery

Jeff Janowich
Audio

Karen Ward
Sound Tech

Doug Kasimier
Treasurer

Senior Fitness Classes On Tuesday AND Thursday Mornings @ 9:30 AM

Senior Fitness has moved days! This hour-long class meets in Fellowship Hall and is taught by certified senior fitness instructor/personal trainer Polly Helm.

This class is designed to increase stamina, strength, energy, and balance.

Please bring your own hand weights and water. Bands and chairs will be provided.

Cost is \$5.00
donation per class.

Psalm 66 Praise Band

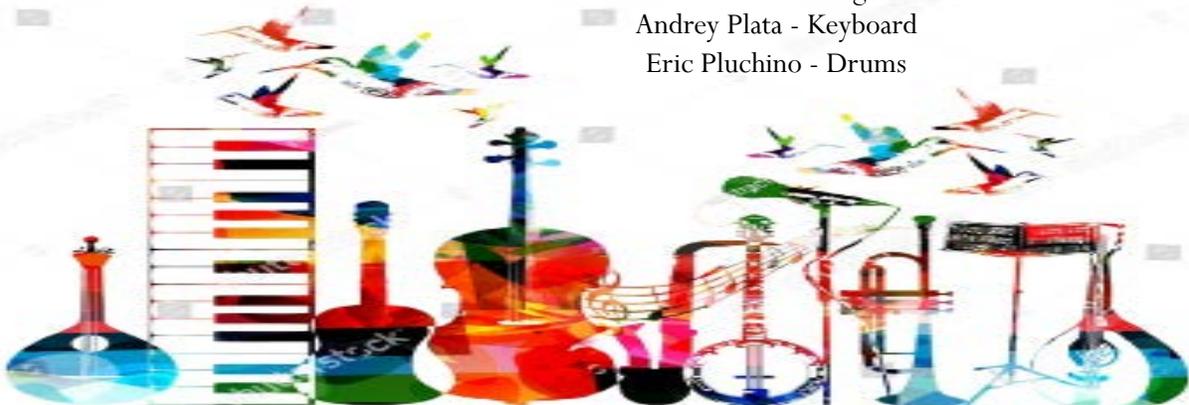
Mike Reed - Worship Leader - Acoustic guitar

Scott LaChance - Music Leader - Lead guitar

Travis Smith - Bass guitar

Andrey Plata - Keyboard

Eric Pluchino - Drums



February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 COMMUNION SUNDAY 8:45a Worship 10a Sunday School 11:15a Worship 2p Concert Rehearsal	5 7:00p NA Meeting	6 9:30a Senior Fit 9:30a Worship 6:00p Bells 7:00p Education	7 7:30a Men's Bible 9:30a 'Stitchin' Sisters 9:30a Care & Support 10a Prayer Circle 7p Women's Bible	1 9:30a Senior Fit 7:00p Choir	2	3
11 8:45a Worship 10a Sunday School 11:15a Worship 3:30p Concert 5:30p Dinner 7:00p Concert	12 7:00p NA Meeting	13 9:30a Senior Fit 6:00p Bell Choir 7:00p Deacons	14 7:30a Men's Bible 10a Prayer Circle 7p Women's Bible ASH WEDNESDAY	8 9:30a Senior Fit 7:00p Choir	9	10 9a Lab School 2p Concert Rehearsal
18 8:45a Worship 10a Sunday School 11:15a Worship	19 President's Day Office closed 7:00p NA Meeting	20 9:30a Senior Fit 1:00p Hannah 6:30 Bell Choir 7:00p Session	21 7:30a Men's Bible 9:30a 'Stitchin' Sisters 9:30a Care & Support 10a Prayer Circle 7p Deborah	15 9:30a Rebekah 9:30a Senior Fit 7:00p Choir	16	17 2p Concert Rehearsal
25 8:45a Worship 10a Sunday School 11:15a Worship 2p Concert Rehearsal Soup Sunday	26 7:00p NA Meeting	27 9:30a Senior Fit 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00p OMEC	28 7:30a Men's Bible 10a Prayer Circle 7p Women's Bible	22 9:30a Senior Fit 7:00p Choir	23	24