

**The First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville
The *Good News*-Letter**

March 2025



Lent
March 5 – April 17

From The Pastor

Dear Friends,

One of the things that isn't always on our minds at this time of year is pinpointing when the season after Epiphany ends and the series of seasons from the Transfiguration to Trinity Sunday begins. We have an easy time with Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day, and we even know how to find President's Day. But the Sunday of the Transfiguration and Ash Wednesday? The three month series moves around every year based on the Jewish Passover, which coincides with Easter, but since Easter is in the middle of the series, the beginning sometimes surprises us.

Not that we can't get cues from the world of retail sales. Easter candy is at the counter in gas stations, and in discount department stores all kinds of Easter merchandise have been moved to prominent places at the front of the stores. They know people will want to buy Easter supplies at approximately this time of year, although they might not know why or precisely when.

By the time Pentecost comes and we hear and understand that proclaiming the Good News is up to us, the Lent and Easter time is coming to an end. It would be good to consider what is the good news of Lent and how to share it now, while Lent is beginning. .

The Sunday of the Transfiguration, this year on March 2, tells the story of the time when Jesus takes a few disciples and goes to a mountain to pray. While they are there, Jesus's glory is revealed. The experience strengthens the disciples and us for the coming parts of Jesus's story that are painful to hear. It also reminds the disciples of the mountaintop experiences of the prophets, which will help them be ready when they need to tell God's truth.

Ash Wednesday is a time to remember how high God's standards are and to commit ourselves to live holier lives. The ashes are made from burned palm branches from previous years, a symbol of our recognition that lofty resolutions are easier to make than they are to keep.

During the season of Lent, some of us either give up something we enjoy or take up a new practice of doing something that helps others. It's important to remember that the point of these practices isn't to earn a superior place in a line of people trying to get into Heaven, but to clear away some of the clutter of habits that can keep us from following God closely.

This year during Lent we're distributing the Good News in word and in deed. We're hosting Ash Wednesday service on March 5 with Bethlehem and Hamptonburgh to begin the season of our reflection on Jesus's sacrifice, and each Sunday throughout Lent there will be a moment of reflection on one of the Seven Last Words of Christ. Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter will find us worshiping together with our sister congregations, remembering the events leading up to the Crucifixion and the miracle of the Resurrection. Throughout the season we'll be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing and during March we are packing bags for Food for Kids. Please invite people and come and share together in the stories and actions of God's saving power.

Let's share God's love, with each other, the neighborhood and the world. See you in church!

In Christ's love,
Martha

Prayer for March

Dear God, during this season, help us to be open to the way You are always eager to have a closer relationship with Your children. Help us to appreciate the lovingkindness You have shared with us, and inspire us to share Your goodness with our neighbors. We pray in Jesus's name. Amen.

Worship Ministry

Here we are in March again. We have been dealing with all sorts of weather conditions and doing the best we can.

March 2 is the Transfiguration of the Lord, and we will be celebrating the Lord's Supper.

The Lenten Season begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. Bethlehem PC and Hamptonburgh PC are invited to join us for our worship service at 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 7, is World Day of Prayer. Growing in faith as part of a faith community is integral to life with Presbyterian Women and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A). World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical movement of Christian women who pray and act for peace and justice. On the first Friday of March every year, Presbyterian Women join their prayers and voices with women in more than 170 countries and regions.

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 9. Please remember to "Spring Forward" an hour before you go to bed Saturday night. Don't be late for church.

Easter Lily Order Forms will be available soon, and orders will be due by March 24.

Holy Week begins on April 13, Palm Sunday, so Easter is later this year than last year.

Blessings,

The Worship Committee

Lent



March 2025

First Presbyterian Church

						1 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
2 9:30 Worship, Lord's Supper 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	3 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	4 7:00 Troop 416	5 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Service 8:00 PM A.A.	6 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	7	8 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
9 9:30 Worship First Sunday in Lent 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	10 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	11 7:00 Troop 416	12 8:00 PM A.A.	13 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	14	15 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
16 9:30 Worship Second Sunday in Lent 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	17 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	18	19 8:00 PM A.A.	20 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	21	22 Josef's Cleaning Service 7:00 PM Dr. Bob's Group
23 9:30 Worship Third Sunday in Lent 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	24 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group	25 7:00 Troop 416	26 8:00 PM A.A.	27 9:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 N.A.	28	29
30 9:30 Worship Fourth Sunday in Lent 11:30 LCWM 8:00 PM A.A.	31 7:30 PM Dr. Bob's Group					

First Presbyterian Church
of Washingtonville

Session Moderator
Rev. Martha Carlson

Clerk of Session
Deborah Chedister

The Session
Nancy Bruscano 2025
Mark Chedister 2025
Bobbie Trager 2026*
Debra Van Regenmortel 2026

Board of Deacons
Jorus Beasley 2025
Mo Moss 2026
Hanora Sullivan 2026
Peggy Wright 2026*

*indicates second term

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Presbytery of Hudson River
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March Birthdays



3 Gert Roosje
28 Tom Beasley

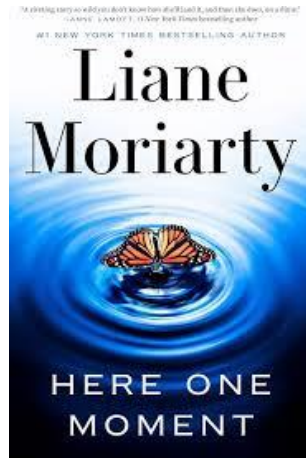


March 5

World Day of
Prayer
March 7

THE SAVVY SOULS SISTERS OF SYNTAX

“Here One Moment” by Liane Moriarty



“The premise is irresistible— a woman on a flight from Hobart to Sydney begins predicting the age and manner of death of her fellow passengers. Beautifully written, this propulsive novel has a serious theme. Could be a great . . . present for that special someone.” Stephen King

“A riveting story so wild you don’t know how she’ll land it, and then she does, on a dime.” Anne Lamott

AN NPR BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR

Life is full of twists and turns you never see coming. But what if you did?

Flight attendant Allegra Patel loves her job, but today is her twenty-eighth birthday and she’d rather not be placating a plane full of passengers unhappy about a long delay. There’s the well-dressed man in seat 4C desperate not to miss his daughter’s musical. A harried mother frantically tries to keep her toddler and baby quiet. Honeymooners still in their wedding finery dream of their new lives, while a chatty emergency room nurse dreams of retirement.

Suddenly a woman traveling alone stands. She walks down the aisle making predictions about how and when passengers will die. Some dismiss her, they don’t believe in psychics. Some are delighted with her prophecies! Their lives will supposedly be long. Others are appalled.

Then: a few months later, the first prediction comes true.

Intricately plotted, with the wonderful wit Liane Moriarty has become famous for, Here One Moment brilliantly looks at friends, lovers, and family and how we manage to hold onto them in our harried modern lives.

“Being Still Before God”

Read: Psalm 46:10

I love the idea of stillness. Of quiet. Of resting in the refuge of God’s care (Psalm 46:1). And an often-quoted passage from Psalm 46 teaches us that quieting our hearts, our minds, and our souls is integral to knowing God: “Be still, and know that I am God” (v. 10).

But being still isn’t easy, is it? Being quiet and especially trying to still our hearts before God can sometimes seem almost impossible. Why is that?

One of the most basic laws of physics tells us that “objects in motion tend to stay in motion.” So shifting from constant motion, activity, and obligation isn’t easy because it involves letting the momentum of our activity come to rest. We might think of it like a boat’s wake: even as a boat tries to stop, the momentum of its wake—the waves it caused that are now catching up to the still boat—still roll beneath, pushing it along.

If you recognize the value of stillness but struggle to get there, that’s one reason why. Our activities and overall pace are like that “object in motion.” So give yourself plenty of space and grace as you sit before God and rest in Him. It may take some time for the waves of your spiritual “wake” to wash past you, to settle into being quiet before Him.

Insight

Psalm 46 considers two primary sources of human fear: natural disasters (vv. 2-3) and the chaos of war (v. 6). In contrast to the seas that “roar and foam” (natural disasters) is the “river whose streams make glad the city of God” (vv. 3-4). This city is Jerusalem. Theologian Kevin R. Warstler tells us the river is likely a metaphor for “God’s presence and blessings that fill Jerusalem and flow to other nations” (*CSB Study Bible*). And though the nations may be “in uproar” (the second source of fear), God “lifts his voice, the earth melts” (v. 6). He also “makes wars cease” (v. 9). In each case, God’s presence means safety. “The God of Jacob is our fortress” (vv. 7, 11).

Reflect & Pray

What keeps you from being quiet before God? How will you make time to intentionally be still?

Father, we live in a noisy world, full of activity. Please help me to learn to be quiet before You, to wait out the waves of my soul and trust that You’re present.

Calendar of Prayer for our Congregations and Leadership

The endorsed calendar of prayer is a way for us to be united. It's an awesome responsibility and gift to pray for one another. To make our offering on behalf of one another. Each member congregation, staff member, elected servant leader, ministry team, and mission commitment of our Presbytery is represented:

Eastchester PC, Forgiveness Sunday, Rev. Casey Carbone, Director for Congregational Connection-Presbytery, Ash Wednesday (3/05), World Day of Prayer (3/07), International Women's Day (3/08), First Church Florida, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Validated Ministries, PC(USA) Young Adult Volunteers, First Church Goshen, Gifts of Women/Self-Development of People, Central PC Haverstraw, First Church Katonah, First Church Liberty.



Call Cynthia at 845-496-3814 or send an email to firstpres@frontiernet.net
to share your news with our church family.



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