



# Central Press

MARCH 2020

Central Presbyterian Church ■ 3501 Campbell ■ Kansas City, MO 64109

## Calendar

### **March Wednesdays**

Pantry & Clothes Closet

**March 7, 14, 21**

Bell Choir rehearsal

**March 10**

B & G Committee

**March 10, 24**

Staff meeting

**March 18**

Session

### **Worship Leaders**

Lynda Raner 1

Susie Hanna 8

Allison Dodds 15

Jim Corwin 22

Carol Marley 29

### **March Ushers/**

#### **Greeters**

Ray Hill

Sara Hirsch

Chuck Curry

Mark Murphy

Oliver Hall

### **3.1.20 Commu-**

#### **ion Servers**

Lynda Raner

Don Haring

### **March Birthdays**

John Ditch 8

Thomas Thurman 9

Charlotte Thurman 17

Carol Marley 29

Doug Tilton 30

## Lent, Mutual Care and Prayer

February 26 was Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. We shared our observance that morning with food pantry patrons just before grocery distribution began.

Lent is traditionally a time of repentance and introspection. The colorful banners in the sanctuary are traded out for deep purple banners to mark the change in liturgical season. Though the church's color for Lent is the same as that for Advent, the mood of Lent — leading up to Holy Week — is different from the sense of hopeful anticipation that precedes Christmas. So for the six weeks of Lent, Sunday worship will include a time of silence during the service to provide a quiet space for us all, in the constant noise of every day life, to listen to our lives in that moment; to listen for the faithful beat of our own hearts; to listen for voice of God.

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts. All that we do and pray is in the name of Jesus, for in his cross you proclaim your love forever and ever.

*(Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers—for Lent)*

**March Anniversary**

Barb &amp; Chuck Curry 15

**Holy Happy Hour —***We'll meet at a time  
and place in March  
TBD.***Heartland Men's  
Chorus***Performs Saturday,  
March 28, 2020, 8:00  
p.m. and Sunday,  
March 29, 4:00 p.m. at  
The Folly Theater, 300  
West 12th Street, Kan-  
sas City MO. The con-  
cert, "Smitten with Brit-  
ain" will delight with  
songs from some of  
Britain's most beloved  
musicians—from folk to  
pop! Tickets available  
on line: [hmckc.org](http://hmckc.org) or  
phone: 816-931-3338.*

## Dear Friends . . .

On Ash Wednesday I read a CNN article about an American, Celeste Sweeney, who returned a stoneware beer mug she had stolen from a brewery in Germany 55 years ago. Traveling Europe with her sister after her freshman year of college, she got caught up in the fun of the beer hall and took the stein as a souvenir of their wonderful evening in Munich. Recently, while sorting through collected items in an effort to downsize, she found the mug and felt conscience-bound to return it to the brewery, along with a note apologizing for her "young, reckless and inconsiderate" behavior, and for not returning it sooner. Acknowledging their surprise and gratitude, the brewery sent her a stein in the style of glassware they use currently and a note saying they wanted her to have a souvenir that "she can keep with a clear conscience." Sweeney had never told anyone about the stein. Upon hearing the tale, her grandchildren were shocked at her. She said she told them the story hoping they would understand that "it's never too late to make amends."

This 40-day period that culminates in Holy Week and concludes with the Resurrection of the Lord, Easter Sunday, is traditionally a time of reflection, re-evaluation and renewal in our lives, in our relationship to the world, and to others—a time of checking in with our conscience. The call to repent is one of the hallmarks of the Season of Lent. Repentance is about being sorry. It is about trying to make amends for wrongs, even if it seems too late. And it is also about changing the direction of our lives, turning around. To repent is to turn away from sin; away from thoughts, words and deeds that diminish us and those around us. And having turned away from sin, to turn toward a way of being in the world that is more respectful, responsible and humane. More than any other church season, Lent calls us to be mindful of the love and justice of God and to bear witness to the grace of Jesus in every interaction, every intention, every day. May God bless our walk through this holy season of Lent.

*Heidi*

## Pantry News by Julie Smith

In January and February we saw 181 households with 233 adults and 48 children with 22 new persons entering the pantry for the first time. We know the importance of having some healthier food choices and it can be difficult for those living on a limited income. According to the statistics from an agency survey through Harvesters: 62% of people served have hypertension and 37% have diabetes. Those persons who come to our pantry are of all demographics and we see a lot of people who either go to school and/or work and cannot make ends meet. Thanks to the generosity of the members of the church and Harvesters, our food bank, we are able to help meet these needs. We are also able to give patrons clothing and a blanket and coat, which is an added benefit of our services. We continue to be in need of new or gently used blankets and are especially in need of men's clothing of all sizes. And as you have read often in this column, there is a place for you to volunteer a few hours a month in this ministry.

## Lenten Devotions

Many people valued the daily devotions during the Season of Advent. Those who offered their reflections generously shared their lives and faith with us all. Because it was appreciated by both writers and readers, we imagine creating a similar devotional for Lent. It is too late for 2020, but it is a perfect time to start on your contribution to our 2021 devotion series.

For the next 6 weeks we will be moving through Lent together. This journey to Jerusalem with Jesus, the penitent mood of the season, the lessons of feasting and fasting, all provide a spiritual context for your Lenten creativity. Write a reflection now, during Lent, and give it to Cindy to keep for next year's devotional. Ask Cindy or Heidi if you would like help getting started.

### **Easter Flowers & Plants**

*As in years past we will have a sign up list for those wishing to contribute Easter Flowers, and dedicate the plants to a person, a memory or cause. These dedications appear in the Easter worship bulletin as an insert. This year a \$15.00 donation buys 2 plants (2 dedications). However, instead of taking them home with you, we will plant the perennials in the beds that border the Campbell St. sidewalk on the west side of the parking lot garden. Missouri native flowers have been chosen: poppy mallows, echinecea, husker red penstemons, goldenrod, big blue stem grass, sedge, butterfly weed & milkweed. These will attract butterflies & bees (pollinators) to the health of our garden & landscape, & provide blooms for sanctuary bouquets. Planting native species conserves water, enriches the soil & is in keeping with our Earth Care pledge. You may help with the first planting, Saturday, April 4. Questions? See Anna Lisa.*

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## Central Church

*More Light*

*Good Energy*

*Radical Love*

## One Great Hour of Sharing

In the church season of Lent we collect a special mission offering: **One Great Hour of Sharing**. The funds are divided between:

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance** (32%) which works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters;

**Presbyterian Hunger Program** (36%) which takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed;

**Self-Development of People** (32%), which invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the life-diminishing impact of these societal ills.

We will dedicate the offering in worship on Palm Sunday, April 5.

### **Central Presbyterian Church Staff**

**Heidi Peterson**, *Pastor*

**Cindy Sheppard**,

*Director of Music*

**Sarah Jacobs**, *Organist*

**Jan Powell**, *Secretary*

**Julie Smith**

*Director Community Ministries*