



# *The Fisherman*

February/March 2023

Volume 17 Issue 1

# Lent



Ash Wednesday - February 22  
Maundy Thursday - April 6  
Good Friday - April 7  
Easter Sunday - April 9



1st Day of Spring  
March 20

*The Florence Parish is a partnership in Christian Ministry of:  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA & First Presbyterian Church, PC(USA)  
P.O. Box 47 \* Florence, WI 54121 \* [florpar@borderlandnet.net](mailto:florpar@borderlandnet.net) \* (715) 528-4851  
First Website: [www.firstpresbyterianflorencewi.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianflorencewi.org)  
Bethlehem Website: [www.bethlehemplutheranflorence.org](http://www.bethlehemplutheranflorence.org)  
The Rev. Cathleen A. Morris, Pastor*

## From the Pastor



*"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" [Jesus] said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Matthew 22:36-40, NRSV)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As we move into the season of Lent (Ash Wednesday is February 22nd), I have been thinking about the many ways in which we demonstrate our love for God and neighbor. My recent sermons have spoken about justice, kindness, humility, and community. One recent sermon spoke about our being salt and light in the world.

I have also been thinking about what lies ahead for us this year, especially as we seek to bring more children and families to our parish churches. The process begins with prayer, discernment, and asking God for guidance.

One image of children, family, and communities, that keeps coming into my mind, is the TV show, "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood." The host, Mr. Rogers, is a humble, slow-speaking, unpretentious man who welcomes children into a special neighborhood and world. The real-life Mr. Rogers--Fred McFeely Rogers (March 20, 1928-February 27, 2003)--was an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church. I had known this for many years and often wondered if his teaching children through the show was his real-life ministry; a unique form of outreach ministry. The show made no mention of God; it was not known to be a Christian show, but there were elements in it that made me think of God, Jesus' teachings, being part of a community (neighborhood), accepting others, and living peaceably with one's neighbors.

"Mr. Roger's Neighborhood" ran for 31 years, and had almost 900 episodes (Wikipedia). At the opening of each show, Mr. Roger's sings the theme song to the TV audience. It includes these words: "I have always wanted to have a neighbor just like you, I've always wanted to live in a neighborhood with you." His song is a welcome invitation! This is true, no matter what the listener's real-life neighborhood is like--large, small, affluent, poor, rural, urban, suburban, diverse, non-diverse, segregated, unsegregated, hectic, peaceful, etc... There is an element of choice on the listener's part, as they hear his offer. It is a sincere invitation, not a demand. It communicates an acceptance of each person and an element of love. It is as if Mr. Rogers is sending each listener a personal greeting card and saying, "Would you be my valentine?" The song communicates that all are welcome, all are invited, and all who choose to accept his invitation will unconditionally be a member of his neighborhood.

Another song written and sung by Mr. Roger's states: "You are my friend, you are special, you are my friend, you are special to me. You are the only one like you. Like you, my friend, I like you." The song states very simply, Mr. Rogers' unconditional acceptance of them and their uniqueness. Is this not like Jesus' words and teachings about His unconditional love?

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## PARISH OFFICE

The Parish office is in the new wing of the First Presbyterian Church at 409 Lake Avenue. The office phone number is (715) 528-4851 and our email address is [florpar@borderlandnet.net](mailto:florpar@borderlandnet.net).

Barb Marden, our administrative assistant, *will need to alter her hours* (hopefully temporarily) to provide some additional care for her dad. She will be in the office on *Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday morning from 8:30 am to 11:30 am*. She will work from home on those afternoons from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. She can be reached in the afternoon by email or on her cell phone at 847-970-0841.

## CONTACTING PASTOR CATHY

Pastor Cathy is normally in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you need her at other times, please text her or knock on the door at the pastor's residence.

The best way to contact her is by texting her cell phone at 608-865-1074 or emailing her at [cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu](mailto:cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu).

## Wednesday, February 22

5:30 pm - Soup Supper at Bethlehem  
6:30 pm - Ash Wednesday Service at Bethlehem

## Wednesday, March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29

See schedule on page 5

## Tuesday March 7, 10:30 am

Session meets with financial advisor

## Thursday, March 16, 6:00 pm

Church Council Meeting

## March 17, 10:00 am

Pastor Cathy leads worship at Florence Health Services

## Tuesday, March 21, 3:00 pm

Session Meeting

## Thursday, April 6

6:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Service at Bethlehem

## Friday, April 7

6:30 pm - Good Friday Service at First

## Sunday, April 9

8:00 am - Easter Day Service at First  
9:15 am - Easter Day Service at Bethlehem

## Wednesday, April 12, (6:00/6:30 pm TBD)

Parish Board Meeting

## Thursday, April 13, 6:00 pm

Church Council Meeting at Bethlehem

## Friday, April 21, 10:00 am

Pastor Cathy leads worship at Florence Health Services

## Wednesday, April 26, 3:00 pm

Session Meeting at First

## CHURCH ACTS IN DECEMBER & JANUARY

### **FUNERALS**

*"I am the resurrection and the Life"*  
None

### **BAPTISMS**

*"Go therefore and make disciples.."*  
None

### **WEDDINGS**

*"The Two Shall Become One Flesh"*  
None

## NEWSLETTER FORMAT AND TIMING CHANGES

In 2023, we will be experimenting with issuing the newsletter on a bi-monthly basis. Therefore, the next issue after this will be April/May, then June/July and so on. In order to make this work, there will be a few format changes to note:

- We will need to be thinking ahead about calendar events so we can include them in the newsletter. However, we will have the latest calendar on the website and will keep it updated more frequently.
- Rather than including Bethlehem Council, First Session, and Parish Board meeting notes in the newsletter, we will post them on the respective bulletin boards. Please feel free to look them over. If you would like physical or email copy sent to you, please let the office know. We may explore a place to store them online in the future.

We hope these changes will allow us to include some new and different content in our bi-monthly issues. It will also allow us to save some postage costs. Related to postage costs, if you are able to receive the newsletter via email and are currently receiving it by mail, or if you have ideas of topics you would like to read about, please let Pastor Cathy or the office know.

## FROM THE PASTOR *(Continued from page 2)*

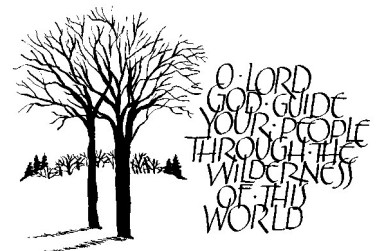
In the movie, "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood," a story about Fred Rogers, I recall a scene replicating a segment from the TV show. Mr. Rogers is unable to get something to work. The producer suggests that they cut that section, but Mr. Rogers tells him to keep it in. He says that it is important for children to know that adults cannot always do things; that adults make mistakes. This truth points to real life, not the perfection of most television shows. We are imperfect people. We all make mistakes. We are to love God and neighbor. This means, we are to welcome others to our churches/parish in ways that reflect God's forgiveness, grace and love.

Mr. Rogers' addresses some very difficult issues on the show--death, divorce, racism, and other topics present in the larger world. He helps children understand their feelings about these difficult subjects and does not shy away from them, or deny their presence. He teaches us too, that adults should not hide the real world from children, but rather, help them to deal with things that challenge them. Jesus teaches us how to do this, through God's word and His modeling for us how to live lives of faith. God the Father gave the world his son, Jesus, who lived in communities of all different kinds. We, have an opportunity through our outreach ministries, to extend God's unconditional love to children, families, and other people in the Florence community and beyond. We have the opportunity to be salt and light in the world.

As we begin the season of Lent, may God guide us and lead us throughout our 40-day journey with Jesus. May we learn through Jesus' life and work, so that we too will grow in our Christian faith, and our love for God and neighbor.

Peace,

**Pastor Cathy**





**February 22, 2023 at Bethlehem**  
**5:30 pm - Soup Supper**  
**6:30 pm - Service of Communion & Ashes**

This year Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Ash Wednesday Service will take place at Bethlehem.

On the following five Wednesdays of Lent we will continue to worship at 6:30 pm with a service of singing Holden Evening Prayer. We will alternate locations between churches, starting with First on March 1.

The season of Lent may not be the longest season of the Church year, but it is an important one. It's a time of spiritual preparation when we think about repentance and the growth of our faith. It begins with Ash Wednesday; a special day of repentance and remembrance of our mortality and ends with the Passion of our Lord on Good Friday. The word "Lent" comes from an old German word "lenchthen". It has to do with the lengthening of the days as Spring approaches.

**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER**

Holden Evening Prayer was originally written during the winter of 1986 while the composer, Marty Haugen, was at Holden Village in the North Cascade mountains of Washington state . It is used by many Lutheran congregations during the Lenten season. The melodies are simple and easy to learn. As we will be repeating it multiple times over the coming weeks, please be patient, as you will get it. The music reflects our ecumenical parish. It is frequently sung in Lutheran churches, but John Calvin, the founder of Presbyterianism, encouraged the singing of Psalms (Psalmody). In similar fashion, our midweek services will emphasize sung scripture and sung prayer.

**WORSHIP SERVICES FOR LENT/HOLY WEEK**

Wednesday, Feb. 22	5:30 pm	Soup Supper at Bethlehem		Sunday, April 2	8:00 am	Palm/Passion Sunday - First
	6:30 pm	Ash Wednesday Service at Bethlehem		Sunday, April 2	9:15 am	Palm/Passion Sunday - Bethlehem
Wednesday, March 1	6:30 pm	Holden Evening Prayer First		Thursday, April 6	6:30 pm	Maundy Thursday Bethlehem
Wednesday, March 8	6:30 pm	Holden Evening Prayer Bethlehem		Friday, April 7	6:30 pm	Good Friday First
Wednesday, March 15	6:30 pm	Holden Evening Prayer First		Sunday, April 9	8:00 am	Easter at First
Wednesday, March 22	6:30 pm	Holden Evening Prayer Bethlehem		Sunday, April 9	9:15 am	Easter at Bethlehem
Wednesday, March 29	5:30 pm	Soup Supper at First				
	6:30 pm	Holden Evening Prayer				





### ***ELCA Produces "Talks at the Desk" Video Series for Black History Month***

Black History Month begins a new season of the "Talks at the Desk" video series. This four-part series amplifies and celebrates Black voices across the ELCA.

When: 7:30 p.m. CST, Wednesdays in February

Where: [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNDmVwhz-M37ygNPH0Cj2upWlM8zypdo1)

[list=PLNDmVwhz-M37ygNPH0Cj2upWlM8zypdo1](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLNDmVwhz-M37ygNPH0Cj2upWlM8zypdo1)

The "Talks at the Desk" series continues to center the experiences of Black Lutherans. Episodes this season will explore community-driven environmental justice work in Milwaukee, the storytelling of elders from the Conference of International Black Lutherans, and historic learnings from the U.S. Virgin Islands. For more info and accompanying discussion guides, visit [ELCA.org/ADM](http://ELCA.org/ADM).

### ***African Americans have been enriching the Presbyterian Church for more than two centuries.***

Lonnie Oliver - February 19, 2015 - LOUISVILLE  
(reproduced from the PC(USA) website)

*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. —1 Corinthians 12:7*

February is African American History Month. Should Presbyterians spend time reading and learning about the roles that African Americans have played in the foundation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)? In other words, Does African American Presbyterian history matter? The African American Congregational Support office in Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries offers a resounding yes—of course African American Presbyterian history matters! Like the ministry of John Gloucester, for example. In 1807, Gloucester arrived in Philadelphia and began preaching. Rising from slavery and oppression, he formed the first African American Presbyterian congregation in 1811 and led African American Presbyterians to see the light of Christ within each of them. He was the first ordained African American minister in the Presbyterian Church.

African American women have played a major role in shaping education throughout the years. Lucy Craft Laney, who organized a school in the basement of Christ Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Ga., was a recipient of the General Assembly Women of Faith Award. Mary McLeod Bethune received her early training at a Presbyterian mission school and went on to establish what became Bethune-Cookman College, a private, historically black college in Daytona

*Continued on page 7*

## ***African Americas in the Presbyterian Church*** (Continued from page 6)

Beach, Fla. In 1923, McLeod became one of only a few women in the world to serve as a college president.

At the end of the Civil War, education was one of the primary needs of the emerging people, and African American women and men assisted in laying a firm foundation for knowledge. For the first time, many attended institutions and received degrees before going on to work in schools that were established by the Board of Freedmen, and later the Board of National Missions, of the Presbyterian Church.

African Americans have served as pastors, Christian educators, musicians, mid council executives and moderators of the General Assembly and in various leadership roles with Presbyterian Women and other ministries of the church. African American women and men continue to utilize their gifts and talents to serve God and the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Our faith as Presbyterians calls us to walk alongside those who are oppressed and to create opportunities and change environments so that all who have gifts for ministry can fully live out their call.

This month is a time that the church and the nation have set aside to honor African Americans, who have contributed so much to society and the church. We celebrate the history and contributions of African Americans in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) this African American History Month and throughout the year. And we continue to be inspired by those who have ensured that equal opportunities were offered to all people, regardless of the color of their skin.

## **WRAP UKRAINE WITH QUILTS PROVIDES 22,500+ QUILTS**

Early in the Ukraine-Russian war, a quilt store in Utah called Hello Cottons created a humanitarian effort called "Wrap Ukraine with Quilts." *Some of our talented quilters from Bethlehem and others have contributed some of their beautiful quilts to this effort.* At the end of 2022, the project had collected more than 22,500 quilts. How much is that?

- 28 tons of quilts
- The quilts would cover 13 acres of land
- \$7.5 million in donated fabric and batting
- \$8 million in donated time making quilts
- Donations from all 50 US states and six countries

The organization led a humanitarian trip to Poland, purchased 30 sewing machines and created three sewing centers for refugees to learn to sew and forget about the war. Participants distributed hundreds of quilts and experienced the history and culture of Poland. For more information, visit <https://hellocottons.com>.



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

First Presbyterian will participate in One Great Hour of Sharing again this year. For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Envelopes for One Great Hour of Sharing will be available and can be placed in the offering plate.



## ELCA WORLD HUNGER LENTEN GIVING

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me. – Matthew 25:35*



Bethlehem joins with other ELCA congregations in collecting offerings for world hunger during Lent. These offerings are presented at the Synod Assembly in May.

God richly provides for daily bread — the earth can produce enough food for everyone. Yet, many of our sisters and brothers still go hungry.

By providing immediate relief to those who are hungry, we meet basic needs and recognize the universal human right to food. But ending hunger is about more than food. By connecting people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income, long-term, sustainable change can be accomplished.

We start with relationships marked by conversation and listening. We believe people know their own communities best. It is our congregations and our global companion churches that first identify the local needs and related solutions to help make a difference. Then, we partner with communities to help make those solutions a reality. In addition to funding relief and development projects that assist our sisters and brothers in need, we engage members of the ELCA in education and advocacy to help change the systems that perpetuate poverty.

Materials related to world hunger will be available at Bethlehem during the Lenten season.





## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Anniversaries  
to  
Celebrate



### At First

2/1 - Doris Rasmussen  
 2/8 - Lance Davis  
 2/20 - Pat Christian  
 2/22 - Bernard Klescewski  
 2/25 - Evelyn Anderson  
 3/1 - Amy Johnson  
 3/20 - Marion Wilson  
 3/27 - Jim Churchill  
 3/29 - Kamdan Johnson  
 3/30 - Debbie DeMuri  
 4/5 - Kit DeMuri  
 4/10 - Ruth Blohm  
 4/18 - Spencer Davis  
 4/24 - Michael Smith

### At Bethlehem

2/2 - Nicholas Friberg  
 2/28 - JoAnne Friberg  
 3/8 - Jaysen Walther  
 3/25 - Kaitlyn Springer  
 3/27 - Cicely Moore  
 3/28 - Ollie Torgerson  
 3/30 - Anita Neuburg  
 4/4 - Thomas Wittkopf  
 4/9 - Jordyn Springer  
 4/9 - Jenna Springer  
 4/18 - Avril Rittenhouse  
 4/18 - Ben Lehto  
 4/24 - Jan Schaal  
 4/30 - Kathy DeGrave

### Anniversaries

3/11 - Bernard & Chris Klescewski  
 3/14 - Clyde & Dianne Olive  
 4/12 - Ken & Linda Johnson  
 4/21 - Dave & Patty Knispel

### Anniversaries

2/14 - Daymond & Carol Saak  
 2/10 - Jaysen & Connie Walther  
 3/1 - Mike & Diane Theis  
 4/26 - Wayne & Mary Voelker

## MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH COUNCIL, SESSION, & DEACONS

### BETHLEHEM COUNCIL

Deb Fleming  
 Bill Fleming  
 Robert Friberg  
 Diane Theis  
 Mary Voelker  
 Connie Walther

### FIRST'S SESSION

Frank DeCleene  
 Debbie DeMuri  
 Jim Gehlhoff  
 Jan Roberts  
 Karen Wertanen  
 Janell White

### FIRST'S DEACONS

Joan Churchill  
 Wendy Gehlhoff  
 Kelley Johnson  
 Lois Ann Johnson  
 Lisa Novak  
 Janell White

**The Florence Parish**

**PO. Box 47**

**Florence, WI 54121**

*A Partnership in Christian Ministry of:*

*First Presbyterian Church & Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

**The Rev. Cathleen A. Morris, Pastor**

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**Address Service Requested**



*Prayer at the Start of Lent*

Heavenly Father,  
May we seek you and find you,  
may we knock and the door be opened,  
for we are sojourners looking for your Kingdom.

As we encounter suffering in this world,  
turn our hearts, our ears, our eyes, our souls  
toward Christ, who emptied himself,  
and was tempted,  
and suffered for us,  
even giving his own life.

In this suffering, plant seeds of hope,  
and let us never stray so far into despair,  
that we forget the resurrection of Christ  
and the power of his Spirit.

Amen

By Thom Turner from <http://everydayliturgy.com>