

# GOOD NEWS

# LETTER

*Forest Presbyterian Church  
Living God's Heart, Hands, & Voice*

*Newsletter for Forest Presbyterian Church, Forest, Virginia*

*March 2024*

## Session Notes

Session has appointed a **Transition Team** tasked with recommending a candidate for Interim Pastor for our church. Team members include **Denise Kennedy, John "Biz" Klingenfus, and Deborah Ashworth.** Presbytery will provide guidance and training for this team through the Committee on Ministry's liaison, Anghaarad Teague Dees.

During this period of transition, members and friends of the congregation may contact the following Session members for assistance:

**For Pastoral Care:** Sarah Heideman 434-238-7794

**For Worship/Music:** Cynthia Wilkerson 434-941-3528

**For Building/Property:** Biz Klingenfus 434-942-5485

As always, **the Deacon** assigned to your family is available to assist with any needs or concerns you may have.

**Please continue to keep our Church Family in your prayers!**



**Sunday, March 10**  
**Don't forget to**  
**SPRING forward!**  
(move clocks forward one hour)



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## Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Souper Bowl of Caring. We donated **1437** items to Bedford Christian Ministries!



That is absolutely amazing and shows what we can accomplish as a church family to help fight hunger in our area.

**THANK YOU!!!**



## March **FYRE** Calendar:

Calling ALL Youth! If you have not been involved in the FYRE Youth Group, NOW, is the time! We are entering into our busy time of the year and we welcome you!

- 3 - Youth Sunday rehearsal (3:00-5:00)
- 10 - (if needed) Youth Sunday rehearsal (3:00-5:00)
- 17 - YOUTH SUNDAY! Be at church by 9:30 am! We will all go out to eat lunch after the service.

### Prepare for Youth Sunday

**Put, Paste, Jot, Mark,  
Sunday, March 17 on your Calendars!**

### Youth Sunday - March 17

You will not want to miss this year's Youth Sunday! The youth have been busy planning another popular Energizer, fun, and thought provoking Youth Sunday. Please plan to join us and support the youth of our church!



## ATTENTION ALL YOUTH & PARENTS:

**FYRE Youth Summer Conferences and Mission Trip information on page 6 of this newsletter. Information is open to ALL Youth (church & non church youth). See page 6.**

# SPRING YARD SALE!

Saturday, April 27

## Got Stuff?



**It is getting warmer-are you thinking, spring cleaning? As you clean out, drawers, closets, garages, etc., please set aside your non-clothing items for the Youth Yard Sale!**

**We will start accepting items**

**on**

**Wednesday, April 24.**

**More information will be in the April newsletter.**



The Ding-A-Lings Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 6pm to 7pm. We are always looking for new ringers. Come on by and give it a try. If you would like more information, contact Laurie Brownson ([vacubsfan1@gmail.com](mailto:vacubsfan1@gmail.com)) or 434-221-8038).

**March rehearsal Dates:**

**6, 13, 20 27**



# Christian Education

## A Word From CE

Join us for Church School - Sunday, 9:30 AM

**Church School** - The K-5 children are still enjoying their time rotating each Sunday between children's music ministry, writing cards for our senior member.

The *One Great Hour of Sharing* coin boxes have been given out to our children. Please fill and return them back to church on Easter Sunday.

**Children's Chapel** - Children's Chapel welcomes all children ages 4 years through 5th grade. Join us downstairs after the Children's Message in the church service where we enjoy interesting Bible stories and fun activities.

**Needed** - We could still use an adult to assist with our high school class one Sunday a month. Please contact Denise Kennedy if you are available.

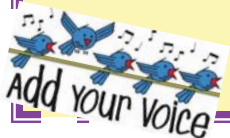
### Adult Church School

All adults are encouraged to join us each Sunday morning at 9:30 am, as The Church School class continues to study **Feasting on the Word** curriculum. This quarter we will look at the Ten Commandments in a different light, how we can move forward instead of backward, how we can sit in silence and listen to God's voice. And how can we see strangers through God's eyes. Come join us!

## Choir Notes

### Let's Sing This Spring!

The frogs are croaking the crickets are humming and the birds are singing! Is it time for YOU to start making a joyful noise, too? The FPC choir is just the place for you! We meet on Wednesday evenings in the sanctuary from 7 until 8 pm, and have a lot of fun making music together. Please join us as we prepare for Easter, the most joyful season of all!



## March Birthdays

- 1 Ginny Lenz
- 2 Bill Andrews
- 3 John Farrell
- 4 Norma Stein
- 6 Homer Justis
- 8 Catherine Justis
- 8 Deborah Ratliffe
- 14 Ginny Fiddler
- 18 Patrick McCray
- 22 Joan Austin
- 24 Fran King
- 26 Morgan Whitfield III
- 31 Henry Cole

happy birthday!



## March events

- ☉ **Handbells** - Every Wednesday, 6pm
- ☉ **Adult Choir** - Every Wednesday, 7pm
- ☉ **Lenten Service/Lunch** - Every Wednesday 12-1pm at Bethany MC in Forest-during Lent
- ☉ **FYRE Youth** - Sundays, 3-5pm
- ☉ **Communion** - Sunday, March 3
- ☉ **Daylight Saving Time Begins** - Sunday, March 10, 2am
- ☉ **Newsletter Deadline** - Tuesday, March 12
- ☉ **FPC Lunch Club** - Thursday, March 14 11:30am
- ☉ **Youth Sunday** - Sunday, March 17
- ☉ **Easter Egg Hunt** - Saturday, March 23, 10:30am -(rain date March 24)
- ☉ **Maundy Thursday** - Thursday, March 28, 6pm
- ☉ **Easter** - Sunday, March, 31 - Two-Cents-A-Meal

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

# MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion 3-5p FYRE	4	5	6 12-1 Lenten service/lunch-at Bethany MC 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir	7	8	9 
10 Daylight Saving time begins 3-5p FYRE	11	12 Newsletter Deadline 	13 12-1 Lenten service/lunch-at Bethany MC FPC Speaking 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir	14 11:30a FPC Lunch Club	15	16
17 Youth Sunday  	18 	19	20 12-1 Lenten service/lunch-at Bethany MC 6p Service 7p Adult Choir 	21 	22	23 10:30a Community Easter Egg Hunt 
24 Palm Sunday (rain date for egg hunt)	25	26	27 12-1 Lenten service/lunch-at Bethany MC 6p Handbells 7p Adult Choir	28 6p Maundy Thursday Service/Communion	29	30
31 Easter Sunday -OGHS 2-Cents-A- Meal	<b>ABBREVIATIONS</b> a - am p - pm MT - Ministry Team			<b>SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE</b> 9:30 am - Church School 10:30 am - Worship Service		



# A Word From... Worship

## Wednesday Lenten Service/Lunch

The churches in Forest are once again sponsoring an ecumenical Lenten worship service followed by a light lunch. These services will be held at Bethany Methodist Church (1720 Bethany Church Circle,

Forest, Virginia - behind VA Memorial Park) on each Wednesday of Lent February 14 through March 27. The half-hour services will begin at noon with lunch ending at 1 pm.

The sponsoring Forest churches each take turns leading the worship service and hosting the luncheon.

John Bates will be leading the worship service and FPC will be hosting the luncheon on Wednesday, March 13. Ginny Fiddler is the lunch coordinator. Please let her know if you are able to help with supplying a dessert for the luncheon.

### MAUNDY THURSDAY/COMMUNION:

Please plan to join us for our Maundy Thursday service on **Thursday, March 28, 6:00 pm.**

During the service we will present a short re-enactment of Jesus washing the feet of his disciples during the Lord's Supper. You do not want to miss this solemn event!



## Walking Group!

We are finally reaching Harrisburg, PA and our next goal is Providence Rhode Island, a distance of just over 300 miles. From there we will have 751 miles to our next state capital, Columbia, South Carolina before we go west and north again to reach Pierre, South Dakota. We are making steady progress and invite church members and friends who regularly walk or exercise (exercise of any kind can be converted to steps) to join us by contacting Ginny Lenz.



**Community Egg Hunt**  
**Saturday, March 23**  
**10:30 am (rain date 3-24)**



We need volunteers to welcome families who attend, and to hide eggs before the hunt begins.



We need candy! **Please Note:**

Individually wrapped candy donations are welcomed, and if you can take some plastic eggs home from the Commons, fill them with candy, and bring them back to the church by Sunday, March 17 (that would be much appreciated).



**Please Note:** The only candy we can use **MUST** be individually wrapped varieties.



Have questions or want to volunteer? Contact Shari Bennett

([sharibenn@aol.com](mailto:sharibenn@aol.com)) or Jeni Willoughby ([jenipher1921@gmail.com](mailto:jenipher1921@gmail.com)).

## Easter Egg Hunt

**Bring Your Easter Basket!**

**Everyone is invited to our**



**Mark Your Calendars Now!**



## FYRE Youth Summer of 2024

Below are the Youth conferences and mission trip information for this Summer. These are open to **ALL** youth, not just FYRE participants. Youth conferences are transforming experiences both for the youth and the adults who attend with them.

Contact Laurie Brownson at 434-221-8038 or [vacubsfan5@gmail.com](mailto:vacubsfan5@gmail.com) if you have any questions or need more information. Also, for those families with more than one youth attending any of the conferences, see Laurie for additional scholarships that are available.

### **Massanetta Middle School Conference – July 11-14**

This conference is open to all **rising 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders**. The full cost for the conference (including lodging and meals) is \$484 (\$524 if registered after April 15). Youth who are children of members or are participating members of FYRE receive a scholarship of \$242 towards the total cost.

I have placed a group hold for the week of July 11-14. **You need to register on-line by going to the following website and using Group Code FORESTPC2024:** <https://cwngui.campwise.com/Apps/OnlineReg/Pages/Login.html>

**A deposit of \$100 is also required by April 1<sup>st</sup>.** Please make checks out to “Forest Presbyterian Church” and note “Massanetta 2024” in the memo field.

### **Montreat Youth Conference – June 2-8**

This conference is open to all **rising 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders and 2024 high school graduates**. The cost for the conference is \$314 (\$364 if registered after April 15), lodging is \$480, and meal plan is \$227. (Please note: Lodging is fixed per room and can be reduced if we have enough participants to share rooms.) This is a total cost of \$1,021. Youth who are children of members or are participating members of FYRE receive a scholarship of \$271 plus half the lodging costs (ex. \$240 for a single room, \$120 for a double room).

**A deposit of \$100 is required by March 17<sup>th</sup>.** Please make checks out to “Forest Presbyterian Church” and note “Montreat 2024” in the memo field.

### **Mission Trip to Gatlinburg, TN – June 23-29**

We are ready for another mission trip to Gatlinburg, TN. This is open to all rising 6<sup>th</sup> on up! Yes, this means adults too although Youth will receive preference. We will be staying in the Retreat Center at Gatlinburg Presbyterian Church which is in downtown Gatlinburg. We have access to the church kitchen where we usually have a quick breakfast before leaving for the day’s mission work. Lunch and dinner are either at local restaurants or ordered in pizza (unless some cooks want to come this year).

A slight change for this year’s trip is that a deposit of \$50 is required to register for the trip. Please complete the registration form below and attach a check to “Forest Presbyterian Church” and note “Mission Trip 2024” in the memo field. **Please have your registration and deposit submitted to the church office by April 1<sup>st</sup>.** After this date, deposits will only be accepted as space is available.

**Additional lodging and food costs will be covered by the Youth Mission fund.**

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### **Mission Trip 2024 Registration**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

# MISSIONS



## One Great Hour of Sharing -

During the season of Lent FPC will join with Christians across the nation in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. These funds are used to support programs around the globe. Our gifts enable the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need throughout the world, by providing food to the hungry, and to help empower the poor and oppressed.

Lent is traditionally a season of fasting and prayer. During this time, Christians pay close attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. Jesus preached good news to the poor and release to the captives. One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share this same good news to those same vulnerable people in our world today.

FPC has been a big participant of OGHS for many years. The One Great Hour of sharing coin boxes have been given out to the children in Church School (2-25), and the **envelopes will be given to the adults on Easter Sunday** (3-31- the day the offering will be collected). Please give generously to this worthy cause, it is remarkable what your gift can do!

## Bedford Christian Ministries -

We are collecting food items for the food pantry of BCM. Please continue to bring in canned foods (any canned meats, spaghetti and meatballs, spaghetti O's, chicken, tuna), paper products (paper towels, napkins, toilet paper), kid snacks (treats of all kinds), mac-n-cheese, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, and oatmeal.



**Desserts and Volunteers** are still need for Shepherds Table on the third Friday of every month.

At the **warming shelter in Bedford** volunteers are needed to oversee a night shift on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday nights. If you are able to volunteer to help any time at the shelter, please contact Denise Kennedy.

# Easter Donation

Spring and Easter both are just around the corner! Donations will be used to purchase a *limited number* of lilies for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday with *remainder of the funds* going to support missionary **Paul Sydnor**. Please be sure to fill out the form below **"in memory of or in honor of"** loved ones . A list will be in the bulletin with names of those being honored or remembered on Easter Sunday. All donation forms must be filled in and returned to FPC by Sunday, March 24. Questions - contact the church office (525-5500).

Please fill in this form and return to FPC by Sunday, March 24.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

In MEMORY of **OR** in HONOR of (Please **CIRCLE** one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





# DEACONS

March is known as the start of new beginnings. It is full of important events. The return of Daylight Savings Time is March 10th. We welcome Spring and the equinox on March 20th. Spring is such a sweet time of year because of it's new beginnings which brings to mind the new life God has given us in Christ. Holy Week starts on the 24th of March and ends on March 30th.

Hope is a prevalent feeling all through the month. The Holy Spirit of God gives us the power to hope and that is a demonstration of God's love for us. Hope given by him works together to give us confidence, joy, peace, power, and love.

The Deacons wish you a month filled with marvelous new beginnings and an abundance of fulfilled hope. We invite all of the congregation at FPC to join in praying for Pastor Morgan, his family, and his new ministry.

Please contact your Deacon with any concerns, problems, or special events in your lives. We are here to celebrate and help you in any way that we can. God bless all of you.



## PRAYER FOR MARCH

Dear Lord, we thank you for bringing us to the start of a new month. We pray that when this month is over, we will be closer to you than we are at this moment. Please bless our family and friends and keep them safely in your care. We ask for your healing hand to be upon those who are ill and we ask for your hand of provision to meet each need. We thank you in advance for all you will do. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.