

First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia

February Newsletter 2023

*"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works,
which God prepared in advance for us to do." Ephesians 2:10*



Dear FPC family and friends,

Epiphany greetings to you in our Savior's wonderful name! I hope this message finds you warm and well during this cold winter. I praise God for a great start of ministry this year with a Potluck Epiphany dinner on January 6th. As a church we are reflecting on the theme: "Making God Known" during our weekly Sunday services. The Spirit of God is directing us as a congregation to step outside our comfort zones and tell others of what God has done in our lives. I believe that with God's help, each of us will start sharing our stories of God's goodness, to family, friends, and neighbors. Our children are being nurtured through the Sunday school ministry. Our deacons are reaching out to our congregants who need prayer. The elders and deacons of our church are envisioning how we want to be a church in the future. And we continue to engage in missions locally and globally. We are truly a blessed family of faith, able to do what we are doing now.

However, God challenges us to do more. He is not challenging us to do more because he is not satisfied with what we are doing. Instead, he challenges us to do more because we are capable of doing more for God's glory. Apostle Paul reminded of this truth to the believers of the church in Ephesus. He wrote: *"we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works..."* (Ephesians 2:10). In other words, doing good works should not be difficult because that is what God has created us for. Besides God has already put unique gifts and abilities in us to do good works. When we use the unique God-given talents to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us, we fulfill God's will for our lives. What a revelation of God's will for our lives! During this Epiphany season, let us ask God to shed His light upon our gifts and talents. Let us also take time to see the needs in our community, nation and around the world. And let us prayerfully discern how we can use of our God-given unique gifts to do good works, and live into God's purpose for our lives.

On February 22nd, we will begin the season of Lent. I encourage you to think of what kind of fast you would like to observe in order to draw closer to God. Fasting can be done in various ways. You could cut down on your food if you want to. Or, you can cut down on your TV time, usage of your cellphone, social media, use of alcohol, or any habit that is unhealthy and harmful to your wellbeing. When we care for the wholeness of our body, mind and spirit, we honor God because we are the temple of God.

Stay tuned for more information on special events and service planned for February and the season of Lent.

In Christ's love,
Rev. Vinod I. Gnanaraj.

COME ONE, COME ALL!!

To the "GAME DAY" intergenerational activity sponsored by the CEC(Christian Education Committee) on Saturday, February 11th from 3-5pm! There will plenty of board and card games to play with everyone! Bring a game you really enjoy to share! There will be snacks and drinks to enjoy as well as fellowship with others of all ages!



Have you been collecting cans of soup for Sunday, February 12th – "Soup"er Bowl!! Please bring your soup and/or money to donate to church on that Sunday! Thank you to everyone! Let's make a difference in the lives of our neighbors! All donations will go to the Mumford Food Pantry!

*Please plan on attending the FPC Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 12th. There will be a luncheon of a variety of soups & breads in the Fellowship Hall after the meeting! YUM!



The Advent & Epiphany bulletin boards were made by Nancy Wiley!

Thank you!



We started off Epiphany with a wonderful Pot-Luck Dinner on Friday, January 6th! We had lots of food! We learned a little bit about Epiphany and sang a few songs together! We ate "King's Cake" and crowned a new "king" (actually a queen) for this year - Rebekah Ebersole! She found the baby Jesus in her piece of the King's cake! It was a lot of fun to get together and enjoy each other's company!

THANK YOU to everyone who came and brought along a delicious dish to enjoy!!



Thank you to ALL of you who donated money and made cards for our
RRRS Mission!

FPC was able to deliver 74 \$25 Wal-Mart Gift Cards to the refugees!

Look at these happy faces!!



Here are some pictures of our Sunday School students & teachers in action!



Session Synopsis

January 10, 2023

Rev. Vinod Gnanaraj, Moderator

- Opening in prayer we began our night of conversation.
- Per the book of order each year Session must elect the Treasurers of church and M & E – Brenda Beardsley and David Ebersole, the Clerk – Lisa Morrill, HR Admin – Janet Flynn, Presbytery Commissioner(s) – Robin Macintyre and Kathy Kemnitz.
- Yearly Session must approve the banks we use – 5 Star and Tompkins
- The Financial books will be ready for the annual audit in February.

- Linda Hill is preparing the Annual Report for the Annual Meeting scheduled for February 12. All team and committee reports are due to the church office by Jan 23.
- Average Sunday attendance is 55 people including those on zoom.
- Epiphany communion dates are 1-8, 2-5, 2-19. The team will once again celebrate “Souper Bowl” Sunday on Feb 12. Session will host a Soup luncheon after the annual meeting that day.
- Nominating committee will begin working on filling the open positions for the next three years.
- The annual Sexual Harassment Prevention training is almost complete.
- Gift cards were delivered to RRRS and received with appreciation.
- We will be upgrading our plan to allow more options for our online presence. Watch for videos on our webpage soon.
- Prayer concerns: Ivan and Dianna Carson, Jeanne and Don Manley, Marie Manley, Bekah Ebersole, Joan Buddle, Jeff Beardsley, Linda Hill, Pettis family, those recovering from illness, snow birds.
- Next Session meeting Feb 14th @ 6:30pm.



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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 st Linda Hicks | 12 th Liz Shaffer |
| 5 th Ryan Ward | 21 st Bev Blazjewski |
| 7 th Elaine Dearcop | 24 th Jean Earl |
| 8 th Sawyer Hallet | 27 th Olivia Otto |
| 9 th Rhett Clark | |

Helpers for February

	<u>Liturgist</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Communion Servers</u>
Feb. 5 th	Adrienne Ward	Barb Kleinow & Bev Blazjewski	Choir	Barb Kleinow, Shannon Martin, Martha & John Russ
Feb. 12 th	Martha Russ	Sally Bickford & Martha Weiland	Session – Soups & Breads Luncheon	
Feb. 19 th	Bekah Ebersole	Shannon Martin & Doris Butler	Epiphany Team	Lisa & Rhett Clark, Bev Blazjewski & Kathy Kemnitz

NEWS FROM THE LENT SEASONAL TEAM

The Season of Lent

Can you believe it? The days are getting longer, talk of spring planting has begun. We anticipate the appearance of Punxsutawney Phil.

Most especially Lent begins with the distribution of Ashes on February 22. (This service is not at our church this year. More details will come to you as they are made available.)

When we come forward to receive these ashes, we are affirming that we are sorry for our sins and that we want to use the season of Lent to correct our faults, purify our hearts, control our desires and grow in holiness so we will be prepared to celebrate Easter with great joy.”

Lent focuses the heart on repentance and prayer and culminates in the celebration of Easter.

This 40-day period represents Christ’s time of temptation in the wilderness, where Satan tempted him. Lent offers us believers a time for similar reflection, marking an intentional season of focus on Christ’s life, ministry, sacrifice, and resurrection. In other words, the passion with which Christ lived and worked.

We invite all our brothers and sisters to join us as we “Reawaken Our Passion” during this time of reflection, and faith building.

We will delight in special music, and passion filled reflections and celebrate communion together each week. We are planning a weekly bible study series Mondays at 6:00 pm, based on the book “The Desert of Compassion” by Rachel M. Srubas. We encourage all to deepen your connection, and Reawaken your Passion with us as we journey from here to the cross.

At FPC it all begins Feb 26, the first Sunday of Lent and Feb 27 the first Monday bible study.

Stay tuned for more information as the season progresses to Holy week where FPC will host Good Friday service.

The Lent Team

Robin Macintyre, Marilyn Henry, Barb Kleinow, Linda Hill and Lisa Morrill

February 2023

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 1 p.m. Bible Study 7 p.m. Mid-Week Prayer - Zoom	2 6pm Quilt Guild	3 5:30 p.m. AA	4
5 10:30 a.m. Worship– In Person & Zoom Communion	6 6:30pm Finance Committee Mtg.	7 11am CEC Mtg.	8 1 p.m. Bible Study	9	10 5:30 p.m. AA	11 3-5pm. GAME DAY In Fellowship Hall
12 “SOUP”er Bowl 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship– In Person & Zoom 11:30 Congregational Mtg. 12pm Soups & Breads Lunch	13	14 6:30 p.m. Session	15 1 p.m. Bible Study 4:30 p.m. Girl Scouts 7 p.m. Mid-Week Prayer - Zoom	16	17 5:30 p.m. AA	18
19 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship – In Person & Zoom	20	21 2 p.m. Deacons	22 1 p.m. Bible Study Ash Wednesday Service (more info to come) (time & place TBD)	23	24 5:30 p.m. AA	25
26 1st Sunday of Lent 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship – In Person & Zoom	27 6pm Lenten Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Personnel Committee Mtg.	28				

Prayer Needs:

Nancy Baker
Beth Bascom
Steve Bishop, Jr.
Jeff Brooks
Joan & Wilson Buddle
Shirley Burdick
Children of the Good Shepherd Mission
Elaine Dearcop
Roger Dillon
Carol Downey
Jeanne Earl
Neil Fountain
Rev. Vinod Gnanaraj and Family
Vicky SinClair Golden
Bobby Hanna
Betsy Hanner
Karen Harris
John Haskins
Rich Henry
Linda Hicks
Judy Hume
Don Johnson
Evie Johnson
Don Manley
Jeanne Manley
Marie Manley
Marilla & Anthony (Linda Hill's
granddaughter)
Rev. Caleb Matthews
Jason Mattice
Bonnie McRae
Ethan Olenick
Sheila Olenick
Andrew Olenick

Mike Perkins
Portia Rafoth
Eloise Shonk
Steve Spencer
Sally Stoddart
Alex Waburile
Trixie Wadhams
Heidi Fisher Webster
Colt Weiland
Ida Wilson
Liz Witmer

Our service personnel:

Afghanistan: Jim Spencer, Iraq: William Burns, Jacob Kernodle, Chris Nichols, Todd Smith, **Albany, NY:** Wesley Ebersole; **Rhode Island:** Dan McClure; **Deployed:** Robert D. Sheffer; **Maport, FL:** Jeremy Perkins; **Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii,** Evan Kelly; **Korea:** Jeffrey Klimek (Perkins); **Kuwait:** Justin Klimek (Perkins); **Turkey:** Erik Kristansen; **Location Unknown:** Jeffrey Kimok **Rota, Spain:** James Perkins;

Our homebound members & friends:

Samuel, Elijah & Joy Lofgren, Matthew McAleavey

List of Session Elders & Committee Chairs
& Seasonal Team Leaders

Jay Ward – Memorial & Endowment Chair

Mike Stuart – Nominating Committee Chair

Louise Haskins – Missions & Summer

John Russ – Eastertide Team Leader

Kathy Kemnitz – Finance Committee Chair

Linda Hill – Harvest Team Leader

Robin McIntyre – Lent Team Leader

Wendy Ebersole – Personnel Committee Chair, Christian Education Committee Chair,
Advent & Epiphany Leader

Brenda Beardsley – Treasurer

Lisa Morrill – Clerk of Session