

*From under the Redbud Tree.....*



# The Redbud

*The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church  
Mountain Home, Arkansas*

*February, 2021*

## Inside this issue

"The Power of Love"	1
From the Pastor's Desk	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries Serving in Worship in Feb.	3
The Church at Work	4
The Church Family	5
Lent	6
Lectionary Readings	7
Calendar	8



## THE POWER OF LOVE

By comparing love to everything from oxygen and fire to wind and war, songs and poetry emphasize its immense power — for good or for ill. Christian author Patrick Morley uses metaphors that focus on love's practicality in everyday life: "Love is the glue that holds us together and the oil that keeps us from rubbing each other the wrong way."

He also calls love "the WD-40 of relationships" because it "can seep into tight places where logic, threats and even promises just can't seem to penetrate." St. Augustine, who predated WD-40 by centuries, knew that love not only eases friction in personal interactions but, with God's help, can change hearts and lives.

"Love all [people], even your enemies," he advises. "Love them, not because they are your brothers, but that they may become your brothers. Thus you will ever burn with fraternal love, both for him who is already your brother and for your enemy, that he may by loving become your brother."

# The Pastor's Page



## From the Pastor's Desk:

Are you keeping in touch? Are you calling a friend or family member at least once a week? Here we are at the end of the first month of a new year and still no light at the end of the proverbial tunnel of life and hope? When will we be able to get our vaccine? For some the question is "should I get the vaccine shot?" We are afraid of getting together with friends because we don't know where they have been and who they have been in contact with. Will the "virus get me?" Why does it affect some people more than others? When will we be able to have memorial services for those of our church family? "HOW LONG, O Lord, How long?" Words we hear from the Psalmist. How long, how long the Psalmist writes in Psalm 13.

***How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I bear pain in my soul, and have sorrow in my heart all day long?***

These and other questions we hear ourselves crying out in these pandemic days. It is easy to lose sight of the love of God in the midst of our pain and suffering, our confusion and chaos. And yet, whether we are able to hear or not, God still loves us, God continues God's grace to each of us in and through the death, resurrection and ascension of God's Only Son, Jesus Christ. This my sisters and brothers is our **hope** each day in the midst of the pandemic. It will get better. Yes, it might get worse before it gets better, but be assured the love of God continues, is poured out for the faithful, the broken hearted and those who question. God loves you, yes even in the midst of the chaos and craziness God is with us. Stay in the Word, the spiritual roadmap for our faith journey.

Pray for your doubts. God loves you. **-Pastor Mike**





# For the month of February



Feb 2 - Stanley Andrews  
Feb 5 - Pastor Mike Clark  
Feb 6 - Cathy Roevers  
Feb 9 - Wayne Faust  
Feb. 12- Alex Ruegsegger  
Feb 17 - Rodger Buckels  
Feb 18 - David Petersen  
Feb 21 - Mari Ruegsegger  
Feb 23 - Karen Gillespie  
Feb 26 - Fred Iffland  
Feb 27 - Kay Kunkel  
Feb 27 - Ron Smith

Feb 1 - Don & Dee Crapnell  
Feb 6 - Ron & Mary Smith  
Feb 14 - Bud & Barb Hough

The only losing basketball coach in University of Kansas history is James Naismith—the man who invented basketball in 1891. This example of irony proves that just because you thought of the idea doesn't always mean you'll be the best at executing it.

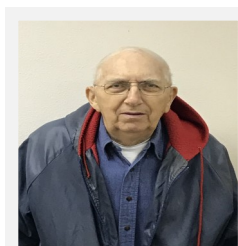


Feb 7th- Don Crapnell  
Feb 14th- Kay Kunkel  
Feb 21st - Doug Wells  
Feb 28th- Nancy Priest

# The Church at Work



Congratulations to First Presbyterian Church's new Session member George Hove and new Deacons Loweta Rogers and Sarah Kelly!



## SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Session held their monthly meeting on January 19, 2021. The reopening of the church was discussed and the vote to remain closed at this time was unanimous. The updated video recording of church services is being implemented this week. Thank you to all those who have worked tirelessly to improve the video recordings. The AARP Tax preparers are busy taking appointments at this time. The number to call to inquire about tax preparation is **293-3032**. **Do not** call the church phone or come in to the church for tax information. The tax program is entirely **INDEPENDENT** of the church. A complete set of minutes from the meeting is posted in the church's mailroom. The DEACON's did not meet in January due to the high Covid-19 numbers in Baxter County.

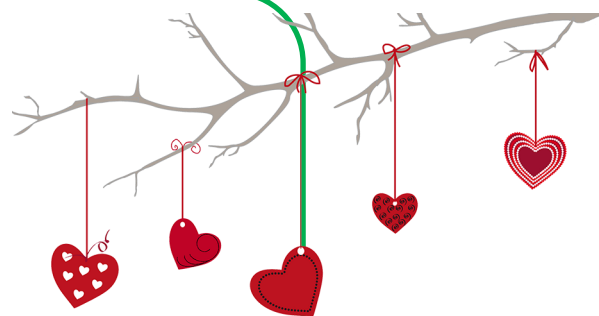
## FINANCIAL REPORT

### December 2020 Expense Report:

Cleared Checks:	\$11,554.48
Donations:	\$5,457.00
Outstanding Checks:	\$3,840.43
Checking Acct. Balance:	\$22,447.18

(We ended the year \$2.5 K ahead of this time last year, thanks to the Small Business Administration PPP loan/grant of \$14,300.00 back in April 2020.)

**Texas Presbytery Fund: Current balance in this fund is \$302,241.63.**





# The Church Family



## *“CELEBRATION OF LIFE” SERVICE FOR POLLY MILLHOUSER*

There will be a “Celebration of Life” Service for Polly Millhouser on Feb. 2nd at 2:00 pm at Kirby & Family Funeral Home.

Masks will be required.



## THE 2021 POLAR PLUNGE FOR IS ALMOST HERE

The 2021 POLAR PLUNGE is being held on February 27, 2021 at the Henderson Park Recreation Area. The address is County Road 828 Henderson, Arkansas. Registration is at 10:00 am and the PLUNGE itself is at 11:00 am that morning. All proceeds from the PLUNGE go directly to the Arkansas Special Olympics. If you'd like to sponsor Mary Smith in her PLUNGE this year, or join the PLUNGE yourself please call Mary Smith for more information at: 217-801-0237.

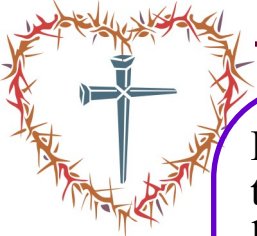


# Lent



## Ash Wednesday Service

We are in the process of planning for a virtual Ash Wednesday Service. Due to the “distance” we will not be able to do the imposition of ashes which is an important part of the Ash Wednesday service. We will be offering Holy Communion as part of our Ash Wednesday service. If you want to participate in Holy Communion you may stop by the church office to pick up the individual communion sets. Otherwise, have a piece of bread or cracker and either grape juice or wine available as we celebrate together the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We will have the service on our website by 5:30 pm on Ash Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. I realize this is a very unusual way of entering into the Lenten Season that is why I believe God has given us creative minds to make things work under such adverse conditions. God’s richest blessings as we prepare to enter the Lenten journey together... Pastor Clark



Lent, the church-year season that begins on Ash Wednesday, is a time of penitence and spiritual renewal. Some people give up a luxury or vice during Lent as a form of self-denial; others undertake a project that benefits others.

The point isn’t to denigrate ourselves or to see how much we can do without. Instead, Lent helps us reflect on Jesus’ death. As Timothy Keller writes in *The Reason for God*: “The Christian Gospel is that I am so flawed that Jesus had to die for me, yet I am so loved and valued that Jesus was glad to die for me. This leads to deep humility and deep confidence at the same time. It undermines both swaggering and sniveling. I cannot feel superior to anyone, and yet I have nothing to prove to anyone. I do not think more of myself nor less of myself. Instead, I think of myself less.”



# Scripture Readings for the Month of February

**Sunday, February 7**

**5th Sunday of Epiphany**

*Isaiah 40:21-31*

*Psalms 147:1-11*

*1 Corinthians 9:16-23*

*Mark 1:29-39*

**Sunday, February 14th**

**Transfiguration of our Lord**

*2nd Kings 2:1-12*

*Psalms 50:1-6*

*2 Corinthians 4:3-6*

*Mark 9: 2-9*

**Wednesday, February 17th**

**Ash Wednesday**

*Joel 2:1-2, 12-17*

*Psalms 51: 1-17*

*2 Corinthians 5:20*

*Matthew 6:1-6*

**Sunday, February 21st**

**First Sunday of Lent**

*Genesis 9: 8-17*

*Psalms 25:1-10*

*1 Peter 3:18-22*

*Mark 1:9-15*

**Sunday, February 28th**

**Second Sunday of Lent**

*Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16*

*Psalms 22; 23-31*

*Romans 4:13-25*

*Mark 8: 31-38*

*Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. Mark 8:31*



*Preparing for Easter*

# REDBUD CALENDAR FEBRUARY, 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRI	SAT
	1	2 Groundhog DAY 	3	4 VIDEOTAPING 10:30 am	5 C L O S E D	6
7 VIRTUAL CHURCH SERVICE  5TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY	8	9	10	11 VIDEO TAPING 10:30 am	12 C L O S E D 	13
14 VIRTUAL CHURCH SERVICE  Transfiguration Sunday  	15  Presidents Day	16 DEACON'S MEETING 10 AM— ZOOM  SESSION MEETING 1PM— ZOOM	17 ASH WEDNESDAY VIRTUAL SERVICE	18 VIDEO TAPING 10:30 am	19 C L O S E D	20
21 VIRTUAL CHURCH SERVICE  1st SUNDAY IN LENT	22 WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY	23	24	25 VIDEO TAPING 10:30 am	26 C L O S E D	
28 VIRTUAL CHURCH SERVICE  2ND SUNDAY IN LENT						



First Presbyterian Church  
1106 Spring Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Church Office Hours**  
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. /Monday - Thursday

**Church Mailing Address:**  
1106 Spring Street  
Mountain Home, AR 72653  
870-425-3799

**fpcmh@centurytel.net**  
**Website: [www.fpcmh.net](http://www.fpcmh.net)**

**Rev. Mike Clark, Transitional Pastor**

**Adult Sunday School: 9:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.**  
**Fellowship Coffee: 11:00 a.m.**

**Due to Covid-19 our services are virtual and  
available to view on our website:  
[www.fpcmh.net](http://www.fpcmh.net).**

**Secretary: Kristi Nelson**  
**Bookkeeper: Nancy Priest**