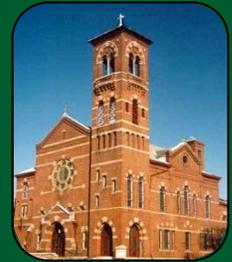


# The Call



## February Newsletter

www.fpcgburg.org

### First Presbyterian Church

#### Church Happenings

- **COMMUNION**  
Feb. 2
- **CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING & Dinner**  
Feb. 2  
Following Worship
- **PRESBYTERY MEET-  
ING- Anderson**  
Feb. 8
- **SESSION MEETING**  
Feb. 19 @ 4 p.m.
- **ASH WEDNESDAY  
SERVICE**  
Feb. 26 @ 6:30 p.m.



### February Servers

#### Lay Liturgist:

Jim Shumaker

#### Greeter:

Roy Simpson

#### Ushers:

Roy and Linda  
Simpson

#### Refreshments:

Linda Simpson

#### Counters:

Dennis Shepherd  
And Larry Clark

## Wally Words

Wednesday, February 26, at our Ash Wednesday Service, we will begin that season of the Church Year we call Lent. *Lento* is a musical term indicating a slow pace, maybe 48-52 beats per minute. In the Church's Liturgical Calendar, Lent is the season preceding Easter. It is a time to disengage from our usual frenetic activity in order to create space to reflect on our lives and on the tremendous love of our sacrificial God. Some people fast or make other sacrifices that simplify their lives in order to focus on what is most important: God's love, God's sacrifice, God's abundance. How will we observe it?

Lent is a season of 40 days preceding Easter during which Christians make regular sacrifice. This sacrifice reminds us of the sacrifice of Jesus' 40 days of wilderness temptation and the sacrifice of his life. We still face temptations, we still wander in wildernesses of our making, and during Lent we remind ourselves that sacrifice is important. Our sacrifices pale in comparison to what God has done throughout history. The nature of our Lenten sacrifice may be to give up something we enjoy; or it could be performing a sacrifice of service, such as taking meals to someone who is home bound, or taking someone to the doctor, or helping at one of our social service agencies. It could mean simply spending some time with someone who is lonely, and listening to their stories.

This year I will preach Lenten sermons that build on 1 Samuel 4-6 and accompanying New Testament readings. This well-known Ark Narrative from 1 Samuel parallels the New Testament story of Jesus' journey to the cross. The events of Holy Week are rooted in the Old Testament. And the common theme to both the Old Testament and the Church's season of Lent is *grief*. We experience grief as we yearn for a kinder, gentler time; when we mourn loved ones in our families and in the church family. We experience grief whenever we yearn for a former sense of God's glory. Yet grief, and lament, both strong biblical themes, are avoided in the modern church. What can we learn?

Continued on Page 3

**The Annual Congregational Meeting  
has been set for February 2nd  
immediately following worship service.**

# Ash Wednesday Service



## February 26

### 6:30 p.m.

## In the Church Library- Mike Gommel

### DEAD SEA RISING

By Jerry B. Jenkins

From a criminal investigation in Manhattan to the birth of Abram in ancient Ur, the author weaves a tale of drama and suspense that will draw you into the lives of two families separated by 4000 years of history yet sharing remarkably similar struggles of faith. *Dead Sea Rising* combines the thrill of a whodunit with the moral and political intrigue of the ancient and modern Middle East.

### FOXES' BOOK OF MARTYRS

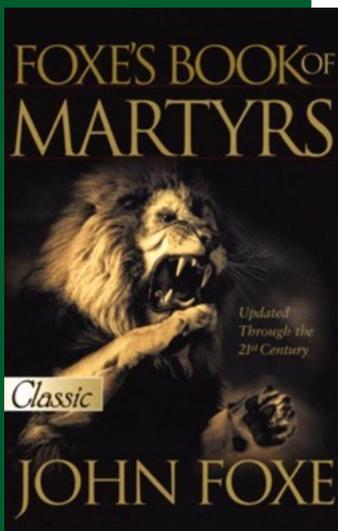
By John Foxe

In 1563, John Foxe began writing a book in tribute to Christian martyrs, beginning with Stephen and ending with the martyrs of his own day. Foxe's book has been expanded into the present day, for martyrdom is not a thing of the past. The Christian Church continues to endure great persecution in many places around the world. More Christians were affected by persecution during the twentieth century than in all previous centuries combined.

### THE ARK, THE REED, AND THE FIRE CLOUD

By Jenny Cote

Led by Max, a Scottish terrier, and Liz, a brilliant, petite black cat from France, this is a magical adventure of animals traveling worldwide to Noah's ark. After the journey to the ark, the voyage begins with a sinister plot...someone is out to kill Noah and his family! Written for the young people, but adults may also enjoy this tale of wit, whimsy, heartache, tragedy, triumph, and Biblical truth.



*John Foxe knew that dangers lay in forgetting the martyrs--in being insensitive to their struggles. Martyrdom is not a thing of the past; every day the Christian church is persecuted in countries all over the world.*



# Wally Words continued

This grief, this loss, is rooted in I Samuel 4-6, known as the Ark narrative. Keep tuned in on Sunday mornings. Journey with me from an inescapable sense of loss to the totally unexpected Finale of the drama of Lent! This will be a deep journey that will increase our appreciation of God’s glory! Lent this year begins on February 26 with Ash Wednesday and ends with Easter on April 16. I wish us all a deeper experience of Lent, greater appreciation for God’s power, and an increase of faith. I invite you to a greater appreciation for the miracle of Easter.

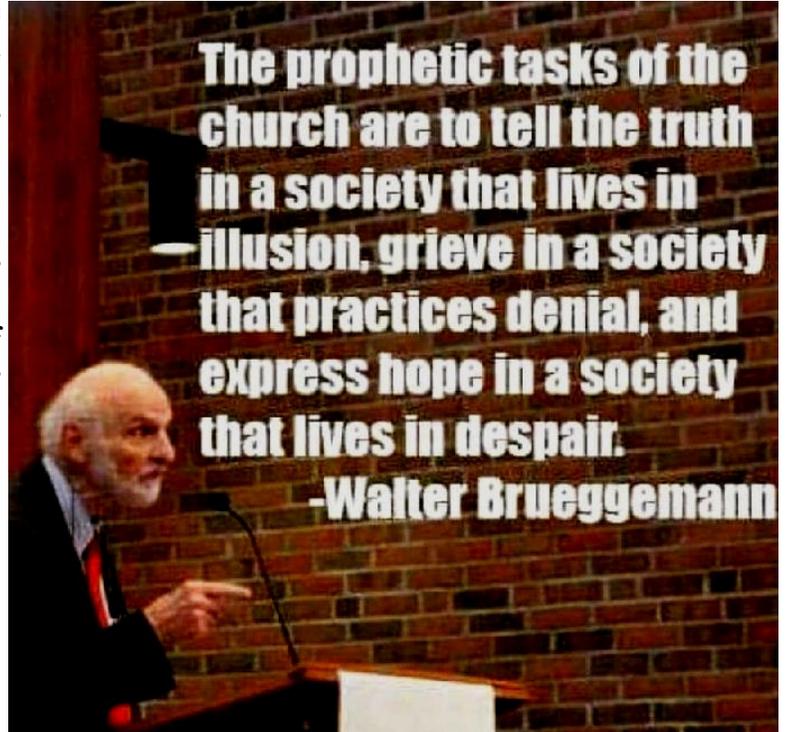
God Bless,

*Wally*

765-278-3749 — revwwilson@gmail.com

Church Curmudgeon:

A little surprised  
At all the Calvinists  
Who believe in Chance!



## February Prayer Focus

### LOVE



O God, Let the Living Water ripple through the rocks of my heart turning into a fountain of life; of new, refreshed spirit within, a wellspring of love flowing without.

I need Your love in my heart, and yet, I need to take it then and give it to someone else.

Fruit and vegetables are not made to remain in the garden;  
Love and faith are not given to remain within the Church.

*A Wish for Each of You Each day:*

**Love of family; Love of friends; Love of God.**

Throughout February, let us pray that we will allow our love for each other, and especially for God, to grow deeper and to be more freely given as honest and meaningful gifts to everyone.

*Dennis Shepherd, Care of Parish Team*

*Just follow your heart, and let your heart follow God.*

## Message from the PNC

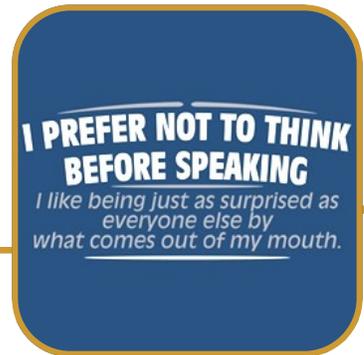
We are happy to report that our Committee is productively and systematically moving along in our process to find a “teaching elder” for our congregation. Presbytery has received and approved our Mission Information File (M.I.F.) report. This report gives a description of our church, civic community, and details what we desire in a pastor candidate. This M.I.F. is now posted on the national Presbyterian Private Website: Church Leadership Connection or CLC. The CLC is in a sense a job posting site where pastors who are considering a change of location may find opportunities and church openings, like our Greensburg First Presbyterian Church.

Since our M.I.F. posting on the CLC, we have received numerous applications. We are currently in the process of diligently reviewing each response and looking for a strong match to our church’s goals. We have no specific timeline or “date certain” in our work. We hope to have prayerful support from our Congregation as we pursue this goal. We are also hoping that the Holy Spirit will be with us and guide us ever so subtly.

We do want to remind the congregation that our work is done in private and we are committed to honor the need to keep matters and considerations confidential.

Thanks

Your Pastoral Nominating Committee



### COMMITTEE NEWS

#### Mission, Outreach, and Marketing

Our portion of the money donated for Pentecost 2019 went to the Kids’ Closet, Peacemaking went to New Directions, and the money collected from the Thankfulness Banquet was given to Edelweiss House.

#### Care of Parish

There will be a pitch-in dinner on February 2 in conjunction with the Annual Congregational Meeting. (Chicken will be provided.)

#### Presbyterian Women

PW is ready to begin planning their Card Party Fundraiser.

#### Worship & Music

Noted that volunteers are needed to fill positions listed in Reception Hall.

#### Trustees

Bids are being taken on shampooing the church carpets and painting the exterior walls of the church where needed. We will be replacing carpet in the kitchen off of the Reception Hall.

Being a good steward means using God-given abilities to manage God-given resources, to help accomplish God's will. That's important. When we think of stewardship we often only think of money, the giving of our resources. But giving money to church is not stewardship. It is a part of stewardship. If stewardship isn't about money, maybe it is about doing ministry, the giving of our abilities. But what you do in ministry for God is not stewardship either. It is a part of stewardship. It seems that stewardship is not about what we can give. It's also not about what we can do. What, then, is stewardship about? Stewardship is about having the heart of a steward. In other words, good stewardship is a matter of attitude. It is a matter of the attitude that stands behind our giving and our service. It's not what we give or what we do for God, it's why we do it.

Let's say that you've gone to eat in a fancy restaurant. A waitress attends to your every need. You eat a sumptuous meal and at the end, you are very satisfied. The last thing you do? You leave a tip. The tip is left in thanks, gratitude for the service of the waitress. What if you didn't leave a tip? Did you owe her that tip? No! But, the waitress did her job and did it well. Your "gratuity" showed appreciation for her service. For the Christian, the tithe might not be "required of us", but if God is important to us, if we really love Him, if He's really the God we tell our neighbors He is, then the Tithe is a powerful way of showing appreciation.

A steward is someone who takes care of something for someone else. If you're a steward, you don't own what you have. So, if we are going to be "stewards for God" we need the attitude that says we don't own our time, our money, our possessions, or our relationships. They all belong to God. We just manage them. If we can master that attitude, we'll be good stewards.

*acrod.org/ministries/stewardship/The Good Samaritan.pdf*

## Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, February 2, in the Sanctuary immediately after worship

### Followed by a Pitch-in Dinner (Chicken provided)

During this meeting, Session will be recommending the following change to the By-Laws of First Presbyterian Church, Greensburg, IN, to be voted upon at the congregational meeting.

(The proposed change is in **bold**):

- ◆ Article III, Section 1 (The Session)

The Session shall consist, in addition to the Moderator, of ~~nine (9)~~ **at least five (5)** Elders who shall be charged with the supervision of the spiritual interests of the congregation and all services and matters pertaining thereto, and shall have charge of the estate and of all matters relating to its temporalities.

Submitted by, Jeff Lincourt



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**202 N. Franklin Street**  
**Greensburg, IN 47240**

Phone: 812-663-2197

Fax: 812-663-9381

E-mail: [fpcgburg@etczone.com](mailto:fpcgburg@etczone.com)

***Per Capita 2020***  
***\$41.39 per person***

## **Our Mission Statement**

**We are a welcoming family of faith,  
Celebrating Christ's presence  
Worshiping God with joy,  
Nurturing the life of each individual,  
Carrying Christ's message to all the world, and  
Seeking to live God's word by serving others.**



### **Please Keep These People In Your Continued Prayers:**

**Sending  
Healing  
Prayers**



### **Prayer Requests**

**Elias Pagel**  
**Larry Starr**  
**Clinton Shepherd**  
**John Lozier**  
**Steve Gookins**  
**Ruthann Smith**  
**Dan Scheidler**  
**David Miers**  
**John Bubb**  
**Penny Hipkind**