

**First
Presbyterian
Church**

**Happy
Valentine's
Day!**

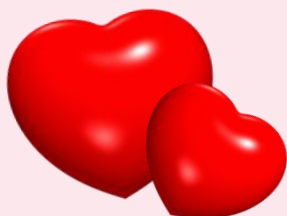
Church Services:

**We are now
holding services
at the church on
Sunday
at 10:30 a.m.**

**Services are
recorded
to be shared
on our website
and facebook
page**

**www.fpcgburg.org
&
@FirstPresbyterian
Gburg**

**Sunday
Conversations
Class**



The Call

February Newsletter



www.fpcgburg.org

"Starting with Why"

As we are spending seven weeks on the topic: *Starting with WHY*, we're sure everyone is having dreams/nightmares about the topic by now. You may think, "Enough already!" But, don't worry, there is more coming.



Since we arrived, we have been thrilled to hear so many wonderful ideas for ministries/activities to do as a congregation. We are eager to dive in. Yet, as our theme has driven into the ground, we believe all of our ministry as a congregation will be strengthened by having a unifying, clear purpose.

One positive thing the pandemic offers is the gift of time to set a solid foundation together before we initiate lots of new ministries and activities. Who knows how this might ultimately enrich our lives together?

We laugh each time we recall the story of the girl who asks her mom, "Why do we always cut the roast in half and bake it in two pans? Wouldn't it be easier to just wash ONE pan?" The mother responds, "I guess I never thought about it. I learned from my mom and this is how she did it." Persistent in her WHY, the girl asks her grandma, "Why do we do it this way?" Her grandma laughs and says, "Oh dear...I never intended for you to do it that way. My pan wasn't big enough for a whole roast. If I had a big enough pan I would never cut a roast in two. It's frustrating dirtying two pans and I don't like what it does to the meat."

- Knowing our "why" as a congregation gives us direction. Perhaps helping us let go of things we're only holding on to because they've always been done that way, while making room for what is most life-giving now.

Continued on page 3

Why

"Why" is usually a question we ask
When we wonder about this or that.
We want to know the reason behind
Troublesome events, injuries, wrongs, falling flat.

"Why" enters our minds when we stumble
Upon situations that we do not understand.
We find it difficult when we cannot control
Happenings interrupting our expected deal of life's hand.

Yet, there is a "Why" that is very important;
A "Why" that is a statement of purpose for all we do.
This "Why" tells of motivation and desire;
It is the foundation on which trust and truth shows true.

"Why" isn't just to ask and inquire;
It can shed light, meaning, and conviction.

"Why" can proclaim deeply felt faith;
It displays directives without question.

Your new clergy couple can take no credit for this incredible poem. It is all by the hand of Dennis Shepherd who beautifully expressed our theme for Epiphany. Thank you Dennis!

Ash Wednesday

Drive Thru Car Blessing



Wednesday
February 17th
11:30 am - 1:00 pm

RECEIVE A SYMBOLIC ASH DECAL FOR YOUR CAR

Ash Wednesday is approaching fast. It will be here soon! We have given lots of thought on how to best honor this holy Service and during this time of Pandemic. We felt the traditional service where ashes are imparted on our head or hands wasn't safe. Instead, we're offering a drive through Ash Wednesday Service in which we'll impart the ashes on your car via a decal. For many of us, our cars have been a place of sanctuary, especially during the Pandemic, and we felt this would be a symbolic way to convey the deep meaning of Ash Wednesday in a meaningful way.

You can come to the church (at the corner of Franklin and Washington St.) to receive a blessing on **February 17** anytime between **11:30 am and 1:00 pm**.

If you aren't able to make it then, we will have decals for you any Sunday of Lent (for those who worship with us online we can mail one to you). Please invite your friends and loved ones as well.

Revs. Garrett and Marena Vittorio-Schindler

Pastors' article- Continued from Page 1

- It grounds us in our belief and understanding of God, giving us renewed energy and momentum.
- It helps those not part of this congregation determine if they would like to join our ministry because they know, without a doubt, who we are.
- Finally, it helps us build a foundation of trust with God, one another, and the community, by verbally expressing what we believe and then acting upon it.

Spending time on our "why" is worthwhile.

So...we truly pray you will join us as we all get interactive during Sunday services these next three weeks in creating our congregation's WHY statement.

We fully support you as you make decisions about how you feel most safe worshiping at this time, whether in person or at home. Yet, we truly hope everyone will tune in these upcoming Sundays (all services are on Youtube) to join the conversation. Flood us with e-mails...flood Garrett with texts (tee hee)...call us. We want to hear from you.

Many Blessings,
Revs. Garrett and Marena Vittorio-Schindler

Prayer Focus for February, 2021

Sharing Our Love

We are entering the second month of this New Year of 2021. Yet, we remain under such demands and pressures of uncertainties. We may wonder about the continued difficulties we face daily. We may wonder, in this month we celebrate love, just how are we to reach out to our loved ones; how will we be able to share our love for each other in genuinely expressive ways.

Perhaps we will reach and achieve this desire by focusing on prayer. We can strive each day in February to ask God to reveal to us a unique way to tell family and friends of our love. Every day we can ask for the Holy Spirit to help us see an opportunity to smile lovingly, to give someone a "thumbs up," or simply say, "You're Great!"

We can strive to share our love for God and for each other by saying a short prayer. Choose a family member or a friend each day by name; ask God to bless their day. Send a text to someone simply saying, I thank God for our friendship. We can ask God to help us be creative in expressing love.

This year of 2021 can become one of deep meaning as we focus on sharing God's love and our love with each other with a prayer.

Dennis Shepherd, Care of Parish Team

A Lenten Journey: Claiming Wholeness One Piece at a Time



This year's theme for **Lent** is, **"Claiming Wholeness: One Piece at a Time."** We're deeply excited to go on this journey with you as we explore our insights from Holy Scriptures and from many thought provoking and life giving books that will help us dig into the topics of Physical Health, Intellectual Health, Community Health, Mental Health, Environmental Health, and Integrated Health.

Garrett and I have designed and purchased puzzles to go with our theme that each congregant will receive as a gift from us. Each week, we will explore one more piece of claiming our wholeness. We pray that this journey will go hand in hand with the desire for healing and wholeness as a nation and world after our year of pandemic. Please join us on this Lenten journey either in-person or online. If you worship from home, we will send a puzzle to you through the mail.

If you are curious, these are the books we are exploring:
"Radical Hope and the Healing Power of Illness," by Bud Harris, Ph.D.;
"Creativity," by Matthew Fox; "Holy Chaos," by Amanda Henderson; "Finding Jesus in the Storms," by John Swinton; "Climate Church, Climate Change," by Jim Antal; and "How God Changes Your Brain," by Andrew Newberg, M.D. and Mark Robert Waldman.

Nursery
Fun!



Members of Session

Polly Matlock
 David Schlemmer
 David Narwold
 Mary Stradley
 Judy Rust
 Mike Gommel
 Terri Pleak
 Pastors– Revs. Garrett & Marena
 Vittorio-Schindler
 Clerk– Darleen Fox

Session Committees

Trustees, Finance, & Stewardship
 Care of Parish & Christian Education
 Worship & Music
 Mission, Outreach, & Marketing
 Personnel

The Session of First Presbyterian church of Greensburg held its stated session meeting on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 2 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- Kingston and Springhill churches have invited us to join them for the Ice Cream Social and Hayride this year. Session accepted their invitation and will extend an invitation to them for our outdoor worship (dependant on Covid).
- A certificate of appreciation has been received from the Presbytery Mission Agency noting that FPC Greensburg has been recognized for participating in all four special offerings for the past 18 years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Trustees:

- Having issues with the furnaces in the nursery and office, Koors was called in and the issues have been fixed.

Worship & Music:

- Ash Wednesday is coming soon. Look for a surprising new way to worship this year.

Personnel:

- Diana Blanford will be retiring as church office administrator at the end of May. Anyone interested in this position, contact the personnel committee.

Committees are looking to update their members. If you are interested in joining a committee, now is the time to let the chairs know of your interest.

We are committed to providing a safe and healthy return to summer camp. While we know returning to camp may not be the perfect fit for every family, we have established five basic guidelines that will run throughout all of Pyoca's programs and our partner camp programs:



- **We have reduced cabin capacities**, meaning there will be fewer campers on-site each week.
- We have extended to four weeks of programs in order to make room for the reduced capacities each week.
- **Campers will be "cohorting."**
- Each camper will be assigned a small group. All daily activities, meals, and lodging will be limited to these small groups.
- **All staff and campers will complete daily health screenings.**
- **Masks will be required indoors at all times**, except when eating and in assigned cohort cabin space, **and outdoors when 6 feet of social distancing cannot be achieved.**
- Pyoca will provide at least one mask per camper and will have additional supplies on-site.
- **Outdoor activities and meals will be prioritized.**

We will prioritize being outdoors as much as possible and each cohort will have an assigned indoor space that is only for them.

Summer Camp Registration:

Camp registration goes live **Monday, February 8th**. There are a few important things for parents to know before you register your child for camp.

We will be introducing waitlists, but cannot guarantee a specific week for your camper.
We encourage families to register as soon as possible to ensure your spot in your preferred week of programming.

We will continue our **No Risk Registration** policy from 2020. This means if your camper registers for a particular week of camp and cannot come due to COVID-19 illness or exposure, we will:

- Work to transfer their registration to a later week in the summer (if space is available),
- Transfer their camper fees to another Pyoca program in 2021 or 2022,
- Provide families the opportunity to donate or receive a refund of their camper fees.

Parents/Guardians who transferred deposits in 2020 to the 2021 camp season, those deposits will be reflected in your registration account.

Camp Fees & Scholarships:

It is important to us now more than ever to make camp as accessible as possible to any child. We know that families have been hit hard by the pandemic over the last year, **so we have committed to not raise camp fees in 2021.**

As always, we have our tiered pricing structure which allows families to determine for themselves what they can pay for camp. This choice will vary by family and **we believe that only you know what works best financially for your family.**

We do ask families, if possible, to contribute something to the cost of camp. It could be \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250, only you know what works for you.

If you have any questions about our tiered pricing structure or scholarship process, please reach out to our office at **program@pyoca.org** or **(812) 358-3413**. We want to make signing up for camp as easy and accessible as possible, so that we can give your child(ren) the summer of a lifetime!

Rev. Molly DeWitt, **Program Director**

*If you have any questions regarding Pyoca programs or booking your next retreat, please email **program@pyoca.org** or call **(812) 358-3413***



First Presbyterian Church

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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.



2021 Per Capita
\$41.42 per person



Church services can be found on
Sunday afternoons on our **facebook**
page and on our **website**.

FACEBOOK—
@FirstPresbyterianGburg

Or www.fpcgburg.org



**Souper Bowl
Of
Caring
Donations**

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

Prayer Requests

**Sending
Healing
Prayers**



Larry Starr
Judy Lozier
Dyar Forkert
Dan Scheidler
Robin Johnson
Rev. Darrell P. Pool

Prayers for
Peace and Serenity
throughout the world!

