

Lectionary for March

March 7: Exodus 20:1–17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18–25
John 2:13–22

March 14: Numbers 21:4–9 Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22

Ephesians 2:1–10 John 3:14–21

March 21: Jeremiah 31:31–34 Psalm 51:1–12 or Psalm
119:9–16 Hebrews 5:5–10 John 12:20–33

Palm Sunday, March 28: Mark 11:1–11 or John 12:12–16
Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

Please keep these folks in your prayers:

Arlene Besner

Stephanie Bennett

Dick Brown

Don & Sally Day

Vera Dice

Jim Berden

Heather Rousseau

Second Presbyterian Church Newsletter March 2021



Seeking and Serving Christ, we are a Place for Growing
Christians



**Move your clocks ahead one hour
on March 14.**

From The Pastor's Desk

Grace and Peace!

Jesus knew that by now everything had been completed; and in order to make the scripture come true, he said, "I am thirsty." A bowl was there, full of cheap wine; so a sponge was soaked in the wine, put on a stalk of hyssop, and lifted up to his lips. (John 19:28-29, GNT)

Our Lenten Journey continues, and we may have felt tired with "Compassion Fatigue" and wondering, "Are we there yet"? Our wondering thoughts continues, "when will our lives alone in the house due to the pandemic might be over"? The hope is Easter is around the conner for us and we need to keep pressing forward, no matter how tired we may feel. Jesus on his journey was tired and more importantly was thirsty and cried out, "I Thirst" (John 19:28b). Jesus expressed his human emotions, including hopelessness and helplessness, yet he was not given the water he needed most. An indication that Jesus was willing to take cup, almost empty and his time was ending for his earthly life. Throughout his suffering and discomfort, he remained faithful for our sake. As we too express our emotions to what is happening in our world, we ponder on our thirst to be together and out of our houses. This is our assurance in Jesus Christ, when we feel tied in the middle of the journey with Compassion fatigue, there is hope. Continued.....

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From the Pastor's Desk continued.....

Let us keep pressing onto the finishing line with Christ, who will be waiting with the cool cup of water for our thirst. There is always hope beyond hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

During the Season of Lent, the weekly Wednesday Worship service focus is on the Last Seven Words of Jesus to the Cross. Below is the Weekly Words with Scriptures:

Week 1-February 24-"Father forgive them" Luke 23:26-33, 34a

Week 2-"Today You will be with Me in Paradise..." Luke 23:32, 39-43

Week 3-"Behold Your Son...Behold Your Mother..." John 19:25-27

Week 4-"My God, My God Why Have You Forsaken Me?" Mark 15:33-36a

Week 5-"I Thirst..." John 19:28-29

Week 6-"It is Finished...Into Your Hands I Commit my Spirit" Luke 23:45-47

Prayer: Merciful God, we thank you for sending your Son Jesus Christ to bear the burden of our sins and saving a place in paradise. Throughout the journey of Lent, may the last Words of Jesus continue to shape our lives as we follow the footsteps of our crucified Lord and Savior. Gide us with confidence, so that we might see your love through our actions. As we continue the Lenten journey in the weeks ahead, enable us to understand more fully your plan for our lives and help us to follow your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and forever more. Amen!

In Christ Peace,
Pastor Philomena

Easter Flowers

We will decorate our sanctuary this year with Daffodils, Tulips and Hyacinth for the Easter Sunday service. If you would like to order one in honor or memory of someone, please call the office @ 792-1023. Flowers are in 8" pots with foil and a bow for \$10 each and **must be ordered** by March 14. Easter Sunday is April, 4.



Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications and requirements are available in the church office for the Mary Ann Geiersbach Scholarship, the Muriel Lakey Scholarship and the Alma College Scholarship. Please return applications by **April 12.**

SPC YouTube Channel

If you have yet to see our YouTube channel be sure to check it out. We post videos 3 times weekly in addition to our Live-Streamed worship.

Sunday	9:30am	Live-Streamed worship
	10:30am	Ms. Peggy's Children's Message
Wednesday	9:00am	Midweek Devotional Message
Friday	9:00am	Friday Morning Conversations

Concerts and other events may also be Streamed here. Always be sure to check out the video description as we include bible verses to read along with and other helpful information regarding things discussed in the video.

Don't forget to Like, Subscribe, and hit the little bell to get notifications of our uploads. This will also give you an easy way to get to the live-stream on Sundays.

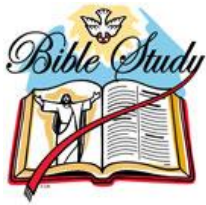
Let your friends know. They might be looking for a new place to worship, this is a nice commitment free way to get your worship each week. The best way to grow is by word of mouth.

If we can get 1000 subscribers, this will open up all kinds of YouTube features, including community posts.

You can find us on YouTube at:

Second Presbyterian Church SPCSaginaw

Thank You,
Matthew Wilkins
Live-Stream Operator



2nd at Second Lectionary Bible Study

We will continue to examine the lectionary at 11:00 a.m. Sunday mornings. We will gather online for fellowship, Bible study on Sunday Scriptures, and prayer. This will continue to be a great way to deepen friendships and faith.

Please join us, there is no commitment or

homework. If you would like to join in for some light conversation and have a chance to study the Sunday Lectionary, simply follow this link. **The same link each week.** The meetings begin around 11:00 each Sunday. It will be great to "see" you!

Join the Zoom meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8198599266?pwd=WFJoYklyYlpEa3FtT1VYUldoeHBjdz09>

Meeting ID: 819 859 9266

Passcode: 2665

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 819 859 9266

Passcode: 2665

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8198599266?pwd=WFJoYklyYlpEa3FtT1VYUldoeHBjdz09>

Maundy Thursday Worship

Our Maundy Thursday worship on April 1 at 7:00pm, is a Service of Tenebrae. This is a solemn fourth century observance of the Lord's Supper. This service involves extinguishing candles as a reminder of the darkness that covered the face of the earth after the Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We invite you to come celebrate the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples in the Upper Room.



One Great Hour of Sharing

We will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering on Palm Sunday, March 28. Millions of Christians join together through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your gifts will support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance, resettlement, and community development.



We ARE having Vacation Bible School this summer, but this year VBS will look a little different than any other year! We will be experiencing most of VBS outside! "ALL ABOARD" for mountains of fun at Rocky Railway! At this VBS, kids will discover that Jesus' power can pull them through life's ups and downs. This theme seems particularly appropriate as we navigate the difficulties of living through a world health crisis. Rocky Railway is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences that kids can see, hear, and touch! We will also be observing all COVID regulations when inside and outside the church building. Vacation Bible School will take place **June 21 - 25 from 9:00AM to 11:30AM each day.** While it can be a challenge to modify the way we have always done VBS, we know that your child/children will thoroughly enjoy being with others that they haven't seen for some time and learn to trust that Jesus can pull them through when life feels like a valley or a mountaintop. Please call or email and tell us, as soon as you can, if you are interested in coming, so we can get an idea of how many will/can attend!! Love to SEE all of you there! I miss you ALL!

***Please read the weekly update for the most current information and for Holy Week Schedule. ***

Mission News

"Go also the second mile" - Matthew 5:4

Thanks to everyone who donated to the "2 Coins A Meal" hunger relief mission in January. The total amount received so far is \$343, every little bit helps those who struggle to put food on their tables.

Our collection of personal care items needed for the Saginaw Rescue Mission was a GREAT success! They rely on these donations from the community to be able to give a bag to ALL those that walk in their door, looking for a warm meal & soft bed. We'll have a final count to report in our next newsletter.

March's Mission Focus: Baby Pantry

We'll be collecting baby items for the Old Town Baby Pantry in the baby crib all month. The crib will be set up in the front hallway, along with the list of acceptable items. All items will be due back by **March 28th**. Any questions about this should go to Gerry Brown or Rebecca Lalonde

<i>Sleepers 0-9 months</i>	<i>Blankets</i>
<i>Outfits 0-9 months</i>	<i>Onesies and bibs</i>
<i>Crib Sheets</i>	<i>Infant toys/board books</i>
<i>Hooded Towels</i>	<i>Newborn diapers, wipes</i>
<i>Diaper bags, bottles</i>	<i>Cribs, Bassinets</i>
<i>Baby shampoo, baby wash, diaper cream or baby powder</i>	

A sincere Thank You to all of you! If anyone has any "giving ideas" we should look in to, please let us know. We love to hear about any new ideas or worthwhile organizations that are doing some good in our communities or around the world.

"And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'" Matthew 25:40



Music Notes



I want to extend a heartfelt thank you for your warm welcome as I begin my journey at Second Presbyterian Church. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you already and I look forward to meeting others and getting to know all of you.

As we continue to navigate safe practices during the COVID-19 pandemic, I invite all who are interested in making music to reach out and let me know, if you haven't done so already. Things are ever changing, but instead of getting discouraged by what we can't do, I prefer to focus on what we CAN do. There are many creative ideas for moving forward with musical expression, and I am ready to include whoever is willing. We continue to have singing, within safety guidelines. We can incorporate handbells again, as well as string and percussion instruments. Wind instruments are also a possibility for use with bell covers and instrument bags. We also have a special project in the works for this spring.

It's a process to work through, and your patience is appreciated. I believe that by creatively working together and sharing our collective ideas, we can find ways to bring back the music we know and love, as an expression of our spiritual being.

Sara Glynn-Dishaw

Sunday School News

March 7 we will finish learning about "The Garden of Gethsemane". March 14 & 21 we will hear about Doubting Thomas. We will have a special message on Palm Sunday, March 28 and Easter Sunday, April 4. The Sunday School lessons will be available Sunday's at 10:30 a.m. via Second Presbyterian Church YouTube Channel. Spend some quality time watching the Sunday Service and Sunday School together as a family!



Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Second Presbyterian Church

MARCH

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Lenten Worship 6:30 p.m.	4	5	6
7 9:30a.m. Worship	8	9 Committee Night	10 Lenten Worship 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13
14 9:30a.m. Worship 	15	16	17 Lenten Worship 6:30 p.m.	18	19	20 
21 9:30a.m. Worship	22	23  7:00p.m. Session	24 Lenten Worship 6:30 p.m.	25	26	27
28 9:30a.m. Worship 	29	30	31 Lenten Worship 6:30 p.m.			

Advice Regarding COVID-19 Precautions Presbytery Council Presbytery of Lake Huron February 17, 2020

To the Sessions and Congregations of our Presbytery

Since the COVID-19 public health crisis reached pandemic status eleven months ago, it seems that we have had a year of Lent with no Easter. The common question, “What are you giving up for Lent?” has an ironic and even cruel quality as we consider all we have had to give up this past year as individuals, as a church, and as a society. At the time of our last guidance, in November, COVID-19 cases and deaths in our state were skyrocketing. At that time, we strongly advised congregations not to conduct in-person worship – especially during the holiday season – and to consult multifactor sites like www.covidactnow.org for guidance regarding when it might be safe to reopen.

As our numbers have improved, on February 8, the State of Michigan issued new directives relaxing restrictions on some activities. And, as we near the anniversary of the COVID lockdown, and a second Easter in the pandemic, we know that many members and some sessions are eager to return to former patterns of worship and ministry. Although we have seen significant improvement, we are far from being out of the woods. As we write this letter, of the 20 counties which lie in our presbytery:

- None register in the “low risk” (green) category
- Eight register as “medium risk” (yellow):
- **Twelve register as “high risk” (orange) including Saginaw County**
- None register as “critical” (red)

While the two approved vaccines are highly effective in preventing serious effects of the virus, the rate at which it is being distributed means that most people will not receive the vaccine until late summer or early fall. Dr. Lisa Allgood, an immunology researcher and executive of Cincinnati Presbytery who shared important guidance with our presbytery in August, has provided a recent update on COVID research, vaccines, effects, and protocols, which can be found [here](#). The risk is still high, and we cannot advocate returning to in-person worship except in the most limited and careful circumstances. We urge you to not return to in-person worship until your county has seen seven consecutive days of

green (“low”) or yellow (“moderate”) risk using a multi-factor assessment such as www.covidactnow.org. And be prepared to suspend all in person gatherings should the level rise to “high” or “critical” levels for three or more days in a week. If your Session does decide to return to in-person worship, please observe strictly all necessary public health precautions including screening, masking, distancing, disinfection, and tracking. And if you are in a vulnerable population or believe you might be sick or have been exposed to the virus, PLEASE STAY HOME. Finally, as we head into this Lenten season, we would like to remind you that although we may not be able to worship in person, the church is not closed. Instead, we are discovering that Christ is present among us in new and different ways. Let us discover and celebrate the grace that is present in our grief, and the resurrection life that we can celebrate even in a pandemic Good Friday world. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen. – 1 Peter 5:10-11

In Christ's Fellowship,

The Presbytery Council Presbytery of Lake Huron

Color Meaning Guidance

- Green (low) On track to contain COVID • Safe to conduct in-person activities with safety protocols.
- Yellow (moderate) Slow disease growth • Limit in-person activities to essential functions only. • If yellow is sustained for more than seven consecutive days, consider suspending all indoor, in-person activities.
- **Orange (high) At risk of outbreak • If orange is present for three days in any week, suspend all indoor in-person activities until you have had seven consecutive days of yellow or green, and consider suspending all outdoor in-person activities. • If there is sustained orange for seven consecutive days, suspend all in-person activities (both indoor and outdoor) until you have seven consecutive days of yellow or green.**
- Red (critical) Active or imminent outbreak • Suspend all in-person activities (both indoor and outdoor) until you have had seven consecutive days of yellow or green.

February 17–April 4, 2020

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Donate by credit card online at presbyterianmission.org/give-oghs
- + Text OGHS to 20222 to give \$10

—or—

You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



Text SHARING to 56512 to learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, or visit pcusa.org/oghs.



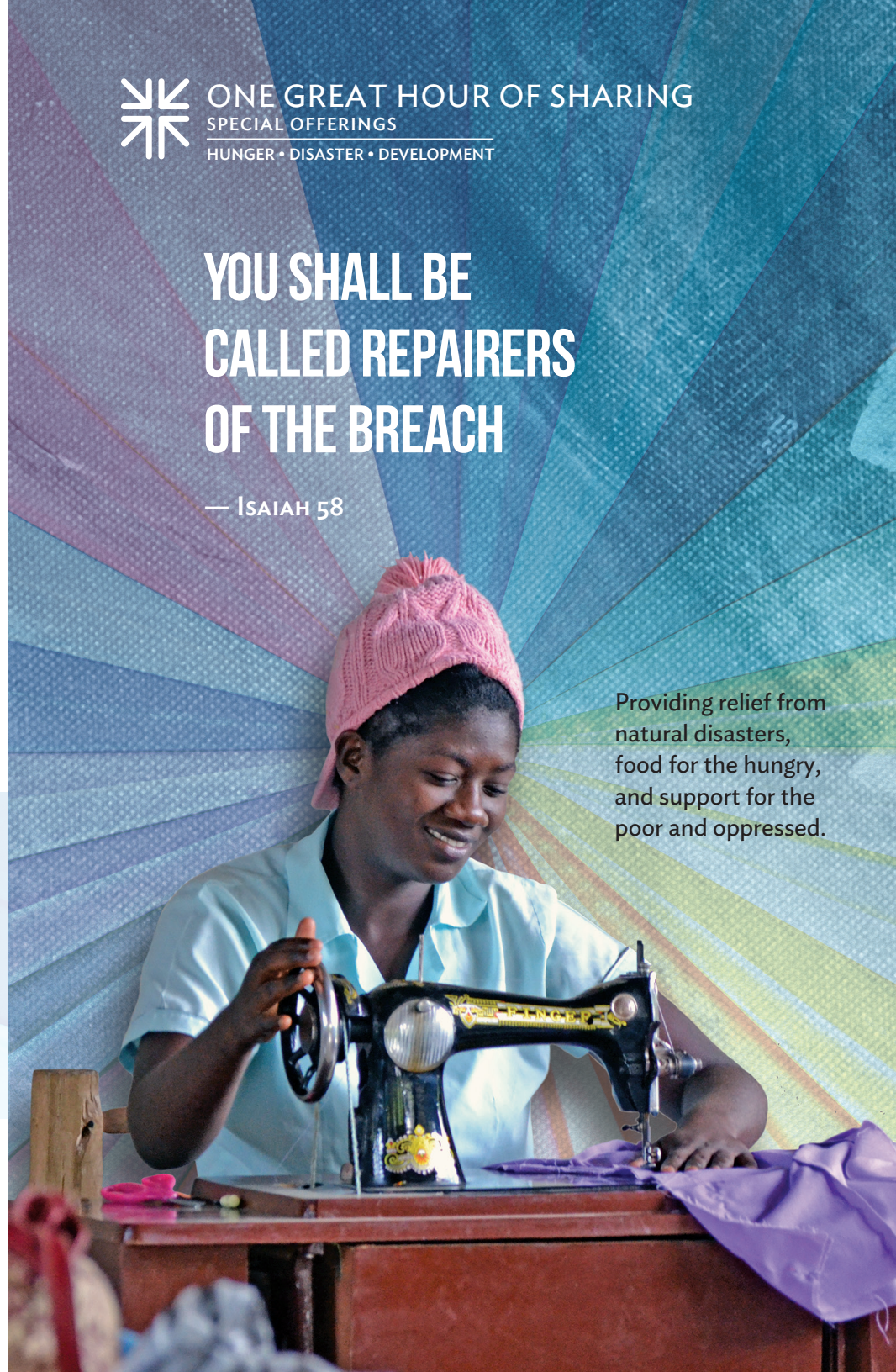
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC (USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.

YOU SHALL BE CALLED REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58

Providing relief from
natural disasters,
food for the hungry,
and support for the
poor and oppressed.



**One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way
that Presbyterians come together every year
to work for a better world.**



OGHS gifts are helping Black Women's Blueprint, a survivor-led ministry, in addressing issues of trauma. Client-members support one another in working to end gender-based violence, and to heal the places where its impact is seen. This ministry also provides food and housing assistance, and addresses the critical and unmet needs for women and survivors of violence.

Thirteen-year-old Trinity White Plume lives on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota where there is only one grocery store. Thanks to gifts from OGHS and partner organization Owe Aku, new garden projects put people in charge of their own food supply, nutrition, health and well-being. Trinity has learned to plant and tend the gardens, which include medicinal and ceremonial plants, and helps teach others to increase food security in their community.



BECAUSE WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER.

As Jesus says in Matthew 25, the Church belongs with those in need — with those suffering from natural and human-caused disasters; with those lacking access to food, water and healthcare; and with those struggling for justice, righteousness, and peace. Through our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing, we are there because we are the Church, together.

Received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ~

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

Restorers of Streets to Live In



PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM

Share your Bread with the Hungry



SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE

Loose the Bonds of Injustice



**IF WE ALL
DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP
TO A LOT!**

