

WESTERN SPIRE MARCH 2019

CULTIVATING & LETTING GO

“Faith is a place of mystery, where we find the courage to believe in what we cannot see and the strength to let go of our fear of uncertainty.” ~Brene Brown, *The Gifts of Imperfection: Let Go of Who You Think You’re Supposed to Be and Embrace Who You Are*

Cultivate (verb): to prepare and use for the raising of crops; to foster the growth of; to improve by labor, care, or study; to refine; to further; to encourage.

Friends in Christ,

Lent is a season of spiritual gardening, of inviting God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to die for new life to emerge. This year, our lectionary offers us images and stories with themes of earthiness and grit.

Throughout the Lenten season, we will have many opportunities to engage these stories and texts, as well as encounter Jesus in new and creative ways. Many of the resources I draw from were put together by *A Sanctified Art*, a collective of artists and creatives who are committed to help clergy and congregations embrace creativity in worship.

In our weekly worship together, we will be focusing on “Letting Go” of something, as well as “Cultivating” a spiritual gift. Often in Lent, followers of Jesus will cut something out, letting go, as it were, of something that is not healthy or helpful. But we often stop there. This year, I want us to focus on taking the next step, by cultivating something new in the space of what we have let go. For example, in the first Sunday in Lent, we will talk about “Letting Go of Fear” and “Cultivating Trust in God.”

Be sure to pay close attention to all that is being offered during the season at WPC. Some looks familiar, others are a new take on different things, and still more are brand new!

Most of all, I pray that this Lent is a season for you to renew your relationship with Jesus, with His Church, with each other, and with yourself, as we all seek to cultivate a deeper relationship with God.

Grace & peace,

~Pastor Kyle

Preaching and Worship

March 2019

March 3, 2019

Transfiguration of the Lord

**Reader: Sue Leonard
Toddler Room: Jan Taylor**

Usher: Ray & Sharon Marr

March 10, 2019

**First Sunday in Lent
9 am Visio Divina
Communion Sunday**

**Reader: Sandy Kelly
Toddler Room: Sue Pringle**

Usher: Ray & Sharon Marr

Communion Elders: Janet Manktelow, Don Dantz, and Jody Pruitt

March 17, 2019

**Second Sunday in Lent
9 am Visio Divina
Bob Ike preaching**

**Reader: Elena Delhagen
Toddler Room: Rena Haigh**

Usher: Ray & Sharon Marr

March 24, 2019

**Third Sunday in Lent
9 am Visio Divina**

**Reader: Muffie Beato
Toddler Room: Maxine & Kelly Babcock**

Usher: Ray & Sharon Marr

March 31, 2019

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
9 am Visio Divina**

**Reader: Rena Haigh
Toddler Room: Sue Leonard**

Usher: Ray & Sharon Marr



**The deadline for the next SPIRE is Tuesday, March 19th, 2019.
Thank you!**



"One More Year"

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Luke 13:1-9, Acrylic on Canvas

**Visio Divina
Sunday Mornings @ 9 am**

Visio Divina is latin for “divine seeing.” This is a method of meditation, reflection, and prayer through a process of intentional seeing. Visio Divina extends the 6th century Benedictine practice of Lectio Divina by the use of visual imagery. Traditionally, Visio Divina was accompanied by Benedictine iconography and illuminations, however, different faith traditions have adapted the process over time, utilizing both secular and nonsecular images.

Starting on Sunday, March 10th, at 9 am in the Parlor, we will gather for 45 minutes to consider an image that accompanies that Sunday’s lectionary passage. This will be an opportunity to dive a little deeper into the gospel lessons Pastor Kyle will be preaching on, as well as a chance to explore these texts in a new and creative way.

No need to sign up or RSVP! Come as you are, as often as you like! No preparation necessary!
Sunday March 10, 17, 24, 31, and April 7 and 14.



Ash Wednesday Cross © Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com

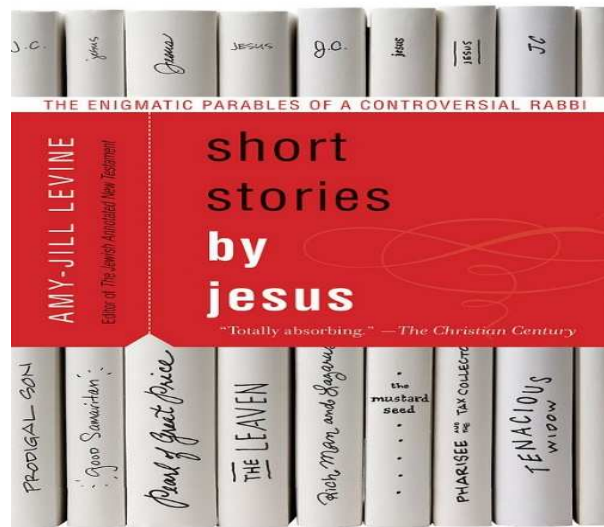
Special Services in Lent

Ash Wednesday - Wednesday, March 6th at 7pm

Join us in the sanctuary at 7 pm on March 6th as we begin our Lenten journey. A traditional service of ashes and remembrance as we heed God’s call to return to the Lord.

Good Friday Service - Friday, April 19th at 7 pm

Join us in the sanctuary on Friday, April 19th at 7 pm for a quiet, reflective service on this, one of the holiest days of the Christian calendar. We will remember Christ’s suffering and death, and though the light will be hidden in the shadow of the grave, we rest secure in the knowledge that the light shines in the darkness, and that life *will* overcome.



Short Stories by Jesus Book Study, Wednesdays at 7 pm

Jesus was a skilled storyteller and perceptive teacher who used parables from everyday life to effectively convey his message and meaning. Life in first-century Palestine was very different from our world today, and many traditional interpretations of Jesus' stories ignore this disparity and have often allowed anti-Semitism and misogyny to color their perspectives.

In this wise, entertaining, and educational book, Amy-Jill Levine offers a fresh, timely reinterpretation of Jesus' narratives, interweaving history and spiritual analysis to explore Jesus' most popular teaching parables, exposing their misinterpretations and making them lively and relevant. Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures and Roman culture.

These ancient stories have as much bearing on our lives today as they did in Jesus' historical context. Together, we will be challenged and provoked.

Please sign up on the bulletin board outside the church office so we know how many books we need to order (books are \$10/ea.).

Wednesday March 13, 20, 27, and April 3, 10, and 17.



"Where the Fruit Lies"
by Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Luke 13:6-9
Acrylic on Canvas

A Special Service of Healing - Sunday, April 14th at 7 pm

In Luke's gospel, Jesus tells a story of a fruitless fig tree once planted with promise, only to grow barren and brittle. The landowner in the parable has returned to its empty branches for three years. With patience worn thin and hope withered, he commands the gardener to cut it down, seeing it as a liability to the soil. But where the landowner sees waste, the gardener perceives possibility that lies fallow. The gardener has learned from the land that life flows in cycles—budding, flourishing, pruning, death. And so, he requests one more year. Cutting the earth with a shovel, he loosens the clots that have settled like stone so that when water comes, the earth will receive it like a soft kiss. He blankets the roots with manure so that growth can be steadied by hope. And then he lets go.

What happens to the fig tree? Does it live? Does it die? Does it bear any fruit?

We don't know. And so, if we can't read the end of this story, then we must write it with our own lives. Because we know what it feels like to be the fig tree, to be deemed worthless, to be weary enough to believe that we don't deserve to be well. And perhaps we also know what it's like to see the world through the eyes of the landowner—calculating worth based on what we produce, what we accomplish, what we provide.

Can we cultivate the vision of the Great Gardener, the One who sees you for what you are becoming? The one who tends and prunes, nourishes and lets go?

Perhaps for us, the fruit is not the ending. The fruit is in the waiting, in the dead of winter, in the manure; the nurture, the rest, the darkness. The fruit is in all of it, sowing seeds we can't yet see.

This is a service for all - those who are ill in body or spirit *and* those who simply want to draw nearer to Christ. There is much we can learn from the lesson of the Fig Tree.

From the Fellowship Team

Join us as we celebrate March and April birthdays on March 24th. We will be having cupcakes and drinks during coffee hour.

In April we will be planning a family bowling party. The date is yet to be determined, but we will be asking for your input and will need a headcount. Thank you.



GOOD NEWS for the GOOD NEIGHBOR FUND

As we reported earlier this year, the Good Neighbor Fund did not access all of the money in our Matching Funds Grant from the Bullis Fund during 2018. We had approximately \$5,000 unused in the account.

We submitted a request to continue using the matching fund and it was approved! Once again, every dollar you give to the Good Neighbor Fund will become two dollars.

Check your pockets, check your wallet. Maybe you forgot that you tucked away a few dollars for a rainy day. Your rainy-day fund could help the sun shine again for a Good Neighbor Fund recipient.



Dates set for Family

Promise weeks at WPC in 2019

We will host **April 14, June 16, and December 1.**

We can always use more volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer and haven't had training,

Sign up on the bulletin board across from the office

and we'll set up a training time.

Family Promise is hoping to find someone who will provide

coverage at the Day Center in Lyons.

Do you know someone in need of a part-time job?

Did you know that the Bible begins with a craft activity?

The Creation stories in the Book of Genesis

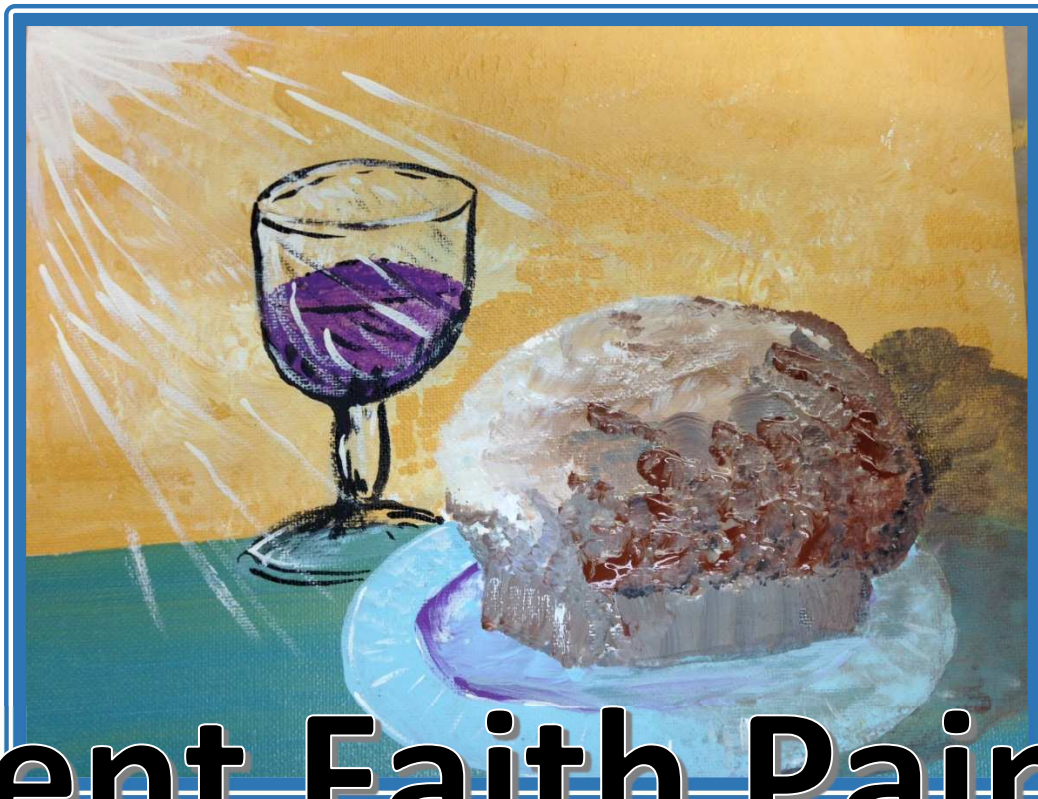
Faith and love can be expressed in any way that strengthens your relationship to God. However, **YOU** apply your creativity to your faith—Try applying it through a Faith Paint.

Please sign-up so we are sure to have supplies of one and all!

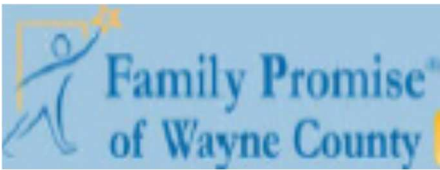
All are welcome.....of any age

(Adults, please accompany your children)

Saturday, March 23rd at 10am-1pm *in Fellowship Hall*



Lent Faith Paint



★ We are a local response to a national crisis, helping homeless families build new lives.

Bed City Fundraiser...

Our 2nd annual signature fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2019

from 4:00-7:00 PM

at Western Presbyterian Church.

This year's goal is \$10,000!

Food, Music, Kids Activities

Beds Decorated by Youth Groups

Beds donated to homeless families as they graduate from the program.

See the next page for ways you can help!



Family Promise Bed City Fundraiser May 11, 2019

How can you help?

1. Help in creating and running a food booth. For example,
 - Ice cream sundaes
 - Hot dogs
 - Italian Sausage
 - Soda/Water/Juice
2. Decorate beds – Scouts, Group of Youth,
 - pillows, sheets, blankets used in decorating are given to families as they move into their new homes.
 - Beds will be stored and given to families.
3. Plan and run a kid’s activity in the park or yard. For example,
 - bean bag toss
 - parachute activity
4. Make items to sell at a table – profits to group or church
5. Make items to sell at a table – profits to Family Promise
6. Silent Auction – profits to Family Promise
 - make, buy or get donated items for a silent auction
7. Donate money to sponsor a bed by yourself or with others.
8. Have your business sponsor a bed.
9. Invite friends and family to attend the Bed City Event

See Peter or Irene Fadden or Jody Pruitt, if you have questions.

IMMEDIATE OPPORTUNITIES IN LYONS



JOIN AMERICORPS TODAY!

AmeriCorps Members:

COMMIT to 900 hours of service through December 2019
About 25 hours per week

EARN a living Allowance while in service, max of \$5,000

OBTAIN an Education Award upon completion of service,
max of \$2907

DEFER Student Loans payments while in service

RECEIVE comprehensive skills-based training

BECOME a part of Finger Lakes Living Healthy AmeriCorps

PROVIDE health education for persons living with chronic
health issues!

For more information contact Program Manager Rob Weaver

T: 315-665-0131 x250 E: robert.weaver@waynecap.org

Finger Lakes Living Healthy AmeriCorps is administered by
Wayne County Actions Program, Inc. EOE

The prayer concerns listed are current as of 02/24/19. Please remember that all prayer requests are automatically removed from the list after one month unless the giver specifically requests continuation.

Our Prayer Concerns

Grieving:

Family & Friends of Harold Elsenheimer (requested by Irene Fadden)

Family & Friends of Shelly Crandall (requested by Rochelle Morse)

Family & Friends of Bethany Schklar (requested by Pastor Kyle)

Family & Friends of Janet Gelein (requested by Sandy McMenamin)



Serving in Armed Forces: (Please contact church office if no longer serving)

Jeffrey Bavis, AJ Bliss, Kyle Chapman, Tim Henderson, Jake Hewitt, Adam

Hill, Sarah Jagger, Joe Krebbeks, Patrick Magno, Brandon Maxwell, D.J.

Phee-Henderson, Adam Stephens, Adam VanNatta, Logan Warner, Shod

Williams

Others for whom prayers have been requested:

All caregivers, All victims of violence, hatred and hunger, Jessica Bacchuber, Brooks Ballard, Matt Barbalato, Robert Barr, Pat Beato, Jane Becker, Mary Blake, Bill Coene, Harry DeCook, Gladys DeBruyne, Art Duel, Yvonne Ferraro, Ed Forman, Nancy Grantling, Geoff Hargrave, Josh Howerton, Mary Kay Jones, Jennifer Lapp, Marta Lydia & Pastor Ricardo, Mason, Janna (Kirchhoff) McGlynn, Sandy McMenamin, Zach Melville, Myles, Ginny Palmer, Wesley Pruitt, Ray & Fran Stein, Oscar Stevens, Becky Strause, Dave Taylor, David Thorn, Steve Vanderwedge, Bob Wyllie

Please pray for those who wish to remain anonymous as they, too, need our prayers.

Others for whom we continue to pray:

Doris Coffman, Tracy D'Arduini, Harold M. Delhagen, Ed Elsenheimer, Jack Lamphier, Laura Loomis, Nick Loomis, Ashley Maragas, Cim McFarlane, Luke Medina, Christie Romano, Melissa Taylor, Jonah Wieber, Marcia White

Congregation members in nursing homes or shut-in:

Peg Eskild, Jamie Hemmings, Beverly Koeberle, Bev Mouton, Patricia Nash, Grace Williams

Please remember that all prayer requests are automatically removed from the list after one month unless the giver specifically requests continuation.

In the event of an emergency for which prayer is requested, please call **Deacon Sandy McMenamin @ Home 315-597-6181 smcmenamin@rochester.rr.com**

You may also call the **church office 597-9171** to communicate your request through the Deacons Emergency Prayer Chain.

Your Property Team would like to remind you that we have a monthly point person on call. If you spot an urgent issue that needs attending, please contact the appropriate person rather than the person you may have reached out to in the past.

Month	Name	Home Phone	Cell Phone	Email Address
March	Phil Opdycke	585-385-6189	585-259-6932	popdycke@rochester.rr.com

Thank you! We appreciate all the members of our congregation being eyes and ears for our facility.



Toddler **March** Schedule

Below is the Schedule for staffing of the Toddler Room during the 10:00 AM Sunday morning service. Thank you in advance for your extremely important mission of providing infant and toddler care. Please arrive about 10-15 minutes early. If you find you are not available on your assigned date, please find a replacement. Many, Many, thanks!

The Nursery is room # 5 – South Side located on the 2nd floor. Snack will be on the counter and a vacuum will be in the closet next to the Green Room. Age appropriate toys will be available as well as a changing table. Please let Jody know when we need to refill the snacks. Once again,

Thank -You for your help

03/03/19	Jan Taylor	315-597-4293
03/10/19	Sue Pringle	315-597-9533
03/17/19	Rena Haigh	315-597-5971
03/24/19	Maxine & Kelly Babcock	315-210-0368
03/31/19	Sue Leonard	585-734-4027
04/07/19	Carol & Andy Sloan	315-597-5182
04/14/19	Irene Fadden	585-802-7594
04/21/19	Ruth Dantz	315-597-2143
04/28/19	Jody Pruitt	315-331-3211
05/05/19	Nancy Talma	315-597-5003
05/12/19	Logan & Kelly Babcock	315-210-0368



*If anyone or anyone you know may be interested in joining the team in providing infant and toddler care during the 10:00 am service please contact **Jody Pruitt**, we would love to have you! Also, if you are no longer able to help please let Jody know as well. Thanks ~ the CE Team

Jody Pruitt 315-331-3211 jody.pruitt@gmail.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March 4	Barbara Pieters
March 4	Ruth Dantz
March 5	Lou Callerame
March 11	Eric Chapman
March 16	Shelby Hutton
March 16	Sarah Hutton
March 17	Collin Trapiss
March 19	Doris Chriswell
March 21	Cheyenne Lane
March 22	Sue Pringle
March 22	William Bush
March 22	Cassandra Hughes
March 23	Cory Trapiss
March 26	Kurt Scribner
March 26	Mary Beth LaBerge
March 27	Tricia Owen
March 29	Jacqueline DeBrine
March 30	Scott Bush
March 31	Walter Lester

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March 17	Ronald & Barbara Pieters
March 21	Bill & Elaine Hassler

If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the office at 597-9171 so we can add it to our list next time!



MARCH 2019

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
					1 World Day of Prayer	2
3 Transfiguration of the Lord Sweets & Treats Take Down Family Promise	4 4:30 pm CTNS Board 7 pm Fellowship	5 2 pm Deacons	6 Ash Wednesday 11 am – 1 pm FH Women's Gathering 1 pm Mission/Social Concerns 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Service	7 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	8	9
10 1st Sunday in Lent 9 am Visio Divina Communion Sunday Daylight Savings Time Begins	11	12 6-9 pm King's Daughters FH & Kit. 7 pm Worship	13 7 pm Book Study	14 5-7 pm CTNS Open House FH 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	15	16 9-11:30 am Borderlands Presentation
17 2nd Sunday in Lent 9 am Visio Divina Bob Ike preaching	18	19 SPIRE DEADLINE 7 pm Generosity	20 6:30 pm Property 7 pm Book Study	21 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	22	23 10 am to 1 pm FH Faith Paint
24 3rd Sunday in Lent 9 am Visio Divina Birthday Celebration	25	26 7 pm Session	27 7 pm Book Study	28 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	29	30 9 am Junia Gathering
31 4th Sunday in Lent 9 am Visio Divina Easter Cards for shut ins						



APRIL 2019

SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
	1 4:30 pm CTNS Board 7 pm Fellowship	2 2 pm Deacons	3 11 am to 1 pm FH Women's Gathering 1 pm Mission/Social Concerns 7 pm Christian Ed. 7 pm Book Study	4 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	5	6
7 5th Sunday in Lent 9 am Visio Divina Bob Ike preaching	8	9 7 pm Worship	10 7 pm Book Study	11 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	12	13
14 Passion/Palm Sunday 9 am Visio Divina Palm Sunday Parade Family Promise host families 7 pm Service of Healing	15 Family Promise host families	16 SPIRE DEADLINE Family Promise host families 7 pm Generosity	17 6:30 pm Property 7 pm Finance 7 pm Book Study Family Promise host families	18 Maundy Thursday Family Promise host families	19 Good Friday 7 pm Service Family Promise host families	20 Family Promise host families
21 Easter Sunday Communion Sunday No Sunday School Take down Family Promise	22 Earth Day 6-9 pm Set Up Rummage Sale	23 6-9 pm King's Daughters Parlor 6-9 pm Set Up Rummage Sale 7 pm Session	24 Noon-9 pm Set Up Rummage Sale 7 pm Circle IV Parlor 7 pm Finance	25 9 am to 5 pm Rummage Sale 6 pm Bell Choir 7 pm Choir	26 9 am to 5 pm Set Up Rummage Sale	27 9-11 am Rummage Sale 11 am to 1 pm Tear Down
28 9 am Book Club Bob Ike preaching VBS Preview Event Potluck after worship	29	30				