



The First Presbyterian Church of Sharon, Pa.

E m p h a s i s

MARCH 2025

The Walls Fall Down

“Something there is that doesn’t love a wall.” It is the first line of Robert Frost’s poem *Mending Wall*. In the poem Frost reflects on the stone walls between neighbors in New England and the annual spring ritual of repairing those walls.

The poem is often best known for the sentiment of the neighbor: “Good fences make good neighbors.” But Frost is not so sure about that. He wonders if perhaps there is something fundamental about creation and life together (the “Something there is”) that naturally acts to pull down walls. And perhaps the “best neighbors would not need fences.” But rather than take a chance we go back to fixing the wall each spring.

“Something there is that doesn’t love a wall.”

The season of Lent is upon us. It is the annual Church season of 40 days for reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter. It is also the annual season in New England when falling walls are mended. Strange coincidence, isn’t it?

So I’m wondering with Frost that maybe during Lent we might wonder a little about the walls we build between each other. Walls between spouses. Walls between a parent and child. Walls that divide families. Walls that separate old friends. Walls that keep possible new friends away. And maybe we could just take a chance and let the stones lay on the ground once in a while.

Certainly there are times and places for walls to protect ourselves. Abusive and selfish people are always looking for weakness in a wall. But in the current epidemic of loneliness I wonder if we just have too many walls. And we are discovering that social media is not the same thing as a neighbor becoming a friend.

So maybe this Lent it is worth reflecting on a relationship to mend rather than a wall to repair. To whom might you write a note, share a cup of coffee, or make a phone call? How might there be one less wall so to make your life better?

“Something there is that doesn’t love a wall.” Might that be God?

—Glenn

March 2025 Preaching and Worship Schedule

- 2 I Samuel 7:3-17. Dr. Hink preaching.
- 5 Ash Wednesday worship. 7:00PM.
- 9 1st Lent. Communion. I Corinthians 1:10-2:5. Dr. Hink preaching.
- 16 2nd Lent. I Corinthians 3:1-9. Dr. Hink preaching.
- 23 3rd Lent. I Corinthians 8:1-13. Dr. Crooks preaching.
- 30 4th Lent. I Corinthians 12:1-11. Dr. Hink preaching.
(*Lenten concert by harpist Kirk Kupensky at 12:15 following worship in the chapel.)

March Worship Notes

*The Church season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday worship. Lent is a 40 day period of repentance and preparation for Holy Week and Easter. In a hurried culture of full calendars and “one more thing” Lent invites everyone to slow down and reflect a little on life and faith and God.

*Ash Wednesday worship is a quiet, reflective service that invites participants to ponder mortality, sin and repentance, and the grace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. The 7PM service includes quiet songs, prayers, silence, scripture and the imposition of ashes for those who choose to receive this ancient Church sign of repentance and mortality. As with all evening services in the 1st Church sanctuary, there is a feeling of beauty and holiness in the Ash Wednesday service.

*Lenten devotions entitled *A Way Other Than Our Own* written by Walter Brueggemann will be available to 1st Church members and friends. The brief daily readings invite reflection on life, faith, and scripture. The devotional booklets will be available in the 1st Church Coffee House. A \$5 donation is asked to help cover the cost. The Sunday School class led by Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink will also discuss the devotional material during Lent.

*The Lenten sermon series for worship will change to I Corinthians. This letter to the Christians in Corinth from Paul has a very contemporary sound as Paul writes to address the questions and problems of that 1st C church.

Puzzle!

Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

S

Proverbs 6:6

Psalms 78:45

Matthew 23:24

Judges 14:8b

Acts 12:23

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22

Deuteronomy 7:20

Exodus 16:20

1 Samuel 24:14

Isaiah 50:9

Isaiah 59:5

Leviticus 11:22

Leviticus 11:22



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S

Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket

sweet soil



This snack's layers mimic properties of our planet's crust.

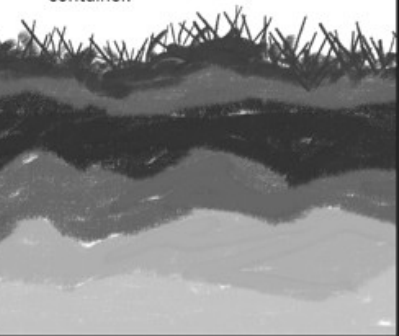


What you need:

- 1 cup rolled oats
- ½ cup nut butter (divided)
- ½ cup chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Silicone mini baking cups

What you do:

1. Combine the oats and ¼ cup of the nut butter. Mix until oats stick together.
2. Place 2 teaspoons of oat mixture in each baking cup. Press with a spoon. Freeze for 10 minutes.
3. Spread remaining nut butter atop the cups. Freeze for 10 more minutes.
4. Microwave the chocolate chips 30 seconds. Stir and keep heating for 30-second intervals until melted.
5. Spread melted chocolate atop the cups. Freeze until chocolate is firm.
6. Remove from the molds and enjoy! Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container.





Ridgewood 724-347-0998
One Elston Way,
Hermitage, PA 16148
Gail Hink, 206
Shirley Sankey, 303
Mary Ellen Foltz, 305

Gables Care Center
351 Lahm Dr, Hopedale, OH43976
Betty Hudson



1 Lyle Derrenbacher	14 Diane Shardy
1 Chookie LaCamera	15 Susan McKinney
4 Joe Dillinger	15 Jeff Pisano
4 Patricia Puntureri	15 Jack O'Donnell
4 Jane Jones	16 Dan Getway
5 Jack O'Donnell	18 John Ackley
6 Carter Jones	18 Robbie Smith
7 Sarah Sowers	20 Mary Lou Dunlap
7 Kyle Lindey	25 Steve Carlson
9 Edward McCullough	28 Suellen Thompson
11 Florence Paddock	30 Brenda Hall
13 Thalia Heiges	30 Mason Jones
14 Albert Spadin	

March SPECIAL DATES

- ◆ Ash Wednesday, *March 5*
- ◆ World Day of Prayer, *March 7*
- ◆ Daylight saving time begins, *March 9*
- ◆ First day of spring, *March 20*

A Look Ahead at Worship

*Holy Week begins with Passion/Palm Sunday on April 13th. Maundy Thursday worship on April 17th will begin at 7:00PM, including communion and the darkening of the sanctuary as the passion story is read. Easter Sunday on April 20th will celebrate the resurrection of Christ in a liturgical drama and include communion.

*Blue Grass worship is coming on April 27th. Banjos, guitars, and mandolins will help lead and shape worship on this Sunday.



During Lent Dr. Crooks and Dr. Hink will be discussing the Lenten devotional *A Way Other Than Our Own* by Walter Brueggemann. Each Sunday they will discuss a few of the devotional thoughts from the previous week's readings. The class will meet in Fellowship

Hall from 10:00-10:45AM. The devotional will be available in the Coffee House for a donation of \$5 to help cover the cost of the book.

Arts @1st

Harpist and good friend of 1st Church Kirk Kupensky will share a Lenten concert on Sunday, March 30th, following worship. The concert will be in the smaller space of Henderson Chapel. A light lunch will be provided in the Coffee House

before the concert. Everyone is invited to share in this special Lenten concert.



MISSION TEAM PRAYER PROGRAM

Adopt-A-Cop is an international prayer protection ministry for law enforcement officers.

It was founded by Chaplain Sgt. Ken Rochell of Michigan State Police in 1998 to serve as a bridge between local churches and their local law enforcement agencies.

The purpose of **Adopt-a-Cop** is to assign law enforcement officers to a group, or individual who will pray daily for them. While 1st Church is not involved directly or officially with this Ministry, the Mission Team wanted to maintain the spirit and encourage the congregation to pray for our own local police officers. The Team will announce a new officer each month and ask for prayers for them and their family. Our youth will make cards and the Mission Team will include a \$25 gift card for each officer of the month.

March

Cody J. Emmett

Sharon Police Department



Church Attendance for January 2025					
2024		2025		Online	
7th	112	5th	77	255	views
14th	56	12th	85	47	views
21st	63	19th	74	85	views
28th	61	26th	72	48	views
292 27%		308 29%			



From the desk of your Mission Committee

During the month of March, FPC members will begin their **Annual Food Drive**. In the main hallway, 2 boxes are identified for your canned goods/non-perishable contributions.

For those who generously donate, you will find a little thank you. Check it out!!!



Front lawners group will continue to cut grass for the lot on Fullerton and Fifth and the grass on the lot of the Fuller Center. This is done on a weekly basis by volunteers. Last year we had five volunteers, which worked out to each volunteer cutting grass every third week. The mission team purchased a battery run mower which is kept by the church. It is fairly easy to lift and transport in the trunk of most cars. Anyone wishing to volunteer, please contact Lyle Derrenbacher at lylebutch@gmail.com to be put on the schedule. Actual cutting will probably start sometime in late March. Further information will be sent to all volunteers.

Financial Giving News January 2025			
Operations Budget		Mission Budget	
1st Sunday	2,568.89	1st Sunday	442.50
2nd Sunday	2,495.65	2nd Sunday	272.50
3rd Sunday	3,491.89	3rd Sunday	302.50
4th Sunday	2,448.78	4th Sunday	317.50
Total for January	11,005.21	Total for January	1,335.00
Budget for January	14,904.17	Budget for January	1,385.50
Balance for January	(3,898.96)	Balance for January	(50.50)
Total for Year to Date	11,005.21	Total for Year to Date	1,335.00
Budget for Year to Date	14,904.17	Budget for Year to Date	1,385.50
Balance for Yr to Date	(3,898.96)	Balance for Yr to Date	(50.50)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

TEA

Sunday, April 6, 2025

12:15 PM

Fellowship Hall

All women are invited to join us for delicious Tea of savory and sweet treats on April 6, 2025 in Fellowship Hall. Memorabilia of Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church of Sharon will be displayed. There will be presentations from PW Moderator, Shari Getway, PW Historian, Marcia Moyer, and Millie Milheim, Bible Study along with some fun giveaways. Please contact Nancy in the church office to make a reservation so we have an accurate count for food preparation. We are looking forward to hosting the women of the church. See you there!



The Deacons are currently engaged in taking home communion to our shut-ins. If you or someone you know would desire this ministry, please call the church office and let us know. We will gladly add your name to our list and contact you as soon as possible.



Edgar Groves
February 1, 2025



On-Line Ministry

1st Church has a very active and professional online ministry. Each Sunday the worship services are available via live stream at 11:00AM on the 1st Church YouTube channel. Those services are also recorded on the same YouTube channel for viewing at a later time. Special music events are also available. An easy way to view the online services is to visit the 1st Presbyterian Church of Sharon website, click on "FPC Videos," and then click on "Live." On any given week 100+ people may view worship services at 1st Church online. It is a new way of sharing ministry in the 21st C.

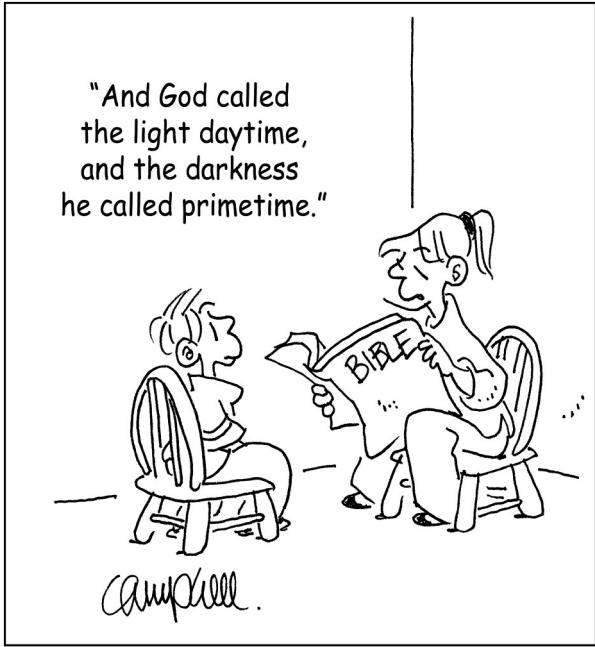
The Lenten Desert



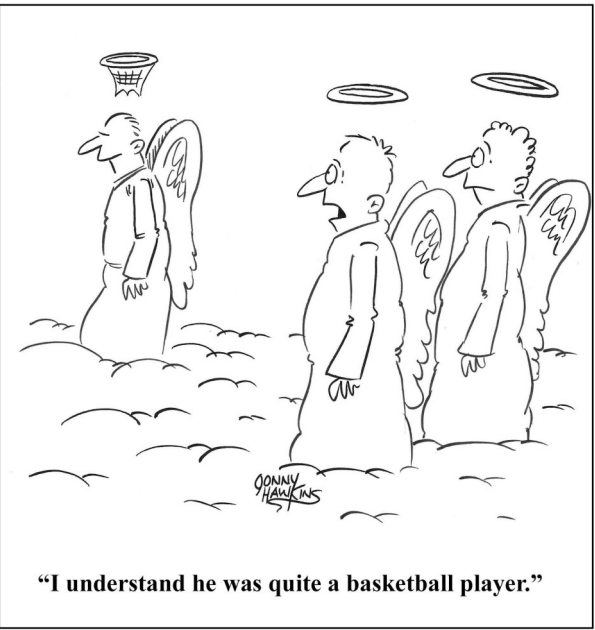
During the Lenten season, which begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year), Christians figuratively follow Jesus into the desert. Just as our Savior spent 40 days fasting and facing temptation, we focus on self-reflection and contrition.

In an 1873 hymn, Claudia Hernaman wrote, "O Lord, throughout these forty days, you prayed and kept the fast. Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past."

The desert experience of Lent serves a clear purpose, filling us up rather than depleting us. "This is what Lent is meant to be," writes theologian Ron Rolheiser. "Time in the desert to courageously face the chaos and the demons within us and to let God do battle with them through us. The result is that we are purified, made ready, so the intoxicating joy of Easter might then bind us more closely to God and each other."



March Merriment



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Worship @ 1st 9:30 Choir Practice-303 10:00 Adult Sunday School-FH 11:00 Worship in the Sanctuary 12:00 Fellowship @ 1st in the Library FH=Fellowship Hall CR=Conference Room						1
2 2:00 Leave for snow-boarding	3 7:00 SVC-FH	4	5 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 11:00 Staff-106 7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship	6	7	8 
9 1st Sunday in Lent 10:00 D&M-Library 12:00 Deacons-FH 12:00 Worship Team-Parlor 12:00 Mission Team-106	10 6:00 Scouts 7:00 SVC-FH	11 1:30 PWCT-106	12 12:00 Mary/Martha Circle-FH 1:00 Program Staff-CR 5:00 Admin. Team-CR 6:00 Property Team-CR	13	14	15 10:00 SVC Board -206
16 2nd Sunday in Lent 6:00 Session-206	17  6:00 SVC-FH	18	19 7:00 Men's Fellowship-Panera 1:00 Staff-106	20 	21	22
23 3rd Sunday in Lent 30 4th Sunday in Lent	24 6:00 Scouts 6:00 Writers' Group-Library 7:00 SVC-FH 31 6:00 Scouts 7:00 SVC-FH	25 6:00 Amateur Radio -FH	26	27	28 Hockey Game	29