



Daylight Savings Time Begins Sunday, March 11

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour!



Time to Spring Ahead

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ASHLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Ashland Presbyterian Church

APC Connections

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Upcoming Events

- March 4-18—Lenten Speaker series continues 9:15 AM
- March 11—Session meets 12:15 PM
- March 13—PW Circle meets 11 AM
- March 25—Palm Sunday Breakfast, 9:30 AM
- March 29 — 7 PM Maundy Thursday Communion Ser-



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Pastor's Page

Friends,

There are two questions I'd like to briefly answer in this month's newsletter.

1) Why are we doing retreat ministry as a church?

The easy answer might be to say, "Our pastor loves doing retreats." That is true, and yet, that shouldn't be the only reason. Another reason we are doing retreat ministry as a church is that, for longer than I've been here, one of the priorities of this congregation has been to provide opportunities for spiritual growth. That growth happens through some of the routine things we do because we are the church – things like worshipping together, having Bible studies, and spending time in conversation. But even those things can become routine and comfortable. The gospel writers tell us several times over that Jesus went APART to pray. Making plans for a retreat may accomplish a similar purpose to what Jesus was doing. Sometimes we need a new place, or a new framework to encounter God in such a way that it leads to growth. We meet people in our retreats that we wouldn't know from just our experience of coming to events at Ashland Presbyterian Church. We meet those from other faith communities who join us. We get to know the residents at Richmond Hill who have committed themselves to a ministry of hospitality. We learn new things about each other when we spend more time together than we have to chat on Sunday mornings. And it is a way to share our particular gifts as a congregation. As you may have heard me say multiple times over, "This is a Teaching Congregation." What I mean by that is that we are a gathering of people

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who are mature enough in their faith to know that there is always more for us to learn. In a retreat – there are teachers and leaders, yes – but even more importantly, those who sign up for and attend retreats are willing to be vulnerable in finding out what more there might be to know about themselves and about God.

2) Why are we offering a retreat for leaders of small congregations?

You could give the same answer, “Our pastor loves small churches.” Again, true. I have a heart for those who attend and serve in small congregations. I know how hard it can be to serve in a place with limits – limits on resources and endurance, limits on time and money. It’s hard to feel like you are going it alone. And for these small church leaders, ministry can feel lonely. Who will care about tiny churches in our “bigger is better” world? I think that our congregation, with its gifts, with its strengths, and with its willingness to be a pioneer of spiritual growth can help breathe life into a whole network of small congregations and their leadership. The Vision 2020 task force of this Presbytery reported that they were hearing a longing for spiritual depth and connection. The leaders of Ashland area churches have been forging stronger relationships. Now is the time. Now is the opportunity to use what we’ve already learned how to do through our Ash Grove Women’s Retreat and fill another need for another audience.

But in offering this new retreat, it isn’t JUST built for those outside our congregation to connect, it’s for US to connect to those outside our congregation who are facing the exact same joys and concerns in today’s world. How will the church survive in the future? My hunch is that it will survive the same way it did in the past, as small groups of committed people choose to pray together, to care for each other, and to bless each other with the love of God.

So, after reading the answers to these questions, I hope you will do a couple things. Come to part or all of the Step-By-Step retreat this April (a brochure is included in this newsletter). And if you can’t come to the retreat, pray for those who do to experience the Holy Spirit at work. And by all means – tell your friends. There is a registration form on our website for those who are coming from other congregations and other places. (<http://ashlandpresbyterian.org/retreats/step-by-step-a-retreat/>) You can email the link to anyone you think would benefit from time apart to pray and be spiritually uplifted.

Thanks for supporting your pastor (me) as I am called to our mutual mission, to help others grow spiritually and to serve and build up the small church – by being centered in this one!

Peace, Pastor Kerra

Usher and Greeter Schedule

	GREETERS	USHERS	COMMUNION ELDERS	COMMUNION PREP & CLEANUP	LITURGIST	FLOWERS
03/04/18	Emily Pepper	B. Mathes, P. Shinnamon	T. Blair, C. Schutte, B. Shea, J. Tate	S. Carneal, L. Campbell	A. Bowman	K. Cole
3/11/18	Erin Phillips	T. Blair, L. Campbell	<i>REMEMBER, If you cannot serve, please find a replacement and leave a message on the office phone, 798-5543.</i>			
3/18/18	P. Ritchie	L. Allison, S. Vitale				A. Bowman
3/25/18	C. Schutte	S. & M. Carneal, R. English, C. Phillips				
4/1/18	B. Shea	S. Henderson, S. & D. Moncol, J. Tate	L. Allison, K. Basilio, R. DuPriest, E. Mathes	K. Pugh, J. Tate	A. Bowman	Easter Flowers



Happy Birthday to: March

- 13 Barclay DuPriest
- 19 Cade English
- 30 Elizabeth Hargrove
Suzanne Huff
- 31 Robert Tate



Morgan Winfield Raymond was born on February 16th at 11:15 pm. to proud parents Jennifer and Michael Raymond, and big sister Rebecca Rose.

Are you interested in putting flowers in the sanctuary for Sunday worship? There is a sign-up sheet in the magazine stand on the table in the narthex..



You can also contact Jane Glazebrook, flower steward for March and April. We have many openings from which to choose! If you are giving flowers in memory of or to honor someone, call the church office. Susan will be glad to put the announcement in the bulletin!



March 25, 9:30 a.m.
in Lancaster Hall
The Christian Education Committee invites all to a fellowship and breakfast Palm Sunday morning.



Communion Service March 29 at 7 PM

Anyone unable to come to the Maundy Thursday service who would like to have communion at home during Holy Week, please contact Pastor Kerra to make arrangements for a visit.

Easter Sunday April 1, 2018

11 AM Worship
No Sunday School

Remember to come early and bring fresh flowers for the Living Cross!



During morning worship, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering which goes to the Self-development of People, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.



Hello Ashland Presbyterians:

Over the years I have been blessed by being in Worship with you all. I want to say thank you for being my church family and for your support, care, concern, cards, calls prayers and just knowing you are there. As the days progress in this chemo process I am taking one day at a time with the Lord walking with me and through the good days as well as the bad. He even walks with me in the toughest of symptoms. I am not leaning on my own understanding of this process, as some of the greatest minds and expertise have been placed just where I have needed them. I have turned the whole process over to the Lord and the doctor and I follow the path they set for me. I have been blessed with the best care from hospital to doctors, nurses and family both home and church.

I love you all and want you to know I think of you daily and am grateful to be part of this church. Just know that God has put each and every one of you where you need to be. Keep on letting your lights shine, your voices be heard and your continued work as you see fit. Love one another and remember to wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands. Love Judy



Adult Sunday School: LENTEN SERIES 2018 Continues

Our Lenten Series this year features two speakers, Rabbi Patrick Beaulier, and our intern Andrew Bowman. We will be talking about the context and events leading up to Passover and what that celebration means for our Jewish brothers and sisters (as Jesus also was celebrating Passover during what we call the Last Supper). Then we will consider the impact of the whole Lenten season on our lives. In this, we will be exploring both history and memory, and how both impact our practices as families of faith.

We are meeting on Sundays **through March 18**, and are starting at 9:15 a.m. with refreshments, so if you would like, bring a breakfast something to share, with the exception of March 4, when we will experience a Passover Seder.

About Rabbi Patrick:



Rabbi Patrick Beaulier is the spiritual advisor for Bonay Kodesh, the Jewish community of Chesterfield. He is also the founder and director of DarshanYeshiva.org, an adult Jewish educational website. He is a prolific author, editor, and has been featured in the Richmond Times-Dispatch, Chesterfield Observer and the Times of Israel.

With Patrick:

- ♦ **March 4:** Experience a Passover Seder! (No breakfast items needed this Sunday) – Participate in an abbreviated Passover seder, learn Hebrew blessings and taste delicious matzoh (ok..maybe delicious is going a bit far!)

With Andrew:

- ♦ **March 11:** All in the Family – What Lent means to the Church Community
- ♦ **March 18:** Where do we go from here? – What Lent means for the rest of the year



Presbyterian Women

PW Circle will meet Tuesday, **March 13 at 11:00 a.m.** in Lancaster Hall for study and lunch. Kerra will lead our Bible study — Lesson 6: *In Community with the Reality of the Present*. Bring a sandwich. We will provide desserts and beverages. — Linda Allison