

Central Happenings

SUNDAY – March 26

10:00am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)

MONDAY – March 27

6:30pm Session (Discipleship)

WEDNESDAY – March 29

10:00am WOW (Fitch Parlor)

12:00pm Charity Knitters (Discipleship)

5:30pm Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

THURSDAY – March 30

10:00am Library Team (Fitch Parlor)

7:00pm Central Choir Practice (Rehearsal Hall)

Please sign the congregational letter located in the Narthex. The letter this week goes to Harriet Smith on the death of her cousin, Jim.

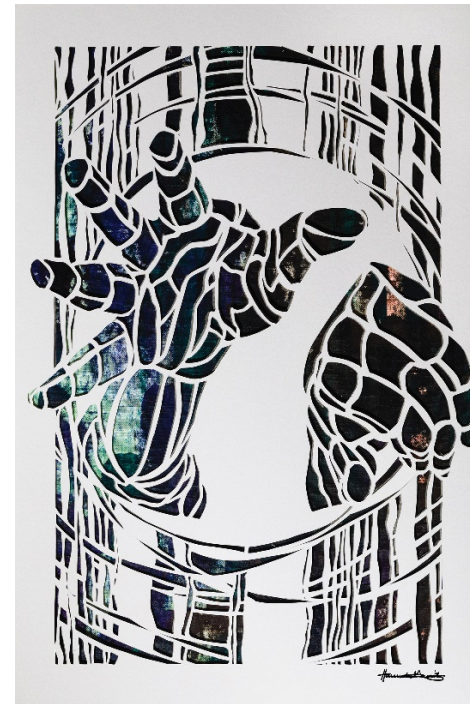
Looking ahead to Holy Week: We will hold special services for Maundy Thursday April 6, and Good Friday, April 7 both at 7:00pm. Please join us as we follow the journey Jesus took from Palm Sunday to Easter.

Easter lilies can be reserved to honor/remember a loved one by using the order form insert or emailing the church office.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People—all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Donations will be accepted through April 9. Please include OGHS on the memo line of your check.

Pastor: Wil Reinowski
Adult Music & Organist: Jeffrey Stearns
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak
Celebration Music: Paul Foster
Custodian: Bob Hill

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Central Presbyterian Church

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 26, 2023

Welcome

Prelude “Kyrie” (Cesar Franck)

***Call to Worship** Kristie Sherman

Leader: Have you ever felt washed up, brittle, worn-down to the bone?

People: Have you ever felt grief lay heavy on your back?

Leader: Have you ever felt like hope was out of reach?

People: the curious, the hungry, the loving, the lonely, in hopes of finding peace.

Leader: Have you ever wondered, can these bones live?

People: If you have, then you are in the right place, for this is God’s house. Hope lives here.

Leader: So, come. Rest your weary bones.

People: Let us worship Holy God.

***Hymn** "O God, Who Gives Us Life" 53

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Jesus of Nazareth, we confess: we forget that you know this feeling. We forget that you, too, have wept. We forget that you, too, have lost. We forget that you, too, have gathered at the tomb, have grieved for a friend, have felt the sting of humanity. Forgive us for all the times we place blame on you. Forgive us for all the times we create distance, imagining that you could never feel what we feel. Forgive us for allowing the valley of dry bones to be a sea of space between us. Pour yourself into the cracks in our hearts. Bring these bones back to life. Bring us closer to you. With gratitude we pray, Amen.

Sung Response "Wait for the Lord" 90

*Wait for the LORD, whose day is near.
Wait for the LORD; be strong; take heart!*

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, we could spend our whole lives ignoring God, pushing God away, or trying to solve the world's problems all on our own, and God would still love us all the same. Even in our shortcomings, we are God's beloved. So hear and believe this good news:

People: We are saved by grace through faith. We belong to God. We are not alone.

*Congregational Response

"Glory to God in the Highest" (back cover Hymnal)

*Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading Ezekiel 37:1-14

Anthem "Come Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy" (R. Turner)

Second Reading John 11:17-27

Message "Seeking: Life" Rev. Wil Reinowski

Music "Image of God" (C. Wells/N. Witt)

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Offering

The offering basket is located at the back of the west aisle of the sanctuary. Feel free to leave your offering at this time.

Offertory "Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness" (GERMANY)

***Doxology** 606

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Holy God, giver of life, we thank you for raising us up and joining us together as one people, your people, flesh and bone in the body of Christ. As you have delivered us from death, use our lives to proclaim the good news of new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Hymn** "O Christ, the Healer" 793

Benediction

Postlude "Here I Am, Lord" (D. Schutte)

Please remain seated until the conclusion of the postlude.



** Please stand as you are able.*

Cover Art: "Unbind Him" by Hannah Garrity Inspired by John 11:1-45 | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. See handout on back table for more information by the artist. Jesus' call for unbinding Lazarus body includes the community surrounding him in grief. The foreshortened hands of the community, reach in toward Lazarus. They reach through the concentric binding lines so that he can go free. Can these bones live?

In Our Prayers

We pray for the family of Jim Bell, the cousin of Harriet Smith, as he enters the Church Triumphant. We also pray for our Special Care friends Melba Tiemann and Mary Lou Allen.