

MARCH
2019

Lent Currents

A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

EARTHQUAKE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Earthquake Restoration Committee is in the final stages of its work, as commissioned by the Trustees.

The Committee's purpose has been to identify needed repairs and potential improvements (that could be made most efficiently during repairs) with associated costs, in addition to potential sources of funding. The Committee will provide a report to the Trustees, who will then suggest a repair/improvement program to the Session. The Session can then inform the congregation on those items under consideration for members to provide input to inform the Session's decision.

The Committee is currently drafting its final report to the Trustees. For the report, the Committee has already collected cost estimates from local contractors and is determining which repairs could be completed by volunteers from our congregation. The Committee is still trying to determine if there is roof damage from the earthquake and if insurance would cover the repair. Outside funding sources considered included FEMA, State of Alaska Emergency Management, and private loans, along with funding options within our denomination, the PCUSA. Based on preliminary briefs on this research, the Session voted to apply for loans from FEMA and the PCUSA. The Trustees will not contract any work until funding is secured. However, tenant space repairs are already complete using PCUSA grant funding.

Please provide input the Committee Chair, Paul Cartland, on any damage you may have noticed around the church, to make sure no needed repair is missed. Please also pray for the Committee, Trustees, and the Session as this work continues.



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PASTOR'S P O S T S

Dear Friends,

We'll begin Lent together this week with an Ash Wednesday service. The start of Lent depends on the date of Easter, which changes every year because it is always the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox. Easter can fall anywhere from March 22nd to April 25th; this year it's very late, on April 21st. To get to the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday we go back forty days (plus Sundays) from the date of Easter: March 6th. On Ash Wednesday we will pray and sing and hear God's Word as we receive the imposition of ashes to mark our repentance and our faith in this new season of preparation for Easter.

Whenever the date of Ash Wednesday, in Alaska Lent always starts before spring appears. Even though real spring is still weeks if not months away, many of us are beginning our spring cleaning as the days get longer. This week we have more than ten hours of daylight. A month from now we'll have thirteen hours and two months from today we'll be up to sixteen, so it's an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Even though there is snow on the ground and it's cold enough to keep the windows closed, it's still not too early for spring house cleaning and also a good time for some *spiritual* spring cleaning.

The journey of Lent calls us to examine our beliefs as we think about our faith. Since Lent is a season of repentance, we are called to confess our sins and work on throwing out old grudges and selfish habits. Lent calls us to spend time letting God's Word air out our hearts as we seek new daily routines of study and prayer. "Lent cleaning" lets the Holy

Spirit freshen our faith — and it's never too early for that.

Our weekly adult education experience is on Wednesday nights this year and this spring a group of us are studying the Psalms together. We've learned a daily routine of praying the psalms morning and evening, so that over the course of a month's time we will read the whole Psalter — all 150 psalms! The Psalms have been the prayer book of God's people for centuries, and it's a deeply spiritual experience to pray them with our brothers and sisters in faith in a way that transcends the limitations of time and space. If anyone is interested in joining in this spiritual practice as we ask God's Spirit to 'spring clean' our souls, please ask me and I'll share the daily reading plan with you.

As we begin Lent I'm hopeful that on our journey together to Easter morning we can all be encouraged and renewed by the ancient practices of our faith. Pray this prayer with me: *Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.*

Amen and amen!

In Christ,
Piper



Rick Kelly	8-Mar
Larry Frick, Jr	9-Mar
Connor Frick	17-Mar
Matthew Toth	19-Mar
Linda Kelly	22-Mar
Ralph Kiehl	23-Mar
Sharon Frick	23-Mar
Olivia Petroccia	27-Mar



Jim and Judy Anderson	March 10
Rick and Linda Kelly	March 15
Chuck and Linda Homan	March 23

- **Second Sunday Social March**
- **10th THE LIGHT...** Come together to celebrate the returning of the Sunlight. Bring a dish that brightens your day, or maybe light tasting, what's your interpretation of a "Light Dish". There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

On March 10th remember to set your clock ahead one hour for the beginning of Daylight Savings.



ANNUAL AUCTION AND CHILI COOK-OFF APRIL 6, 2019 @ 5:00 PM



Join us on April 6, 2019 for our Annual Mission Auction and Chili Cook-off! The Cook-off will begin at 5 p.m. along with our silent auction. The Live Auction will begin at 6:30 p.m. All proceeds from this year's auction will go to benefit local school families impacted by the earthquake.

**Donate an
Auction Item**

DONATIONS WANTED! Gift cards, certificates, baskets, weekend getaways, tickets to sporting events, movies are just a few ideas. All donations are tax-deductible. We can arrange for pickup if necessary.

Snapshot of the Lent and Holy Week Schedule

LENT

Ash Wednesday	March 6 at 7:00 pm
1 st Sunday of Lent	March 10
2 nd Sunday of Lent	March 17
3 rd Sunday of Lent	March 24
4 th Sunday of Lent	March 31
5 th Sunday of Lent	April 7


HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday	April 14
Maundy Thursday	April 18 at 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday	April 21

- Sunrise Service at 6:30 am
at Town Square Gazebo
- Community Breakfast at 8:30 am
at ERPC
- Easter Worship Service at 10:00 am

Annual Women's Retreat

Ladies Day will be on Saturday, March 23rd at Peters Creek Inn. This year's theme is The Bread of Life. We'll feed our souls by sharing sorrows and joys and studying the Word. We'll feed our bodies with Martha's delicious lunch and by baking bread together - and taking a loaf home! Cost will be \$25 per person. Sign up on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. Questions? Talk to Piper

"THE
the bread of

LIFE"

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A scenic mountain landscape with a hiker on a trail, overlaid with a prayerful quote. The background shows a rocky mountain peak under a clear blue sky, with a hiker in a red jacket and backpack walking on a dirt path through a green meadow. The text is overlaid in a yellow, cursive font.

For What You Have Done

I Will Always Praise You.

Psalm 52:9, NIV