

CURRENTS

A PUBLICATION OF EAGLE RIVER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Trustees Update

January ended with the removal of carpet in our Sanctuary and several of the rooms on the left side of the hallway. Workers then drilled holes and injected foam under the concrete slab in order to level out the floors. Our pews are also being renovated, with the addition of bases to help stabilize each pew. Painting and drywall repair will begin soon. That work will be done in stages, with the Sanctuary getting a new look first. It has been a challenge to make all of the work flow smoothly while minimizing the impacts to our worship services and to our tenants. We will be having to coordinate with the Food Pantry, the Mom's Play Group and AA. We have also been trying to decide where to move and/or store all room contents, since the rest of the ceilings will be coming down soon. The new ceiling grid-work will be placed and integrated with new wall bracing, lighting, speakers, sprinkler heads and heating diffusers. This will be a busy spring.



Your Trustees

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FROM THE PASTOR:

Dear Friends,

January sure flew by, didn't it? For me part of it is that we were in Houston from December 25-January 7. We played with our grandkids, helped with a big kitchen project, and made sweet memories. Connor and Katy took a couple days away and it was all Mimi and Papa all the time 😊. It was exhausting but amazing nevertheless and involved trips to the park, going out for tacos and chocolate pancakes and lots of snuggling. It was wonderful! Thank you all for the generous gift card – it helped greatly with the memories, especially the ones we made with Colin and Charlie over that weekend.

This year will be a big one for us at ERPC since we will see major earthquake renovation that will continue through the summer months. We will keep you all updated through our weekly emails, announcements in worship and in the bulletin. Every week I expect that there will be something new and different and some adjustment to be made. We couldn't do any of it without your constant faithfulness and stewardship of your time and resources. At last Sunday's congregational meeting we heard both construction and financial updates for the restoration. The financial information and a construction schedule are now posted on the Narthex wall. We want to be as transparent as possible with information and scheduling, so please direct any questions you have to the church office and we will make sure that the answers come from the right person.

As we walk deeper into this new year, I want to share this prayer with you. Howard Thurman was a theologian, civil rights leader and poet, and his words so often give voice to the deepest yearnings of our hearts:

A Prayer for the New Year
God, Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart. There will be much to test me and make weak my strength before the year ends. In my confusion I shall often say the word that is not true and do the thing of which I am ashamed. There will be errors in the mind and great inaccuracies of judgment...In seeking the light, I shall again and again find myself walking in the darkness. I shall mistake my light for Your light and I shall drink from the responsibility of the choice I make. Nevertheless, grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart. May I never give the approval of my heart to error, to falseness, to vanity, to sin. Though my days be marked with failures, stumblings, fallings, let my spirit be free so that You may take it and redeem my moments in all the ways my needs reveal. Give me the quiet assurance of Your Love and Presence. Grant that I may pass through the coming year with a faithful heart.

Meditations of The Heart- Howard Thurman

God bless you all!

In Christ,

Piper



We are re-working the choir room setup and changing how the banners are stored and hung. There are many banners that need either refurbishing or a new home.

If you're interested in helping us sort out our banner collection, talk to Piper. Soon, please!



February 18~ session meeting @ 7PM

February 22~Mardi Gras Bunco @ Allison Petroccia's 6:30PM

February 25~deacons meeting @ 6:30PM

February 26~ Ash Wednesday Service @ 7PM



Youth and Sunday School News

In January, the combined youth group – comprised of young people from ERPC and two other Presbyterian churches – participated in a mission immersion event during Martin Luther King weekend. The event gave approximately 50 youth in the Anchorage area the opportunity to grow in faith while serving the local community. They gathered at St. John’s United Methodist Church for worship and fellowship on Friday evening, spent the night, and went out early Saturday morning to different sites around the city. Some of the places they served were Habitat for Humanity, Mobile Food Bank of Alaska, Pioneer Home, our own Chugiak/Eagle River Food Pantry, Beans Cafe, and Habitat for Humanity.

Also in January, the youth group and Sunday School met at Hillberg Ski Area for tubing and fellowship. Despite below zero temperatures, the event was well-attended and fun was had by all!

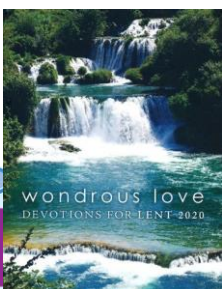


FEBRUARY Birthdays & Anniversaries

- Kim Arlington 1-Feb
- Evan Spencer 3-Feb
- Ellen Haynes 8-Feb
- Donna Davidson 10-Feb
- Michael Swears 11-Feb
- Raymond Musick 16-Feb
- Jim Arlington 19-Feb
- Larry Baumgartner 20-Feb
- Jean McCarthy 21-Feb
- Macsen Cottle 22-Feb
- Jean Woodard 24-Feb
- Emma Grace Saylor 26-Feb
- Linda Homan 28-Feb
- Jeff & Kelli Toth 21-Feb

Lenten devotions

The session has purchased a daily devotional for each family to take home and follow throughout Lent. *Wondrous Love* explores Jesus’ journey from baptism to the cross and the empty tomb, as depicted in the gospel of Matthew. The devotional will be available in worship on February 23.



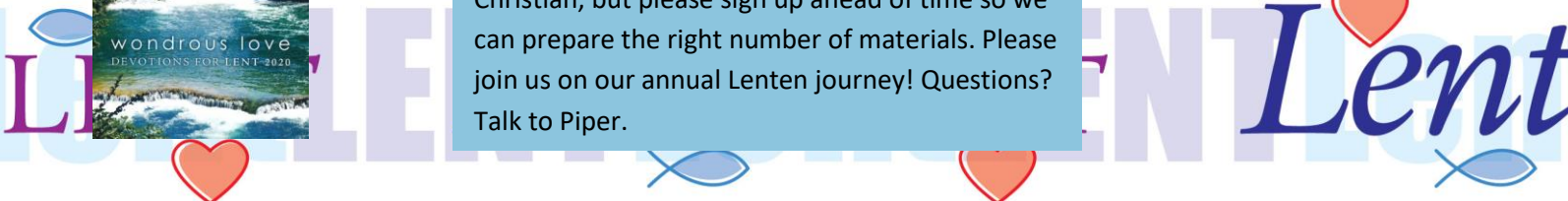
Our **Lent Bible Study** this year is *Qualities of Discipleship*. It is a six-week study on the characteristics of following Jesus, and will help deepen the Lent sermon focus called *Boot Camp for the Soul*. We’ll talk about perseverance, learning, humility, having the faith to take risks, working with others, and devotion to God. Our study begins with Ash Wednesday worship on February 26 at 7 pm and then continues every **Wednesday at 6:30**, ending on Wednesday of Holy Week, April 8. There is no cost to participants since it’s a downloaded study from The Thoughtful Christian, but please sign up ahead of time so we can prepare the right number of materials. Please join us on our annual Lenten journey! Questions? Talk to Piper.

financial report

As of January 31, 2020

Ordinary Income	Ordinary Expenses	Net Ordinary Income
\$17,210.88	\$17,151.00	\$59.88

For a complete accounting of the 2019 finances, please refer to the **Annual Report**, available in the office.



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