

This Week @ First

Worship & Music

To watch our Sunday worship at 11 AM, connect with us on [YouTube](#) (find the bulletin [here](#))!

There will be an Ash Wednesday service at 6 PM **this coming Wednesday, March 5**, to mark the beginning of Lent.

Spiritual Formation

Sunday School—Youth

All youth are invited at 9:30 AM each week! Grades K-5 in room 306. Middle and High School Students in room 301. A nursery will be available starting at 9:15 AM.

“Feasting on the Word” Lectionary-Based Bible Study

Calvin Room and via [Zoom](#), 9:30 – 10:30 AM.

This class meets weekly to engage and discuss selected texts from our Lectionary readings.

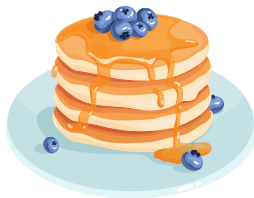
The **Inquirer’s class** will meet this Sunday, March 2, in the Westminster Room and by [Zoom](#), 9:30 – 10:30 AM, to begin a six-week Lenten series based on Adam Hamilton’s *The Message of Jesus: Words that Changed the World*.

Guided Meditation continues on Sunday mornings at 10:30 in the Library.

The Spiritual Formation Team is in need of volunteers to assist our teachers in the Elementary and Middle/High School classes, and to assist in our nursery. Please contact [Mary Kutter](#) to find out more.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper March 4, 2025

The Care and Outreach Team invites you to celebrate and feast one final time before Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Join us in the Westminster Room on March 4, at 6 PM, for a pancake (and more) dinner, featuring some pancake games and prizes! Come one, come all, and join us in this fellowship.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL OFFERINGS HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



March 5–April 20, 2025

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- + Text OGHS to 91999 to give

-or-

You can help sustain the important ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.



Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/oghs

Compassion and Social Justice

Snack pack and Laundry Love volunteers are invited from 10:00 to noon on Wednesdays. For information on volunteering, speak to Debbie Gibson.



This Sunday is **First Sunday Food Collection** – please remember to bring your non-perishable food to the narthex or church office!

And don’t forget our next **Bread Boxing** date at Second Harvest: we will meet at **9:45 AM on Friday, March 7**. Volunteers are still needed; you can sign up [here](#) or contact Debbie Gibson.

March Birthdays

Please send some birthday love to: Cindy Booth, Sandy Burkholder, Eleanor Cleveland, Mary Codrick, Janet Fixel, John Guthrie, Todd Hinkle, Patrick Kennedy, Ed Kutter, John Mayo, Norma Meier, Ryan Nalls, Kathleen Rose, Quinn Sullivan, Donnie Watts, Ann Westall, Don Winstead, and Sara Wynn!



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Moving Beyond the Confession of the Sin of Racism to Repair

A year ago, we placed a plaque on the outside of the sanctuary acknowledging that our history included the sin of racism and promised to “commit ourselves to repairing racism’s breach, that God’s beloved community might take form to and around us.” We ended the formal celebration of Black History Month with the inspiring talk and display of his art by Ted Ellis last Sunday. It was encouraging to have over 90 people attend in person and by Zoom. But we do not end our commitment as a congregation to find ways of repairing the breach caused by the sin of racism. As we continue our work, we pray that the Holy Spirit will guide us in discerning what is ours to do.

The Task Force for Healing Racism recommends the September 2024 edition of *The Presbyterian Outlook*, which is devoted to articles on the history of efforts to repair the damage done by institutional racism and by current examples of doing so. The issue is free at [this link](#). Some members of the Task Force also have hard copies to loan out.

“Breaking the Miller Cycle,” by Jermaine Ross-Allam, Director of the Center for the Repair of Historical Harms for the Presbyterian Church, explains the pitfalls of the outrage cycle and how to avoid it by following through with a long term commitment to repair. In “The Case for Black Racial Repair in the Presbyterian Church (USA),” William Woo, Associate Professor at Columbia Theological Seminary, traces the history of racism in the Presbyterian Church and calls for encouraging Black Presbyterians to lead us in the work of reparative justice; at the same time, as a body, the PC(USA) must ensure equity in compensation and continuing education opportunities for Black pastors. “Repairing Historic Wrongs” by award-winning photojournalist Gregg Brekke describes the formation of the Justice League of Greater Lansing, which includes partnerships with nine churches; this all-volunteer group has raised half a million dollars, much of it from church endowments, to fund programs in the areas of education, housing, and entrepreneurship.

The magazine includes other helpful articles, book reviews, and a reminder that the current Horizon Bible Study for Presbyterian Women focuses on eco-justice. There is an excellent book on the subject, *Unequal Protection; Environmental Justice and Communities of Color*, edited by Robert D. Bullard. It is available at the public library.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact any member of the Healing Racism Task Force: Debbie Gibson, Sue Hightower, Ann Hingst, Mary Hodges, Pam McVety, Marian Moore, Walter Moore, Sue Safford, Linda Smith, Deborah Whisnant, Aide Whitaker, and Ann Westall, Chair.



Elizabeth Bradley Will Fill VISTA Position

Trinity United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, and First Presbyterian Church have been working together for over a year to provide services for our homeless neighbors. To determine best practices for serving the homeless and widen the participation of our efforts to other congregations, Carol Weissert and Anne Apple submitted a VISTA grant to hire someone to work toward these goals. We are pleased that a member of our church, Elizabeth Bradley, has been selected for the position and will serve for the next twelve months as the Downtown Churches Vista Volunteer.

Congratulations, Elizabeth! We can't wait to work with you to find better ways to serve our unsheltered neighbors.

To submit information to be included in the newsletter and/or the Sunday bulletin (as space permits), please use [this link](#), which will take you to an online form. Thank you!