



The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

211 Lansdowne Road, Havertown, PA 19083

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FEBRUARY 2018 News and Notes

From the Pastor's Desk

This month in worship we hit the fast forward button. We spent all of December preparing for the birth of Jesus, and then welcoming his birth. We spent most of January following him as he started his teaching and healing ministry. February—and March after it—will now speed us through the middle to arrive at Jerusalem, where stand the last supper, the cross, the tomb, and the startling resurrection.

My grandfather liked detective novels, and he used to choose which ones to read in this way: he would read the first chapter, then the last, and decide if the resolution warranted a reading of what unfolded in the middle. I wonder if this approach is what we have been left with to tell the story of Jesus. Christmas and Easter are close together, and then there are eight or nine months to look at what unfolded in the middle.

I find it jarring, therefore, to skip to the end, and not talk in great detail about the things Jesus did and the things Jesus said which affected some people enough to follow him, others enough to condemn him. The story of what happened can only make sense if we talk about why. The first and last chapters are insufficient and incomprehensible without the chapters that stand between them.

The sermon series for Lent will be called *Did He Just Say That?*. I want to look with you at stories of Jesus making pronouncements and telling parables that in our age would have the social media mavens tapping furiously on their phones and keyboards. Let us together consider what our reactions would have been.

Grace and peace,

Bill

Worship in FEBRUARY!

Lent Series - Did He Just Say That?

WORSHIP TEXT

Mark 2:23-28

Luke 10:25-37

John 8:1-11

Matthew 22:15-22

Annual Congregational Meeting

Lenten Study and Fellowship



The Fellowship Committee is planning a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday, February 13. Get ready to share fellowship with your friends as we prepare for the solemn season of Lent. Proceeds will benefit the Sunday Breakfast Mission, the homeless shelter program in Center City.

The holy season of Lent will be ushered in first on Shrove Tuesday and then by Ash Wednesday on February 14. You are also invited to a fellowship dinner and Bible Study at the Hiebert's on Wednesday, February 28. We'll gather at 6:00 pm for a simple meal and then spend some time in study and conversation. There will be a sign-up sheet in the church to estimate numbers and figure out who might need a ride but this is not a pot-luck; we hope to make this an easy way to drop every-day cares and come as you are for some refreshment and renewal. All are welcome! Look for another Lenten fellowship evening in March.

Support the Music Program!

We had wonderful services during the Christmas season with guest musicians. To replenish our fund for special musicians, we have been offering a commemorative hymnal opportunity. This is your chance to celebrate, remember, or honor a loved one, near or far, by dedicating one of our new hymnals with a special book plate for a donation of \$20 per hymnal. Of course, we would be happy for a donation to this fund, even if you have already dedicated a hymnal. Donations marked "Music Fund" can be put in the collection plate.



ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!



It is hard to believe that we are at the half-way point of our Sunday School program "Feasting on the Word". The teachers are always happy to see the children that attend. Attendance varies on a weekly basis. We do appreciate our church families efforts to bring their children to Church and Sunday School! Just a reminder that we are encouraging the children to bring an offering each week along with their continued ENTHUSIASM!!

Note new time – 10:45 AM - noon

CARE CLOSET CANS are collected in worship on the First Sunday of the Month—Sunday, February 4th! Bring your family's care closet can with you to worship!



ALTERNATIVE GIFT GIVING

Once again a huge thank you to all those members of our church who tried a "little different angle" to their Christmas gift giving during the holiday season. Through your generous donations \$820 was collected. Some church members designated the animal or "part of the animal" that they would like their donation to be directed to, while others were content to make a donation and have the Sunday School children decide what part of the gift catalog to put the money towards. What a wonderful feeling knowing that your generous donations will be making such a difference in the lives of so many less fortunate than ourselves.

SOME WAYS TO HELP OUT AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Tackle "Souper Bowl of Caring" Hunger

Let's Team Up to Help Others!



Our Sunday School class will be helping us to participate in the "Souper Bowl of Caring Offering" on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4th!

In an effort to help our friends at Chester Eastside Ministries, the children of our Sunday School are asking you to bring canned or packaged soups to church on Sunday, February 4th. Open those cupboards, see what you have to share and bring those cans along to church.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated as well. Let's make this a cooperative effort that we can be proud of! The children of our Sunday School thank you!!



Lately our weather has been keeping us guessing! Would you like to help warm the feet of a friend in need?

We will be collecting "Socks for Someone" during the months of **February and March.**

NEW ADULT SOCKS would be appreciated – preferably **MENS!**

These socks will be shared among our friends at Connect-By-Night.

PLEASE HELP US FILL OUR BARRELS!! We look forward to your support!!!

Thank you! The Christian Education Committee

Blood Drive

Saturday, February 3rd

The Presbyterian Church of Llanerch

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

To make an appointment, please call 1-800-RED CROSS

Visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor keyword: Llanerch community



PRESCHOOL NEWS.....

One mission of our church is our preschool that continues to adapt each school year to the needs of our community families. This year's enrollment numbers are approximately 25 children ages three to five which allows for exceptional social and curriculum based programming. The Christmas season highlights include the hat and mitten collection for needy children in our county, wooden trees decorated with bottle caps and a return visit from Santa! Llanerch is grateful for the commitment and dedication of our certified teachers and staff in making our preschool a treasure in the church and community. You may enjoy the art work of the children in the classroom and share the news with your friends and neighbors! Registration is in progress for the 2018-19 school year. Please contact Preschool Director, Mrs. June Hoyle at 610-789-1639 or visit the church/preschool website for further information.



MISSION NEWS

Joining in Service to Those in Need: Connect by Night in January

We give thanks for the many hands which helped provide, cook, and serve meals and provided fellowship and support in other forms through the Connect by Night emergency homeless shelter. Approximately 1500 meals were served by church volunteers and our partners in the community. This hospitality was in partnership with Christ Community Church (Riverview) who provides the space for the overnight shelter of up to 50 homeless men and women. God's promises came alive to both hosts and guests every night. This month's service was complicated by utility troubles at CCC which led to suspension of the overnight part of the program in the final week. Thanks to the flexibility and understanding of all the volunteers. We look forward to serving again in March; you may look for the signup poster in the fellowship room.

Specific thanks go to these wonderful volunteers and generous donors:

Mel Maciantonio and a team from Troup 434 ♥ Kate, Fred, Peter Hiebert ♥ Cecile and Mark Burgert and the "Elles" group ♥ Vicki Murphy ♥ Georgia, Gerard, Gabrielle Schrom ♥ Matthew, Tina, and Tom Grey ♥ Scott, Patty, Nick, and Alex Green ♥ Patrick, Pete, and Colette Bannon ♥ Carol, David, and Chris Pokorny ♥ Alan Ash ♥ HHS Wrestling Team ♥ Anne Garnett ♥ Harriet and Andy Gross and a team from Temple Adath Israel ♥ Peggy, David, and Bob Styer ♥ Helen Darby and a team from Zeta Tau Alpha on the UPenn campus ♥ Phyllis and Paul Gibson ♥ Kim, Bruce, and Pyper Heins ♥ Rosemary, Nataley and Gregg Parker ♥ Ulf Timme and the Webelos Den from Pack 462 ♥ Joanne and John Janos ♥ Debbie and Mike Patton ♥ Jennifer, Brooke, John, and Ryan Schmoll ♥ Jerry and Eileen Spinelli ♥ Jeanne Wilkins ♥ James Hiebert, Phoebe Ruggles and Dakota Jones (Penn Polybian Society) ♥ Lila McCleary ♥ U Penn Museum Public Programs ♥ Lynn and Ron Beckwith and the employee engagement group from Optum Heath/ Executive Health Resources

STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

After a chance to ponder the message of "Extra Yarn", our stewardship theme for the year, we dedicated pledges of financial support to the church for 2018 in worship on January 28. Many thanks to all who have made pledges. If you need a pledge card, please look in the Narthex or ask Kelly in the office. If you missed the pledge packet or want online access to the "Narrative Budget", go to this link: <http://web.llanerchpres.org/donate/>. If you have questions about pledging, please see any member of session, or the generosity team members Kate Hiebert and Paul Gibson. If you have a question about pledge envelopes or on-line giving, you can see Mary Kane, the financial secretary. Our financial support keeps worship, mission, ministry, music and Christian education alive!

SCOUTING NEWS

The Boy Scouts and Cub scouts have kept busy with some traditional scout activities this month. The Scouts inherited a wooden “Klondike Derby” sled and had fun racing a course at the Musser Scout reservation. The day include pulling and pushing the sled (in the absence of snow cover), fire building, target shooting, wood craft and lashing, and cooking on the trail. The cubs are gearing up for the Pinewood Derby races, a tradition which combines woodworking with gravity-powered racing at Chatham Park. Both scout units were wonderful helper with church mission programs this month: Boys scout families pitched in to cook and serve at Connect for multiple nights, and the Webelos den of the cubs met at the Church to make lunches at the end of the month. Thanks for the great service, guys! They’ll be having some fun adventures next month while working on swimming and lifesaving at the pool and taking some outings, the scouts to a rock climbing gym and the cubs and overnight at the Camden Aquarium.



CONVENIENT PLEDGING. GIVE IT A TRY!



WE'RE GLAD TO MAKE ONLINE GIVING AVAILABLE FOR FINANCIAL GIVING TO OUR CONGREGATION.

You can make secure, online gifts to our congregation by using our web portal provided by the Presbyterian Foundation. It takes less than a minute, and your pledged giving can go directly from your checking/savings account to our Church account. You can schedule your gifts for the whole year, make contributions monthly, or give weekly. If you haven't tried it, you might like it!

Access the “Give Now” Button on the “Donate” tab on our website, or use your smartphone or tablet to scan the QR code on the right!


