

March 2017



February 19, the eight week confirmation class culminated in 2 baptisms and 6 confirmations into body of Christ at Farmington Presbyterian Church.

## Deepening our Discipleship

Rev. Rebecca Luter

I am headed to Pinecrest Camp and Conference Center this morning for Pancakes in the Pines. Why would a person who has more than enough to do drive almost an hour in the rain to pay \$25 for pancakes?

1. To rock on the porch and warm up by the fire in the beauty of the woods.
2. To support scholarships for children to attend summer church camp. Like many pastors, my first sense of call to ministry came at church camp. I know the transformative power of a week submersed in crafts, swimming, games, Bible study, nature, and outdoor worship with other Christian youth. I know the joy of s'mores and songs by the campfire, and I want to share that with others.
3. Tomorrow is Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Lent is a time when many give up or take on practices that lead them to become more like Christ. This year I have decided to take on the practice of relationship. I am going to have that lunch that has been promised in passing. I am going to watch that movie with my children. I am going to put down my phone and talk with my husband before he leaves for work. I am going to call that person on my mind. I am going to connect with friends at Pinecrest from all over the Presbytery today. Jesus connected with people, and I am going to be intentional about doing the same. How will you become more like Jesus between now and Easter?

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# Day School News



Love was in the air at the day school. February brought hearts, love and coffee! We wanted to thank our parents for being so wonderful and for letting us take care of their “hearts” each day. On February 13<sup>th</sup> we set up a coffee/ hot cocoa drive thru line for our parents from 7:00- 9:30 a.m. It was a beautiful morning, and it warmed our hearts to do something kind for our parents.

The next day on the 14<sup>th</sup> the classrooms celebrated Valentine’s Day with class parties. They had special treats, games and gave out valentines to their friends. They had a fun time, and we saw lots of smiles! The staff also got in on some love with Secret Valentines. We drew a name and bought our Valentine little gifts throughout the week. On Valentine’s Day we let them know who their Valentine was. It was very entertaining to hear people talk and guess who they thought was their Valentine!

The month of February also meant enrolling for 2017 Summer Camp! Usually it is hard to believe planning for summer in February, but

with the temperatures we had some days felt like summer! We have had many families enroll and will open enrollment to the public starting March 6<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to March with the official start of spring, spring break, Dr. Seuss’ birthday week fun and a weather presentation for the preschoolers given by FPDS parents who work for the National Weather Service.

Be on the lookout next month for pictures, updates and the fun and exciting things the day school has been up too! Until then wishing all a very happy, fun and blessed spring!

Gretchen Burch  
Program Director





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## Presbytery



March 17-19  
@ Pinecrest

For dogs and their  
owners

Relax in the country  
while wandering down  
tails and romping in wide open fields. Curl up on the  
porch. Enjoy delicious, homemade meals and learn  
something new from our featured speakers. Meet  
other dog lovers and revel in your dog getting to do  
outside dog things.

### Costs:

**Single \$350pp**

(one person, up to 2 dogs)

**Double \$275pp**

(two people, up to 3 dogs)

**Litter \$175pp**

(up to 6 people and 4 dogs)

Includes lodging, meals, snacks, and program.

### Mark Your Calendar

June 4, 4pm-7pm

Many Voices  
ONE SPIRIT



## A Pentecost Gathering

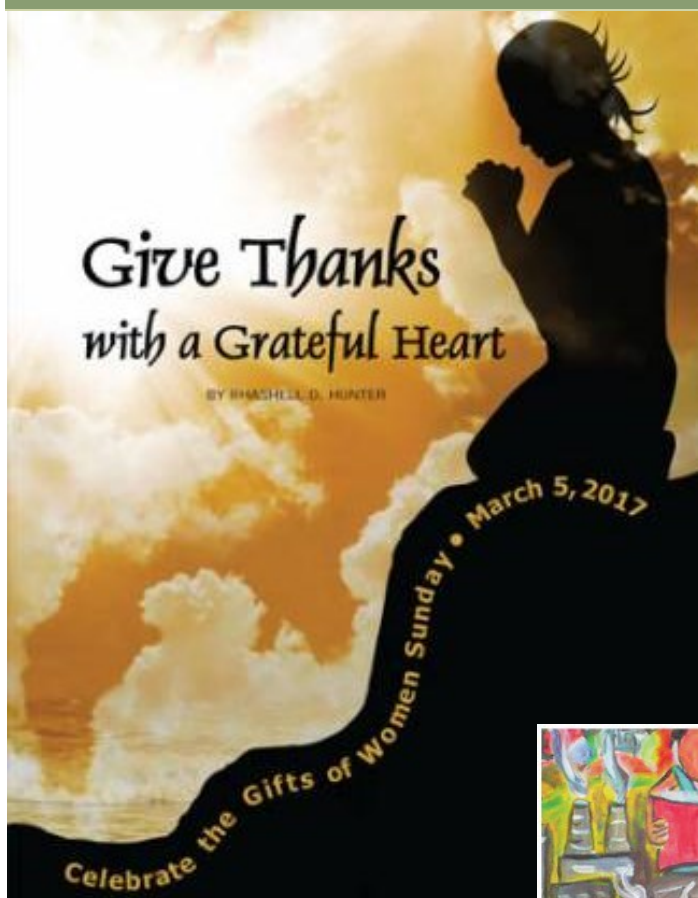
of the Presbytery of the Mid-South

June 4, 4pm—7pm

Registration is due at the August Presbytery  
Meeting.

(Check In begins at 3:30pm. Nursery Provided.)

# Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

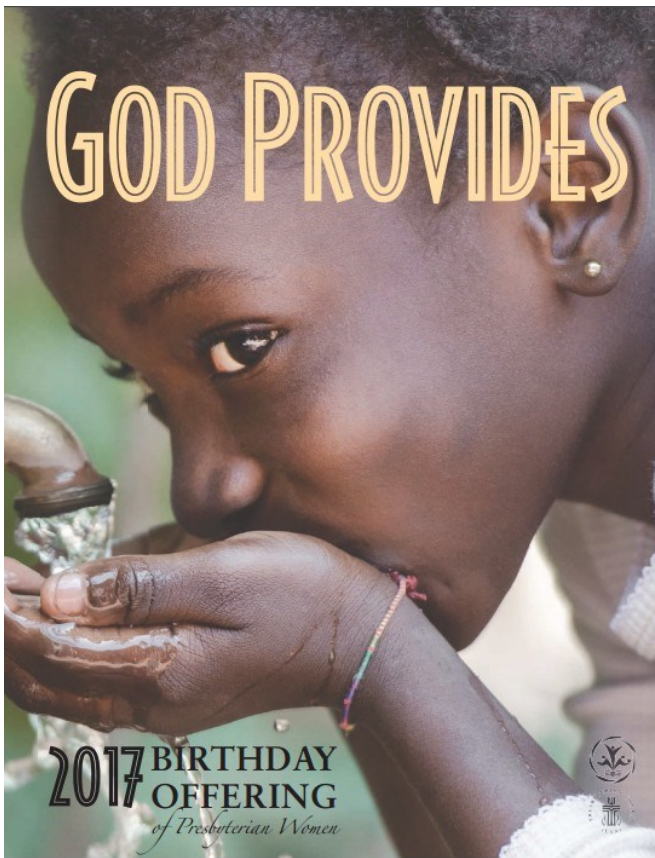


**G**ive Thanks with a Grateful Heart is the message as we Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday on March 5, 2017. We will be encouraged to live with an “attitude of gratitude” as the Presbyterian Women honor with gratitude this year’s Lifetime Membership recipient. Please mark your calendar to attend this special worship service. All parts of worship will be led by the women of Farmington. Rebecca Hutchins will provide the message.

**W**orld Day of Prayer Interfaith Service will be held on March 3 at noon at Grace Church of the Nazarene. Christians from 170 countries will be praying for the needs of women and children around the world. The service this year was written by women from the Philippines around the parable of the laborers in the vineyard in Matthew 20:10-16.

While Jesus sees nothing wrong in giving generously, the workers react differently and feel entitled to receive more. As we listen to the women of the Philippines throughout the worship service, we are called to confess, to take responsibility, and to answer God’s call for justice.





**T**he Birthday Offering of Presbyterian Women celebrates Presbyterian women's history of mission giving. It was launched in 1922 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Woman's Auxiliary in the Presbyterian Church in the United States (PCUS). Since that time, it has become an annual tradition and has funded nearly 100 major mission projects that continue to make a difference in the lives of women and children. While the projects and donation amounts have changed, Presbyterian Women's commitment to improving the lives of others has not. We continue to need broad, consistent support from Presbyterian women and others in order to continue funding mission projects like the ones selected for 2017. We ask that you give as you have been blessed, generously and as led by the Holy Spirit. Give through your PW group, or give online at [www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org/birthday).

Your gifts make a difference!

**The Family Justice Center SOUTH CAROLINA**  
The Family Justice Center (FJC) Safe Haven for Victims of Domestic Violence currently operates

an emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence in Georgetown and Horry Counties in South Carolina. With room for only 11 people, the shelter is frequently at capacity. The Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering grant will assist FJC in achieving its goal of constructing a new domestic violence shelter for victims of abuse living in these two counties of northeastern South Carolina.

**First Hand Aid CUBA** First Hand Aid Rural Clinic Development Initiative exists to diminish the suffering of the most marginalized Cuban citizens by providing them hope, dignity, and the basic necessities of life and health. The Rural Clinic Development Initiative is designed to establish six medical clinics in partnership with, and located at, Presbyterian Churches in rural Cuba that will provide medicine and care not available, or difficult to get, from Cuban sources in those communities. In rural Cuba, where people often do not have a means to get to, or the opportunity to benefit from, the resources located in large urban centers like Havana, people turn to the church for their basic needs—including certain medical needs. This project will build, fund, stock, and staff six medical clinics ("Program Clinics") housed in long-existing and established Presbyterian Churches located in rural Cuba where needs are great and supply is limited.

**Navajo Water Project NEW MEXICO** The Navajo Water project will eventually provide water systems to 205 families at the Smith Lake Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. This Birthday Offering grant will provide a running water system for 40 families that do not have access to running water in their homes. They currently store their water in pots, pans, and 55-gallon drums. The grant will provide each household with a cistern, pump, sink, shower and all pipes for the installation of their water system.

**This special offering will be collected  
on Gifts of Women Sunday, March 5th.**

## WORSHIP THROUGH LENT

The creative team at Farmington was tasked with producing a visual in worship that would enhance our liturgy. The cross in our sanctuary is the beginning of that vision becoming a reality. Throughout the Season of Lent, you will be invited to give up some part of yourself that is taking away from your walk with Christ. During Holy Week, other elements will be added to worship as part of this practice. Join us for worship and take part in the work of the people as we worship the living God.

The creative team is Rev. Rebecca Luter, Tom Bryant, Doug Barr, Rachel Barr, Rebecca Hutchins, Paul King, and Joanna Andrews.

## Christian Education



**T**his month, we're working to build into kids a love for others. Imagine with me, for a moment, a world filled with men and women who love others the way Jesus loves us. That's what we want for our preschoolers.

We'll begin with the story of the Good Samaritan. He was a great example of how to love everyone. Jesus was always helping people—no matter who they were—and that's what the Good Samaritan did too. We want our preschoolers to know that they can love others by helping.

## Nursery & Preschool

After we talk about helping, we'll move on to sharing. We'll tell the story of the guy who built bigger barns for his grain, instead of sharing with people who needed food. Our preschoolers are going to learn that sharing is the way to go, when you have overflow!

Then, we'll talk about how we can still love others by sharing, even when we have a little. In fact, it's an even bigger expression of love when we share out of our little, like the widow who shared two small coins.

We'll wrap up the month with the prodigal son where we'll see that we can love, no matter what, thanks to forgiveness. Just like Jesus loves us, even when we do something wrong, we can love others, even when they do something wrong.

It's going to be an awesome month of building with our preschoolers. We'll be building into kids who can then proclaim, "I can love everyone."

## Elementary



Jack and Cole greet guests to Farmington's "Romantic" Filletto di Pollo (Chick fil-a) Valentines dinner.



**F**orgiveness is a reflection of the character of God.

Throughout Scripture, we are reminded about God's grace and forgiveness.

- God makes us white as snow. (Isaiah 1:18)
- God's mercies are new every morning. (Lamentations 3:22-23)
- God is faithful and just to forgive our sins. (1 John 1:9)

When our relationship with God was broken beyond repair, God offered His only Son as the way to forgive us and restore the broken relationship.

Since we are created in God's image, we have the ability to offer forgiveness when people in our lives hurt us. God's love in us makes it possible for us to forgive others and work towards fixing our own relationships that break down from time to time.

Jesus made it possible for us to have God's forgiveness.

God showed us just how much He cares about forgiveness when He made the ultimate sacrifice and sent Jesus to pay the price for our sin. While sin separates us from God, He offers grace and forgiveness as a gift for us to receive. We have been forgiven of so much, it's only right that we turn to those in our lives and offer forgiveness to them in return.

That's why we think it's important for us to help our kids and families discover more about Forgiveness—deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay.

Our Memory Verse for March comes from Colossians 3:13.

In Colossians 3:13, we read, "Put up with one another. Forgive one another if you are holding something against someone. Forgive, just as the Lord forgave you." (NIRV)

This verse, from Paul's letter to the church at Colossi, reminds us not only that God forgave our sins, but also that we should forgive others instead of holding grudges against one another. We pray that throughout March, families will let go of what they're holding against each other and choose to forgive. We think that this could be a powerful month in the lives of kids and families in our churches.

We will spend the month of March taking a closer look at the way forgiveness shows up throughout a few of the parables Jesus told His followers.



## Youth Fellowship



### Junior High Retreat

July 24–28

A new ministry has begun in downtown Memphis and this year Farmington's Middle School group is invited on one of its maiden voyages. Memphis Youth Mission is a branch of Youth Mission Co. based in Asheville, NC. Participants will have an opportunity to understand the struggles of those living on the margins in The Blues City. Youth will volunteer at a variety of agencies and through their work and their presence will come to know more about issues of homelessness, poverty, food insecurity, and the unsupported. Fundraisers and cost information coming soon but do not wait to sign up. During the week, Chaperones and students will eat and sleep at First Presbyterian Church.



### Montreat Senior High Retreat

July 15–22

Senior High students experienced the quiet peace of Montreat, NC last year and have longed to return. This summer we will go back to this “thin place” for the Montreat Youth Conference: A Missing Peace. Fundraisers and cost information coming soon but do not wait to sign up. We are reserving 5 spots for this trip. We will leave Memphis on Saturday July 15 to take part in the Asheville Youth Mission before the start of Montreat Youth Conference. Service, fellowship, and an incredible learning opportunity in Presbyterian faith.



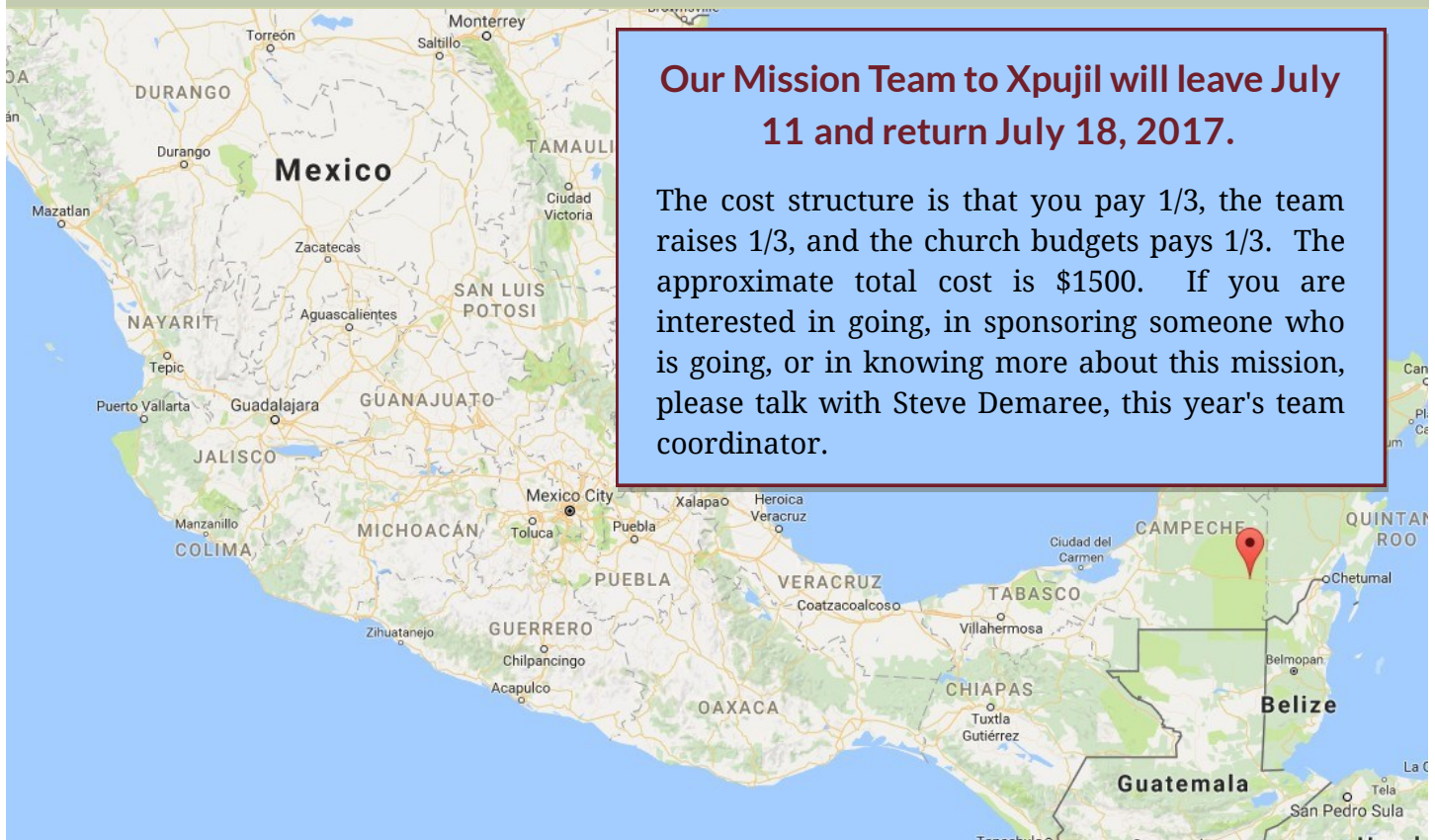
### Youth and Interfaith Dialog

**F**ebruary 15, the confirmation class and elder sponsors visited the Islamic Community Center for an interfaith discussion. This event was part of a faith tour taken by the confirmation class to see what people of Jewish, Islamic, and Christian faith denominations believe and practice.

Doug Barr and Safi Khan, Christian and Muslim youth educators, discussed similarities in beliefs and the stereotypes society holds for people of all faith traditions.



# Mission



## Session Report

In a called meeting on Sunday, February 19, confirmands Madison Lewis, Nicholas Luter, Olivia Mittag, Eddie Morgan, J.B. Wann, and Joseph Williams were welcomed into membership by Profession of Faith with Madison Lewis and Olivia Mittag seeking baptism.

In the stated session meeting on February 20:

- Bonnie Blair and Mary Shelley Ritchey were commissioned as our Presbyters for Presbytery Meeting March 4th at FPC.
- The following members were removed from the rolls: Keith and Elaine Betsch, Tim and Kristin Ogburn, David Dia, Dawn Dia, and Elizabeth Dia.
- A Congregational Meeting was called for Sunday, March 26th, following worship to receive the 2016 Annual Report.
- Rebecca Hutchins was approved to preach March 5th for Gifts of Women Sunday.
- Doug Barr was approved to preach March 12.
- Updated Day School Operating Procedures were adopted.
- The new addition of Handwriting without Tears curriculum for the Day School was approved.
- Final Stewardship Summary for 2017 was reviewed as were staffing needs for the coming ministry year.



# Wednesday Night Programs



## Dinner Offerings:

March 1—Soup and Cornbread

March 8—Potato Bar

March 15—**Spring Break**

March 22—Swedish Meatballs

March 29—Chicken Pot Pie



## Young Children & Worship

*"This is the season of Lent...the time we get ready to celebrate the mystery of Easter...the time we are all on the way to Jerusalem. But who will show us the way?"*

During Lent, Rev. Rebecca will lead the children in stories from Jesus' approach to Jerusalem on his way to the cross. Children are invited to reflect on the thoughts and attitudes of the people Jesus meets along the way. "I wonder how the children felt when the disciples said, 'No!?' I wonder how it felt to see for the first time? I wonder how Zacchaeus felt when Jesus called him by name?" These questions inspire children to put themselves into the story and connect it to their lives.



In College, I studied how to break down a film into its parts and see the directors vision through a variety of elements. Costumes, lighting, sets, movement, and words are all seeking to tell a story that will make an impression on viewing audience.

When I first saw, *Jesus Christ Superstar* I thought it was silly and sacrilegious. I wasn't alone. Many churches and organizations boycotted the release. The BBC did the same. And yet, It was nominated for several Golden Globe awards in a time when Andrew Lloyd Webber was an unknown composer, Rock-n-roll was counter-cultural, and music videos didn't exist. The film made an impression and once I was able to watch it with an eye for the visual elements, the artistry used to convey the Biblical story impressed and amazed me. When eyes are opened by the Gospel in unexpected ways, our reaction should be to share it.

Wednesday nights through Lent, the adult & youth will watch portions of *Jesus Christ Superstar* and discuss the film through costumes, setting, movement, lyrics, and lighting to find what is being communicated through this controversial film.

-Doug Barr



## Women's Bake Sale

*Wednesday, April 5, 2017*

Mark your calendars. The highly anticipated Farmington Women bake sale will be Wednesday, April 5 noon-6pm. Sign up sheet will be on the Women's bulletin board.

# Upcoming Events



food • community • sustainability

March 26, 2017

From 2pm-4pm

Packing 25,000 meals

Raising \$7,500

To Rise Against Hunger

Contact Jinney Hart  
[virginiahart2@comcast.net](mailto:virginiahart2@comcast.net) for details.

## ***Rise Against Hunger Event***

March 26 from 2pm—4pm. Our goal is to pack 25,000 meals in 2 hours! Sign up sheets are on the church bulletin board. All are encouraged to participate.

## ***Ash Wednesday Service of Worship and Imposition of Ashes***

March 1, 2017

Dinner -- 5:45 p.m.

Service of Worship led by Rev. Rebecca Luter  
– 7:00 p.m.

## ***Gifts of Women Sunday***

Sunday, March 5, 2017, 11:00 a.m.

Rebecca Hutchins will be the preacher.

## ***Rise against Hunger***

Sunday, March 26, 2017, 2pm—4pm

## **Presbyterian Women**

*March 26, 2017*



**The Farmington Presbyterian Women** March circle meeting will meet on Sunday, March 26 @ 12:30 in the East Room. Chapter seven: According To The Non-Canonical Gospels will be the Bible study lesson. Come join us on this journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is.

## **Committee Meetings**

### **Congregational Care**

10:00 am Monday, March 6

### **School Board**

5:30 pm Thursday, March 9

### **Service**

6:00 pm Monday, March 13

### **Property and Grounds**

7:30am Friday, March 10

### **Christian Education**

12:30 pm Sunday, March 19

### **Worship**

12:30pm, Sunday, March 19

### **Session**

6:00 pm, Monday, March 20

### **Administration**

6:00pm, Monday, March 27



The Children's & Cherub's Choir sang at worship on Sunday February 26.

## Acolyte Schedule

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| March 5  | Elizabeth Luter |
| March 12 | Bailey Wann     |
| March 19 | Kenny Williams  |
| March 26 | Joseph Williams |
| April 2  | Nicholas Luter  |

## March Birthdays

|    |                        |
|----|------------------------|
| 1  | Thomas Nagel           |
| 2  | Virginia Hart          |
| 7  | Liz Lagunes            |
| 7  | Don Rossman            |
| 9  | Joseph Williams        |
| 10 | Rob Hall               |
| 14 | Roxanne Trentlage      |
| 16 | Bob Simpkins           |
| 17 | Lance Palmer           |
| 17 | Liz Justice            |
| 18 | Jim Mitchell           |
| 21 | Mary Lou Barrentine    |
| 21 | Benjamin Byrne         |
| 23 | Sam Bryant             |
| 25 | Faye McKenzie          |
| 28 | Mary Ashley Churchwell |
| 29 | Elizabeth Demaree      |

If your birthday is not listed, please contact the church office to be added. We would like to celebrate with you.

## Staff Extensions

Rev. Rebecca Luter, Pastor, Ext. 3134  
 Doug Barr, Director of Christian Education, Ext. 3130  
 Cyndi Bevington, Administrative Assistant, Ext. 3131  
 Polly Knight, Financial Records Keeper, Ext. 3136  
 Linda Turner, Managing Director of Day School, Ext. 3138  
 Gretchen Burch, Program Director of Day School, Ext. 3132  
 Anthony Jones, Maintenance Technician

## Session Members

Administration – Kirsten King  
 Christian Education – Laurinda Ingram  
 Clerk – Melanie Oest  
 Congregational Care – Susan Bryant  
 Fellowship – Mary Shelley Ritchey  
 Property and Grounds – Jerry Hosier  
 School Board – Charlie Smithers  
 Service – Lance Palmer  
 Worship – Sandy Wann



If you have content for the April edition of New Vision, please email Doug Barr by March 27 at [Doug@farmingtonpres.org](mailto:Doug@farmingtonpres.org)



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