The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, 
Associate Pastor

It is always a bit startling to see the vegetable and flower catalogues arriving at this time of year—the weather in this season of late winter hardly seems ready for planting. But planting does need to be planned and the soil readied for the warmer days to come. I find myself thinking about the renewal and joy I feel as things are prepared for the soil and the shoots of new life finally begin to come forth. And so it is with Lent. It is hard to believe it is already upon us, but, it too is a season of planning and planting, a time to prepare for the coming of spring and Easter.

I will admit it is not the easiest of seasons of the church year, but it is an important one nevertheless. It is a time for reflection and preparation, a time for looking within at our shortcomings and sins and seeking to move in new directions. It is a time for new growth and new life in our faith journeys.

The staff has been preparing and planning as well. By the time you read this we will have held our Ash Wednesday services. The children in Sunday School will be sharing about this season in preparation for the coming of Easter. Studies will be held. Our worship will be shaped by the readings and music of Lent and the noon concerts will be part of the Lenten journey along with the Holy Week services. Materials will be available for those who want to read and reflect throughout these forty days.

So let us share in this journey of Lent together. Let us be renewed, reconciled and restored as we grow in faith preparing for the joy of Easter with commitment and in hope.

Shalom,
Karen

The Rev. Dr. David Holyan, 
Pastor

Building Together Forever

Last year we inaugurated our annual Lenten capital campaign and raised a significant amount of money to fund much needed maintenance and upkeep projects for our church facilities. We've improved the memorial courtyard, installed a new grease trap in the kitchen, installed new exterior signs, fixed leaks, repaired the concrete steps leading from the parking lot to the narthex, and replaced the awning at the Jefferson entrance. These are some of the projects we funded with your generous support but not all of them. We are in the process of finalizing the bids for tuck pointing the entire building, repairing leaking gutters, installing a new phone system, and getting new computers in the office. We'd also like to replace the carpet in some of the lower level classrooms, especially where the little ones gather for MusikGarten, while also building a reserve for future repairs and upkeep.

Your financial support in 2019 was amazing and we hope you will consider giving again in 2020 to ensure our facilities are in tip top condition and can carry forward with the projects on tap. Our campaign theme for this year is: Building Momentum, Moving Forward, and Maintaining Integrity. We do this by each of us doing what we can to fund the much needed maintenance projects of the church. So during this upcoming Lenten season, please give generously during our Building Together Forever campaign.

Peace,
David

From the Pastors

Kirkwood Pres
First Presbyterian Church
100 E. Adams Ave.
Kirkwood, MO 63122
www.kirkwoodpres.org
(314) 965-0326

March 2020
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

March 1, 2020
Sermon: “God Does the Choosing” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 and 1 Corinthians 1:25-31

Our passage from 1 Corinthians concludes with: “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.” God is the source of our wisdom, our righteousness, our sanctification, and our redemption. God does it all for us. The invitation for us is to be open to all God is doing within and through us in order to become peace, justice, mercy and grace in the world. Our call is to participate with the Holy Spirit working in our lives, boasting only in God’s goodness, not our own.

March 8, 2020
Sermon: “Living John 3:16” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-4a and John 3:1-17

John 3:16 signs were so prevalent years ago at football games. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. AMEN! But what does it mean to have ‘eternal life’ through the gift of Jesus Christ? This is the question we will explore together as we consider John 3:16 and a few other passages that bear witness to God's love for us and all people.

March 15, 2020
Sermon: “Leaping-for-Life Water” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Romans 5:1-11 and John 4:5-15

In the gospel story of the woman at the well, we have an episode of our own biography—the moment we see through our ordinary needs and discover the Holy lurking just before us. Water becomes leaping-for-life water. Our thirst is satisfied beyond our ability to explain it. We have been visited by the Christ and our lives are forever changed. Now we become water for others.

March 22, 2020
Sermon: “Are Your Eyes Closed or Open?” - The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard
Scriptures: Ephesians 5:8-14 and John 9:1-41

The passage is a powerful story about about the healing of the blind one. There are those who are critical of the healer. Then there are those who question whose sin caused the blindness in the first place. The answers to these questions are offered yet ignored. What the son does know is that now he can see. By the gift of faith we are called to see with new eyes as well. Eyes open to hope, to change, and to new possibilities.

March 29, 2020
Sermon: “The Living Spirit Within” - Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Romans 8:6-11 and Ezekiel 37:1-14

As we conclude the season of Lent, the prophecy in Ezekiel gives us all hope—the dry and lifeless bones will once again live and dance and rejoice. When we are in the worst of situations, filled with fear, this prophecy of Ezekiel can be our word of hope: God can bring life out of any situation, even death. (Does that sound like the Easter story?) The mighty promise of Life is available to us all, no matter what.

From the Director of Music Ministries

As a faith community we once again embark on the journey of Lent, beginning with our Ash Wednesday observance on February 26. For the next several weeks we cry out Kyrie eleison – Lord, have mercy – and spend time in reflection on the last days of Jesus' life and ministry which lead to the last supper, crucifixion, and resurrection.

There are many opportunities to help enter into this beautiful season. Attend worship each Sunday, where the scriptures, music, and themes take on new timbres and hues during Lent. The music will be quieter and hymns, especially, will guide our steps during these weeks. Each Friday in Lent the Con Spirito concert series presents music for meditation in the Tree of Life Chapel. These half hour concerts at noon provide time and space for rest and renewal. Book studies, bible studies, Sunday education, meditative reading – these are gifts for each of us to aid our way through these holy days.

May our community's Lenten journey be richly blessed.

Faithfully yours,
Bill
**Children, Youth and Family Ministry**

**Talking Lent with your Children**
Lent can be a confusing concept for children. I had a college student reflect to me that they did not understand why we were crucifying Jesus so quickly after celebrating his birthday!

Often we hear of others giving something up for Lent, as a way to mark that Jesus went into the wilderness with nothing. At First Pres we encourage students to prepare in a different way: find something to ADD to your routine to help those around you feel the love of Jesus more present in their lives. For some it is very local - “I will clean my room” - and others it is global - “I will pray for those that are hurting, even if I do not know them.” Talk with your children about what works for them, and make a similar pledge to do the same!

**Work Camp Auction**
Be sure to have Sunday, April 5th, on your calendar for this year’s Work Camp Auction! We will have our usual silent auction, sit down dinner and live dessert auction. We have space set aside already to house donations for the silent auction - please drop things by Rob’s office any time that works for you, up until April 1st!

We will have students out on Sunday mornings later in March to sell seats to the Auction and we will again run our Envelope Wall Fundraiser - grab an envelope and make a tax-deductible donation. Simple as that!

**Mark Your Calendars**
**Camp K is on the Way!**
Camp K - June 8-12 - We are going back to the Circus with Everywhere Fun Fair from Cokesbury! Camp K runs from 10:00-12:20 for preschoolers (ages 3 1/2-5) and 10:00-2:00 for elementary students. We expect registration to be out by mid-March - you can be added to the list to get first word by letting Rob know you have interest (by email below).

We are looking for volunteers in both the morning and afternoon slots. We have spots for adult volunteers like helping to lead a cabin of campers or helping out with art (with lots in between) and we have lots of spaces for rising 6th graders and up to be Junior Counselors, helping with everything you can think of when it comes to putting camp together. Please let Rob know soon if you would like to help out this important summer ministry!

**Sunday School**
This month, Sunday School for kindergarten through eighth grade will be learning about Lent and why it is important to think about the different seasons of the church year.

3/1 - Jesus Teaches Us to Pray/Lord’s Prayer
3/8 - Parable of the Sower (music week)
3/15 - No Sunday School (Spring Break)
3/22 - No Sunday School (Spring Break)
3/29 - Jesus Calls Us to Forgive

Sunday School meets weekly at 10:00 a.m. and is open to children ages 3 years old through 7th grade. Snack is included and once a month students have a sing a long!

**LOGOS Updates**
March is wonky because of Spring Break. We will only get three nights in, but we will make the most of them, trust us! We will continue to check in with our students about the things they plan to do to be more like Jesus during the Lenten season.

February Themes:
3/4 - Bookworm Night
   Cup stacking is just the start of Cups Night!
3/11 - Star Wars Night
   Light Sabers will be the dinner utensil of choice.
3/18 - No LOGOS - Spring Break
3/25 - Under the Sea
   Rumor has it we will have Disney Karaoke

**Youth Ministry**
**Senior High Fellowship**
All of our energy is focused on the Work Camp Auction coming up on Sunday, April 5th. Our students will be working to get everything just right for this event since it is our largest income source for our trip this summer to Greeley, Colorado.

On Friday, May 1, we will be going to Mound Ridge for a one-night retreat that will have us doing a variety of projects around camp to help them get summer ready!

**Confirmation**
Our students will join on March 1st! They will share their Class Creed during the services at 9:05 and 11:00 that morning, as well as meeting with Session.

Rob Monroe - Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries - rmonroe@kirkwoodpres.org
**SUNDAY MORNINGS**

**CHRISTIAN CONCERNS LECTURE SERIES-9:00a.m. in Room 009**

March 1-22: Dr. Paul Robinson is professor of Historical Theology at Concordia Seminary where he has been on the faculty since 1996 and has also served in the parish. He will speak on the Crusades. The clashes were a series of religious wars that took place between Christians and Muslims taking place in western Asia and Europe, Much of the controversies were about having the control of sites considered holy by both faiths.

**FIREPLACE ROOM SERIES - 10:00a.m. in Room 030**

March 8th: The Cost of College: Strategies and Information. Saving Money for higher education. What can family members do? Member and elder Kurt Wunderlich and Dave Ressner of Buckingham Strategic Wealth will provide strategies on keeping college affordable. Dave’s specialization in education planning stems from his own experience at Grinnell College and he takes great pride in helping others find fulfilling experiences without paying more than necessary. Please join us to learn more about navigating the financial landscape of college.

March 15: Our congregation recently joined the Interfaith Partnership, a “collaborative organization open to people of all religions in the St. Louis area.” Their mission is to “deepen understanding, respect and appreciation among all persons across lines of religious difference. As communities of faith we agree to differ, promise to love, and unite to serve.” Dr. David Oughton, professor of world religions at Saint Louis University who has spoken at the Christian Concerns class numerous times, is the President of Interfaith Partnership. The Rev. Jim Poinsett, the new Executive Director of Interfaith Partnership and a Presbyterian minister, will join him in sharing about this important organization.

March 29, 9:30a.m.-10:30a.m.: We are pleased that Christopher Sexton will return for four sessions. Mr. Saxton is a teacher of history at Ladue High School and will talk about the impact and changes in both the North and South in the years after the Civil War.

**SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS - 9:30a.m. in Room 028, March 8**

The Spiritual Formation series focuses on deepening the stillness of the heart through prayer, meditation, study and reflection. Tom Edelstein leads this group which meets the second Sunday of the month. If you have any questions please contact Tom at edelstein@att.net.

**BOOK GROUPS**

* Lenten Study-Friday’s February 28 through Good Friday, 10:30a.m. in 028: Lent In Plain Sight, by Jill Duffield. Focusing on items that we come across in our every day lives such as bread and oil and dust and thorns, Duffield invites us to consider how they speak to us of the life of faith and the ministry of Jesus. We will conclude in time for those who want to get a good seat for the Lenten music programs that begin at noon in the Chapel. Copies of the book are available in the church office for $9.50.

* The Tuesday Morning Book Group resumes on March 24th at 9:00a.m. in the Fireplace Room. We will be discussing The Language of God by Francis Collins. Collins is an American geneticist known for his leadership of the Human Genome Project (HGP) and as the director of the US National Institutes of Health. In the book, Collins describes how he moved from being an atheist to a Christian.

* Fourth Wednesday Book Group, Room 029, 1:30p.m.: The fourth Wednesday book group will meet on March 25 to discuss the book, A Place for Us, by Fatima Farheen Mirza. The book is about how a wedding in an Indian family becomes an opportunity for an estranged son to come home.

* Wednesday Morning Book Group: Join Dr. Holyan for a discussion of Barbara Brown Taylor's Holy Envy at 9:00a.m. on Wednesdays through March 11. As a teacher of World Religions at Piedmont College for many years, Barbara Brown Taylor has explored the spiritual richness of the world's major religions. In Holy Envy she shares her journey about finding God in other religions and invites us to consider the gifts available to us. A small number of books are available in the office for purchase. The discussion schedule in March will be as follows: March 4: pages 121-174; and March 11: pages 175 to the end.

**Dinners with David**

Join Dr. Holyan in the Gathering Space at 5:30 for a homemade meal followed by bible study in the Chapel on four consecutive Thursday nights through March 12. As always, the meals will be fantastic, the conversations fun, and the bible study will open up the texts for the coming Sunday. If you are unable to attend dinner, the bible study starts at 6:05 and will be concluded at 6:52. No need to sign up, just show up and enjoy!
Our deepest sympathy goes to:
* Jay Summerville and family on the death of his mother Jean, on February 1.
* Julie Jackson and family on the death of her sister Ellie, on February 5
* Lally McClean on the death of her mother on February 8.
* The family of Rev. Jerry H. Douglas who died on February 15. A memorial service will take place Saturday, March 7 at 11am at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 3400 Lemay Ferry Road, St. Louis, MO.

**BREAKFAST CLUB**
Join us for breakfast ($2 fee) on Thursday, March 5 at 8:00a.m. in the Fireplace Room (030). Our guest speaker will be Tom Fitch, St. Louis County Councilman.

**PRIME TIMERS**
Primetimers are going to the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church on Friday, March 20. Lunch will begin at 11:00a.m. in their cafeteria, and the tour of their beautifully painted sanctuary will be at noon. The church is on outer Des Peres Rd. a little north of Manchester at 1755 Des Peres Rd, Town and Country, just before the Missouri Athletic Club. All are welcome but the church would like to know the size of our group, so please sign up at church or let Martha Kaelble know if you plan to attend at 314-822-9355 or ekaelble@charter.net.

**AND....**
On **Friday, April 3rd**, the Prime Timers will attend the performance of "The Adams Family" by the Kirkwood Players at 7:00p.m. Tickets are $15.00 per person and may be ordered by sending a check to Lila Hershfelt, 19 Country Club Terrace, 63122 by Tuesday, March 24th. Tickets will be available for pick up the night of the performance at 6:30p.m. in the lobby. Dessert will be served following the performance at the condos of Judy Matthews (18 Country Club Terr., 63122) and Jim & Lila Hershfelt (19 Country Club Terrace, 63122). If you have questions, call Lila at 821-7090. All are welcome!

The season of Lent is upon us and we will be focusing on this in worship, in the Lenten Recital Series on Fridays, and the bible study on Friday mornings during Lent. In addition, devotionals are available for you to take home. The booklets are at the welcome desk throughout the week and on the table outside the Fellowship Hall (on Sunday mornings only.) There are family materials as well as ones for individuals. Reflection is a powerful way of making the Lenten journey.

**MEN'S MINISTRY SHOW**
First Pres men of all ages are invited to join us Saturdays at 10:45a.m. in Room 029. All men are welcome, no matter your knowledge of scripture or where you are in your faith journey. We take turns reading aloud, ask questions, discuss what the Holy Spirit might be saying, and even share in laughter. Call Robert Trottmann at 314-909-6779 with any questions.

The Bridge Bread Table will be open for business on March 8. Enjoy mini-cinnis, artisan bagels and pan brownies. The money raised helps train and provide transitional housing to the homeless in St. Louis. Of course, donations are also appreciated. Leftovers are donated to a local nursing home.

The Dementia Discussion Group meets the 3rd Saturday of each month. They will meet on March 21 at 10:00a.m. in room 029. If you have any questions, contact Alice Bowen: asquare812@hotmail.com or David Evans at davidevansma@yahoo.com.

The Grief Support Group meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 24, 7:00p.m. -8:30p.m. in the lounge. For more information contact Ellen Hitschler at ln4cats@yahoo.com or Mary Ann Shaw at mashaw5@sbcglobal.net.

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**EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS**
If you would like to make an Easter Flower Dedication, please fill out and tear off this form. You may mail it to church or place it in the offering plate on Sunday. Dedications are due by Friday, April 3.

*(suggested donation $25 each)*

In **honor/celebration** of: ____________________________________________ or

In **memory** of: ______________________________________________________

Given by: ____________________________________________________________

Phone # and/or e-mail: ________________________________________________

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MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

Mark your calendars! An adult mission trip to Omaha, Nebraska has been scheduled for the week of April 26-May 2. We'll be staying at the NE Presbyterian Church of the Cross, and working with Omaha Rapid Response to help homeowners impacted by catastrophic flooding last March. Omaha is closer than our recent trips to Louisiana and Mississippi, so we're hoping that will make it possible for more people to go, even for a few days. An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8, at 10:00 a.m. in room 029. Contact Liz McCane (lizmccane@gmail.com), Georgina Sikorski (gwsikorski@gmail.com) or Linda Jarrett (write4you@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

40 Days of Lent Casserole Challenge for St. Patrick’s Center
Beginning in February and over the 40 days of Lent, we are challenging our First Pres members to help us prepare 40 breakfast casseroles for the St. Patrick’s Center. St. Patrick’s provides nourishing and hot meals for St. Louis homeless people. Pick up a pan and recipe from the table in the narthex. Please bring your prepared casserole to the kitchen freezer or downstairs freezer. For more information, please contact Julie Nesvig at j.nesvig83@gmail.com.

ST. JOSEPH HOUSING INITIATIVE
Do you have a passion for helping others but are unable to take a week off for a mission trip? Your answer is here in the local St. Louis community. Your Mission Committee has identified a new organization with which we can partner on an as-needed basis. The ST. JOSEPH HOUSING INITIATIVE is rehabbing six homes in the Dutchtown neighborhood of South St. Louis this year and will have need for volunteer help in three areas: interior painting, post-construction clean-up, and landscaping. Further information about the organization can be found at stjosephhousing.org. If you would be interested in adding your name to a list of volunteers, please contact Sharon Croissant at scrois822@gmail.com or call her at 314-909-8136 and let her know which project you would be interested in: post-construction cleanup, painting, landscaping….or maybe all 3.

Music Performances – March 2020

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<td>Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series: Travis Evans, organist</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
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<td>Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series: St. Louis Irish Arts</td>
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<td>*March 15</td>
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<td>Metropolitan Orchestra of St. Louis: music of Haydn</td>
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<td>March 20</td>
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<td>Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series: Terri Langerak, harp</td>
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<td>March 27</td>
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<td>Tree of Life Chapel Lenten Recital Series: Chamber Project St. Louis</td>
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<td>March 29</td>
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<td>AIM Band Concert in the sanctuary: <em>this annual fund raiser for the Kirkwood High School band program involves several members of the congregation, and the band performs under the direction of Jim Wehrman. All are invited to contribute to a free-will offering at the concert.</em></td>
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* The Metropolitan Orchestra concert is a ticketed event. Tickets for sale at the door.

March Meal-A-Month Items
Beef Stew, Canned Carrots, Canned Peaches, Cornbread Muffin Mix (No eggs required)
Optional – Soap

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8!

If you would like to know who is serving as Elder or Deacon and what committees they serve on, you can find them on our website at www.kirkwoodpres.org, on the kiosk in the Gathering Space, or you may contact the church office for a copy of the list.
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**Note:**
- Times are in 24-hour format.
- Events listed include Worship, Concerts, Study and Discussion groups, and other community activities.
- Days of the week are indicated in parentheses for reference.