PCS NEWS
NEWS AND COMING EVENTS OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE SIUSLAW

VOLUME SIXTEEN **NUMBER TWO** **FEBRUARY 2016**

FROM PASTOR GREG

February 10 begins the season of Lent. According to our Book of Order, Lent, is "a season of spiritual discipline and preparation, beginning with Ash Wednesday, anticipating the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ." (W-3.2.002 d). To help mark this season of the church year I have three ideas for us.

1. Traditionally, we give something up for Lent. We do this to join in the sacrifice of Christ. In our family we joke about giving up "Watermelon" for Lent – that's not much of a sacrifice since it is so far out of season. To give something up for Lent it should be something that will remind you every day that you are sharing in Christ's sacrifice. I am planning on giving up coffee, a part of my morning routine.
2. A second way to mark this season is to add something to your life, perhaps in place of what you give up. The Common Lectionary for this year has us reading from the Gospel of Luke in worship. For Lent, can we add the study of this Gospel to our spiritual practices? Our Monday Brown Bag Bible Study will start working on this Gospel Feb. 1. Let us read and study Luke from now through Easter and on to Pentecost. But not just read, study, meditate on, take it apart and put it back together.
3. If we are adding a spiritual discipline, or adding to our spiritual disciplines, come and join us for a sacrificial meal (soup and bread) on Wednesday nights in Lent. The meal won't be the typical feast that usually happens here, instead we will share a meal of soup and bread. The meal will be enough. After supper we will worship together, each week will be a different style or type of service. Nothing too far out of the main stream, but a different emphasis or kind of service. We will need a few people to make a pot of soup for each night – the signup sheets are on my office windows.

It is my prayer for all of us that this season of Lent will be a time of learning and growth. Please consider how you will celebrate this season of the church year.

Wednesday Nights in Lent
Soup and Service

A simple supper, a time of fellowship, and worship to prepare for Easter.
Feb. 10: A traditional Ash Wednesday service with the imposition of ashes.
Feb. 17: A Taize Service of song and meditation
Feb. 24: Renewal of our Baptismal Vows.
March 2: A service of healing and wholeness
March 9: Worship with a more contemporary feel
March 16: Art and Music
March 23: A Traditional Seder Meal.

NURTURE TEAM
January 2016

Prayer Chain - Ardella Bennett responded to 4 new requests for the prayer chain.

Parish Nurse - Our parish nurse Connie Bradley has made 18 visits and or contacts with church and community members. She also checks the AED battery every Sunday she is at church. An AED machine is a automated external defibrillator. It is located on the wall of the main hall. The new battery was installed about one year ago.

Home Communion - Home communion was served by Greg Wood and Nancy Gardiner to Jean Gottschalk, Esther Dawson, Chuck Cassey and Joy Burkey.

Friendly Visitors - Multiple visits/calls are made each month in our community. Many thanks to those who have responded. We can all do our part by calling on friends and acquaintences. The best time to call on Spruce Point or Shorewood would be before meal times. They start serving at 11:30 and 4:30. Please call the individual first.

Marie's Mailings - Marie Mouchett sent out 58 packets this month including 2 sympathy, 2 get well and 15 Christmas cards.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - The group meets the first Tuesday of the month at 1:30pm at The Old Coffee Company, 125 Nopal Street- behind BJ's ice cream. Beginners are welcome!
More information contact Marty Palmer 541-902-5149.

There are many opportunities to share our faith by action and we welcome any interested person to our group. We meet every other month on the first Thursday. Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 3rd, 10am at our church. Our group will be doing fellowship on February 14th, 2016.

Call Nancy Gardiner, Chair, 541-997-4239 for ways we can be of help.

"A blessing for you, because the Lord your God loves you."

Deuteronomy 23:5

Author Owen Cummings to Lead
2016 Ecumenical Lenten Renewal Weekend Feb. 20–21

The Ecumenical Lenten Renewal Weekend, now in its 20th year, brings nationally known speakers to Florence during the liturgical season of Lent, a traditional time of reflection in anticipation of Easter.

Writer, professor, and Catholic deacon Owen Cummings, chair of theology at Mt. Angel Seminary in St. Benedict, OR, will headline the 2016 Lenten Renewal Weekend, February 20–21. Dr. Cummings will give three lectures on Saturday, February 20, and deliver the message at the Sunday service at New Life Lutheran Church, 21st and Spruce, in Florence. The theme of his presentations is "Lift High the Cross."

His Saturday lectures are entitled "A Radical Lent," at 10:30 a.m.; "The Cross and St. Paul," at 1:00 p.m.; and "The Way of the Cross," at 2:30 p.m. His message, "Transfiguration Through the Cross," will be given at the Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. The Lenten Renewal Choir, under the direction of Laura Merz, will sing at the service. Brian Lindsey will be organist.

Dr. Cummings is the author of 18 books, including *One Body in Christ*, which highlights ecumenical voices primarily in the 20th century, and *Mystical Women, Mystical Body*, which examines the spirituality of 10 women mystics, among them Hildegard of Bingen, Teresa of Avila, and Edith Stein. He previously served as deacon and director of religious education for the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City and remains a permanent deacon of that diocese. A native of Glasgow, Scotland, he holds a bachelor's degree in Semitic languages, a bachelor's and a master's degree in theology, and a doctor of divinity degree, which he earned during the course of his theological studies in Dublin, Ireland.

The congregations in Florence who sponsor the event include host New Life Lutheran Church, Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw, St. Andrew Episcopal Church, St. Mary Our Lady of the Dunes Catholic Church, and Florence United Methodist Church. All will participate in the joint worship service on Sunday.

There is no charge for the Lenten Renewal lectures, and the public is invited to both the lectures and the ecumenical worship service.

(Remember: There is no worship service at our church that Sunday. Please join us for the ecumenical service at New Life Lutheran Church at 10:30 a.m.)

New Life Lutheran Church (ELCA)

Presbyterian Church of the Siuslaw

St. Andrew Episcopal Church

Florence United Methodist Church

St. Mary, Our Lady of the Dunes, Catholic Church

THE SHARING SHELF

February announces its own importance with special Black History Month, also known as African-American History Month; Ash Wednesday; Valentine's Day; Presidents' Day, and this year. . .Leap Day. Of these The Sharing Shelf will feature Black History Month, Valentine's Day, and Presidents' Day. We have no literature on Ash Wednesday per se. Groundhog Day is also here, but we have no books on Punxsutawney Phil.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

Black Firsts by Jessie Carney Smith traces the first black noteworthy back to the year 35 when an unnamed Nubian Eunuch became the first black convert to Christianity. In 1688 the Mennonite Quakers at Germantown, PA, adopted the first formal abolitionist document in US history. Paul Laurence Dunbar, in 1893, was the first black poet to gain national fame. Novelist, educator and editor Toni Morrison became the first black American to win the Nobel Prize in Literature, this in *1993.* In 1973 John Hope Franklin became the first black president of Phi Beta Kappa. 1976 saw Unita Blackwell as the first black woman mayor in Mississippi, and as a leader in the civil rights struggle. The book goes on to cover firsts in business, education, government, science and medicine, sports, . . . and on for 2000 years.

The Trials of Phillis Wheatley by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Arriving aboard a slave ship alone at the age of ten and speaking no English, Phillis was adopted and reared by a white family. Twelve years later she had mastered the language, become a master poet, & in 1773, published a book of poetry - the first ever by a black person. She was well received both here and in Europe. Critics, including Thomas Jefferson and black naysayers, set in, however, feeling that a black person could not produce literature, and that she did not represent the black culture sufficiently if at all. She was "too white" in her work.

True Vine by John W. Fountain - a debut story. John "grew up on some of the meanest streets in Chicago", in a neighborhood "heading south". He developed his faith through the church founded by his grandparents - called True Vine. This faith saw him through turbulent times to become today an award winning reporter for *The New York Times.*

VALENTINE'S DAY:

We have here three couples that personify the love we find surrounding this special day:

The Legacy of a Couple, Ruth and Billy Graham by Hanspeter Nuesch. "In everything, Ruth and Billy Graham worked as a team guided by a set of values (that) influenced every action, from how they raised their children and talked with their neighbors to how they approached public life. Values like humility, integrity, grace, and authenticity".

Happy Trails: Our Life Story, Roy Rogers and Dale Evans with Jane and Michael Stern. "Few people become true American legends, beloved and admired by many

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millions of people, but Roy Rogers and Dale Evans have achieved that rare and special status . . . movies from 1938 to 1951. . . TV show into the 1960s.

A Being So Gentle, The Frontier Love Story of Rachel and Andrew Jackson by Patricia Brady. "The love story of Rachel and Andrew Jackson is one of the greatest in American history . . . An exciting new era was dawning and the Jacksons were making history at the forefront of that revolution. Rachel died a few weeks after Andrew became president.

PRESIDENTS' DAY:

Here we present two recently acquired books, one about the latter Pres. Bush and one about Sarah Palin who, of course, never assumed any presidentially associated office but can be assumed presidential if aspirations count. We thought, in any case, that you might enjoy her story. Then we add LBJ for fascinating reading.

Decision Points by George W. Bush. "In this candid and gripping account, President George W. Bush describes the critical decisions that shaped his presidency and personal life".

Going Rogue, An American Life by Sarah Palin. Speaking before the Republican National convention in 2008, Sarah "electrified the nation and instantly made herself one of the most recognizable women in the world". As Alaska governor she "had built a record as a reformer who cast aside politics-as-usual and pushed through changes other politicians only talked about . . ." During the campaign she was called refreshing and honest on one hand and a wide-eyed Pollyanna on the other. Here is her story as told by herself.

Reaching for Glory, Lyndon Johnson's Secret, White House Tapes, 1964-1965. ". . . a mesmerizing journey into the inner psychological and emotional life of a frightened, lonely, driven, suspicious man. The Johnson of the secret tapes sees hidden enemies all around him..."

G. Trueblood, Librarian

"SOUPER BOWL" SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 7th, the football Super Bowl, the Mission Team brings you the Souper Bowl of Caring. Each year, in conjunction with the football Super Bowl, churches across the country collect canned food and cash to support local food banks and Habitat for Humanity. Please help us help others by bringing canned food for Food Share and coins or bills for Habitat for Humanity.

Why not invite a friend to church?

OUR SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

January 3 -	77
January 10 –	74
January 17 –	73
January 24 -	74

LECTIONARY FOR FEBRUARY

February 7 (Transfiguration of the Lord): Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)
February 14 (1st Sunday in Lent): Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
February 21 (2nd Sunday in Lent): Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
February 28 (3rd Sunday in Lent): Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

The Free Lunch program is offered at the Florence United Methodist Church every Tuesday and Thursday. Hot soup, bread, dessert, and drinks are served. The meal is available to everyone. Our church fixes two soups and is in charge of the program on the second Thursday of each month. We need three people for each shift - two cooks and one helper. There are 8 of us who work the kitchen, each working three times during the year. Last year we lost two volunteers, Joanne Nelson and Wendy Wells. A friend of Gail's has volunteered to fill one Cook position. We are currently short of Helpers. The Helper, working 10-12:30, picks up bread and dessert at Food Share and serves dessert and drinks. If this is something you could do, please call Gail Nichols.

2016 DIRECTORY…

Work has begun on the new directory. If you have any changes with your listing, please contact the office as soon as possible with your information.

BOOK GROUP

The book group will meet Friday, February 5th at Mon Ami, 10:00 a.m. We are reading *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana* by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon. It is the true story of how the Sidiqi family's life changed overnight when the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan. This story of family, faith, and resilience is an inspiration to many. "Gayle Tzemach Lemmon tells a true, inspiring story of courageous women and quiet heroism at work in Taliban-era Afghanistan." *Christian Science Monitor*

Come join us for an interesting discussion along with a cup of coffee and a treat of your choice!

February 5, 2016 at Mon Ami. Hope to see you there.

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OUR SESSION TEAM FOR 2016

Christian Education – Violet Harding
Fellowship – Susan Nofrey
Finance/Stewardship – Paul Floto
Mission – Sharon Pryor
Nurture – Nancy Gardiner
Personnel/Administrative – Joan Skarda
Property – Pete Peterson
Worship – Jonathan Yoder
Moderator – Pastor Greg Wood
Clerk of Session – Gail Nichols

Supper for Six at 6:00pm on the 6th

If you'd like to join a monthly supper group, please sign up on the bulletin board next to Pastor Greg's office

We have three groups up and running currently with a few openings and the option to add more groups . . .

"Supper for Six" is a way to better get to know one another, fellowship, share Christ's love, eat good food, keep the body moving, mind working and faith growing.

THE NEEDLERS

The Needlers will be meeting on February 23, 2016 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. In addition to working on a variety of needle craft projects, we will also be talking about possible art and craft projects as we look ahead to a Fall Bazaar the first Saturday in November (November 5, 2016). If you are interested in helping with Fall Bazaar, please join us and share your ideas. Feel free to bring a project to work on while we talk, or just come by for a visit.

USHERS AND GREETERS FOR FEBRUARY

	Greeters	Ushers
Feb 7	Nancy Ash Don Phillips	Connie Bradley Guy Veach
Feb 14	Sharon Pryor Alice Collier	Nancy Gardiner Ron Sjogren
Feb 21	Lenten Renewal Weekend	
Feb 28	Jane Douglass Carol Parsons	Ken Stone Connie Bradley

WITH OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY....

Our love and sympathy to Barbara Di Giorgio and family upon the recent loss of her husband, John. Both were active members and attended this church for many years. They moved last year to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

JUST A REMINDER!

We have many empty spots on the Display Case, the Flower Chart and the Fellowship Hour time sheet. Please take a moment and sign up to help us out. We appreciate all our volunteers.....we can't do it without you!

JANUARY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Pete Peterson, Dee Newton, and Sharon Pryor were welcomed as new members of the session. They will be ordained on January 31, 2016. Susan Nofrey and Jonathan Yoder begin new two year calls.

Dates for communion were set for the first Sunday of each month, except for April 3rd. Communion will be held on Easter Sunday, March 27th, instead of April 3rd. Communion will also be held on Thursday, April 24th.

Special services are planned for Wednesdays during Lent.

The proposed operating budget for 2016 was approved.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

With a couple of months of rain behind us, at least a couple more ahead, the Siuslaw River occasionally flooding Highway 126 at Cushman, and thundering surf with extra high tides at the beach, you may be thinking a lot about water these days. Have you ever given much thought to water in scripture? Whether or not you have, now is the perfect time to do so. This year's PW Bible study, "Come to the Water", tells the story of faith through water stories from Genesis to Revelation.

At our meeting on Tuesday, February 16th, we'll be studying Lesson 6, "Waters of Justice and Righteousness – Justice". Judy Fletcher, our study guide author, asks the question, "What places in our world today need the cleansing waters of justice and righteousness?" This will be the focus of this month's study. If this sounds interesting to you, please join us. While a common thread runs through the entire study, each lesson stands alone and joining us now won't put you behind. Just let me know, and I will provide you with the study material.

Our February hostess will be Sharon McKee (we'll meet at her home), our co-hostess will be Joanne McMicken and our study will be led by Susan Nofrey.

Things to remember:

9:15 am	Car pool leaves the church
9:30 am	Social time, with beverages and goodies
10:00 am	Meeting starts

As always, PW meetings and events are open to all women of PCOS. Please join us.

Debbie Peterson

PW Moderator