

# Faith's Happenings...

February, 2021

## *Happy Birthday*

Elizabeth D'Amico	4th
Nancy Smith	7th
Kent Neilson	8th
Gene Newlon	13th
Barbara Hanson	14th
Dominic Moore	17th
Ruth Ash	18th
Mo Simpson	19th
Anne LeVasseur	21st
Neal Schattauer	24th
Adrienne Bakker	26th
Lester VanAllsburg	27th
Jeff Petersen	28th

## *Happy Anniversary*

Thomas & Adrienne Bakker	11th
Sam & Susan D'Amico	24th

**If we missed your name/date, we're sorry.  
Please notify Barbra in the church office  
to have your special dates added.**

## **February at a Glance**

*Mark your calendars now!  
Men of Faith Breakfast: Feb. 2  
Ash Wednesday: Feb 17*

for you are dust, and to  
dust you will return  
Genesis 3:19



## **Lenten Wednesday Worship**

This year we will have Ash Wednesday and Lenten Wednesday worship at noon in the building. It will be live streamed for those who prefer online worship.

**During this difficult time, we  
want you to know the  
church office is open from 9  
till noon if you have a  
prayer request or other  
need. (697-3313)**

## Long Term Prayer Update

With all the changes over the past few months, we have decided it is time to start over with our prayer list and be sure we have the names of those who need long-term prayer. If you want to add someone to this list, contact Barbra in the church office (697-3313).

For now, please keep these folks in your prayers on a regular basis: Ralph Crites, Sarah, Hester and Carter Newton, Joanne Best, Kathy Kanak, Greg Schultz, Scott Schultz, Sandy Honeycutt, Larry Bennett, John Schleede, Barb Neilson, Bob Ash, Jack Myers

## Electronic Stewardship

Electronic Giving is an option at Faith. Use this code to contribute and support God's work, or click on the code on our church website.



## Stephen Ministry in Our Congregation

Could you benefit from the confidential, one-to-one care and support of a Stephen Minister? Call (941) 681-0297.

## Men's Breakfast

Men, please join us as we have resumed monthly breakfasts at Stefano's restaurant. We will meet at 7:30 am on Tuesday, February 2. Please join us!

## From Our Seminarian

Hello Everyone!

I hope you're all doing well and staying healthy!

Things have been pretty boring around here. Since COVID cases have gone back up, we are being very careful on campus and social distancing as much as we can. I am still nannying and will be until I start CPE in May. I still have not heard anything about internship yet, but will keep you updated when I do!

I hope everyone's holidays went well! For Thanksgiving, I was still in class and pretty busy with finals but did have a meal with a small group of people at the church across the street from the seminary. For Christmas, I had dinner with the professor that I am the teaching assistant for because neither of us were traveling to go see family. Not coming home for the holidays was a lot harder than I thought it would be, but I knew it was the safest choice to stay on campus. I do hope to be able to come home and visit soon!

The spring semester starts on January 19th and even though I've enjoyed the break, I am ready for classes to start again! Classes will be all online this semester, without having an in-person option. Because of working and the professor I work with being high risk, I didn't go to in-person class last semester so this semester will not be much different for me. Trying to do my preaching class online may be a challenge, though! The classes that I will be taking this semester are: Preaching, Old Testament, Christian Mission, and Church History 2. I am exciting for my classes this semester but I am also ready for internship, too!

Thank you all for the continued support and prayers! I really appreciate! I really hope I can come home to visit soon! I miss you all!

Stay safe and healthy!  
Brandy

A big THANK YOU to all those who help make the outside services and the online services available for our Faith family every week. You are appreciated!

## Memorials

If you would like to create a lasting memorial for someone special to you, see Mary Lou Fitzgerald about purchasing a personalized brick for our Memorial Garden. Details in the leaflet in the narthex, or check with Mary Lou.

## From the Pastor, February, 2021



The thought presented in this graphic has been displayed and enhanced a number of ways, yet it invites our reflection on the truth of what God has done for us. As we prepare for the Lenten season our focus is drawn to the cross, the one who was nailed there, and the forgiveness of our sin that was accomplished by Jesus' death.

Many things have changed over the past year as we have endured the consequences of the pandemic surrounding COVID-19. As vaccines become more available, the light may be at the end of the tunnel, however changes in our lifestyle and culture may have ramifications for years to come. One of those changes will be in our worship schedule for the Lenten Mid-week services. This year we have moved our Wednesday services to 12:00 (noon). We will gather for worship on Ash Wednesday, the five Wednesday's during Lent, as well as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, at the

noon hour. There will be no evening service. Our Wednesday noon gatherings will be live-streamed and recorded for the convenience of those still not able to be out for worship.

We will still have ashes and communion available on Ash Wednesday, communion on Maundy Thursday and Tenebrae on Good Friday. You are encouraged to participate as you are able. And, please, invite a friend to come with you to worship, join you at home, or do a watch party together online, as we focus on what God has done for us.

Our theme this Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday with a reflection on a lesson we may have learned as children: Stop, Look, Listen. Our Wednesday worship will then focus on God opening our lives to the work he is doing in Christ Jesus our Lord, and in our world today; Open our... Eyes, Hands, Ears, Heart, Life. Pastor Autumn and I will be developing these reflections to help us explore what God has done for us, and how we can use God's blessings to witness in our world today.

The writer of Hebrews 13.8 says, **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.** As we move through the days and month ahead, we will have reasons to celebrate different things: Ground Hog Day and Valentine's Day to name two. However, like the changes brought on by COVID-19, God is the one who is our rock, our anchor, our sure foundation. May we not be distracted by the things that change around us, but rather hold fast to the truth of the one who is eternal.

And if life gets a little too complicated, remember some simple math:  $1+3=4$ . Because with God, all it takes is 1 cross and 3 nails for us to be forgiven and given a new beginning.

Blessings,  
+Pastor Brian