

# The MESSENGER

February 2021

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## Ash WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday was one of the last services we participated in prior to the initiation of restrictions on public gathers due to the Covid virus.

We will plan on gathering for the observance of Ash Wednesday at 7:00PM, Wednesday, February 17. This in-person worship service will be contingent on Hamilton County moving from its current 'purple' Covid status to a reduced level of severity.

Watch for email, sent to the church distribution list, on Monday, February 15 to confirm or cancel in-person worship for February 17. In an event, video and audio will be posted as usual.

The Order of Worship for Ash Wednesday, found on page 6, is included for use as a devotional aid in the event in-person worship is not possible on February 17.

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### Staff

*Items for the March edition of this newsletter are accepted in the church office through 9:00AM, Monday, March 22, 2021.*



*Early submissions are joyfully accepted.*

*Submitted information will be edited for clarity, accuracy, and length.*

#### **the Rev. Jeffrey Lang**

**Amy**  
Director of Music and Organist

**Kate**  
Choir Director and Vocalist

**Megan**  
Vocalist

**Deborah**  
Administrative Assistant

**Logan**  
Vocalist

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Valentine's Day is coming up. The holiday in America has long been an opportunity to celebrate love, especially romantic love. The day is marked by pink and red decorations, heart shaped boxes of chocolates and couples heading out for a special dinner.

The Bible describes the Source of the universe as being love itself (1 John 4:8). God did not have to create anything, but did so (Genesis 1:1). God was under no obligation to create free creatures, but create them He did! It would appear that a part of God's purpose in creation was to call into an existence a being who could choose to enter into relationship with God, to relate to God in love, or not. Genuine relationship can only exist in freedom, not compulsion.

Of course, Genesis describes the choice of Adam and Eve to reject God's standard and rupture their relationship with God by violating the prohibition on eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:6-7).

The Old Testament tells the story of God working to restore relationship with humanity through Israel. The Bible defines the clearest example of God's love for humanity as the sending of Jesus, his death and resurrection.

Romans 5:8 - *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

In the crucifixion, God's love is expressed as a condemnation of the sin which ruptures the relationship between a perfect Creator, and a wayward creature (Colossians 2:13-15).

At the same time, the cross is a demonstration of a passionate, self-sacrificing love for human beings. If judgment is to fall on sinners for their sin (Hebrews 9:22), God interposes Himself through Christ between human beings and the sentence of condemnation they deserve (Hebrews 10:4; John 1:29). God in Christ seeks

out and saves the lost. The Lover is willing to suffer if it means the redemption of the beloved (John 3:16-18).

The words of the old Isaac Watt hymn, 'When I Survey the Wondrous Cross,' aim us in the direction of exploring the crucifixion of Jesus as the sign of God's saving love for us.

*When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.*

*Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.*

*See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e're such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?*

*Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.*

We offer tokens of affection and love on occasions like Christmas, birthdays and anniversaries; and certainly on Valentine's Day. As a child, such might be a handful of paper Valentine's dropped into appropriately decorated shoe-boxes of your elementary school classmates. Perhaps, as an adult, such a gift might be a card, necklace, or bouquet of flowers given or exchanged. In the Bible's Story of salvation, the great sign of God's love for you and me is the cross of Christ. The gift is the cross. God desires our response of faith in the one who gave the gift. May we be reminded of God's enduring love for us and all people this Valentine's Day.



*From the Pastor's Desk*





The Deacons offer prayer, companionship, rides, or meals, but don't always know where care is needed. If you know of a need (your own or another's), call the church office or any of our Deacons: Susan Armstrong, Susan Galbraith, Jane Johnson, and Susy Spence, Moderator.

William B  
Howard and Dottie E

Tag M  
(Tom S nephew)

Alice M  
(Aunt of the F's)

Lainey and Levi C  
(2 1/2 year old twin children of Meagan and Scott,  
grandchildren of Karen and Steve L)



“Love is our true destiny. We do not find the meaning of life by ourselves alone; we find it with another.”

—Thomas Merton



*Birthdays and Anniversaries*

<i>Susan and Snowden A</i> .....	15
<i>Kimberley and Jeffrey L</i> .....	18
Tom D .....	18
<i>Carolyn and Robert C</i> .....	19
Lee A.....	24
Beverley B.....	26

We offer our thanks and appreciation to the Altar Guild for purchasing and overseeing the installation of new carpet in the sanctuary.

*Thank You!*



# Spotlight on



*Who are these masked men?*

Thanks to your generosity, Glendale Police officers delivered 25 Thanksgiving boxes to Glendale families needing a helping hand. Each box contained a complete Thanksgiving dinner, sans turkey of course. Your Mission committee added a \$25 Kroger gift card to each box so the family could shop for a turkey or other items for their meal.

Oh, the masked men are Sergeant K, Lieutenant W, Chief Dave W, and our own Dave C. Thank you, gentlemen, for your work on this endeavor.



# Missions

Thank  
You!



Thanks to your generosity, forty-seven pounds of food and personal care items from the December Food Offering and fifty-seven pounds from the January Food Offering were delivered to Valley Interfaith Community Resource Center (VICRC).

Many thanks to Dave C and his helpers for delivering the food to VICRC each month.



*Fill the Glendale Village Square with Food*  
Saturday, June 12, 2021

*24th Annual Golf Outing*  
Saturday, September 18, 2021



## *Burden Bearers*

Bear one another's burdens, the Bible says. It is a lesson about pain that we all can agree on. Some of us will not see pain as a gift; some will always accuse God of being unfair for allowing it.

But, the fact is, pain and suffering are here among us, and we need to respond in some way. The response Jesus showed was to bear the burdens of those he touched. To live in the

## *The One Check Solution*

As you may know, the Mission committee supports five special offerings each year. They are Blanket Fund in February, One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter, Archibald Fund in May, Back-to-School in June, and Christmas Joy in December.

It has been suggested that we make it easier to contribute and also reduce the number of times we ask for donations. Therefore, we offer this option. You are welcome to write just one check, specifying which fund(s) and the amount you wish to contribute to each. Your donation can be made at any time of the year and the Financial Secretary will, upon receipt of your contribution, credit each offering accordingly.

We will continue to make special offering envelopes available in the Narthex, at the time noted above for each offering, for those wishing to contribute on an individual offering basis.

To the many donors who support our Mission opportunities, we say *THANK YOU!*

world as [Jesus'] body, his emotional incarnation, we must follow his example.

The image of the body accurately portrays how God is working in the world. ...We announce his message, work for justice, pray for mercy ... and suffer with the sufferers.

—Philip Yancey,  
*Where Is God When It Hurts?*

# Ash Wednesday Service

Prelude

Call to Worship

John 3:17; Psalm 46:1-3

Prayer of the Day

Scripture Lesson

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

Musical Selection

Kate, solo

Meditation

*Orienteering*

Invitation to the Observance of the Lenten Discipline

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to our loving-kindness; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

*Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sin.*

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

*Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight.*

And so you are justified when you speak and upright in your judgment.

*Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, a sinner from my mother's womb.*

For behold, you look for truth deep within me, and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

*Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.*

Make me hear of joy and gladness, that the body you have broken may rejoice.

*Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquities.*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

*Cast me not away from your presence and take not your holy Spirit from me.*

Give me the joy of your saving help again and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

*I shall teach your ways to the wicked, and sinners shall return to you.*

Deliver me from death, O God, and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness, O God of my salvation.

*Open my lips, O Lord, and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice, but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.

*The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*

Imposition of Ashes

Genesis 3:19, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Musical Selection

Kate, solo

Benediction

Postlude

# february

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 6:30PM- Ensemble Rehearsal	5	6
7  10:30AM- Worship Blanket Offering	8 9:00AM- Session reports due	9	10 6:00PM- Session Meeting	11 6:30PM- Ensemble Rehearsal	12	13
14 10:30AM- Worship Blanket Offering <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15  <b>Office Closed</b>	16	17  7:00PM- Worship	18 6:30PM- Ensemble Rehearsal	19	20
21 10:30AM- Worship Food Offering	22 9:00AM- March newsletter items due	23	24	25 6:30PM- Ensemble Rehearsal	26	27
28 10:30AM- Worship	<p>This calendar is a living document subject to frequent changes. Check the website (<a href="http://firstpresbyterianglendale.org">firstpresbyterianglendale.org</a>) for the most accurate calendar. Please call the church office with calendar updates.</p>					



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The Reverend Jeffrey Lang

***Church Office Hours***

Monday, 9AM-3PM, Tuesday, 9AM-1PM  
Wednesday, 9AM-1PM, Thursday, 9AM-3PM  
Friday, closed

Shared with you in Christian love



***A daily prayer***

Whatever happens today, dear Lord, help us remember that you are present. If we find ourselves in the shadows of disappointment or rejection or pain, let us see your comforting light. If we're in the radiant light of success of acceptance or wholeness, may we acknowledge your providence and grace. Wherever we are, grant us the assurance of your nearness. Amen.

