“But if you train, Mom, you could do it.” That’s what Nathan has said to me on numerous occasions when I’ve told him that I could never run or walk a marathon with him. And, of course, he’s right! As I read that statement, I am thinking of all the many gifted people in our congregation who have trained and honed their gifts in music, in quilting, in cooking, sewing, in flower arranging, in book-keeping, in teaching, and the like. They’ve practiced and read books and studied and taken courses. They’ve researched and sat at a master’s feet. Sometimes they’ve had to begin projects over again to get it right. They’ve invested money and time in supplies and books and courses. Years have gone into the development of their skills. No matter what a person’s gift is or where their expertise is, there was likely much training to become proficient.

This notion of training can give us new insight to Lent. Lent, of course, is the 40 days of preparation prior to Easter. We often hear about giving something up for Lent. The practice is intended to help us turn away from whatever has distracted us from God and help us turn back. It is an acknowledgment that we have accumulated much which can so easily keep us from worshiping God purely. Often the things we then GIVE UP FOR LENT are some small pleasure or indulgence like chocolate, soda pop, coffee, or some other tempting food in our lives, or maybe a bad habit such as smoking or complaining. Giving these up may be a positive turning our life back towards what God wants for us.

However….since the goal of Lent is to grow in some way in our relationship with God, we may need to train to get in spiritual shape. We often hear about giving something up for Lent. The practice is intended to help us turn away from whatever has distracted us from God and help us turn back. It is an acknowledgment that we have accumulated much which can so easily keep us from worshiping God purely. Often the things we then GIVE UP FOR LENT are some small pleasure or indulgence like chocolate, soda pop, coffee, or some other tempting food in our lives, or maybe a bad habit such as smoking or complaining. Giving these up may be a positive turning our life back towards what God wants for us.

However….since the goal of Lent is to grow in some way in our relationship with God, we may need to train to get in spiritual shape. Maybe during these weeks before Easter, we should pick a gospel and simply read a chapter a day to be reacquainted with the story of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. Maybe we should engage in contemplative prayer or techniques of reading such as using Lectio Devina. We might pray the Psalms, or Eph 3:16-19 with our FPC prayer list or something else that is helpful to us. Maybe we should get conditioned by taking daily walks and look at the beauty of the world around us. Possibly taking time to encourage and be a blessing to someone each day is what is needed to tone and hone our spiritual selves. We could pledge to offer a word of thanks to a store clerk or police officer, a soldier, nurse, teacher or caretaker we meet. Whatever we do, we need to do it until Easter morning. These are things that we can TAKE UP RATHER THAN GIVE UP FOR LENT. We will likely find that we have changed, our spirits more open for the good news to take new root in our hearts. As Nathan said, “You just have to train. You can do it.”

See you in Church. Pastor Naomi
New News

• FPC’s Souper Bowl Sunday was simply wonderful. Thank you all for assisting in collecting 300 food items and $722 for the hungry who visit the Cove Soup Kitchen. We offer a special thanks to our Scouts, to Marian Harrison, who coordinated this, and also to those who provided the meal following the service.

• SIGN UPDATE: Our current sign has now been installed and the new LED sign is in process of being installed. The Landscaping committee is hard at work to construct garden beds for both signs. Thank you Pat Compher (chair). We are excited and grateful for this project. Just FYI, our Memorial Committee has a designation for donations to the LED sign fund. If you wish to contribute to this in memory or in honor of a loved one, please indicate this on your check or on an attached note.

• FPC’s new Shepherd Program (Chair, Inge McVey) has begun. Please know that your shepherd is there to assist you when joys and concerns arise and need to be shared. Feel free to call them. They will check on you at least monthly.

• Children At The Table Class: Those children who attended this class will be recognized during the worship service on March 12th. We are so proud of them and their desire to learn the meaning of the Lord’s Supper. These children are: Kendra Ahart, Jarred Ahart, Alexandra Shelley, Nathaniel Shelley, Trinity Wetli, Blake Wetli, Tristian Carnall, and Jeremiah Jones.

• Lent. Lenten devotionals are available on the Narthex table. Please take one to assist you on your walk with Jesus to the cross.

• Get in the Word! Please join us for adult and children’s Sunday school at 9:45am. The Adult class is completing a study on the Sermon on the Mount and the children’s class is starting a NT unit in “Holy Moly.”

• Don’t miss the Fellowship meal, following the service, each week. You will want to make a special effort to attend that one planned for St. Patrick’s Day weekend, March 19th. Chocolate is involved!

• Who’s That Baby? The Church Life team hopes you’re ready for some real fun. On April 2nd, during the after-church fellowship meal, we will have a contest to guess the picture! Every member and regular guest of FPC-CC is asked to bring or scan/email a baby or young child picture of themselves during March to Pastor Naomi. She will create a powerpoint presentation of these which will be shown at the event on April 2. There will be a prize for the person who guesses the most correctly. So get your pictures in! The deadline is March 26th. (Note: if bringing a hard copy photo, please label well and put in an envelope. These will be returned ASAP). Naomi’s email is nin-grim@hot.rr.com

• Pancake Breakfast. Our Scout Troop 257 will provide pancakes with all the fixins for FPC-CC as a fundraiser on March 12th. This will occur following the service in lieu of our usual Fellowship meal. If you are accustomed to eating out on Sundays, please eat out at FPC!

Continued on next page
• **Holy Week Schedule:**
  o Palm Sunday service with Palm Processional: April 9th at 11 a.m.
  o Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service: April 13th at 6:30 p.m.
  o Good Friday Meditation Time: April 14th at noon – 3 p.m.
  o Easter Sunrise Service: April 16th at 7 a.m., followed by potluck breakfast
  o Easter Egg Hunt: April 16th at approx. 8:30 – 9 a.m.
  o Note: No Sunday school on Easter Sunday although an Easter movie will be shown
  o Easter service with Communion: April 16th at 11 a.m.

• **Gift of the Heart Kits:** This wonderful mission project to benefit the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program will begin March 19th and 26th. Please see the Mission & Outreach column for more information

• **Annual Report:** Do not forget to pick up a copy of the 2016 annual report. They are available on the Narthex table

• **Scout Sunday:** What a wonderful gift it was to have so many scouts and their families attend and help lead worship on Feb. 26th! From greeting us at the door to collecting the offering to reading Scripture, the scouts of all ages were wonderful. Thank you, Scouts! Let’s do it again next year!

• **Blessing of the Animals:** This event will be held tentatively on May 7th at 2 p.m. FPC and the scouts and their pets are invited. The blessing of each animal, by name, means that health, healing and life are being mediated from God for the benefit of the animal in its relationship with its human partners. Stay tuned for further information.
Mission Happenings

In November of 2015 FPC donated Gifts of the Hearts Kits to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Our team decided that we wanted to continue with this but as a Lenten project. However, now only hygiene kits will be collected. More information to follow in the Sunday bulletins as to items needed for kit(s). The kits will be collected on March 19 & 26. After mailing, they will be stored in warehouse in Little Rock, Arkansas, and will be available before a disaster happens.

Special Gratitude

Thank you so much church family for your phone calls, emails, cards, and visits during my recent recuperation of my broken ankle. Also kudos to Church Life for making medical equipment available to the congregation during a time of need. I was able to use the wheelchair and walker that were available on loan (now there are crutches too) from FPC. This was indeed Godsent gift that helped me tremendously during my recuperation. Thanks, Marian H.
Cub Scout Pack 257

The Pack and Troop 257 have already begun with a busy 2017. They survived the rain storm during their campout at Finlayson on Jan. 20-22. The troop assisted with many activities at the campout in order to make it more successful for the cub scouts. The pack participated in a space derby event where the boys made their own space ships and raced them down a track attached to fishing line. A good time was had by all despite the weather on Saturday evening.

The troop and pack then participated in Report to State on Saturday, Feb. 4 and walked in a parade to the State Capitol in Austin. This is a celebration of the Boy Scout movement and provided a way to share the benefits of scouting for the state.

The troop and pack then participated in Souper Bowl Sunday at First Presbyterian Church of Copperas Cove which was a successful event to donate food items to the local soup kitchen. Canned food and money donations were collected and separated and boxed by the scouts. The church then fed the scouts a wonderful meal of soup.

On Saturday, Feb. 18, the Scouts celebrated boy scouting by participating in a Harry Potter-themed Blue and Gold event. The Boy Scouts led the Cub Scouts in various activities including potions, herbology, broomstick making and much, much more.

The pack also celebrated with Lori Garcia, our Committee Chair/bear leader, as she was beaded for completing her wood badge training which is a training available to those who want to become better leaders.

The pack also had to say their goodbyes to a few fellow scouts that will be moving to a new hometown but will always be a part of the Pack 257 family. We will greatly miss Brandon, James and Logan.

Upcoming events include a pancake brunch hosted by the troop after Sunday service on March 12th and they are asking for donations to help fund some of their scouting activities. The troop and pack are also getting ready for another campout on March 17-19th at Mckinney Falls State Park and the Cub Scouts will be getting their cars ready for the much anticipated and loved event of the pinewood derby in April.

The troop and pack are open to all boys interested in joining. The troop meets on Monday nights from 6-7:30 p.m. for boys 6th grade and up. The pack meets on Tuesdays from 6-7 p.m. for 1st-5th graders. We would love to meet you.

Submitted by Melissa Sanders
Schedule of ushers, greeters, liturgists, child care

March 12
Liturgist: Inge McVey
Ushers: Marlin & Lisa Raley
    Peg & Sherman Jennings
Greeters: Mary Hampton
Children’s Chapel: Michael Addo-Safo
Nursery: Denise Pasco

March 19
Liturgist: BJ Taylor
Ushers: Open
Greeters: Samantha & Alex Bartels
Children’s Chapel: Mike Ingrim
    & Mary Hampton
Nursery: Denise Pasco

March 26
Liturgist: Frank Reiser
Ushers: Marlin & Lisa Raley
    Peg & Sherman Jennings
Greeters: BJ & Don Taylor
Children’s Chapel: Marian Harrison
Nursery: Cora Cole

April 2
Liturgist: Open
Ushers: Elders
Greeters: Pat Compher & John Mosko
Children’s Chapel: Louise Wetli
Nursery: Grace Hoy

April 9
Liturgist: Open
Ushers: Marlin & Lisa Raley
    Peg & Sherman Jennings
Greeters: Mary Hampton
Children’s Chapel: Mike Ingrim
Nursery: Lotte Balderas

April 16
Liturgist: Open
Ushers: Open
Greeters: Shelleys
Children’s Chapel: Open
Nursery: Estralita Hughes

April 23
Liturgist: Open
Ushers: Marlin & Lisa Raley
    Peg & Sherman Jennings
Greeters: BJ & Don Taylor
Children’s Chapel: Open
Nursery: Open

April 30
Liturgist: Open
Ushers: Open
Greeters: BJ & Don Taylor
Children’s Chapel: Open
Nursery: Open

Birthdays and Anniversaries!

March
11 - William Dean
14 - Bill Sievers
15 - Douglas & Mirashan Kovach
15 - Dennis Kliza
17 - Jeff Hampton
18 - Jamie Scott
22 - Charles Pasco
25 - Kate Peirce-Burleson
29 - Marlin & Lisa Raley
30 - Frank & Ellen Reiser
31 - Steve Wetli

April
3 - Charles & Denise Pasco
4 - Ivanna Ahart
11 - John Mosko
14 - Inge McVey
17 - Janice Kliza
22 - Bill & Jane Sievers
22 - Bentley Michael Wetli
30 - Cyndy Burleson
Session meeting highlights
-Gail Batman, Clerk

The following are highlights from the Jan. 22, 2017 meeting of the Session.

- Approved Omnibus motion
- Approved Quilters use of church on March 25 rather than March 18.
- Approved acceptance of donation of Quilters of two Fellowship tables.
- Approved moving Church employee pay day from the last Sunday of the month to the first Sunday of the month.
- Approved new Sunday School curriculum for the Adult Sunday School class.
- Noted repairs to door overhangs have been completed.
- Elected Frank Reiser as Treasurer for the length of his new term (three years).
- Appointed Marian Harrison as member/chair of the Session Nomination Committee.
- Approved the End-of-the-Year membership report.
- Approved Communion for children on February 19, 2016.
- Discussed pastor salary and approved raising Pastor Ingrim salary to $40K per year.
- Approved change in Landscape Subcommittee budget to $500.
- Approved increase in Church Life budget of $200.
- Approved adoption of amended 2017 budget. Total budget for 2017 = $93K.

The following are highlights from the Feb. 26, 2017 meeting of the Session.

- Approved Omnibus motion
- Received and reviewed treasurer’s report. Received instructions for Ruling Elders to sign in to Powerchurch financial software and obtain their respective team financial report.
- Approved adding an insurance rider to church policy for new sign
- Approved adding sign loan repayment to check list Accounting Manager can write and sign.
- Approved Accounting Manager to sign payroll checks if no assigned check writer available subject to an Elder initialing the check stub.
- Received update on sign installation and use.
- Disapproved dedicating new sign to specific personnel and putting plaque or marker on new sign.
- Approved use of alcohol for one toast at Pasco renewal ceremony reception.
- Met in Executive Session
- Approved Pastor Ingrim vacation for week of April 24, 2017 (will have pulpit supply on April 30)
## Church calendar

### March 2017

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| **9:45-Sunday School**
11 am—Worship with communion
12 pm—Congregational Meeting
12:30 pm—Fellowship | **10:00am-Presbyterian Women**
4:00 pm—Landscape mtg
6:00 pm—Scouts | **1030am Exercise** | **4:30 pm Bible Study**
6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Service | **1:00 pm Presbytery Mtg-Mo-Ranch** | **9:00 am Presbytery Mtg-Mo-Ranch**
10:30 am—Recorder Choir |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| **9:45-Sunday School**
11 am—Worship
12 pm—Fellowship/PANCAKE BREAKFAST | **10:00am-Needleworkers**
6:00 pm—Scouts | **11 am—Mission & Outreach mtg**
10:30am Exercise
1:00 pm—CE/Worship
6:00 pm—Cub Scouts | **3 pm Church Life**
4:30 pm Bible Study
6:30 pm Choir | **10:30am Exercise** | **TBA-PW lunch out** | **10:30 am—Recorder Choir**
WILLIAM DEAN |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| **9:45-Sunday School**
11 am—Worship
12 pm—Fellowship
12:30 pm—Admin mtg
Turn in hygiene kits for mission outreach | **6:00 pm—Scouts** | **10:00am Prime Time Ministries**
10:30am Exercise
6:00pm Cubs | **4:30 pm Bible Study**
6:30 pm Choir | **10:30am Exercise** | **PW Gathering at Mo-Ranch** | **PW Gathering at Mo-Ranch**
9:30 am—Quilters
10:30 am—Recorder Choir KATE PEIRCE-BURLESON |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | Notes: |
| PW Gathering at Mo-Ranch
9:45-Sunday School
11 am—Worship
12 pm—Fellowship
Turn in hygiene kits for mission outreach | **10:00am-Needleworkers**
6:00 pm—Scouts Newsletter deadline | **1030am Exercise**
6:00pm Cubs | **4:30 pm Bible Study**
6:30 pm Choir | **10:30 am Exercise**
FRANK & ELLEN REISER | **10:00am—Recorder Choir** JAMIE SCOTT |

### Special prayers requested for our servicemen and women at home and abroad:
Wes Deardruff, Richard Jackson, Chaplain Dee, Dakota Close, David Kirby, Alex Bartels, Nick Cruz, Jason Turner, Connie Applewhite, Jake Mercer, and all others.
### Church calendar

**April 2017**

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<td>2:00 pm—Pasco Marriage Celebration</td>
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<td>11am—Worship with communion</td>
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**Notes:**

- Scripture of the month: 1 Peter 3:18

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.”
Just for fun

**Lent**

Directions: Using the clues and the word bank, place all words correctly in cross word puzzle.

**Word Bank:**
- Palm
- Holy Week
- Lent
- Ashes
- Purple
- Forty
- Thorns
- Cross
- Stations of the Cross
- Ash Wednesday
- Last Supper
- Sacrifice
- Passion
- Calvary
- Gethsemane
- Scourging
- Aims
- Holy Triduum
- Easter
- Desert

**Across:**
2. Number of days in Lent
3. Day Lent begins (2 words)
4. A word that means the suffering and death of Jesus
7. Disciple who betrayed Jesus
8. Branches waved at Jesus upon his arrival to Jerusalem
12. The prayer which follows Jesus on the way to his death (4 words)
15. A sacrifice for the poor
16. Jesus died on this
17. Liturgical color of Lenten Season
18. Placed on forehead on first day of Lent
19. The garden where Jesus prayed before he died

**Down:**
1. The final three days of Lent (2 words)
2. The hill where Jesus died
3. Where Jesus spent 40 days in prayer
9. The 40 day season before Easter
10. A crown made with thorns was placed on Jesus’ head
11. Jesus gave us the Eucharist at this event (2 words)
12. Word that means Jesus was whipped
13. Lent ends with this great celebration
14. An act that shows how much we love God by putting others before ourselves.
Staff
Pastor -- Rev. Naomi Ingrim
Pianist/Accompanist -- Janice Kliza
Child Care Attendant -- Ivanna Ahart, Sammi Quiles
Indoor Sexton -- Alice Rodriquez
Accounting Consultant -- Angela Hebert

Session

Other
Accounting Manager--Kate Peirce-Burleson
Presbyterian Women President--Marion Palumbo
Webmaster--Marlin Raley
Choir Director--Gail Batman
Organist--Jane Sievers
Newsletter Editor--Kelby Wingert

Monday Mornings
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.
(Worship & Children's Chapel at 11 a.m.
Fellowship at 12 p.m.

Guidelines for submitting to The Steeple:
• Articles must be saved in a Microsoft Word document (or as a “.doc” file).
• Save photos in the original .jpeg/.jpg image file format. Placing an image into a Word document greatly reduces the image quality.