



February 2021

# The Presbyterian

## *Called as Partners*

Epiphany is one of my favorite seasons of the liturgical calendar, that is, the year in the life of the church. I'm sure that some of you think of Epiphany as just a single day, January 6th, if you think about Epiphany at all. However, the season lasts from January 6th until the beginning of Lent.

I love this season because it's filled with call stories—the stories of Jesus calling the disciples to accompany him on his mission to heal the sick, proclaim the good news of the Kingdom of God, release to the captives, and the year of the Lord's favor.

As Jesus calls the disciples, he simply says, “follow me.” And the disciples drop everything and follow Jesus; they participate in Jesus' mission. The implication of these call stories is that we, too, are called to follow Jesus as disciples.

If you've been a member of this congregation for a long time, or if you've been active in other churches, you've probably heard some version of this message. It's a constant reminder that we're called to carry on Christ's work in the world. In fact, I'm reminded of the hymn, “Called as Partners in Christ's

service.” That hymn begins with the words, “Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace; we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.”

I really like the last part of that line, “fresh new lines of faith to trace.” It's a reminder that, as disciples, we need to find new ways of practicing our faith and new ways of reaching people. In this time of pandemic, we have been forced to reach out in new ways. We have spent a lot more time reaching out our own members, too, to keep everyone connected. These are all wonderful things!

Eventually, this pandemic will end. Will we go back to our old ways of being the church? We will continue to hope that new people walk into our doors? Or will we continue to seek out fresh new lines of faith to trace?

Soon we will enter into the season of Lent. During that time, we must all continue to reflect on how we are called to serve as disciples. At the same time, we must work together to refine our mission so that we meet people where they are, so that we continue to adapt and relate to the world outside of our walls. I urge you to talk to one another about the ways that we might live into this call to be disciples. I look forward to

hearing how the Spirit is moving in your lives.

Grace & Peace,



Pastor Alan

### *Lenten Devotions from the Presbyterian Outlook*

The six-week Lenten journey is an opportunity to take on a new spiritual discipline. This year, we are inviting you to pray with Scripture as a way of discerning God's movement in your personal life and in the life of the world around us.

Throughout the season of Lent, these daily devotions will guide you to pray with one passage from Scripture each day and prompt you to reflect on what it discloses about movement toward God and movement away from God in your life.

We will send a copy of this devotional to the congregation as a PDF. If you have trouble accessing this file, please call the church office. Christie mail be able to mail you a paper copy.

### *Lenten Fellowship and Worship*

During the season of Lent, FPC will host a series of online gatherings for fellowship and worship. These gatherings will be like the gatherings that we've held in the past, but this time, we'll meet over Zoom. The gatherings begin at 6:30, for a time of food and fellowship—we will break bread with one another and have a chance to catch up with other members of our church family. Then at 7:00, we will transition from fellowship to worship. The worship service will be informal and it should last about half an hour.

You are invited to join us for as much or as little of this service as you would like. If you just want to join us for the fellowship at 6:30, that's fine. If you just want to join us for worship at 7:00, that's fine, too. And if you want to be there for the fellowship and the worship, that's great!

The schedule for this series is Fellowship at 6:30pm and Worship at 7:00pm:

February 24  
March 10  
March 24

March 3  
March 17

*Worship Schedule*

<b>February 7:</b>	In-person and online
<b>February 14 (Transfiguration Sunday):</b>	Online only
<b>February 17 (Ash Wednesday)</b>	Online only
<b>February 21 (First Sunday of Lent):</b>	In-person and online
<b>February 28 (Second Sunday of Lent):</b>	Online only
<b>March 7 (Third Sunday of Lent):</b>	In-person and online
<b>March 14 (Fourth Sunday of Lent):</b>	Online only
<b>March 21 (Fifth Sunday of Lent):</b>	In-person and online
<b>March 28 (Palm Sunday):</b>	Online only
<b>April 4 (Easter Sunday):</b>	In-person and online

## What Do Deacons Do?

- ♥ Make hospital visits
- ♥ Make home visits to assisted living homes and other home bound members of the church
- ♥ Provide financial aid where there is a need
- ♥ Send money to Open Door and other food pantries and, when needed to church members
- ♥ Provide and distribute Thanksgiving and Valentine's bags
- ♥ Provide (and keep updated) First Aid Kits
- ♥ Provide birth roses for babies born to members
- ♥ Mail appropriate cards to home-bound, the sick, and the bereaved
- ♥ Provide care packages for college students who are members
- ♥ Provide a representative on the Nominating Committee
- ♥ Provide current information on Deacon Doings (located in the Narthex)
- ♥ Provide transportation for doctor's visits, food shopping, etc.
- ♥ Provide convalescent equipment
- ♥ Prepare and help with Communion

There are needs of community members and church members, financial and otherwise, that can be helped by the Deacons. Please remember to give to the Deacon Fund when possible. Although for many years we had envelopes that were marked for Deacon Fund, they are not necessary and a donation can be mailed to the church any time (marked for "Deacon Fund"). Thank you!

Please reach out to a Deacon anytime if we can be of help.

Carol Matino (moderator), Peggy Guttormsen, Robin Fox, Michelle Williams, Lenora Chu, Carol Morris, Marie Schlectweg, Jean Pennett, Diane Canto