

Lent 2017:



To hear the heart of God

Welcome to Lent 2017

Lent is a season of intentional self-examination, reflection on God's goodness and exploration of our commitment to

Christ. Utilizing disciplines handed down to us from generations past, this year's FPC-Holt's Lenten activities will be interwoven with Celtic Spirituality. As we reach back into the past to look afresh on God's future for us, you are encouraged to explore! Push your boundaries.

Try something new.

Stretch and grow as, together, we listen for God's heart...

Discipline of Awareness

Throughout the season of Lent, we are seeking to be attentive to God's work in our lives, to so intimately listen for God that we can hear God's own heartbeat. Please be sure to take and share your photos of encountering God, whether it's through a beloved person in your life, the glory of God's creation, or a specific occurrence of feeling God's presence, we'd love to reflect God at work through our photos as a congregation. Use the hashtag #FPCHearsGodsHeart on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram to share your photos. Be sure to follow the church social media accounts:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/fpcholt/>,

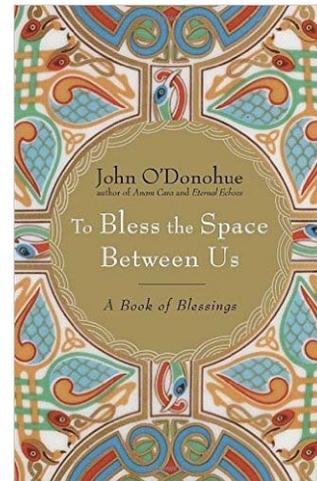
Twitter: @fpcholt, Instagram: @fpcholt

Wearing Our Heart for God

Created by Cheryl Gamber, each bracelet reminds us of the need to "hear" with all our senses. As you wear the bracelet throughout the mundane and sometimes "mindless" tasks that can consume our days, you will be reminded to pray without ceasing (1 Thess. 5:17). Available at the Shrove Tuesday celebration and then in the office (while supplies last).

Daily Devotions

This year's Lenten Devotions are a pilgrimage through Holy Scripture and the blessings of Celtic poet John O'Donohue. Beginning Ash Wednesday and for each of the 40 days of Lent (Sunday's are not included in the total), a scripture reading and corresponding blessing have been selected for your reflection. May they assist you in so intimately engaging your world and God's work in it, that you hear the very rhythm of God's heart.



If you would like order a copy of *To Bless the Space Between Us*, please sign up in the Narthex Notebook or notify the office by March 5 (books are \$16)

The daily reflection guide will be available at Ash Wednesday's service, with enough pre-printed blessings to guide you until your book arrives.

Each day's reflection is new and separate from the day before — so you can join in at any time and never miss a thing.

Mid-Week Prayer Service

Lenten Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30pm

Centered around scripture, meditation and the sacrament of communion, these worship services add an intentional and communal, contemplative component to our spiritual pilgrimage through the season. True to our Lent 2017 Celtic Spirituality theme, the music chants for these services, led by a nine-piece voice and instrument ensemble, come from the work of J. Philip Newell who is a Church of Scotland pastor and former warden of Iona Abbey. Through Word, song and sacrament, come and be nourished for the journey.

Wednesday Simple Suppers (6:30-7:15)

In the spirit of the season, immediately following the Mid-Week Service, we are coordinating a simple meal of soup and bread. The idea is to provide, with a minimal shared effort and without any extravagance, an opportunity to break bread together before continuing our evening activities (family responsibilities, committee meetings, etc.). If you are willing to contribute a pot of soup or loaf of bread for a week, please sign up in the Narthex Notebook.

“Listening for God through Art”

In the subtle swish of pencil and charcoal against paper, the sound and motions of drawing can focus our attention in a unique way — shutting out distractions and yielding more of our conscious thought to God’s heart. Cheryl Gamber will lead a class to explore pencil and charcoal drawings as spiritual disciplines on Mondays at 6:30pm starting on March 6 through April 3. Cost is \$10 for supplies, which include drawing pad, board, clips, pencil kit, charcoal and erasers.



Generosity

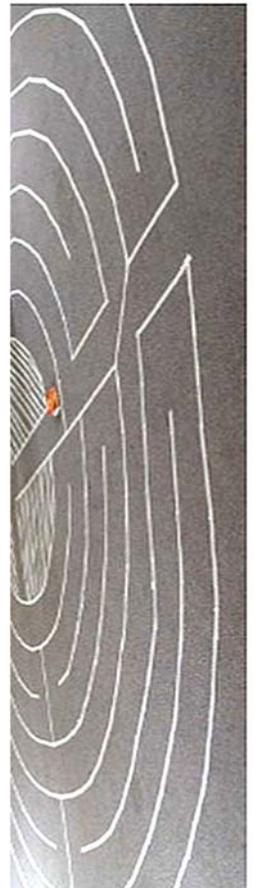
One Great Hour of Sharing is a PC (USA) national offering directed towards victims of natural disasters, feeding the hungry and empowering the poor. It is collected at home throughout Lent and received in worship on Palm Sunday. Children are provided “fish banks” at WaterWorks and adults can utilize a fish bank or a dedicated envelope. Everyone is invited to participate using the OGHSEngagement Map (replacing the calendar) as a guide for reflection and giving. Maps and banks are available outside the office while supplies last.

Prayer and Fasting

The entire congregation is invited to engage in the biblical tradition of prayer and fasting. Beginning March 8 and throughout the Lenten season, you are encouraged to make Wednesdays a day of fasting, with the opportunity to break your fast with Holy Communion at our mid-week worship service. Each of us have different physiologies, so please choose for yourself a healthy fast. Some will be able to fast from all food, some only meat, for some, fasting from food is not appropriate at all, and fasting from something else would be best. In the denial of ourselves, may we come to know more intimately the One whom we believe to be our true fulfillment.

Walking the Labyrinth

With the help of a centuries old design and a few new rolls of masking tape, the Senior Highs will once again be transforming the carpet of our Fellowship Hall into endless spiritual possibility. The labyrinth is an ancient tool for prayer and meditation, consisting of a winding path that begins at the periphery and leads to a central space, and then out again by the same path. It is not a maze with blind alleys or dead ends, but a means to a journey on a path, inward and outward bound. A more detailed description, including suggestions for experiencing the labyrinth, can be found in the Fellowship Hall. At any time throughout Lent that the Fellowship Hall is not in use, we hope you’ll come to walk the labyrinth and open your heart to God in a new way.



Holy Week Services



Procession of the Palms/ Passion Sunday

For the traditional service, we mark the day with a palm procession, joining the crowd in shouting 'Hosanna', but also claiming our place in that same crowd that would only days later shout 'Crucify him!'

For Upstream, the Narthex will be transformed into a likeness of the Garden of Gethsemane as we explore and claim our part in the drama of Holy Week.

Maundy Thursday at 7pm

The word "Maundy," from the Latin "mandatum," means "mandate" or "commandment."

On Maundy Thursday, Jesus washed the disciples' feet and gave us a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you."



The Tenebrae is an ancient order for worship on the last three days of Holy Week and had its origins in the 4th century. The Latin word "tenebrae" means darkness or shadows, and may be named because Jesus and the disciples went from the Last Supper into the darkness of their night in Gethsemane. It may also come from the account of the crucifixion, where "there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour." It may come from John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." Regardless, the distinctive feature of Tenebrae is the gradual extinction of all light except one candle. Join us on April 13 to affirm our belief that the apparent powers of darkness cannot overwhelm the Light of the world.

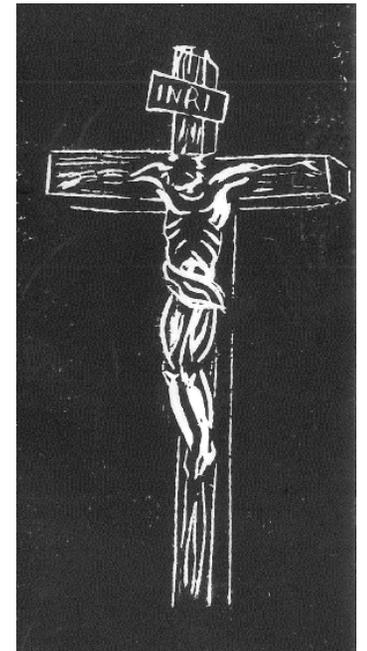
Good Friday at 12pm

We mark the death of Jesus Christ on Friday with a service at noon. It's "good" because of our core belief that Jesus' death means the redemption of the world.

A large part of our worship on Friday focuses on the story of Christ's death.

While this rightly gives our worship a somber feel, we gather both to remember the suffering of our dying Savior, and to rejoice in God's purposes to redeem all God's children — God's greatest gift. The bell will toll at the end of our service, and you're invited to stay and pray in the sanctuary.

If you cannot attend the service, the silent reflection time is also available for you from 1-3pm.



Easter Sunday: The Resurrection of Our Savior!

- 9:30am Traditional Service
- 10:30am Church Family Fellowship Hour
- 11:30am Upstream Contemporary

At our 9:30am traditional service, we will celebrate the resurrection with the Ringers of the Kirk, our Chancel choir and a brass ensemble.

Church Family Fellowship Hour will include an Easter Egg Hunt for the children.

At 11:30am, the Upstream band will lead our celebration as we proclaim...

He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

