



THE ADVENTURE



MARCH 2026

PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE

by KARYL CIMINI

Let us pray....

Lent is a time for prayer and reflection. We are preparing for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. During Lent, we are encouraged to slow down, to take time to appreciate and graciously acknowledge what has been granted to us.

We, as individuals, often seem to be in a hurry. I encourage you to take time, during this season of Lent, to really take time to draw closer to God. Whether your slowing of pace be through your prayer life, your service to others, or just slowing down your life overall. Take time to welcome and acknowledge the things you miss when you're rushing through your day-to-day activities. We often take for granted those things that truly keep us going - take time to reflect on these often missed things in life - the 'little things' as they might be. Let us pray with thanksgiving for all that we have. Let us pray for patience and understanding in all that we do. Let us pray for the ability to love others unconditionally.

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STEWARDSHIP CORNER

BY NANCY KING

"Do you have any change?"

Many of us have been asked that question after being flagged down in a parking lot. But that's not the change I'm talking about. As we gear up for this year's Stewardship Program, I'm reminded that the only thing constant in our lives, seems to be change!

Change can be trying. Sometimes it's hard, sometimes it's "for the best", but it's always *different*. As a congregation, we are going through a lot of change right now. We're in a time of pastoral transition. We have different Supply Pastors each week. We're all taking on a little more responsibility to help get us through "the change".


The Good News is that through all of life's changes, God remains steadfast. God's love, mercy and grace never, ever leave us. Even if we struggle, we can rest assured that we don't struggle alone. God is walking beside us.

The paradox of our faith is that sometimes God has a hand in the very change He's supporting us through! We read in Isaiah 43:18-19: "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing!" That's what our Stewardship focus will be this year—God's New Thing!

God is providing us with an opportunity to serve in a new way; to share in a new way; and to give in a new way. What will your "new ways", your changes, be? How can you change the way you participate in the life and ministry of Advent? How can you change the way you share the community of Advent with those you know? How can you change the way you give financially through Advent? I challenge you to challenge yourself as we enter this new Stewardship Year, and I ask you:

"Do you have any change?"

Nancy



See, I am doing
a new thing!
- Isaiah 43:19

LENT 2026

How We Grow...

Practicing Spiritual Disciplines

Wednesdays during

Lent, 12:30 PM



Please join us Wednesdays during Lent for lunch and a series on Spiritual Disciplines. Similar to the Breakfast Church held at the end of December, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to share a short mid-week service and yummy meal.

Come join us!

Schedule:

Feb. 25: Word & Sacrament & Worship

March 4: Prayer

March 11: Fellowship

March 18: Service

March 25: Rest & Sabbath



HART HAPPENINGS

BY BARBARA OLSON

2026 Winter Sanctuary concluded successfully on Feb. 22. There is no information currently available on the numbers, so I will report back in the April Newsletter with more details.

If you are looking for a way to support HART, we always need household items for people newly housed such as dishes, towels or pots and pans. Please see me for more information.

You can also visit the website at CitrusHeightsHART.org for more opportunities to volunteer or donate.



Thank you for your continued support!

A ST. PATRICK PRAYER

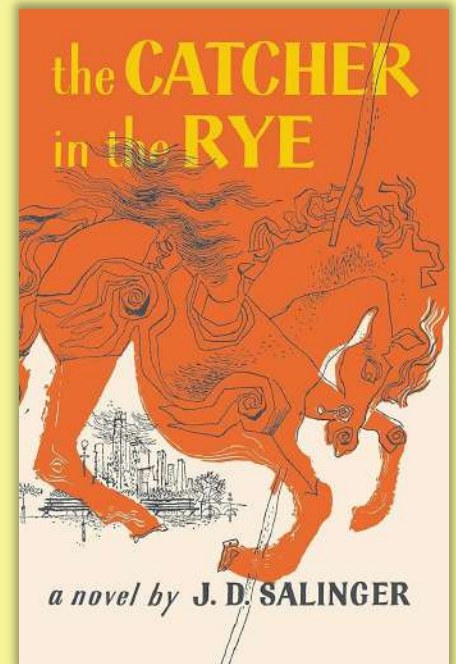


BOOK CLUB

Our book club meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm via Zoom. The next meeting is on March 16th. The book club has selected “*The Catcher in the Rye*” for March’s discussion:

The hero-narrator of *The Catcher in the Rye* is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days.

The Catcher in the Rye is an all-time classic in coming-of-age literature—an elegy to teenage alienation, capturing the deeply human need for connection and the bewildering sense of loss as we leave childhood behind.



All are welcome to join the discussion.

Contact Beth Mora

at emorab@comcast.net for the Zoom link.

We'll look forward to seeing you!

Quotables:

**What we are is God’s gift
to us. What we become is
our gift to God.**

~ Eleanor Powell





ADVENT CALENDAR

MARCH 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion www.youtube.com/@Advent_Citrus_Highlights/streams 10:30am Congregational Conversation 3:00pm Pastor Gabi's Installation @ Faith, Meadow Vista 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	2 9:30am Offering Counters 1:00pm - 5:00pm CPR Class 6:00pm AA Meeting	3 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 3:30pm Grace House Distribution 5:30pm CPR Class 7:00pm Christian Education Committee (ZOOM)	4 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group 12:30pm Lenten Luncheon 3:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm NA Meeting - Here Try This	5 10:00am - 2:00pm Underground Clothing Connection - Appt. Only 5:30pm - 8:30pm Knitters Guild	6 1:00pm Ways to Wellness 1:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	7
8 Daylight Savings 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion www.youtube.com/@Advent_Citrus_Highlights/streams 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	9 9:30am Offering Counters 11:00am Bunco Babes 6:00pm AA Meeting	10 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 3:00pm Finance Committee ZOOM Meeting 3:30pm Grace House Distribution 4:00pm Executive Committee - Zoom 5:30pm CPR Class	11 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group 12:30pm Lenten Luncheon 3:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm NA Meeting - Here Try This	12 10:00am - 2:00pm Underground Clothing Connection - Appt. Only 6:00pm Church Council Meeting 	13 1:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	14 8:30am Stern-Johnson Bike Club 10:00am - 2:00pm CPR Class
15 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion www.youtube.com/@Advent_Citrus_Highlights/streams 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	16 9:30am Offering Counters 6:00pm AA Meeting 7:00pm Zoom Book Club	17 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 3:30pm Fellowship Committee Meeting 3:30pm Grace House Distribution 5:30pm CPR Class	18 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group 12:30pm Lenten Luncheon 3:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm NA Meeting - Here Try This	19 10:00am - 2:00pm Underground Clothing Connection - Appt. Only 6:30pm Park Oaks Neighborhood Association Meeting (Area 5, PONA)	20 1:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	21 10:00am - 2:00pm CPR Class 5:00pm Mexican Train Dominoes 
22 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion www.youtube.com/@Advent_Citrus_Highlights/streams 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	23 9:30am Offering Counters 10:00am Serve Lunch @ St John's Program for Real Change 6:00pm AA Meeting	24 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 3:30pm Grace House Distribution 5:30pm CPR Class	25 10:00am AA Meeting - Sierra Wednesday Group 12:30pm Lenten Luncheon 3:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm NA Meeting - Here Try This	26 10:00am - 2:00pm Underground Clothing Connection - Appt. Only	27 1:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	28 8:30am Stern-Johnson Bike Club 9:00am - 10:00am Campus Clean Up 10:00am - 2:00pm CPR Class
29 Palm Sunday 9:30am Worship Service with Holy Communion www.youtube.com/@Advent_Citrus_Highlights/streams 6:00pm Sunday Night HOW AA Group	30 9:30am Offering Counters 6:00pm AA Meeting	31 12:00pm AA Meeting - One Day at a Time 1:30pm Social Knitters 3:30pm Grace House Distribution 5:30pm CPR Class				

LENTEN LUNCH AND SERVICE

The first of our Lenten Lunches and Services was held on February 25. Many, many thanks to all who helped make this time together possible: Karyl Cimini for preparing lunch, Dave Wammer for supplying the musical recordings, the Belchems and Leporinis for setting up, and everyone present who participated in the service and helped clean up. If you weren't able to join us, we hope you can attend one or more of the upcoming Wednesdays!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming Holy Week and Easter activities:

March 29—Palm Sunday Worship at 9:30 AM

April 2—Maundy Thursday Worship at noon and 6 PM

April 3—Good Friday Worship at noon
and 6 PM

April 5—Easter Worship at 9:30 AM
—Easter Breakfast served 8-9:15 AM



MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

DATE	3/1	3/8	3/15	3/22	3/29
GREETER	Suzane Henderson	Sally Smith	Kris & Terry Heath	Linda Mathews	Nancy King
PASTOR	Misty Lampshire	Bruce Hannem	Greg Ronning	TBD	Mike Meyer
ASSISTING MINISTERS	Karen Franz	Josh & Cole Tolman	Ernie Leporini	Jeffrey Belchem	Pat Johnson
LECTORS	Sally Smith	Ken Johnson	Bruce Hansen	Linda Belchem	Mary Grivna
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild	Altar Guild
ALTAR FLOWERS	Ken & Kathy Johnson	Available	Tom & Cornelia Chancellor	Available	Mary Grivna
AV TECH	Nolana Mymka	Nancy King	Bruce Hansen	Noah Qalliu	Nolana Mymka
LIVESTREAM TECHIE	Adam Pollock (Nolana Mymka on 3/15)				
USHERS	** Linda Belchem, Tom Chancellor				
ALTAR GUILD	TEAM F: **Linda Mathews, Erika Shepherd, Cheryl Adams				

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Herum Bjork Mar. 2
Nolana Mymka..... Mar. 4
Natalie Jones..... Mar. 5
Barbara Wammer Mar. 6
Michael JonesMar. 7
Pat JohnsonMar. 11
Jeffrey Belchem Mar. 12

Melanie Chancellor..... Mar. 16
Nasiba Karamatov..... Mar. 16
Jackie Michehl..... Mar. 20
Theresa Simmons..... Mar. 21
Suzane HendersonMar. 23
Keith MontagMar. 26
Kameron CiminiMar. 27

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Jann & Dick KnutsonMar. 22



THANK YOU FROM CAROL WHYTE



Thank you all for the cards and phone calls during my time recovering from the stroke. I can't begin to tell you how much they all cheer me up! I'm doing better, but need to keep being very careful when I mover and get up. Hopefully I will be able to return to church by Easter.

Thank you again,

Carol

JUST FOR FUN!

St Patrick's Day Word Search!



Coins

Corned Beef

Fiddle

Gold

Green

Harp

Ireland

Leprechaun

Limerick

Luck

March

Mischief

Rainbow

Seventeen

Shamrock

Snake



TREASURER'S REPORT

PROFIT & LOSSES JANUARY 2026

	TOTAL
Income	
4000 Budgeted Offering	29,349.72
Total 4030 Facility Use	875.00
4035 Interest Earned	7.20
4050 SCFM Rent	1,200.00
4057 Other Income - Maintenance	150.00
Total Income	\$31,581.92
Expenditures	
Total 6000 Personnel	14,880.59
Total 6220 Payroll Taxes and Benefits	1,771.12
Total 7030 Finance	146.20
Total 7050 Property	3,000.00
Total 7080 Worship & Music	489.43
Total 8190 Office Expense	241.28
8260 Church & Casualty Insurance	1,007.45
8270 Property Taxes	608.27
Total 8280 Service Contracts	3,822.26
Total 8330 Utilities	2,497.36
Total 8350 Benevolences	1,844.03
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	72.53
Total Expenditures	\$30,380.52
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$1,201.40

REPORT PROVIDED BY
POWERS BOOKKEEPING SERVICE, INC.
 MANY THANKS!



PRAYER CHAIN INTERCESSIONS & THANKSGIVING

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

The Congregation of Advent, as together we navigate this time of pastoral transition. May we all keep our hearts and minds open to the new things God has in store for us!

Patty Barnes, sister of Russell Beeck and Carol Whyte, who was diagnosed with kidney cancer in mid-2024. Prayers for the success of her cancer treatment in stopping the progress of the disease.

Marcia Becwar, a close friend of Jenny Stern, who is undergoing treatment for recurring cancer. Please pray for Marcia's comfort and successful treatment.

Robin Bevier, who is recovering at home following shoulder surgery on 2/19. The surgery went well. Please pray that Robin's healing goes smoothly.

Greg Bell, the husband of Steve Cook's niece. Greg has been diagnosed with a tumor on his leg, but—for now—his doctors are just observing it. Let us pray that Greg's tumor won't grow or turn malignant.

Lou Braafladt, Twila Engler's son-in-law, who has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and will be undergoing chemotherapy. Please pray that the treatment is successful and that Lou experiences minimal side effects.

Ted Hansen, who has been placed on hospice care. Please pray for God's comfort and peace for Ted and his family.

Kris Heath, who fell and has a small fracture in her back. Kris had a procedure while in the hospital that is helping to manage her pain, but it, unfortunately, aggravated the arthritis in her back. Let us pray that Kris is able to get relief from the pain she has been experiencing and is able to return to her normal activities soon.

PRAYERS CONTINUED...

Jeff Henry, Kathy and Ken Johnson's son-in-law, who has finished his chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer! Please continue to keep Jeff in your prayers as he adjusts to his new way of life.

Susan Howard, Diane Nelson's cousin, who is in need of prayers for her general health. Let us pray for God's healing touch in Susan's life.

Tom Kent, prayers for increased physical strength and mobility, and the optimal functioning of his main medical devices.

Dorothy Michaelis, who is now home following a hospitalization. Please pray that Dorothy continues to recover well and is soon able to return to her normal routine.

Betty Rockwell, as she lives with the long-term effects of a stroke. Please pray for comfort and patience for Betty.

Margaret Sumpter, a friend of Diane Nelson's, who has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Please pray that Margaret's medical team can develop an effective treatment plan for her.

Krissy Westfall, Diane Nelson's cousin, who is dealing with mental health issues. Let us pray that Krissy may know God's peace and comfort.



PRESIDENT'S ARTICLE CONTINUED... (continued from page 1)

We as a congregation sometimes seem to be in a hurry, as well. We, in this time of transition, would really like things to move faster. Beginning our search for a new pastor during this season of Lent provides additional validation that we need to take time to pray and reflect on what we desire for the future of our church. While we would like to move quickly through this process, reflection, discussion and prayerful consideration

are all part of this process. Let us pray for guidance as we walk this path together. Let us pray for understanding as we share our desires and our differences.

So, as you journey through this season of Lent, remember where this journey is taking us. Let's pray and walk together through Lent and into the glorious light of Easter and beyond.



Karyl

OUR RWANDA COMPANION CONGREGATIONS

The church elections in Rwanda have been completed. Pastor Jackson (pictured here), who currently serves the Matimba and Bwera parishes (part of our Companion

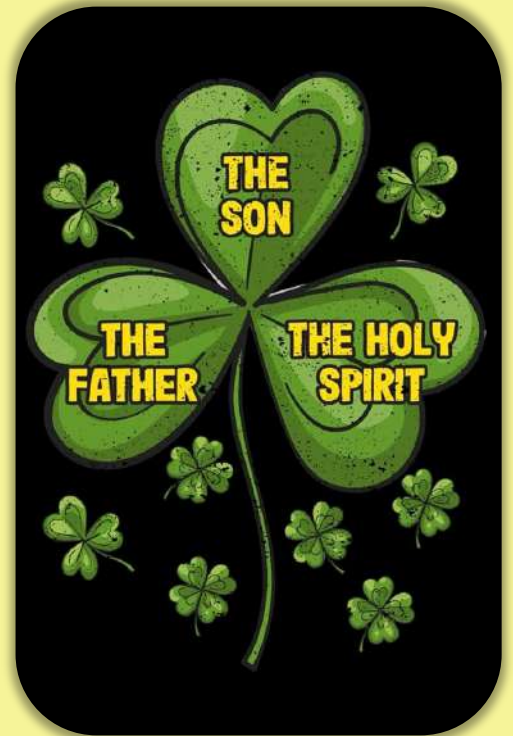


Churches), has been elected as the General Secretary of the Lutheran Church of Rwanda! Pastor Jackson is not yet sure when his new position will start, but he will let us know who the new pastor assigned to the parishes is as soon as possible. God's blessings to Pastor Jackson as he assumes his new role in the church!

DID YOU KNOW?

Ten Fun Facts about St. Parick's Day:

1. St. Patrick's Day observes the day of St. Patrick's death on March 17th, 461 AD.
2. St. Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland, credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland.
3. Shamrocks are associated with St. Patrick's Day because he used it as a symbol for the Holy Trinity when explaining the concept of Christianity to the Irish people.
4. According to legend, St. Patrick drove all the snakes out of Ireland.
5. While green is now the color linked to St. Patrick's Day, blue was originally associated with the day, as it was the color the Anglo-Irish Order of St. Patrick.
6. The odds of finding a four-leaf clover are about 1 in 10,000. Consider yourself very lucky if you do find one!
7. Traditionally, people eat corned beef and cabbage dishes on St. Patrick's Day.
8. St. Patrick was not born in Ireland. Hew as actually born in Britain around 386 AD, but there is debate about whether it was in Scotland or Wales.
9. St. Patrick was given the name Maewyn Succat at birth but changed it to Patrick when he became a priest.
10. Wearing green on St. Patrick's Day means the leprechauns can't see you! If they can't see you, they can't pinch you!



Now you know!!



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**ADVENT'S MISSION:
THROUGH GOD'S
GRACE, WE GATHER,
WORSHIP, GROW,
AND CARE**

GIVE PLUS⁺

Please do not forget to send in your offerings or sign up for GIVE PLUS+, a service of VANCO, Advent's online giving service provider. A new GIVE PLUS MOBILE app for both iPhone and other smart phones allow you to donate from your mobile device. The app is available on the Apple App Store or From Google Play.

**NOW, for your convenience,
'Online Giving' link is LIVE on Advent's website, in the upper right corner**