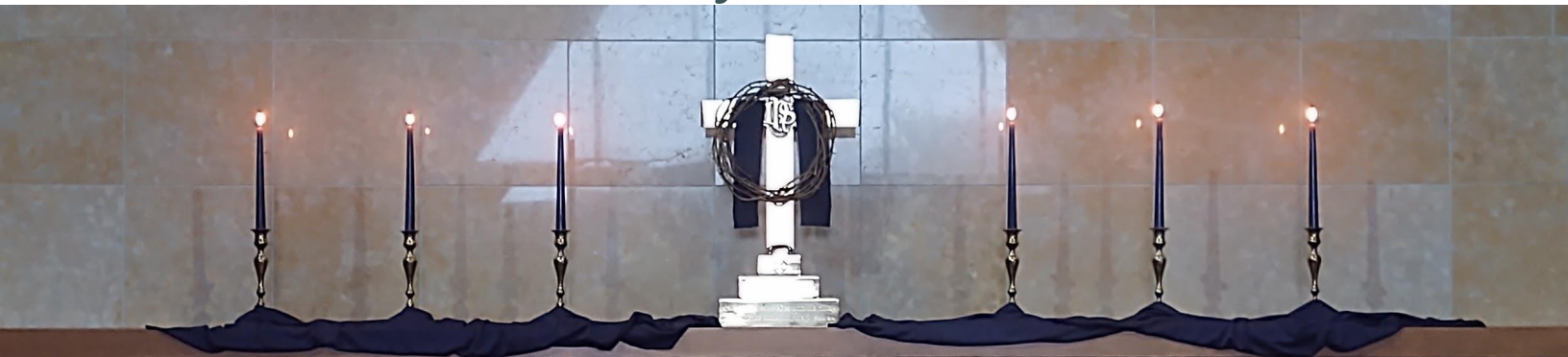


Aston Press

Monthly Newsletter



February 2024 Events

- February 4th - Communion
- February 11th - SOUPER BOWL Sunday
- February 11th - Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday
- February 13th - Session Meeting
- February 14th - Ash Wednesday
- February 14th - Valentine's Day
- February 21st - 1st Sunday in Lent
- February 28th - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Elder of the Month

Erin Schuler Coia

610-357-5648

Church Office Hours

Erin Schuler Coia
Administrative Assistant

Tuesdays 10am - 1pm
Thursdays 10am - 1pm
Fridays 10am - 1pm

610-494-2634
astonpcusa@gmail.com

From the Pastor's Desk

That was some snowstorm we had in January. Five inches or more! It was the first major snowstorm in two years. At least it was light and easy to shovel.

Did you know snow is mentioned several times in the Bible? In answer to his own question, "How great is God--beyond our understanding!" Job says, "God's voice thunders in marvelous ways; he does great things beyond our understanding. He says to the snow, "Fall on the earth." (Job 37:5-6)

This year the season of Lent begins on February 14. On the day our children exchange Valentine cards and share those chalk tasting conversation hearts; when lovers speak of their love and exchange gifts we remember the overwhelming love of our Savior, Jesus who went to the cross for us sinners. God's love is far beyond any earthly love.

Here at Aston Presbyterian church we begin Lent at our 11:30 am Ash Wednesday service where we will receive the imposition of ashes and celebrate the Lord's Supper.

The season of Lent is a time to reflect on the mystery of the saving death and resurrection of Jesus. On Ash Wednesday we begin our Lenten journey with the sign of ashes, a biblical symbol of mourning and penitence. The aim of Ash Wednesday worship is threefold: to meditate on our mortality, sinfulness, and need of a savior; to renew our commitment to daily repentance in the Lenten season and in all of life; and to remember with confidence and gratitude that Christ has conquered death and sin.

I invite all of us to observe Lent by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by acts of love and kindness to others, and by reading and meditating on the Word of God.

God's blessings to all, Rev. Christine

APC Committees



February Birthdays

- February 7th - Bob Worrell
- February 7th - John Vasquez
- February 17th - Mark Canavin
- February 24th - Nick Lazer

February Wedding Anniversaries

- February 4th - Sue & Jeff MacArthur
- February 19th - Bonnie and Nick Lazer



Buildings & Grounds/St. Andrews

Please continue to bring in your food items for our food cupboard in the church narthex and the St. Andrews group will continue to deliver these items monthly. Thanks again for everyone's help in feeding those in need.

Come join the free coffee hour on Wednesday morning at 9:00 am around the "Round Table" in the boiler room of the Church. Be prepared to solve the world's problems.



Aston Presbyterian Church
Food Cupboard

Contact Bill G if you have questions.



Ash Wednesday Service

APC Sanctuary
Wednesday, February 14th, 2024
11:30am

The Pre-K Class from the APC Learning Center will also be joining this service.

Financial Corner

| | YTD Budget | YTD |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Envelope Giving | 60,000.00 | 55,145.00 |
| Loose Offering | 500.00 | 1,013.00 |
| DC Learning Ctr | 12,000.00 | 12,000.00 |
| Building Use | - | 915.00 |
| Initial Offering | 50.00 | 104.00 |
| Per Capita | 700.00 | 385.00 |
| Investment Fund Div. | 3,000.00 | 4,151.50 |
| Insurance Div. | 500.00 | |
| Misc. Income | 250.00 | 131.16 |
| Income | 77,000.00 | 73,844.66 |
| Local Expenses | 93,152.00 | 82,725.16 |
| Mission Giving | 2,250.00 | 2,635.00 |
| Operating Expenses | 95,402.00 | 85,360.16 |
| Surplus (Shortfall) | (18,402.00) | (11,515.50) |
| Other Mission & Special Offerings | | \$ 2,813.93 |
| Capital Expenditures | | \$ 2,166.59 |

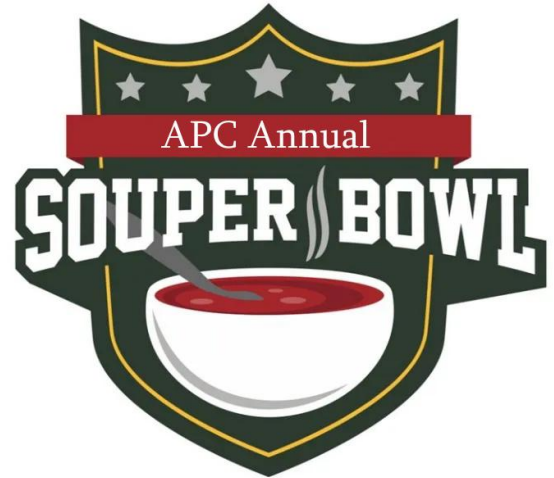
In the latter part of 2023, we were supported by a \$10,000 redemption from our investment fund; and our weekly donations didn't meet what was est. by about \$5,000. Although our deficit is far better than what we expected, it was mostly due to our redemption. Hopefully, we have a better year in 2024. We may continue to have higher costs as we keep our property maintained as well as keeping other expenses down, where possible. Our property maintenance was about \$2700 over budget. As we always say, your church needs you, as we all need our church. There is much we need to take care of, so we must be careful not to neglect anything. We miss all of you former "regulars". We hope to see you more often as this Advent and Christmas Season. We express our "Get Well's" and "Condolences" to all those in need of these. It definitely takes "a village" to help continue our ministry during these uncertain times. So let's hope for a great 2024. I will be saying good-bye to a job that I have loved and held for almost 28 years. I wish all good things for this congregation as we welcome Michele Kane. She will be elected to take over my position in March 2024, for this congregation. Thank you, as always, for ALL your support over the years.

Respectfully submitted: Donna Marie Gawne

APC Committees

Mission and Stewardship Committee

While the football teams are preparing themselves for their Big Game, we at APC are preparing for our own **SOUPER Bowl**. Beginning Feb 1st through Feb 11th, we are asking for your help in gathering as many cans/cartons of SOUP as you are able to share. We will also have our collection jars for monetary donations to go along with the soup. All of the soup and other donations will go to Chester Eastside Ministries.. Will you help Cheer on our Team here at APC. Our Learning Center also participates in this Souper Bowl and they cheer loudly. Hoping to have you on the APC Team.



One Great Hour of Sharing



OGHS is one of our annual Offerings. Funds raised throughout all churches help to support three programs through the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA): Presbyterian Hunger Program; Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Self-Development of People. This offering is received during Lent.

APC and APC's Learning Center jointly participate in this OGHS. Fish Banks are given to the children to help teach them about sharing, with the banks being brought back on Palm Sunday and Easter. Minutes for Mission will be presented during Worship on February 18th to kick off the sharing information regarding OGHS. Donations will be collected on Palm Sunday and Easter. This Special Offering was set up to help us provide food, shelter and hope and follow the teachings of Jesus to care for and show compassion "for the least of those among us".



As we begin our Lenten journey we hope you will take time to remember all that God has given us in Christ Jesus, "Let's Be The Church TOGETHER".

2024 Lenten Series - Journey with Jesus Through Lent

Bob Hope and Bing Crosby were famous for a series of movies made mostly during the 1940s entitled "Road to..." For our younger members this has been spoofed in the animated TV series "Family Guy". This Lenten season we will have our own Road to... series as we Journey with Jesus through Lent.

February 18th - 1st Sunday in Lent

The Road into the Wilderness Mark 1:9-15

We accompany Jesus into the wilderness where he is tempted by Satan.

February 25th - 2nd Sunday in Lent

The Road to the Cross Mark 8:27-38

As Jesus starts on the road to the cross, we reflect upon the free gift of God, more precious and valuable than any other: the redeeming, atoning, justifying act of Jesus.

March 3rd - 3rd Sunday in Lent

The Road to Righteous Anger John 2:13-22

We reflect upon Jesus' call to 'righteous anger' when we are faced with injustice.

March 10th - 4th Sunday in Lent

The Road to God's Way of Love John 3:14-21

Jesus is the road to God's love. We reflect upon God's love for us, and God's promise of eternal life, made known to us through Jesus' death and resurrection.

March 17th - 5th Sunday in Lent

The Road to Glory John 12:20-33

As Jesus announces the hour has come, we reflect upon God's love and the new life God brings through the wonder and glory of Jesus' resurrection.

March 24th - Palm Sunday - 6th Sunday in Lent

The Road from Joy to Rejection Mark 11:1-11

As Jesus travels the road in triumph into Jerusalem ultimately to face rejection, we reflect upon our hopes and expectations of Jesus, our Messiah.



Memories

Well, here we are in February, our second month of 2024. This month we will celebrate Valentine's Day, honor our Presidents, share the story of our Lord's Transfiguration, and begin the Lenten Season on Ash Wednesday. So, before these events of 2024 begin, we pause to look back at previous February's here at Aston Presbyterian Church.

Five years ago- 2009- Pastor Michelle Grunsiech spoke about her recovery from her stroke and how grateful she was for the little things in life. She thanked the congregation for all their prayers and good wishes for a speedy recovery. February 3rd, we celebrated Souper Bowl Sunday and on February 17th we recognized Presbyterian Women's Blanket Sunday.

Ten years ago-2014-Rev. Jane Ritterson in her "From the Pastor's Desk" column wrote that about how much joy it was for her to serve this Church. She said she has felt the Holy Spirit moving in and through our congregation. Day Care news: Celebrated Valentine's Day on the 14th with a party, February 20th was Pajama Day, February 24th was Aston Presbyterian Day Care Pride Day. February 1st was Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday and Presbyterian Women's Blanket Sunday was on the 15th. Rev. Jane Ritterson was leading a Lenten Bible Study on the Lord's Prayer.

Fifteen years ago- 2009-Rev. Jane Ritterson in her last column to love. As she said before leaving our Church wrote that it was hard for her to say goodbye to people she had

learned farewell her prayer was that we should love one another as God intended for us to do. Day Care events: February 14th -Valentine's Party, February 26th a visit to the Please Touch Museum. Souper Bowl Sunday was on the 2nd and Presbyterian Women's Blanket Sunday on the 16th.

Twenty years ago-2004- Pastor Pam Cowan in her "From the Pastor's Hat Rack" column spoke about the cold of February and the coming of Lent. She said that the month of February should be a time of renewal for each of us and our congregation.

Twenty-five years ago-1999-The Presbyterian Women held their Soup Luncheon with Rev. Bernice Warren of Chester Eastside as the speaker. On February 7th, we changed our Worship time to 10:00 A.M. followed by Sunday School at 11:15 A.M. Presbyterian Women's Blanket Sunday was on February 14th.

Thirty years ago-1994- Pastor Scott Cupp's "Ex Cathedra" Column was about the importance of having children be in Worship. He noted that it is in Worship that they learn about prayer and learn the Hymns of the Church. Presbyterian Women's Blanket Sunday was on February 13th. Ash Wednesday service was on February 16th at 7:30 P.M. The Mariners Sweetheart Dinner was on February 20th at the Ingleneuk Tea Room in Swarthmore.

Thirty-five years ago- 1989- Pastor Scott Cupp in his "Ex Cathedra" Column wrote about lent beginning

on February 8th. He said the 40 days of Lent were a time to prepare for the death of our Lord Jesus and to prepare for the great event of his resurrection on Easter Sunday. The Alpha-Omega Class was having a meeting at the home of Ruth Voss on February 13th

Forty years ago- 1984- Pastor Bob Boell wrote about our goals for 1984 which were: 1. To establish a 9-12 grade Youth Program and 2. Increase our Church membership and our Sunday School by 5%. A skating night was held at Spinning Wheels jointly with Concord Liberty Presbyterian on February 13th. A Hymn Sing was held on February 5th with Laura Worrell leading. Ralph Beiswenger was demonstrating home shop equipment for Sears at the Philadelphia Home Show, Dave Nickey was elected a delegate of Technician Affiliates of Delaware County, Art Kane attended a reunion of the 1983 Triennium delegates. Laura and Bob Worrell were enjoying a vacation in Cancun.

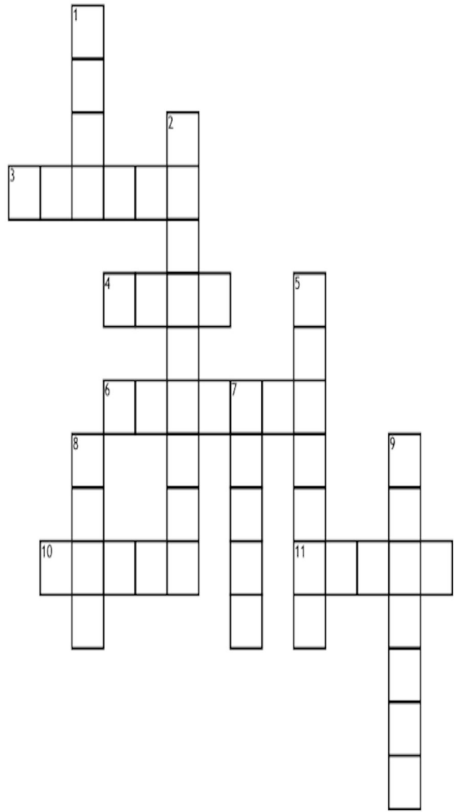
Forty-five years ago-1979-Pastor Bob Boell in his column talked about our goals for 1979 were to increase our Evangelism through the "Risk Evangelism Program" and secondly work to increase the use of our building by the community. The Presbyterian Women held their Soup Luncheon on February 6th.

Memories

Continued on next page

Memories

Lenten Crossword



Fifty years ago-1974- Pastor Bob Boell wrote about the goals for 1974: To Work in a Youth Program and to hire a Student Assistant Pastor. A steering Committee was appointed to oversee the installation of the Pipe Organ give to us by Westminster Presbyterian of West Chester whose pastor is Bob Boell's father. The committee members were Ray Cavanaugh, Sarah Holcroft, Jim Lawton, and Jack Stang, Sr.

Sixty-five years ago-1959- Rev. Douglas MacMurchy along with the Session and Trustees were making plans for our first service to be held in our new Church Building on Palm Sunday 1959.

The 2024 Lenten Journey will soon be upon us. I pray that we will meditate and pray about the events that led to our Lord Jesus being put to death on the cross and how he burst forth in resurrection on Easter Sunday. May these words from the Hymn "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" by John Bowring help us as we consider the events of Lent: "In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time; all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime."

I pray each of us will walk humbly with Christ our Lord through this season of Lent.

Grace and Peace in the name of Jesus Christ,

Bill Schuler

Across

- 3. The liturgical color for lent is _____.
- 4. _____ is the time that we prepare for Jesus' resurrection.
- 6. To go without
- 10. The church gives us _____ days of Lent to prepare for Easter.
- 11. The pastor/reverend puts the ashes on your forehead in the shape of a _____.

Down

- 1. Almsgiving means giving to the _____.
- 2. Lent Begins on Ash _____.
- 5. The act of doing a good deed to make up for past wrongs.
- 7. _____ are made from the palms of the previous year.
- 8. Lent ends on _____ Friday.
- 9. Going without food.

- 11. Cross
- 10. Forty
- 6. Abstain
- 4. Lent
- 3. Purple
- Across
- Answer Key

Recipe of the Month: Chicken A la King (2-3 Servings)

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup mushroom
- 1/4 cup chopped green peppers
- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1 cup milk or cream
- 1 cup diced cooked chicken

Instructions:

1. Saute mushrooms and green peppers in butter
2. Blend in flour and seasonings
3. Cook over low heat, stirring until mixture is smooth and bubbly
4. Remove from heat
5. Slowly stir in broth and milk
6. Bring back to a boil over low heat, stirring constantly
7. Boil for 1 minute
8. Add chicken
9. Continue cooking until chicken is heated through
10. Serve over biscuits, rice, or chow mein noodles and enjoy.

Alternatives - add other veggies to your liking - peas, carrots, onions.

Recipe submitted by Lois Lawton



Aston Pres. Learning Center



February 2024 Learning Center Events

- Feb. 2nd - Groundhog Day
- Feb. 6th - Parents Night Out
- Feb. 7th - Wear Red Day for Heart Disease
- Feb. 14th - Valentine's Day
- Feb. 14th - Ash Wednesday Service 11:30am - All Welcome
- Feb. 21st - Chick Fil A Spirit Night 4-7pm



APC Learning Center

Hello, all! We hope the first month of 2024 has treated you well. At the learning center, we have all recovered from holiday fun and enjoyed the fun surprise of a few snow days! As we move forward into February, we are looking forward to a visit from Pearly Whites Children's Dentist to teach us about dental hygiene during dental awareness month. We will celebrate Groundhog Day, open up our Valentine's mailroom, host Valentine's Day parties, a long President's Day weekend, and a few other fun dress up days. Please save the date! We will have an APCLC Spirit Night at Chick-Fil-A Brookhaven on February 21st from 4-7pm. Please mention our name at check out. Hope to see you there!

