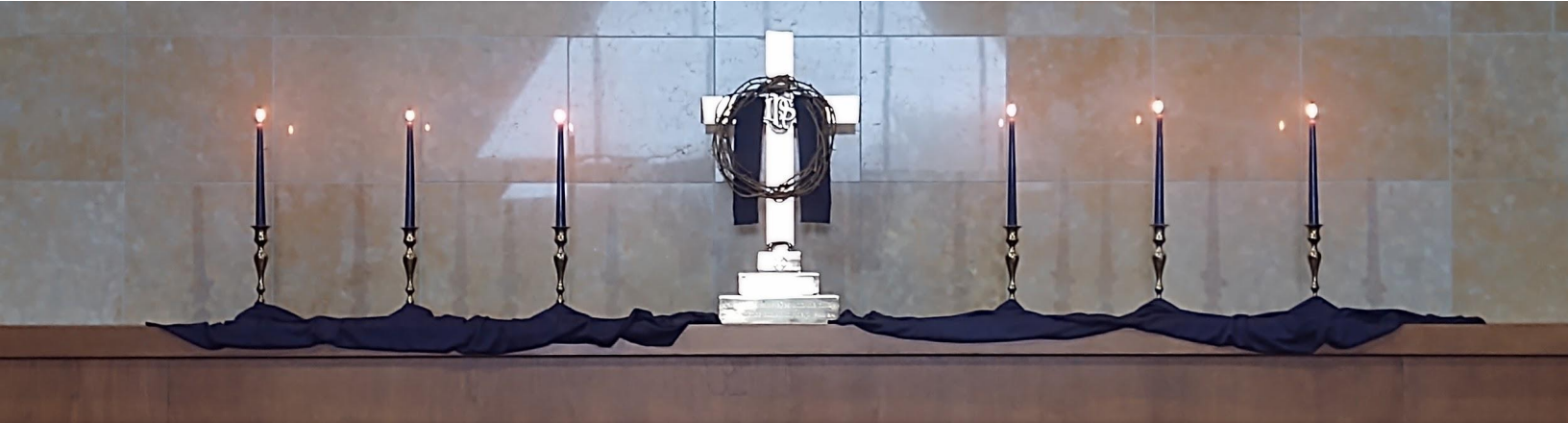


Aston Press

Monthly Newsletter



March 2024 Events

- March 3rd - 3rd Sunday in Lent - Communion
- March 3rd - PW Blanket Sunday
- March 10th - 4th Sunday in Lent
- March 10th - Celebrating Women Sunday
- March 12th - Session at 6:30pm
- March 17th - 5th Sunday in Lent
- March 24th - 6th Sunday in Lent - Palm Sunday
- March 31st - Easter

Elder of the Month

Bill Gawne
6100-800-4403

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

There is still snow on the ground at my house but I also see the daffodils beginning to emerge from the ground. It reminds me that though we are in the middle of Lent we know that Easter is coming! The snow will melt and the daffodils and tulips and other bulbs will bloom. The Road to the Cross is a dark time but it does end in the glorious joy of the Resurrection!

We are singing the same Hymn of Response each Sunday in Lent. It is "How Deep the Father's Love for Us" by Stuart Townend. This song perfect for Lent; in this one song are great truths we can ponder during Lent. God created humanity out of love. We broke relationship with God at the Fall.

The purpose of Jesus' time on earth, His birth, death and resurrection was to reconcile us back to our loving God. May the knowledge of the depth of God's love for us grow in our hearts this Lenten season.

God's blessings to all, Rev. Christine

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Stuart Townend

How deep the Father's love for us; How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son; To make a wretch His treasure
How great the pain of searing loss; The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One; Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross; My sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice; Call out among the scoffers
It was my sin that held Him there; Until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life; I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything; No gifts, no pow'r, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection
Why should I gain from his reward? I cannot give an answer,
But this I know with all my heart; His wounds have paid my ransom

APC Committees

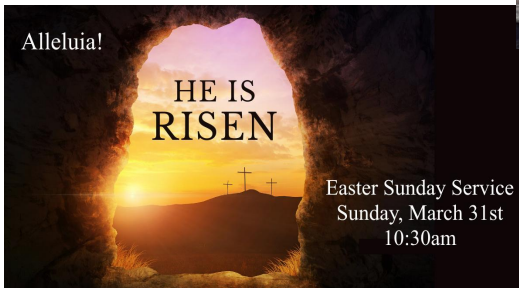


March Birthdays

March 11th - Carson Padula
 March 21th - Bob Boell
 March 29th - Jane Evans

March Wedding Anniversaries

March 3rd - Carann & Greg Tribbett
 March 3rd - Donna & Mark Perryman
 March 17th - Jack & Edna Bomhoff



Financial Corner

Financial Corner as of Jan. 31, 2024

	YTD Budget	YTD
	Budgeted	Actual
Envelope Giving	5,333.33	18,082.00
Loose Offering	41.67	125.00
DC Learning Ctr	1,000.00	1,200.00
Building Use	100.00	
Initial Offering	8.33	83.00
Per Capita	33.33	180.00
Investment Fund Div.	291.67	
Insurance Div.	-	641.48
Misc. Income	20.83	
Income	6,829.17	20,311.48
Local Expenses	6,821.08	6,412.86
Mission Giving	202.44	-
Operating Expenses	7,023.52	6,412.86
Surplus (Shortfall)	(194.35)	13,898.62

Our 2024 surplus at this point in time is \$13,898.62. This surplus is due to the fact that some members having pre-paid their pledge for the entire year or a partial year, which helps not to have to withdraw from our investment account early on. 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 in 2023.

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 express our "Get Well's" and "Condolences" to all those in need of these prayers.

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 goodbye 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 as our new Treasurer very soon. She has been elected to take over my position in approximately March of this year.

Thank you, as always, for ALL your support over the years. It was and is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted: Donna Marie Gawne



APC Committees

Mission and Stewardship Committee – Many **THANKS** to all who supported and contributed to the SOUPER Bowl of Caring. We were able to provide 115 cans/packages of food items for Chester Eastside along with \$111.32. As always your generosity and caring is much appreciated.

Our **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering during Lent had its kickoff on February 18th. Fish Banks were distributed to all the children in worship and our Learning Center children and their families. March's Cents Ability will also be going to OGHS. The banks are due back on Palm Sunday and/or Easter. 100% of the funds received through One Great Hour of Sharing go to Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA). This agency divides the funds between three categories: Hunger, Disaster, and Development of People. The offering for **OGHS** offering will be collected on Palm Sunday and on Easter. We would ask you prayerfully consider your contribution to help those in need.

CentsAbility offerings received in November and December as part of the Coins for Kids were sent to the Ronald McDonald House of Delaware. This was a combined offering from APC and the APC Learning Center. The Ronald McDonald House is very grateful for these funds which allow it to continue providing essential resources to the families of critically ill children being treated through housing, meals, transportation and support while dealing with trauma in their lives. **THANK YOU** for sharing.

CentsAbility funds received in February will go to Chester Eastside along with items provided in our Food Cupboard located in the Narthex. The Food Cupboard items received EACH MONTH are delivered to Chester Eastside to feed those in need in Chester. Your continued support of this endeavor is much appreciated and needed.

Your generosity and commitment help all of us be The Church. We are the Church individually and together. Thank You.

Mission and Stewardship Committee

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.



Aston Presbyterian Church
Food Cupboard

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.

Contact Bill G if you have questions.

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.

If you would like a copy of the sermons in this series please contact the church office and they will be provided.



Our Memories

As we begin our journey into the month of March, we find ourselves following our Savior Jesus as He travels towards Jerusalem in those final days of His earthly ministry. We are in the midst of our 2024 Lent journey with our Lord. We pray that this Lenten season will be a meaningful one for everyone who follows Jesus Christ our Lord, Now let us look into our past walks with Jesus at Aston Presbyterian Church.

Five years Ago-2019-Pastor Michelle Grunsiech in her column wrote that our observance of Lent reminds us that we were created "from dust and we shall return to dust". She noted that the season of Lent will take us into the valley of despair and deliver us up to the glory of Easter joy. The Day Care celebrated "World Downs Syndrome Day on March 21st. The Rev. Jane Ritterson sent a note thanking the congregation for her farewell luncheon last Sunday. She said she was grateful for the wonderful 5 ½ years she spent in ministry with us.

Fifteen years Ago-2009-Rev. Jane Ritterson in her column spoke about Lent being a time of soul searching and reflection and for taking stock of one's life. She said

that Lent was the time to listen for God's still small voice and to hold Jesus Christ our Lord close to our hearts. Day Care events: On March 3rd-Celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, on March 12th Disney /day, March 17th St. Patrick's Day, March 26th celebrated Aston Presbyterian Day Care Pride Day. At the March 8th Worship service, we celebrated the gifts of Women.

Twenty years Ago-2004 - Pastor Pam Cowan in her "From the Pastor's Hat Rack Column said that Lent is a reminder of God's call to us to prepare for new things to come. Lent also is a time to make ready for how we will minister as servants of the risen Christ. Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday raise \$310 which was given to Hugh and Melissa Kronrot to help with the care of their baby daughter Sara and 246 cans of soup were given to the Chester Eastside Food Cupboard, Ashley Zebley was named to the All Del-Valley Field Hockey, First team for the second year and she also received Honorable mention to the All Delco Field Hockey Team for the second time. Mia Kim was the featured artist at Café By the Creek.

Twenty-five years ago-1999-Interim Pastor Paul Tuttle in his

column asked what each of us would be doing during Lent to improve our spiritual self as well as what we will do to further Christ's ministry through Aston Presbyterian Church. He told us to deepen our spiritual faith during Lent. At Worship on March 7th, the Aston /singers of the Gospel brought the message through a musical presentation titled "Believe" under the direction of Laura Worrell. The Rev. Mary Alice Lyman for /Swarthmore Presbyterian was the speaker at the Presbyterian Women's Lenten Breakfast.

Thirty years ago-1994-Pastor Scott Cupp's "Ex Cathedra" column wrote that Lent is a season of spiritual renewal through repentance and growth in personal faith. He also said that within our Presbytery there were 15 churches that were in danger of closing. He encouraged us to work on making our ministry at Aston Presbyterian more effective for our Lord Jesus. An All-Church Family Luncheon was held on March 20th. Sponsored by the Mariners with games for all ages. The Youth Group held their own /winter Olympics in Heibeck Hall on March 27th. The games were won by the team from Great Britain represented by Kim Henderson and Kara Czernik.





Our Memories

Thirty-five years ago-1989-

Pastor Scott Cupp's "Ex Cathedra column", spoke about the tools he was acquiring during his doctoral studies. He asked our congregation to commit themselves to Worship and to Christ's work and witness in our communities. We were searching for a new organist due to the retirement of Olive Beiswenger, our organist, for many years. Volunteers were needed to work at the General Assembly that will be in Philadelphia from June 2nd-thru June 14th. Bill Schuler, Jr was our point person for those wishing to volunteer.

Forty years ago-1984-

Pastor Bob Boell in his column spoke about not missing Worship or neglecting our times for prayer and Bible Study. He noted that Lent has traditionally been a time to renew our faith commitment to Jesu Christ our Lord. On Ash /Wednesday we held two brief Communion Services at 7:00 A.M. and 7:30 P.M. Also, a Lenten Prayer Group was meeting at 8:00 A.M. all through the Lenten Season. Elder Judy McNelly was elected as the Presbytery of Philadelphia's Youth /advisory Delegate to the General Assembly this summer in Phoenix, Arizona. Jim Lewis was named Athletic Director at Chichester High School. Stephanie Carpenter won first place in the Green Ridge Elementary Book Worm Club's reading contest by reading 22 books. The Adult Class was

concluding a series entitled "A Survey of the Bible" and will begin a new study on "The Church and /education led by Dick Hartranft and John Monaghan.

Forty-five years ago-1979-

Pastor Bob Boell wrote that during the Lenten Period of 1979 we should meditate on the meaning of God's sending of HIS Son to be the precious stone for our salvation. Elder William Schuler, Jr. was elected as an Elder Commissioner from Philadelphia Presbytery to the General Assembly in Kansas City. The only previous Elder Commissioner from our church was Elder William Schuler, Sr in 1965. Bob Sampson and Bob Boell will once again during Lent do the Trial of Jesus with Bob Sampson as the Prosecutor and Bob Boell as the /defense Attorney.

50 years ago-1974-

Pastor Bob Boell in his column talked about Lent as a time that we should be faithful in Worship attendance, faithful in daily devotions and we should give ourselves to our Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom. A Lenten Communion Supper was held on March 31st

As we move forward in March towards Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and the glorious celebration of Christ's rising from the dead; let us remember as the 1970's Dick Avery and Don Marsh hymn reminds us: "Every morning is Easter Morning, the past is over and gone." A new day has dawned with Christ rising from the dead so with our Risen Savior let us go forth to witness His new life and to invite new people to come and join with us in following our Lord.

In the Service of our Risen Lord,
Bill Schuler, Jr.

Recipe of the Month: Pineapple Casserole

Ingredients:

½ cup butter (small cubed)
½ cup sugar
3 large eggs
6 slices of bread - cubed (white or honey wheat)
1 - 20oz can crushed or chunked style pineapple in juice
Cinnamon (optional)

How to make:

1. Preheat oven to 350F
2. Mix sugar and eggs together
3. Add butter and pineapple
4. Add cubed bread and mix till all evenly mixed
5. Pour into an 8x8 or 9x9 square pan
6. Optional - Sprinkle with cinnamon
7. Bake at 350F for 45 minutes and golden brown (note, it will continue to set when cooling)
8. Serve warm or cold and Enjoy as dessert with whipped cream or ice cream or as a side dish with your Easter Ham.

Making it for a larger crowd - double the recipe use a 13x9, use both 1 can of chunked and 1 can of crushed pineapple, and use ¾ cup of sugar instead of 1 whole cup.

Recipe submitted by Donna Schuler



Aston Pres. Learning Center



March 2024 Learning Center Events

- March 3rd - 9th - Dr. Seuss Week
- March 3rd - Rock Your Socks Sale Begins
- March 14th - Super Parent's Club
- March 14th - Learning Center Board Meeting
- March 17th - St. Patrick's Day
- March 21st - Rock Your Socks Sock Hop
- March 22nd - Egg Hunt/Bunny Visit



APC Learning Center

Lucky us, it's March! We are so excited to be moving into early spring! As always, we have a busy month ahead at the learning center. This month, we look forward to Read Across America week, Rocking our Socks for Down Syndrome Awareness, St. Patrick's Day, our spring class parties, our egg hunt, and we are hopeful for a visit from the Easter Bunny! With Easter being very early this year, we will enjoy Spring Break the last week of the month. On March 14th, we will host our Super Parents Club and discuss the power of play. Our goal is to encourage families to find more time to play with their children, as that is when the most learning happens. Beginning early in the month, we will begin selling socks to support Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Please buy a pair and support this meaningful cause! On 3/21, we rock our cool socks with our Sock Hop Party! March is a busy month full of events, holidays, and great causes. We are grateful for the opportunity to make all these lasting memories with the students at the learning center!

