



# SOUNDINGS

March 2023

**Sunday, March 5**

Communion in worship  
Pasta Sunday  
Session 2 of Lenten Bible Study

**Sunday, March 12**

Simple Church  
Brunch Bunch after worship

**Saturday, March 18**

Memorial Service for Harriet  
Spilman, 2pm

**Sunday, March 19**

Session 3 of Lenten Bible Study

**Tuesday, March 21**

Session, 7pm

**Thursday, March 23**

Deacons' Meeting, 7pm

**Sunday, March 26**

Session 4 of Lenten Bible Study

**Saturday, April 1**

Memorial Service for Naomi Smith  
3pm

**Sunday, April 2**

Palm Sunday



## PROGRESSIVE DINNER!

SAVE THE DATE! The Board of Deacons and Mission Team invite you to a Progressive Dinner to benefit One Great Hour of Sharing on **Saturday, April 22**, beginning at 5:15pm. Enjoy appetizers, dinner, dessert, and fellowship in the homes of church members. To participate in the meal, or to host dinner in your home, sign up at church or contact Deacon Ruthann Arras (315-870-0200 or [ruthann.arras@gmail.com](mailto:ruthann.arras@gmail.com).) Watch for upcoming details about this exciting fellowship opportunity in the life of our church family!

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF EASTON**

333 Spring Garden St.  
Easton, PA 18042  
610-253-3579  
[www.eastonfpc.org](http://www.eastonfpc.org)

## **A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR**

Dear Congregation:

I hope you will make time this season to be intentional in your spiritual growth and connection with God. There are numerous ways to observe Lent. Many people give up something they enjoy or indulge in too much. I am inviting all members and friends of our church to read scripture. I would ask that you commit to reading the entire book of John between March 6 and April 9. You need only read one chapter every weekday, setting aside 10 minutes at most. There are 21 chapters in the Gospel of John, so if you miss a day or two and skip St Patrick's Day, you can still read the entire book. Our lectionary readings in Sunday worship all come from the book of John this Lenten cycle.

As you read, consider keeping a journal. You can do so on your phone or the "good old-fashioned way" with a pen and paper. Reading scripture alone is meaningful. But I offer you a simple way to reflect on what you read. It is called the SOAP method:

### **S = Scripture**

Read the chapter for the day. Copy a verse or phrase which catches your attention word for word into your journal.

### **O = Observe**

What does this passage tell us about God? Our world? Ourselves?

### **A = Application**

How might your life be different today because of what you have read?

- What lessons are there to be learned; examples to be followed or avoided?
- What promises are offered by God to be claimed and enjoyed?
- What character trait of God revealed?
- Are there any habits or daily acts to start, continue, or stop?

### **P = Prayer**

Write out a prayer for yourself and others based on what you read today.

May God bless you with insight and a deepened sense of God's presence in this holy season.

Pastor Stefanie

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC

### **Palm Sunday, April 2**

**Worship this Sunday will be a joyful celebration of Jesus's entrance into Jerusalem.**

10:25am – Procession of the Palms (weather permitting) - gather at corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Spring Garden.

11:30am -- Coffee and Crafts. Join us for refreshment, fellowship and the opportunity to fold paper and palm crosses. All ages and artistic ability welcome.

### **Maundy Thursday, April 6 at 6:30PM**

#### **Tenebrae: Service of Shadows**

The name Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness" or "shadows," and has for centuries been applied to the ancient monastic night and early morning services of the last three days of Holy Week. This is a typical service but centered on scripture readings and the gradual extinguishing of candles and other lights until a single candle remains. Towards the end of the service, this candle is hidden, typifying the apparent victory of the forces of evil. At the very end, a loud noise is made, symbolizing the earthquake at the time of the resurrection (Matthew 28:2), the hidden candle is restored to its place, and by its light all depart in silence.

## **MEMORIAL SERVICES**

There will be a memorial service for Harriet Spilman on Saturday, March 18 at the church.

Visitation will be from 1pm to 2pm.

The service will be at 2pm, followed by a reception in Legacy Hall at 3pm.

Please hold the family in your prayers.

Cards may be sent to

**Sue Pappas**

**805 Frost Hollow Road**

**Easton, PA 18040**

\* \* \* \* \*

A memorial service will be held for Naomi Smith on Saturday, April 1 at the church.

Visitation will be from 2pm to 3pm

The service will be at 3pm, followed by an ice cream social in Legacy Hall.

Please hold the family in your prayers.

Cards may be sent to

**Ruthann Arras**

**3345 Bridlepath Road**

**Easton, PA 18045**

## CHOIR REHEARSALS

**Chancel Choir** rehearses on Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm.

The **Handbell Choir** rehearses on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:15pm.

## ONLINE WORSHIP

Our services are streamed live on our Facebook page - [EastonFPC](#) - at 10:30am Sunday. The recording of the live worship is posted each Sunday by 12:30pm- on our website: <https://eastonfpc.org/online-worship> and YouTube channel is [Easton First Presbyterian Church](#).

## MISSION

### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with "those who have least". The One Great Hour of Sharing offering, which will be collected until April 9, provides relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. You may make your offering with envelopes provided by the offering box, or simply write "OGHS" in the memo line of your check. Thank you!



### CALLING ALL CROCHETERS AND KNITTERS!

The Stitchers made 10 blankets and 5 shawls, which were donated to Hospice in Allentown. Anyone wanting to make a lap blanket for our next delivery call Nancy Udut (naomiudut@yahoo.com) for yarn, needles, and instructions. Thanks, Nancy Needles



JOIN HANDS TO  
SUPPORT CHILDREN  
2022-23 FPCE MISSION FOCUS

### A.M.E.N. UPDATE

**ACTION – MEDITATION – EDUCATION – NEW HABITS**  
**MISSION 22-23, JOINING HANDS TO SUPPORT CHILDREN**

In March 2020 the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps, included emergency allotments, as the spread of COVID-19 was entering the pandemic stage. Those emergency allotments ended on Wednesday, March 1, 2023. The U.S. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates the average individual recipient will see SNAP support decline by \$90 a month and as much as \$250 in some cases. Advocates said the change will likely deal a major blow to low-income U.S. households struggling under inflationary strains.

COMMIT to pray to end hunger. Join Bread for the World which believes in the power of prayer:

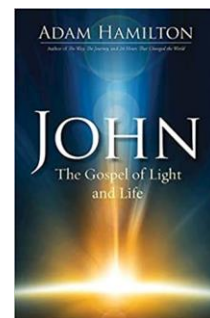
“Prayer isn’t an afterthought. On the contrary, we believe it’s essential to ending hunger. Jesus teaches us to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread” not only to show our dependence on the Heavenly Father, but also to recognize that He is the one who cares for people experiencing hunger.”

Make prayers to end hunger part of your regular prayer life by subscribing to Prayers to End Hunger, our twice-monthly email with prayer suggestions and resources.

## **FAITH FORMATION AND FELLOWSHIP**

### **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they “may have life in his name”. In this study, we’ll use the text *John: The Gospel of Light and Life* by Rev. Adam Hamilton to follow the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament. This study will meet **March 5**, **March 19**, and **March 26** after worship. All are welcome!



### **BRUNCH BUNCH**

Brunch Bunch will be going to Outback Steak House at 3200 Emrick Blvd, Bethlehem on March 12. Please let Ruthann know by Friday, March 10 if you plan to go. All are welcome!

### **MEETINGS**

Session will meet at the church on **Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00pm.**

**The Deacons will meet at the church on Thursday, March 23 at 7:00pm.**

If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact the church office to let us know. Thank you!

## **MARCH BIRTHDAYS**

- 3** Stacy Moki
- 6** Olivia Hinson
- 9** Al Rutherford
- 12** Janet Mishkin
- 12** Charles Young
- 16** Judy Jacobs
- 24** Clementine Akpor-Mensah
- 29** Aaron Koch



## **LEHR FUND**

The Barbara and John Lehr Fund is a designated fund only distributed to members. Are you a member going through a financial crisis? Please speak with our pastor Stefanie Muntzel or contact her at [revstefaniefpce@gmail.com](mailto:revstefaniefpce@gmail.com) to see if the Lehr Fund could be a support to you.

## **PRAYERS**

We pray for...

Our church, its leaders, staff, members and friends as we navigate a significant financial crisis.

All who grieve for the loss of loved ones, including the family of Harriet Spilman; Ruthann Arras and family at the passing of Naomi Smith; Joel Dean at the passing of Fran; Jay Koch and family at the passing of Cindy.

Members addressing ongoing medical concerns, including Victoria Opthof-Cordaro.

All those who live with dementia and their care givers.

For neighbors near and far recovering from natural disasters and extreme weather.

Peace and goodwill for all God's children, especially in places of war and conflict.

Victims of gun violence and acts of hate.

Those who suffer from mental illness.

For injustice in our nation and world, that people of goodwill might work together for the greater good.

Prayers can be sent to [office@eastonfpc.org](mailto:office@eastonfpc.org), please include "prayer list" in the subject line.



## EASTER SUNDAY

Our sanctuary will be beautifully decorated with flowers on Easter. If you would like to contribute toward the Easter flowers, please complete the form below and return it to the church office by **Monday, April 3**. You may have a listing in the bulletin in memory or honor of a loved one. You may also specify the type of flowers (tulips, daffodils, lilies, hyacinths, mums). The suggested donation is \$10.00 per plant.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be taking the flowers home? \_\_\_\_\_ (Please take the variety ordered.)