Gerrardstown Good News



**Join the Journey** by Pastor Karen

 

There are lots of ways to talk about traveling. We may be going on a trip, setting out on an adventure, taking a car ride, or beginning a journey. Journey, as defined by Merriam Webster means “something suggesting travel or passage from one place to another…a day’s travel.” Where did this word Journey come from? Well it came by way of the “Latin diurnus means “pertaining to a day, daily”; …When Latin developed into French, diurnus became a noun, jour, meaning simply “day.” The medieval French derivative journee meant either “day” or “something done during the day,” such as work or travel. Middle English borrowed journee as journey in both senses, but only the sense “a day’s travel” survived into modern usage. In modern English, journey now refers to a trip without regard to the amount of time it takes.” (https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/journey)

This year during Lent, that 40 day period of time leading up to Easter beginning Feb. 14th, we will be on a journey, although our journey will actually take us 56 days. We are calling it *Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem* for that was Jesus’ destination. We are counting our steps and our time of exercise or good works, adding them all together and trying to see if we can reach Jerusalem which is 5922 miles away from Gerrardstown.

Members and friends of GPC are getting on board to walk, run, exercise, worship, read their Bibles, visit the shut-ins or the sick, and do other good works to gain miles toward Jerusalem. We want to invite anyone who might be interested in counting steps or miles as we grow healthier in body, mind and spirit to join us our efforts to reach Jerusalem in our Lenten Journey with Jesus.

If you would like to join in our Journey, please sign-up on the *Journey with Jesus* sign-up sheet on Sunday to get your number, take a packet of information, and then start counting minutes and miles. If you can’t sign up on the sheet, then please email gerrardstpc@gmail.com or call the church office 304-229-2316 and let us know your interest and we will send you number and a packet. Your instructions are in the packet. To turn in your miles you’ve walked or earned, you simply email them gerrarstpc@gmail.com, drop in the mail or drop them off at the GPC church office every week or two.

As in most journeys, we need companions. We need those who support us as we travel-even if it’s only for a day, we need a place to eat, something to drink, and gas for our car or a seat on a plane or train. We at GPC need companions too. This is a big undertaking in two months’ time – to collect 5922 miles! None of us can do it alone. But then Jesus didn’t travel much by himself, either. He was most often in the company of his companions, disciples both men and women and the many others who enjoyed his teaching and discussions as they traveled the roads and paths in and around the Judean countryside.



**Community Ash Wednesday Service**

Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church is hosting a Community Ash Wednesday Service with the help of Falling Waters and Tuscarora Presbyterian Churches. Please join us at 7pm for worship and the imposition of ashes. For the offering please bring a nonperishable food item for Loaves and Fishes. All are welcome!

 **Here are ways you can be involved in local missions:**

**Rescue Mission** needs ***paper products*** for Feb.

Check out the bulletin on Sunday for our Lenten Mission Focus.

****

**February Events @ GPC**

Feb. 1-March 28 Journey with Jesus to Jerusalem – pick up a packet on Sunday mornings or email gerrardstpc@gmail.com to request one be emailed to you.

Feb. 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th – Worship at 11am in the Sanctuary.

Feb. 4 – Annual Congregational Meeting 12pm

Feb. 11th Guest Preacher Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao

Feb. 14 – Community Ash Wed. Service

 7pm at Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church.

Feb. 18th – Worship and Communion

Feb. 22 – Session at 7pm

Feb. 24 – Presbytery Meeting Tinkling Spring

Feb. 27 – Community Dinner 4:30pm-6:30pm in the Church Hall

**You can also watch the sermon videos online at gerrardstownpc.com or check out GPC on Facebook at Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church Life**

Dear Family and Friends at GPC thank you for your generous Christmas check! Your expression of love and appreciation is most appreciated. I thank God for each of you as I pray for God’s grace, mercy and leadership for us all. Love and blessing, Pastor Karen

**Coffee and Conversations**

Sundays at 9:45am all are invited to come study the Gospel of Luke for the next few months. Our text, besides the Gospel is *Luke for Everyone by NT Wright.*  Copies are available for $4.

Everyone is welcome! We meet in the Gathering Room behind the Sanctuary in the church building of GPC. Children’s Sunday school happens simultaneously downstairs in the children’s Sunday school classrooms. If you want to know more, ask Pastor Karen.

**January Session Meeting Highlights:**

Session discussed Chapter 2 in *Success Is Who You Are* by Sam Adeyemi as our devotion and Pastor Karen opened with prayer.

Session approved the budget (in December) and approved the Treasurer’s report, finalized budget, and Cemetery report. Session received a report from Glen Sherrard concerning Presbytery and approved the minutes from December meeting.

Building and Grounds suggested we reinstate the service contract with Roach/Sunfire for all three boilers/heating systems for the coming year at a cost of $167 per furnace. Session approved this expenditure. There were several problems through the holidays with the Hall furnace turning off and pipes freezing. There are two radiators in the church building with leaky valves- Roach has fixed one and ordered valve for the other.

 Session approved hosting the EPMC Ash Wed. service Feb. 14th at 7pm in our sanctuary;, the communion dates for 2018: They will be on the 3rd Sunday of each month except in Oct.-Dec. communion will be held the first Sunday of these months due to World Communion and First Sunday of Advent; the offerings to be collected for: One Great Hour of Sharing, Mothers and Fathers Day and Joy Gift.

Session organized the committees and chair persons as follows:

Patty Oester – Fellowship and Church Family Care

Mary Campbell – Worship, Mission & Outreach/Evangelism

Glen Sherrard – Buildings and Grounds

Harriet Kopp – Clerk and Cemetery Committee

Pastor Karen –will be the liaison with Ministry with Children and Families/Christian Education

Session approved that Cemetery committee send a report quarterly to the Session and planned the Annual Congregational meeting Feb. 4th including seeking nominations for nominating committee.

Patty Oester volunteered to organize the audit of the financial records of GPC.

Session elected Patty Oester to be the commissioner to Feb. 24th Presbytery meeting.

Session is waiting for a report from our financial advisors regarding investments and money transfers for the use of daily expenses in the next year.

Session approved vouchers to give mission funds to Following Our Father ministry and Chat and Chew Reading Program at Mountain Ridge Intermediate School.

Pastor Karen closed the meeting with prayer.

****

**Valentine’s Day**

How do you celebrate Valentine’s Day?

There are varying opinions floating about social media in regards to Valentine’s Day. For some it can feel very lonely; for others they haven’t the money to spend extravagantly on their significant others.

Katya Andresen of the Case Foundation offers another option. She suggests a simple idea: “reclaim Valentine’s Day and imbue it with true love – the kind where you give without expectation.” **She suggests we make Valentine’s Day a Generosity Day.** Katya writes “Generosity Day is when you seek to be selfless and see what happens when generosity becomes your default.”

She suggests we could “do something big or something small. Give of your money, your time, your talent, your love or anything special that is unique to you. We’ve seen people buy coffee for strangers, take someone to a homeless shelter, make dinner for a friend in need or give blood. You could write a letter to someone who touched your life. Tell a friend why they’re wonderful. Or smile at everyone in the street.”

There are many other ways to express generosity. You could begin your day with an act of kindness, be ‘wildly generous’ all day long or do something beautiful and needful. Katya offers that we may feel a bit fearful at first but once we overcome our fear, we may find our happiness overflows as we begin to share generously with someone else. (https://casefoundation.org/blog/celebrate-valentines-day-generosity-day/ )