
Longwood Presbyterian Church

Newsletter

Volume 27 Issue 4

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³⁴Then the king
will say to
those at his
right hand,
'Come, you

that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Matthew 25: 34-36

As we move toward the promise of new life at Easter, this passage [from last month] continues to be appropriate. The Presbyterian Church [USA] has declared itself to be a "Matthew 25" Church. That means this passage - and the entire "sheep and goats" of verses 31-46 - is the Scripture around which our witness and ministry is based.

So, when the leader of this nation:

1. Cut off school lunch programs [*I was hungry and you gave me food*]
2. Eliminated support for the National Institute of Health and cut off funding for cancer and other medical research [*I was sick and you took care of me*]
3. Threatens Medicare and Medicaid, which supports our poorest children and seniors
4. Threatens Social Security, which is often the **only** income for many of our oldest or disabled brothers and sisters.

When that happens, we are called, like the Old Testament prophets who confronted their political and religious leaders to cry: "Thus saith the Lord!". We **must** call them to task.

Most distressing to me are the political leaders who **claim** to be Christian but turn blind eyes to those



abuses - and often actively endorse them. Sadly, it is obvious that none of them have **ever** read Matthew's 25th chapter and, by their own actions, cannot truly claim Christ as Lord.

When I hear one of our leaders say that only cheaters complain when you cut off their only source of income - a man who has more money than he can spend - I am sickened.

When I hear the lies that so many are homeless because they're lazy, or grifters - not because they lost jobs and homes living paycheck to paycheck - or because [like so many of our veterans] they suffer from PTSD - I am enraged.

The list is long - long for the ways **we** are complicit in failing to speak for and support "the least of these"

This is the season when we live in anticipation of the Resurrection - which promises forgiveness and Grace for all of God's children - not to grind our sisters and brothers into the dust.

I know this may annoy or anger some people ["preachers are not supposed to meddle in politics"]. This is not political - it is Scriptural and Theological. It has become impossible to remain silent. I can do no other.

LPC/COVENANT PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Two candidates have re-appeared on the CLC2 (Presbyterian) website, so we have re-invited them for an interview. No response from this at this time, but we will continue to check the website regularly for their (and other) replies. J. R.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our PW ladies met in the Fellowship Hall on March 12th. We had two honored guests join us for our short meeting & Bible Study, Shonda Galloway & Mary Hoskins, co-moderators from MUP PW. We always enjoy them visiting us & bringing news from around

the presbytery. Of course, we had a lot of delicious snacks to offer & enjoy. Our ladies always do us proud.

Becky Barnes brought up several things from session. It was elected to purchase a portable basketball goal & ball to put on the concrete slab south of the church. Our youth is growing up & need more than just swings for entertainment.

The session also decided to host a joint worship & 5th Sunday Dinner with our sister church, Marshall Covenant, on Sunday, March 30th. It was a special day & many thanks to both church families for their support & all the wonderful food.

Another item discussed was having a Fellowship Time before church on the first Sunday of each month. A time to gather for coffee & donuts or nibbles & milk. Becky volunteered to host the first one & we will ask for volunteers to host the next ones. Our first one will be next Sunday, April 6th at 10:00 am. Don't miss out!

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 9th, 2025. Sharon

OPEN DOOR MINISTRY

Because we have some new families in our church, we thought they might not know about our Open-Door Ministry. We have an area in the front entry of the church where we collect shelf safe food to take to the Open-Door Pantry in Sedalia. We usually have a trunk full of food every month or so. Open-Door is very appreciative of any help they can get. So next time you are grocery shopping pick up a couple of extra cans of soup or veggies & add to our collection. Thanks for any help we can give them.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 2025

- Fellowship before Worship begins April 6, 10:00 a.m. (before worship), Becky Barnes host. This is planned to be a monthly event (**1st Sunday Fellowship**), so be thinking about who will host the next one on May 2.
- April 8 Election Day (LPC fellowship hall is a designated polling place, and set-up by the county commission will be Friday 4/4).
- Holy Week—Maundy Thursday (4/16) service at Covenant (5:30 P.M., 4/16), Good Friday (4/18) service at Longwood (7:00 P.M.)
- Easter is Sunday April 20th. Worship at regular time. Breakfast at 8:30 a.m., before worship at 10:30.

- The following 2 weeks (at least) after Easter, Phil will be out of pulpits and Rev. David Van Horn will be pulpit supply.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please continue to keep the following folks in your prayers

- Debbie Brown
- Earl Hunter (Houstonia)
- Charles (and Barb) Lawrence
- Leigh (and Bill) Jessop (Presbytery friends)
- Sharon and J. R. Greer

MARCH 30 JOINT WORSHIP

A big "Thanks You" to Pastor Phil and the Covenant congregation for joining us at Longwood this past Sunday, for a special 5th Sunday worship and basket dinner. Jack Lenz (Covenant member) should also be recognized for his persistence in bringing this event together. Both he and Phil had been working on this for quite some time.

The Longwood church pews were filled that day, and the air was filled with the sounds of voices singing. It truly did feel like the "Good Ole Days."

Thanks to all who made the day such a success, mostly to God for making it happen, but also to the cooks from both churches for the delicious food!

And now we look forward to June 30, the next 5th Sunday of the year, where Longwood will all meet at Covenant and repeat this wonderful event.

Blessings to all,

J. R.

