

Community Presbyterian Church

1100 College Avenue

March 2023

Pastor's Corner

I've learned to be suspicious about the arrival of Spring.

Here in Spokane, the snow was all but gone, and for the past couple of weeks the temperatures have been in the 40s. The trees are budding, and a couple of the bulbs alongside our house have started to poke through the ground. (I'm also seeing how many leaves have been buried under the snow!)

I was just starting to allow myself to think about warmer temperatures when WHAM! My phone announced a blizzard warning, on and off snow flurries blew in and the temps are back in the teens. I know that this is the reality of February in our part of the world, but I still feel a bit of a letdown at the realization that winter has not yet released us from its grasp.

Life is kind of like that, isn't it? We want to believe we have things under control, that once we arrive at a secure place in our lives we can comfortably settle in and maintain the status quo. And then life happens, and something—or somethings—change, and it can feel like everything is falling apart. An unexpected medical diagnosis—or the recurrence of an issue we thought had resolved—or a life crisis occurs in our lives or in the lives of someone we love, and we feel the wind disappear from our sails.

It's a human trait, I think, to feel as if one such crisis threatens everything, that it's all starting to fall apart.



We want to believe that a strong faith in Christ protects us from those occurrences or, at the very least, that when we encounter turmoil or tragedy in our lives, our faith will enable us to maintain our course and speed with a strong heart and a steady hand. When our faith falters, or our heart falls, we wonder if we are doing something wrong...if our faith isn't that strong after all. Maybe this winter will last forever.

I think God understands our fears, and reassures us again and again—through the Scriptures and the love and prayers of others—that although our struggles are real, they are never beyond God's power to redeem. God is *always* at work, in us and in the world, and God's will and providence never falter. Our lives, and all of creation, belong to God. Spring *will* come.

"I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living" speaks Psalm 25, encouraging us to claim that confidence as our own. "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!"

Whatever we are facing this winter—as individuals, as a church, as a community—God is at work redeeming, healing, and recreating us to more perfectly reflect God's image in us.

In Christ our hearts find courage, strength and hope. Together we wait for the Lord.

May God's grace and peace continue to sustain us, now and always.

– Pastor John

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Good News for those of you wishing to join the membership of Community Presbyterian Church here in St. Maries!! This is your chance.

We have a new member class lined up for Sunday, March 26 at 1pm. It will probably go 2 hours. Pastor John Owen is coming to meet with those who wish to join. He will go over what Presbyterians believe and answer any questions you may have. He will be back to preach on April 2 and will accept those who wish to join the church then into membership. If you are interested, please let Jane Thornes know, so we can have enough materials available.

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Beverly McQuaig	3/12
Cloia Morris	3/14
Christopher Scott	3/22
Maxine Hutchinson	3/25
Brian Miller	3/26
Dylan Miller	3/26
Sally Grant	3/31

Two friends were walking through the desert. At one point in their journey, they got into a heated argument and out of sheer frustration one friend slapped the other in the face. The one who got slapped felt hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand: TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE!

They kept on walking until they came to an oasis where it appeared there was enough water to take a bath. The two did not realize the danger of entering this water. Consequently, the one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and would have drowned had not his friend rescued him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: TODAY MY BEST FRIEND SAVED MY LIFE!

His friend was puzzled. "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand but now you write it on a stone. Why is this?" His friend replied: "When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away. When someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

LEARN TO WRITE YOUR HURTS IN THE SAND.

TAKE TIME TO CARVE YOUR BENEFITS IN STONE.

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Stewardship Committee

Marianne Besaw, Elder

The 2022 income was down 11.6% (\$15,091), as compared to 2021. But, the January, 2023 income was up \$1572.12 (20%), as compared with January, 2022, largely due to an increase in pledge income. 96% of the 2022 pledges were received. This is a high percentage for pledges. An Adopt-an-Expense fund-raiser is planned for this year.

The 2023 Sunday Sanctuary flowers are \$25 and the per capita is \$39.

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Live life with joy!!

Noah got drunk.
 Jacob lied.
 Moses murdered.
 Rahab was a prostitute.
 David had an affair.
 Peter denied Jesus.
 God used every single one of these people to build the Kingdom.
 You are never too far gone for God to use.



“Prayer is difficult. It is not the techniques that are hard - most of the techniques are amusingly easy. Rather the difficulty lies in the following through on the commitment to pray in the face of distractions that bear down on us or pick at us like annoying bugs, driving us away from the presence of God.”

-Daniel Wolpert

The quote above is from a book we are using in our Sunday evening Zoom conversation. The book is on prayer practices and this is an idea that is central to the whole book - deciding to pray is not hard - praying is hard. Praying regularly. Finding a place in our day to tune our hearts, minds, ears - all of our being - to God.

I have some maintenance medications that I take daily. It was time for a refill so I phoned it in to the pharmacy. The refills were done, but they came with a message: I needed to see the doctor before there would be another round of refills. I wasn't ridiculously far behind in scheduling my annual physical, but the message is clear - the medicine was prescribed a year ago - I'm not that person anymore. It's important for the doctor to meet with me and decide if the medications are still correct or if there are modifications that might be needed.

I think prayer works a bit in that way. There is a danger that it can become too much about dropping off prescriptions for God to fill. God loves to hear from us, but I think God also loves to spend time with us and loves for us to listen for what God is saying. God doesn't want to fill our orders, God wants to meet with us and have conversation with us so we can share what's really going on with us and listen for what God really desires to share with us.

Rev. George Love
Hebron Presbyterian Church

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March  
17



March 2  
Dr. Suess birthday



March 11<sup>th</sup>

4 - 7 p.m.

Childrens' Needs

Fundraiser

Soup/Chili Supper

\$6 adults

\$3 Kids 12 & under

Bingo cards

\$5 for the evening

Dessert Auction!!

# POWER IN YOUR WORDS

## WORD SEARCH

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| P | R | O | M | I | S | E | S | E | I | E | P | O | H | B |
| L | U | F | T | C | E | P | S | E | R | E | O | R | W | I |
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| F | Y | T | I | L | I | M | U | H | P | P | U | U | U | L |
| T | S | N | E | M | A | D | N | A | S | E | Y | Q | F | E |
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| F | E | L | L | I | W | S | D | O | G | R | O | N | O | H |

BE SILENT  
 DECLARE  
 HAPPINESS  
 INSPIRING  
 MERCY  
 RESPECTFUL  
 TESTIMONY

BIBLE  
 FAVOR  
 HOLY SPIRIT  
 JESUS  
 MOUTH  
 ROMANS  
 THANKFUL

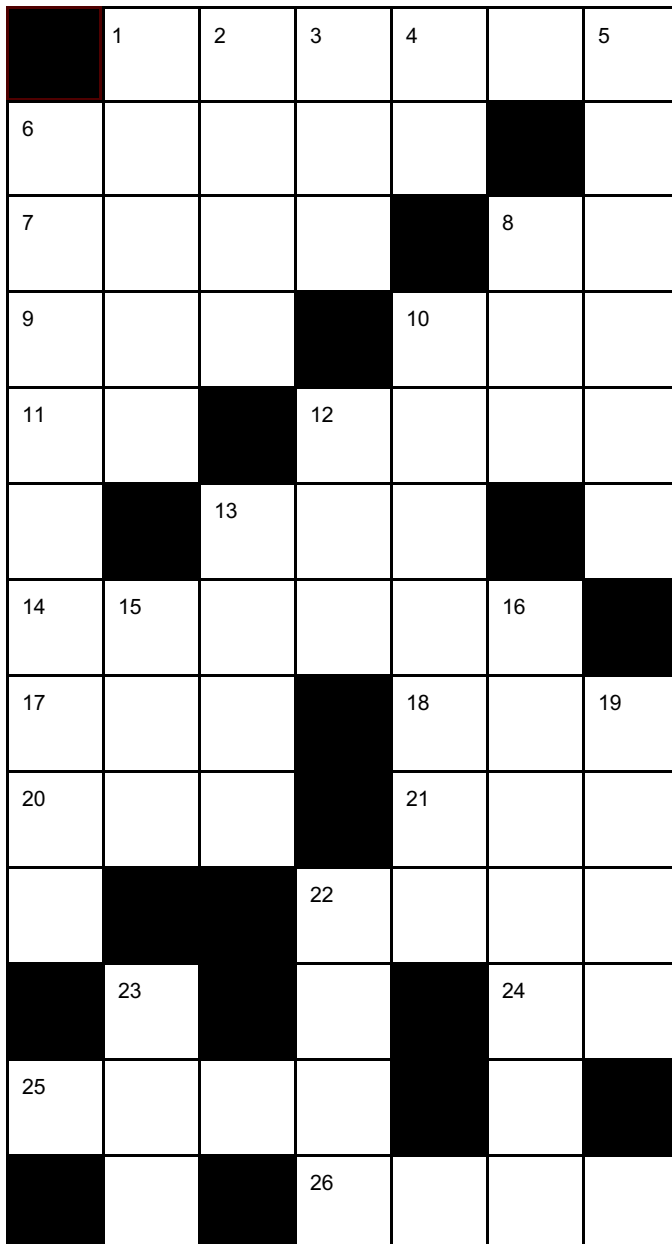
BLESSING  
 GLORY  
 HONOR  
 JOY  
 NURTURING  
 SPEAK LIFE  
 TRUTH

COLOSSIANS  
 GODS WILL  
 HOPE  
 LOVE  
 PROMISES  
 STRENGTH  
 UPLIFTING

CONQUEROR  
 GRATEFUL  
 HUMILITY  
 MATTHEW  
 PROVERBS  
 SUCCESS  
 YES AND AMEN

\_\_\_\_\_

FEBRUARY WORD SEARCH ANSWER: **STRENGTHEN**



## CLUES

### ACROSS

- The \_\_\_\_\_ tribe was looking for territory (Judges 18:1)
- Much water there (John 3:23)
- "We have seen his \_\_\_\_\_ in the east" (Matthew 2:2)
- Pronoun
- As a \_\_\_\_\_ gathers her chickens (Luke 13:34)
- Peter \_\_\_\_\_ to the tomb (Luke 24:12)
- Hesitation voiced

- Direction
- "Has the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_ been shortened?" (Number 11:23)
- Jacob
- King of Hamath (2 Samuel 8:9)
- "And if anyone wants to \_\_\_\_\_ you and take your shirt...." (Matthew 5:40)
- Finish
- Historical period
- "For everyone who \_\_\_\_\_ receives" (Matthew 7:8)
- That is (abbreviation)
- Death on a \_\_\_\_\_ horse (Revelation 6:8)
- Near

### DOWN

- Discourage, prevent
- One of Nehemiah's men (Nehemiah 10:26)
- "\_\_\_\_\_ height \_\_\_\_\_ depth" (Romans 8:39)
- Not out
- Things that happen
- Members of one of the twelve tribes (Judges 1:32)
- Possesses
- Journeyed from \_\_\_\_\_ to Succoth (Exodus 12:37)
- A major division of time
- Dry
- Male child
- "A young lion \_\_\_\_\_ in secret places" (Psalm 17:12)
- "Take your \_\_\_\_\_, eat drink and be merry" (Luke 12:19)
- Truly
- God is not \_\_\_\_\_ from each of us (Acts 17:27)