

# **Ilion Presbyterian News**

**March 2022**

**Pastor Rick Riggle**

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*Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.*

The earliest mention of Lent in the history of the Church comes from the council of Nicaea in 325 AD. The council of Nicaea is best known for the profession of faith, the ‘Nicene Creed’, which is still recited in many churches every Sunday immediately after the sermon. However, the council also issued twenty canons of a practical nature, dealing with various aspects of church life, and the fifth of these canons speaks of Lent.

The word used for Lent in this fifth canon is tesseractonta (Greek), which means forty. For the first time in history, we are told this period of preparation for Easter lasts for forty days. The English word Lent has another definition. It comes from the Anglo-Saxon (early English) word meaning to lengthen. Lent comes at a time when the hours of daytime are lengthening, as spring approaches, and it is a time when we too can lengthen spiritually, when we can stretch out and grow in the Spirit.

Just as people thought it was the sun that made the days longer during early Spring time, so it is the Son that does this work in our lengthening and growing. This image provides comfort to us who live in this busy world today, where activity and busyness can become the way we live our lives. Our task during Lent is to cooperate with God’s grace and movement in our lives, in a sense to relax in the presence of God, rather than to force the pace with our own efforts.

This doesn’t mean to sit back and relax but instead to open our eyes to see what it is God is doing around us, what God is saying to us, and how God may be challenging us. Lent is a time to simplify our lives so that God can recharge us to go out into the world with mission and purpose. I hope all of you will take the devotional we have chosen and make it a part of your day, every day, during lent. If you can’t get one in the sanctuary let us know and we will mail one to you. Let’s all let the warmth of God’s love help us to grow this Lenten season.

Pastor Rick

## **Prayer List:**

Men and women who protect us and our freedoms.

Tom Backus (Lynn's son) Brianna Nicole (Christine's daughter)

Lesa Decker Allan Dickinson Barry Doolen

Linda Emrich Flandera (Virginia's daughter) Betty Foor Loren Hughes

Bill & Julie Hulser & granddaughter, Josline & Paislee

Dr. Aimee (Lesa's friend) Anna LaBella Christine Lawrence

Barbara Maley Joe Maneen John & Linda Manser (Denise G)

Marty March Mike Marro Joan Matteson Laureen Mitchell

Anne Montalone Arthur & Judith Pearson (Kim Bigelow's Folks)

Bob Robertson Patricia Ruller Mia Sherman (Judy Nudo)

Marian Skinner (Donna Pritchard's mother) Ted & Anita Smith

Jane Smithson (Lynne O's mother) Jean Sullivan Sue Thomas

Cheryl Waldo

## **Church Officers**

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### **Session**

Joan Matteson

Nancy White

Janet Darling

Susan Backus

Don Lamphear

Lynn Backus

Steve Getman

Mike Orendorf

### **Deacons**

Sandy Eldridge

Lynne Orendorf

Jenn Eldridge

Jean Smith

Denise Goodale

Kim Bigelow

We have an opening for another elder which needs to be filled. If you know someone whose talents make you think they would be the right person for this job speak to them and speak to Pastor Rick

## March Blood Drive

Now is a good time to sign up for our March 16<sup>th</sup> blood drive. The drive runs from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Please log on to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to sign up, or you can call 1-800-REDCROSS.

## March Worship Responsibilities

### March 6

Reader – Steve Getman  
Greeter – Lynn Backus  
Communion Servers – Steve Getman

Susan Backus

Communion Setup – Kim Bigelow

Ushers – Sandy Eldridge

Kim Bigelow

Fellowship – Class Act

### March 20

Reader – Joan Matteson  
Greeter – Lynn Backus  
Ushers – Kim Bigelow

Denise Goodale

Fellowship – Denise Goodale

Sandy Eldridge

### March 13

Reader – Susan Backus

Greeter – Lynn Backus

Usher – Kim Bigelow

Fellowship – Janet Darling

### March 27

Reader – Janet Darling

Greeter – Lynn Backus

Usher – Kim Bigelow

Fellowship – Kim Bigelow

If you would be interested in any of these ways of service from reader to fellowship talk about it with Pastor Rick.

## FREE DINNERS

The dates for the Free March Dinners will be the 2nd & 4th Thursdays

March 10

March 24

## ALSO.....HOT LUNCHESES

The plan is to start serving hot lunches againon at noontime. Helpers of all kinds are needed before this can happen. Cooks, servers, set-up & take down helpers. Again, speak to George Gullis if you will/can help.

### MIS Notes

February/March 2022

As mentioned last month, our upcoming blood drive will be on Wednesday, March 16th from 1:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. in the upstairs community room. There is still a large demand for blood of all types; it is the worst blood shortage in 10+ years. Go to [www.RedCrossBlood.org](http://www.RedCrossBlood.org) to schedule an appointment.

Anyone who gives blood in March will receive a \$10 Fanatics e-gift card. In addition, as an extra thank you to donors, those who come to give from March 1-31, 2022, will automatically be entered to win a trip for two to the 2022 MLB All Star Game in Los Angeles, California. The package includes 2 tickets to 2022 MLB All Star Sunday, the 2022 Home Run Derby, and the 2022 MLB All Star Game, round trip airfare to Los Angeles, 4 night hotel accommodations (July 16-20, 2022), plus a \$750.00 gift card for expenses.

### Food Pantry

We will be collecting food for the local food pantry until the end of the month. I have already taken one huge tub of food over, and the others are located as you come in the Morgan Street door. Thanks to all who help out.

### Fischer Eementary School

It was brought to my attention that spring break will start the week of the 21 st of February for CVA and surrounding area schools. Some children depend on the breakfast and lunch they receive daily for basic nourishment, and with school closed, they may not get the sustenance they need. I am grateful to those who responded to Rick's email last week.

Last Thursday afternoon I delivered the following to the school: 36 cans of tuna, 12 jars of peanut butter, 12 jars of jelly, 24 boxes of mac & cheese, 8 boxes of breakfast bars, 4 boxes of mixed fruit cups, Cheerios, 8 pounds of pasta, 8 quarts of pasta sauce, 24 can of green beans, 24 cans of potatoes, 24 cans of sweet peas, 24 cans of carrots, 24 cans of corn, and 2 12-count boxes of Ramen. We were also able to donate some badly needed items of clothing. A HUGE thanks go out to Cheryl Waldo, one of our parishioners, that works at the Methodist thrift shop. She let me pick out the sized needed for Pre-K through 1st grade at no charge. God is good, all the time.  
Susan Backus and the MIS team



COMPANY IS COMING

The planning has started, the building is being prepared and there are still many jobs to be taken care of. Please think about helping out to make the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration a real time of praise and thanksgiving to God. With your help we can do anything God wants. See Lesa Decker or Sue Thomas to see how you can help make things great.

Finally, thanks for your patience as we struggle to do what Lesa does so effortlessly. I have decided she can never be sick again.

Pastor Rick

The First Presbyterian Church

Non Profit Organization

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