

# MARCH

## Here and Now

March 2022

Volume 69, Issue 3

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### PASTOR LEANNE'S MESSAGE: "Lent and a Domesticated Jesus"

Can you believe we are already in Lent season? Every year it sneaks up on me, because my head is still in Christmas mode! But here we are, Ash Wednesday is only a few days from now, and many of us are considering what to "give up" and how to best make the approach to the days of crucifixion and resurrection.

We are coming to this season at a time of world conflict and unrest, and I am aware that our circumstances are having a profound affect on our spiritual sense of security. As I write, conflict expanded from the borders of Ukraine inward, and there is great speculation in the media about where this will take the world. Our own political discourse is so ugly, so toxic, that there is a sense of division and distain in the air over differences; the Middle East remains a constant concern. Locally, food insecurity and homelessness are always before me. I don't know about you, but I find myself praying when I watch the news, because the call to be faithful in such a world seems complicated.

Whenever I get the sense that the potential for danger is intensified, I find myself narrowing my theological lens to focus on the teachings of Jesus. Those "red letters" seem ever more important when I am seeking to be faithful in a world where big picture change is beyond me. Such things as caring for strangers, keeping one's own integrity, stubbornly insisting on truth echo through me... I want to be like Jesus.

But often, I cannot help but feel that religion has domesticated – tamed – the very radical elements of his ministry that made him such a challenge to world order. In his lifespan, he taught many difficult things that demanded more than polite consent – "sell all you have and give to the poor (Luke 18:22)," "hate your mother and father (Luke 14:26)," and "I came not to bring peace, but a sword" (Matthew 10:34-36) ... these statements off the lips of Jesus are real challenges to our souls, our lifestyles and our priorities. It is really easy to water some of Christ's words down, to make them fit into our life-styles, but that is NOT what Jesus was about.

So, as Lent comes upon us, I am going to be preaching on some of the harder words of Jesus – those that unsettle us, challenge us, and make demands on us. This is a season for introspection and reflection, a time to renew our spiritual alliances with that of Christ. Join me in attentiveness to those red-letter teachings as we seek to be Christ's witnesses in this world.





### WINTER GEAR FOR CCC

As winter draws to a close and you are wondering what to do with your children's outgrown winter clothing, the Child Care Center would greatly appreciate them. We are always in need of the following items: waterproof mittens, snow pants and winter boots. Any of the listed items that fit children from the ages of one year old through age five would be useful.



**LOOKING FOR HELP** - If you like music, and you like children we have a deal for you! We are looking for a **Youth Choir Director** for about 6 weeks prior to the youth led Sunday Service on May 8th. If you are interested please contact a Christian Ed. Committee member or the Church Office.

### HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE - PAPER PRODUCTS DRIVE

Four-leaf clovers were Celtic charms, presumed to ward off bad luck. And since there are approximately 10,000 three-leaf clovers for every "lucky" four-leaf clover, finding a four-leaf variety was lucky indeed.

But, unluckily, spills happen at the Child Care Center--with or without a four-leaf clover on hand! During March, the Hospitality Committee is supporting the Child Care Center with a paper products drive. This is an opportunity for the Congregation to help clean up those unlucky spills and to defray CCC costs by donating paper towels. Please bring your donations to the Donations Box or the Donations Crib in the Narthex. Items may also be dropped off at the Church anytime during the week. Your gifts are much appreciated by the Child Care Center.



Thanks, too, for the February donations of tissues for the Child Care Center. Many little noses will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

**THANK YOU** - to all who donated to the clothing drive for Myhre Elementary School during January. More than 200 items of clothing were delivered to the school's social worker for emergency uses. The socks, underwear and sweatpants were much appreciated, and will come in handy when situations requiring clean, dry clothes arise.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE



### SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE Attention High School Seniors, College Students, and Graduate Students

The First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee want to make you aware of the availability of a limited number of scholarships for our church community. To be eligible for consideration to receive a scholarship, a student must be an active member of First Presbyterian Church of Bismarck or must have been an active participant in the life of the church for at least three years. Students at any level of study beyond high school are eligible to receive a scholarship award. Students are eligible to receive a scholarship for a maximum of four years: the years do not need to be consecutive. Graduate students may apply for scholarships, providing they are within the four-year maximum. Applications will be available in the Narthex or for download from the church website [www.fcpbismarck.com](http://www.fcpbismarck.com). The application period will be from **March 14 to May 13, 2022**.

## WANONA'S "MEDICINE"

### **Here is some much-needed humor:**

A man and a woman had been married for more than 60 years. They had shared everything. They had talked about everything. They kept no secrets from each other, except that the little old woman had a shoe box in the top of her closet that she had cautioned her husband never to open or ask her about.

For all these years, he had never thought about that box, but one day, the little old woman got very sick and the doctor said she would not recover.

In trying to sort out their affairs, the little old man took down the shoe box and took it to his wife's bedside. She agreed that it was time that he should know what was in the box. When he opened it, he found two crocheted dolls and a stack of money totaling \$95,000. He asked her about the contents. "When we were to be married," she said, "my grandmother told me the secret of a happy marriage was to never argue. She told me that if I ever got angry with you, I should just keep quiet and crochet a doll". The little old man was so moved; he had to fight back tears. Only two precious dolls were in the box. She had only been angry with him two times in all those years of living and loving. He almost burst with happiness. "Honey," he said, "that explains the dolls, but what about all this money?" "Where did it come from?" "Oh", she said. "That is the money I made from selling the dolls".



A little girl dressed in her Sunday best was running as fast as she could trying not to be late for her Bible class. As she ran she prayed, "Dear God, please don't make me late!" "Dear Lord, please don't make me late!" While she was running and praying, she tripped on the curb and fell, getting her clothes dirty and tearing her dress. She got up, brushed herself off and started running again. As she ran she once again began to pray, "Dear Lord please don't make be late.....BUT please don't shove me either!"

## FROM OUR PARISH NURSE - WANONA



Hello everyone! It's March and I am so ready for spring to come. Hope you all have a great March!!

I have been investigating ways to get life alert pendants for our members. North Dakota has a Senior Safety Program at North Dakota Assistive Technology. It's a program designed to assist seniors to remain safe in their home using a emergency alert system.

I am mainly focusing on the Freedom Alert pendant. Any North Dakota resident age 60 or over who is not living in a skilled nursing facility is eligible for this program. The focus of this program is to help those older individuals with greatest economic need and those at risk for institutional placement and those in rural areas. The **North Dakota Assistive Technology** office is located at 4501 Coleman Street suite 107 in the Capital Plaza building in Bismarck. It's located across the street from St Gabriel's Community Facility. I have asked them to come to First Presbyterian Church on **Wednesday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2022 at 1 pm** in the church parlor. Annette Goehring will have a presentation on the Senior Safety Program and discuss their Freedom Alert Program and the Specialized Telephone Program for those with vision, hearing or cognitive issues. They will display some of their technology equipment for you to see. Be ready to be amazed at what is out there. Everyone is welcome. We will be serving chips and dip since it is National Chip & Dip Day with Water/Coffee. Please join us!

My next **Blood Pressure Clinic** is **March 20<sup>th</sup>** from 9am to 10 am and from 11 am to 12pm in the conference room. Everyone is welcome to come.



*Just one more haha...*

*Wanona finally realized how Otto Reile makes such wonderful coffee... "Hebrew ed it!"*



***"A Word with Wanona"***

**I would like to introduce to you Vanessa Hein.** She is the First Presbyterian Church Assistant Child Care Director and has worked for FPC for 23 years! Vanessa is a true North Dakotan, she was born in Mandan, North Dakota and raised in New Salem, North Dakota. She came from a large blended family. She grew up with one sister, two stepsisters and one stepbrother. She also has a half- brother, half-sister and stepbrother from her mother's second marriage, and they all lived out of state most of her childhood.

Vanessa's very first job was a waitress at the Sportsmen Café in New Salem, North Dakota. She also worked in the linen and drapery department at Montgomery Wards before coming to First Presbyterian Child Care Center. Vanessa graduated from New Salem High School then planned to attend Interstate Business College (IBC) to become an accountant. The college closed the semester she was going to start so she took



that as a sign that she needed to find another path in life. Vanessa met her soul mate Erik through their roommates. Erik had dropped off his roommate at her apartment, they became friends and pretty much inseparable from that day on. They were married a year & a half later, and now have been married for almost 24 years. When asked to name three goals she wanted to accomplish in her lifetime she responded by saying her goals included finding her soulmate, have children and own a restaurant. She accomplished the first two, but very happy she never went for ownership of a restaurant. The most memorable event in her life was the birth of her son Erik. She thought she would never have children. Her son has been the greatest blessing



from God, a true gift!

When asked what she is thankful for she said her family and their support. They have always been there for her and have encouraged her to chase her dreams. One of her best talents is her crafts in which she laser engraves designs on various wood projects. She partakes in the Pride of Dakota Showcase Craft Fair, and you may even see her crafts in various stores in Bismarck and Garrison.

One thing you may not know about Vanessa is that she is petrified of squirrels. It makes for some real fun in the office to stage a stuffed squirrel in her room or pictures by her desk. Wonder who that mischievous person could be??



Vanessa's hero is her dad, he chose to raise her and her sister in a time when most fathers do not get custody. He taught her to be a good, decent person who cares for others. He always encouraged her to fight for what she believes in and stand up for herself. All of us here at First Presbyterian Church are very thankful for her many years working with the CCC. Thank you Vanessa for sharing your life journey.



**COMMITTEES WOULD WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SERVING ON A COMMITTEE, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIR.**

**COMMITTEES 2022**

**ADMINISTRATIVE AND PERSONNEL**

Dale Hoerauf—Chair, Session  
Chris Henriksen—Co-chair, Session  
Linda Tonolli  
David Ingstad  
Winston Satran

**HOSPITALITY**

Kim Wassim—Co-chair, Session  
Diann Johnson—Co-chair, Session  
Lynn Dodge  
Gail Christianson  
Kathy Wachter  
Eleanor Sand  
Neva Carlisle  
Joe Satrom  
Don Bigwood  
Runick Fru

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Jim Skaret—Chair, Session  
Ella Gutzke—Co-chair  
Laura Adair  
John Bjornson  
Jodi Bjornson  
Ron Carlisle  
Stan Halling  
John Richter  
Bob Tonolli  
Keith Magnusson (ex-officio)

**PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT**

Matt Engel—Chair, Session  
Tedd Gutzke—Co-chair  
Jay Cofell  
Clyde Johnson  
Bob Kinnischtzke  
Jerry Lindblom  
Jim Rambo  
Otto Reile  
Dennis Rosenkranz

**PROCLAMATION**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

Cindy Cross—Co-chair, Session  
Becky Rosenkranz—Co-chair, Session  
Bill Jensen, Session  
Mark Jensen  
Jan Gilchrist  
Peggy Hoge  
Kris Ronningen  
Maren Stokka  
Emily Ehrens  
Sophie Svihovec  
Chris Henriksen  
Marete Farver

**WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

Shari Orser—Chair, Session  
Tammy Lelm  
Judith Libby  
Jay Cofell  
Sue Sorlie  
Debi Rogers  
Lael Hoerauf  
Arvy Smith (ex-officio)

**CHILD CARE CENTER BOARD**

Paul Ronningen—Chair, Session  
Ella Gutzke—Co-chair  
Jan Gilchrist  
Juanita Hocking  
Damita Engel  
Tami Morey  
Gail Christianson  
Geoff Greenwood—Parent Rep  
Shawn Stettner—Director  
Vanessa Hein—Assistant

# LENT

C X H U L L A E O J Q D K P L H G F D C Z J T H  
 P Q H Y N X Z W P D N W N R Y H H Q I F F U Z V  
 Z X E K O O R I A A C B T A L J F O N U P I M Z  
 U Z C D E S E R T J W J L Y K K Y K W N V H H K  
 C U Q K C P D T Q L Q E Y A R N G Y G G U L E E  
 R W K S X G A X G G M F Q D Z F F B R L F Q Q B  
 O E W B M I W S L Z V E G G Y B F R P U O G U A  
 S Q D T X C E A O A I O B E Q Q X Z L A L U Z L  
 S T N R B W I C V I P A C T T R A H D X L F K I  
 M U I J Z K U R E K R H B M J A Z A D A O D W M  
 K U J N T P F I I D J H A G Y R D U P U W Q L J  
 M J Y I S T H F H S S E A S O N X X M E B I X W  
 L E Y X C V G I U R G V Q L E H L A S H E S E S  
 E B V E X A E C T E S X P R E P A R E W X P Z H  
 Y F M L R E M E M B E R Q H H O L K C Z N K D E  
 D Q Y C D X U J G U M D W H C R U S U L N W Q D  
 C T N X V I B E Z C T V M N Y N J Q M E V W F Q  
 H S P D C I I J Z P Z H P N D D R E B N K X F Q  
 T Z I B H I P S X R N J A W P Q O C L T F R K J  
 E J K C J M V B I R G O C N S A Y E Y E H I I Y  
 K X W C B T D F J E S U S F V N X R V K R B W D  
 L B F L R E Y B N S B Y C T R F F V R Z G U B L  
 U A O I V N N V I V R Q S F R K K W S L W E Y L  
 A Y F M C G B U S A O M X T U R A V M E B B B Z

DESERT  
 ASHES  
 FOLLOW  
 REMEMBER

SACRIFICE  
 PRAY  
 SEASON  
 CROSS

JESUS  
 LOVE  
 PREPARE  
 LENT

Our church has not had active circles for a number of years. However, circle 3 has continued to meet as a study group. We do a Bible study suggested by Presbyterian Women from the general assembly of PCUSA. We pay for our own study books, and meet the first Saturday of each month September – May, at 9:30. Any women in the church are welcome. If you are interested, please call JoAnn Hodny at 701-400-9689, or Neva Carlisle at 701-426-6690.

We have studied many women in the Bible, Job, and the Ten Commandments as a few examples. We order our books the end of May, so please contact us by May 15<sup>th</sup>.



Circle 3



**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

**CLERK'S REPORT**

The death of Lois Borke, February 8, 2022 was reported. Membership is 346.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Total Income YTD Actual	\$56,780	Budget	\$32,666
Total Expense YTD Actual	\$48,075	Budget	\$50,980
NET Income	\$8,705	Budget	-\$18,314

Pledged income at the beginning of a new year is normally higher due to pre-paid pledges. Total income reflects about \$14,000 in pre-paid pledges.

**MODERATOR'S REPORT**

Pastor Leanne stated the need for updated technology in order to stream worship service. The church will need to invest in equipment to record services.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Hospitality**—March donations will be paper towels and Kleenex for the Child Care Center. Two summer services/ picnics are planned: Glencoe will host one in June, and a “back-to church” picnic will be held in August. Myhre Elementary appreciated the sweatpants and underwear donations.

**Proclamation-Christian Education**—A soup supper will be held March 2 before Ash Wednesday service. Youth/children choir, preparing for May 8 Youth Sunday, still needs a director. **Worship and Music**—There will be a lunch for the Jamestown Choir on February 27 after service.

**Property and Equipment**—Some adjustments were needed to heating of downstairs rooms. A new snow removal contractor will be chosen next fall.

**Resource Management**—Session approved making the final payment to Central Mechanical for the Phase I HVAC updates. The engineering firm will do an updated feasibility study for Phase II and III. If the church building or a specific room is to be used when it normally would not be, the administrative assistant needs to be notified to schedule the activity so the temperature controls could be changed. There is a facilities use form to fill out.

**Board of Deacons**—Recording of services is impacted by low internet service.

**Child Care Center Board**—Ella Gutzke continues to complete grant applications for the center. Enrollment remains steady; more staff is needed in order to increase numbers.

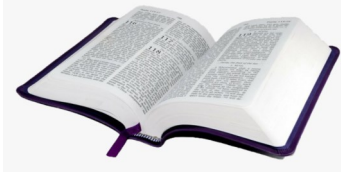
Alice Nix, Clerk of Session





**BIRTHDAYS****MARCH**

Eleanor Sand	2nd
Edith Weber	2nd
Olivia Bachmeier	3rd
Drew Henriksen	3rd
Becky Murphy	3rd
Ethan Lannoye	3rd
Dawn Henriksen	4th
Johan Mahlum	5th
Duane Ehrens	6th
Zach Strombeck	8th
Mary Hoberg	10th
Darlene Kelley	11th
John Bjornson	11th
Larry Larson	12th
Otto Reile	12th
Kathleen Gappert	12th
Daphne Cornell	13th
Mary Ingstad	13th
Juanita Hocking	15th
Jim Rambo	15th
Don Bigwood	16th
Judy Lentz	16th
Connor Svihovec	17th
Carol Zimmerman	17th
Alice Halling	19th
Larry Hoge	19th
Susan Schafer	21st
David Poffenberger	26th
Heather Davis	27th
Sandy Westerlind	30th
Alex Volk	30th
Karmen Svihovec	31st



**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL  
OPPORTUNITY**

Have you ever read the entire Bible, clear through? The Adult Sunday School class is aiming to do that, and you are invited to join us. A reading schedule is available at the front desk. Then, every Sunday afternoon at 1:30, all who desire will be meeting by zoom to discuss what we read, ask questions and reflect on the reading. If you would like to be on that zoom list, please email Pastor Leanne at [lsm609@aol.com](mailto:lsm609@aol.com), and she will add you to the list!

**ANNIVERSARIES                      MARCH**

Keith & Mary Magnusson	10th
Steve & Laura Adair	20th
Dale & Lael Hoerauf	22nd



***Please let us know if we've made  
a mistake or omission or if you  
would prefer not to have your  
special day published.***

~ Thank you ~

**First Presbyterian Church**

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[firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com](mailto:firstpresbyterian@fpcbismarck.com)[www.fpcbismarck.com](http://www.fpcbismarck.com)**Sunday Worship: 10:00 am****Office Hours: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm****Pastor***Rev. Dr. Leanne Simmons***Finance Assistant***Carol Thompson***Administrative Assistant***Maureen Chrest***Parish Nurse***Wanona Goetz***Youth Ministry Assistant***Marete Snortland Farver***Organists***Arvy Smith & Gail Snustad***Choir Director***Debi Rogers***Handbell Ensemble Director***Lael Hoerauf***Maintenance Manager***Tony Bartole***Membership Services***Judy Lentz***Child Care Center Director***Shawn Stettner***Child Care Center Asst Director***Vanessa Hein***Nursery***Mary Jones***Christian Ed Interns***Sophie Svihovec & Mark Jensen*

# MARCH

## 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> <b>5:45 pm</b> Property/Equip. <b>6:30 pm</b> Lay Pastors	<b>2</b> ASH WEDNESDAY <b>6:30 pm</b> Service No PAC/Teens	<b>3</b> <b>11:00 am</b> Exercise Class	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Worship <b>1:30 pm ZOOM</b> Adult SS	<b>7</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise <b>5:30 pm</b> Suzuki <b>6:30 pm</b> Scouts <b>7:00 pm</b> Chr. Ed- Zoom	<b>8</b> <b>5:30 pm</b> CCC Board	<b>9</b> <b>5:45 pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>6:30 pm</b> W.C. <b>7:30 pm</b> Choir	<b>10</b> No SCHOOL <b>11:00 am</b> Exercise Class <b>6:00 pm</b> Hospitality - ZOOM	<b>11</b> No SCHOOL	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Worship <b>1:30 pm ZOOM</b> Adult SS	<b>14</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise <b>5:30 pm</b> Suzuki <b>5:30 pm</b> W & M- Zoom <b>6:30 pm</b> Scouts	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>5:45 pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>6:30 pm</b> W.C. <b>7:30 pm</b> Choir	<b>17</b> <b>11:00 am</b> Exercise Class <b>7:00 pm</b> Deacons	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Worship <b>9-Noon-BP</b> Clinic <b>1:30 pm ZOOM</b> Adult SS	<b>21</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise Noon Resource Mgmt <b>5:00 pm</b> Admin/ Personnel <b>5:30 pm</b> Suzuki <b>6:30 pm</b> Scouts	<b>22</b> <b>6:00 pm</b> Session	<b>23</b> <b>5:45 pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>6:30 pm</b> W.C. <b>7:30 pm</b> Choir	<b>24</b> <b>11:00 am</b> Exercise Class	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> <b>10:00 am</b> Worship <b>1:30 pm ZOOM</b> Adult SS	<b>28</b> No SCHOOL <b>10:00 am</b> Exercise <b>5:30 pm</b> Suzuki <b>6:30 pm</b> Scouts	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>5:45 pm</b> PAC/Teens <b>6:30 pm</b> W.C. <b>7:30 pm</b> Choir	<b>31</b> <b>11:00 am</b> Exercise Class	 Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 13th	



## ***National Days in March:***

***Some you may have heard of and some you haven't...!***

**3/01 National Peanut Butter Lover's Day  
Fat Tuesday**

**3/02 Ash Wednesday  
National Teen Mental Wellness Day**

**3/04 National Son's Day  
National Tartar Sauce Day**

**3/09 National Meatball Day**

**3/12 National Working Mom's Day**

**3/14 National Napping Day**

**3/16 National Panda Day**

**3/17 St. Patrick's Day  
Absolutely Incredible Kid Day**

**3/18 National Sloppy Joe Day**

**3/19 National Let's Laugh Day  
National Quilting Day**

**3/20 Spring Begins!**

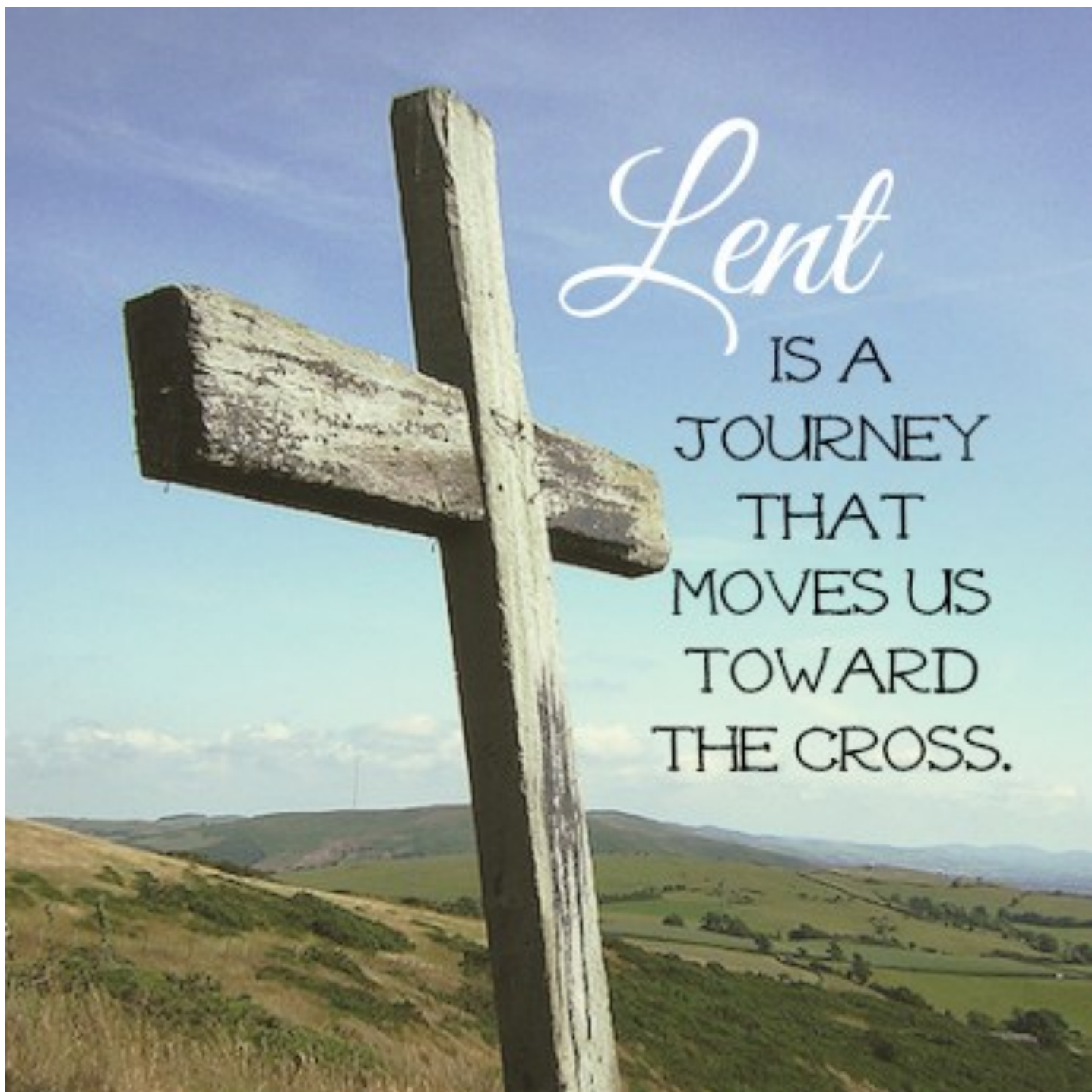
**3/21 National Single Parent Day  
World Down Syndrome Day**

**3/23 National Chip & Dip Day  
National Puppy Day**

**3/29 National Mom/Pop Business Owners Day  
National Vietnam War Veterans Day**

**3/30 National Take a Walk in the Park Day**

**3/31 National Crayon Day**



**FAMILY NEWS**

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY GOES OUT TO THE FAMILY OF LOIS BORKE.

THOUGHTS & PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF EDITH MELHOUSE, MEMORIAL SERVICE THIS SUMMER HERE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.