

Arms of Faith

Faith Presbyterian Church
"To know, to grow, and to show Christ to all people"

March
2021

I am a lifelong fan of Major League Baseball. For years the first sign of spring for me was not Groundhog Day, but the day that baseball cards appeared in stores.

It is not a stretch at all for me to imagine that Lent is baseball's analogue to Spring Training. This year both started in February; both are seasons of preparation, of getting into shape. Both culminate in a Holy Day: Easter for Christians, Opening Day for baseball fans.

This year, Easter is April 4 and Opening Day is April 1, a mere three days earlier. Coincidence? I don't think so.

For Christians, Easter is the holiest day of the year. We worship on Sunday each week because our Lord and Savior rose on a Sunday. Each week Sunday is a "little Easter" and each Easter is a "big Sunday."

For centuries, Christians have used the days before Easter to prepare new believers for baptism and full inclusion into the church, the Body of Christ. Today the season of Lent, which this year began February 17, is a time for reflection and repentance for all Christians, as we get ready to journey with Christ to the cross and celebrate the resurrection.

Christians in the Northern Hemisphere are fortunate because we see lots and lots of signs of new life. I heard a cardinal singing last week, looking for a mate. (The robins in my neighborhood have stayed all winter and they are mad as blazes at last month's 15" snowfall!) The days are getting longer. All these signs of new life, or renewed life, coincide with the most dramatic sign of new life we know, the Resurrection.

All these signs of new life point to another renewal, the renewal of Hope as another baseball season starts. As a life-long fan of the Chicago Cubs, many years Hope is all I get. The Hope that comes most surely on Opening Day, when "my boys," like everyone else's, are in first place. No runs, no hits, no errors...yet.

The promise of Hope that is reborn on Easter and Opening Day is significant for me as a Christian and baseball fan. And I know that Hope is the evidence of things not seen. For me, Hope is not a Wild Card Berth, though one could say that Christians' hope began with a Wild Card Birth, Hope is the dawn of the possibility that maybe this time, things will go differently. Maybe this time Peter will stand strong; maybe this time the Cubs' hitting will not disappear in the first round of the play offs. Hope means this time it might be different.

As this baseball seasons begins it looks like there really will be a full season of games. And who knows, maybe fans will be allowed back in "the yard" before the season ends. April 4 we will hear, "Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia" [Charles Wesley, 1739] April 1 I will sing, "We're born again, there's new grass on the field." [John Fogerty, 1985] Both are songs celebrating new life.

Christ is risen!

Play ball!

Pastor Tom

February Session News

Your Session met over Zoom on Thursday, February 18. Every elder was in attendance! Pastor Tom began the meeting sharing part of Psalm 51 the reading that was that week's Lenten discipline. The elders reflected on parts that grabbed their attention.

Session approved plans for the rollout of Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT) that by now you should have received information about. Session scheduled a Leadership Retreat for the morning of Saturday, April 17. The Deacons will join with the Session to hear the result of the CAT assessment. Session also scheduled a Congregational Meeting to follow worship on April 25 to share with the whole congregation what the CAT assessment indicates about Faith Church as we prepare to form a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC).

Treasurer Marc Wagoner shared that revenue was unusually strong in January. we are off to a good start. Thank you for staying current with your support for Faith Church.

Clerk of Session Joe Seda reported that church membership as of December 31, 2020 was 169. Joe has been busy completing year end reports for the Presbytery and General Assembly.

Facilities Chair Tom Negley shared that outside groups are beginning to return to our building as the COVID-19 infection rate has declined. Our building is one of our greatest outreach gifts. If you know of community groups looking for space to rent, please ask them to contact the church office, 402-331-6944.

Session has been keeping a close eye on rates of COVID-19 infection—and vaccination rates—as we consider easing restrictions on in-person worship.

So goes the work of your Session.

Church office hours in March:

Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Love 'n' Care Packages

Many heartfelt thanks to those who brought in items to fill our Love 'n' Care Packages this year. We were overwhelmed with the response of the congregation, and I'm sure the packages will be a sweet surprise. We were able to make up 7 boxes full of school/office supplies and treats which will go to one person in his first year of military life and 6 college students. Thank you for your generosity in helping us to reach out and show God's loving care.

Faith Church Deacons

Helping Hands to the Rescue

Congregation members – Do you have jobs at home that you cannot do on your own (cutting up limbs, small electrical, plumbing jobs or household repairs, yardwork, etc.)? For help, contact Doug Bogenhagen at 402-630-8487. If you are willing to be part of the Helping Hands Team, please let us know.

Streaming Sunday Worship Service 10:00am

We will continue to broadcast the worship service on Facebook. If you do not have computer access, you may listen to the service by calling 1-844-855-4444 and entering access code 716966#.

Faithful Friends Fellowship

Please join the Faithful Friends Fellowship, the Zoom fellowship hour following the church service each Sunday. A variety of topics are discussed, and we would love your input.

Here is the Zoom link:

[https://zoom.us/j/99782007363?](https://zoom.us/j/99782007363?pwd=L042cGQza2tjVTZvSINOYk1xYIBLQT09)
pwd=L042cGQza2tjVTZvSINOYk1xYIBLQT09
Meeting ID: 997 8200 7363
Passcode: 112592

March—in like a Lion!

Late last year the Session voted to use Holy Cow Consulting to lead us in a congregational self-study. Holy Cow is well-respected in the field of church self-studies and has been used with great success by churches in our Presbytery. The process involves getting as many members as possible to complete a survey that gauges the church's current climate and readiness to grow in the future. The instrument itself is called Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT). You can expect to hear a lot about cats and cows from Faith Church this spring! We will conduct the survey for about six weeks, then the staff from Holy Cow will interpret what the data indicates. Completing the CAT will be a great help in writing the church's Ministry Information Form, the document that will be used to find the Faith Church's next pastor. Please contact Pastor Tom, 402-331-6944 or tom@faith-presbyterian.com if you have questions.



March 1 Tom Willadsen
March 6 Karen Seda
March 9 Terri O'Brien
March 9 Sandy Stiverson
March 13 Ken Andersen
March 13 Maynard Boehler
March 14 George Pfeffer
March 17 Justin Black
March 17 Katelyn Norman
March 19 David Wennstedt
March 22 Pat Neubert
March 26 Abby Hansen
March 31 Kit Howe
March 31 John Tresemer

Your Session

Clerk of Session	- Joe Seda
Fellowship	Shayla Hall
Facilities	Tom Negley Matt Kasprzak Jim Willett
Mission & Ev	Chuck Shafer
Discipleship	Peter Svoboda
Support	Marc Wagoner
Worship	Debbie Eggers
Human Res	Scott Jamieson

HOW HAS GOD BEEN FAITHFUL?
AN ALTERNATIVE LENTEN DEVOTIONAL IN A GALLERY

A Faithful Exhibition

DONATIONS ACCEPT FEBRUARY 17 TO MARCH 5
GALLERY OPEN MARCH 14 TO APRIL 4

GOTO FAITH-PRESBYTERIAN.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information, click on the slide on the website or go to the Discipleship tab on the webpage.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Sunday Worship 10:00 am </div>	1	2	3 7:00pm LOGOS/confirmation - Zoom	4 5:00pm Discipleship - zoom 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00pm Mission/Ev - zoom 7:00pm Fellowship - zoom 7:00pm Facilities - zoom	5	6
7 1:00pm Volleyball - FLC 12:30pm Worship Meeting 6:00pm Volleyball - FLC	8 5:45pm Book Club - zoom	9 7:00pm Deacon's Meeting zoom	10 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00pm LOGOS/confirmation Zoom	11 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 6:30pm Stephen Ministry - zoom 7:30pm Support Meeting - Zoom	12	13
14 Daylight Saving Time begins 1:00pm Volleyball - FLC 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	15	16	17  10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00pm LOGOS/confirmation Zoom	18 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC 7:00pm Session meeting	19	20
21 1:00pm Volleyball - FLC 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	22	23	24 10:00am Yesterday's Kids 7:00pm LOGOS/confirmation Zoom NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	25 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	26	27
28 1:00pm Volleyball - FLC 6:00pm Table Tennis - FLC	29	30	31	MARCH		