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(F)or now the winter is past,
the rain is over and gone. The
flowers appear on the earth;

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12

the time of singing has come, and the
voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Anton Chekhov wrote, “The snow has not yet left the earth, but spring is already asking to enter your heart.” As you read this, snow is blanketing the ground and the air is chill. Yet, beneath the frozen drifts there lies hope. The blades of grass, the flowers in the field, the buds on the trees are waiting for the moment when they will reveal themselves again and put on a concert of color and beauty only God could have composed.

Lent. A word that means spring. Lent is a season where we peer into the dark recesses of the sin in our hearts and contemplate the iciness of death, while witnessing the curtain of winter has been torn asunder and what awaits is not despair but hope, grace, life renewed and restored.

We can face the sorrow of our sinful natures, our failings and falling, the mortal nature of our existence, because, more than spring, Jesus has entered our hearts, has entered our lives and has transformed all that would cause us doubt or despair, all that would separate us from him, all that might hinder our life in the kingdom.

As the creation around us is renewed in it's Lenten journey from winter we too are renewed each day by the grace of God to live with hope and joy in newness of life.

Yours In Christ<><
Pastor Sean

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Song of Solomon 2:11-12

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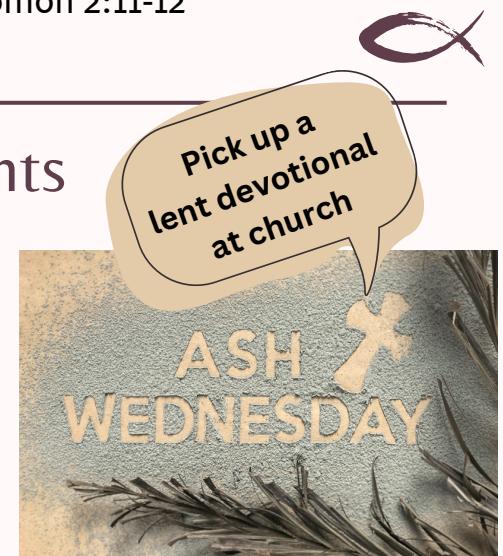


FEELC-GPW

This Month's Events



Thursday Bible Study
9am in the Lounge
Continuing to study Isaiah



Lent Worship Begins
Ash Wednesday: February 18th
Lenten dinner: 5:45pm
Worship: 6:30pm.



And Jesus said to them,
“Go into all the world and
proclaim the good news to
the whole creation.

Mark 16:15

BE A SPONSOR—BRING HOPE

Because of Jesus, we can:

- ✓ provide building materials for a neighbor in need
- ✓ support the work crews, who donate their time and expenses in order to serve
- ✓ BRING HOPE to our community, the work crews, and all who hear their stories

What will your gift do?

- \$250 patch & paint 3 rooms
- \$500 paint whole exterior
- \$1000 porch, steps, & railings
- \$2500 wheelchair ramp



Contributions accepted through
April 12. [Click here to donate!](#)

GET RAMPED UP FOR WORKCAMP!



These little people are hard at work building a ramp for their resident. Our Workcamp Team is also hard at work, evaluating the homes of Workcamp applicants. Our members have gone out in teams of two to visit these neighbors that Christ has called us to serve. Some are disabled, others have recently lost jobs, are single mothers, veterans, elderly, or isolated.

We have committed to raising \$30,000 to provide necessary repairs for people who cannot complete them without our help. Their porches are crumbling, walls need patching and painting, and their hearts need reassurance that God has answered their prayers.

God is good and we are half way to our fundraising goal.

God is good and we anticipate double the amount of campers as in 2024.

God is good and we can serve double the people we did in 2024.

Please be part of what God is doing and donate today!

Contributions accepted through April 12. [Click here to donate!](#)



YOUTH WINTER RETREAT

Who Are You?

A group of 13, including adult leaders and youth, attended Michindoh Retreat Center for fun and faith-building from January 23-25. The group enjoyed tasty food, cozy cabins, games in the gym, a pinewood derby, rock wall, broom ball, sledding, and cocoa by the fire.



*Yet, O Lord, you
are our Father; we
are the clay, and
you are our potter;
we are all the
work of your hand.*

Isaiah 64:8



In worship and small group bible study, we explored who we are in Christ. We are children of God, a light in the world, a holy people, called to do God's work in the world.



As iron sharpens iron,
so one person sharpens another.
-Proverbs 17:27

Calling All Men!

Come and Join a Men's Bible Study
on Saturday mornings starting
February 21st at 8:30am in the lounge.

There will be snacks, coffee, other men and
most importantly Jesus.

JESUS IS HERE!

I hope you have found joy in distributing Jesuses in different places. I have been able to leave a reminder that Jesus is here at the grocery store, the gas station, physical therapy, and one restaurant.

Please continue to let people know the truth, that Jesus is here and place Jesus wherever you may be because he is there. Also, please pick up more Jesuses at church on Sunday or any time you are there that our whole community will know that Jesus is here. -*Pastor Sean*



2026 Church Council Members

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL	CHURCH PROPERTY	EVANGELISM	SOCIAL ACTION
President: Ken Kohler	Vacant	Director: Patrick Quinlan Assistant Director: Sue Ulmer	Director: Diann Ohman Assistant Director: Penny Damore
Vice President: Scott Norlin			
Secretary: Amy McIntyre			
Treasurer: John Nyquist			
Financial Secretary: Shawn Vinson			
PARISH ED & YOUTH MINISTRY	FELLOWSHIP	STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE	WORSHIP & MUSIC
Director: Claire Verman	Director: Rose Bush	Director: Dann Rustmann Assistant Director: Claudette Momenee	Director: Patty Foster Assistant Director: Melissa Zwicker
ENDOWMENT BOARD	WOMEN OF THE CHURCH		
Director: Gary Bigwood	President: Waynette Hostetler		

BOARD OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC ANNUAL REPORT 2025



In keeping with the Mission Statement of the church and looking forward to the Grow 300 Initiative, the Board members have been involved in the many opportunities to serve that our Board encompasses. The focus for the immediate future is to increase involvement in these opportunities. They include:

Lay Readers-volunteers who read the lessons on a rotating basis at either service, whichever is most convenient for you. You are emailed the lessons ahead of time.

Communion Assistants-volunteers who assist with the distribution of Communion at either service. This is also on a rotating basis and we are in need of volunteers for each service.

Ushers-We have had a few very dedicated people who have carried this responsibility for the entire year. The responsibilities include making sure the bulletins are out and that the members coming in both entrances have them. Also assisting with direction for communion which is a little different for each service. They also make sure the candles are lit.

Altar Guild-This is the group (women but men are welcomed) who care for changing the Altar Cloths for the main Altar and the side Altar In accordance with the Liturgical Calendar. They also fill the candles with oil and make sure the Altar area is dusted and ready for our church services. We work closely with the choirs/bell choirs to support their enhancement of the worship service and I would refer you to the report of the Music Coordinator for details.

We have assisted with coffee hours and will be providing the reception cookies and punch for the Carol A Long.

We also support the decorating of the church for the Christmas Season. As you can see, there are many opportunities to become involved and enhance the family that is our church. Please feel free to contact me or Pastor Sean regarding how to become involved.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who continually give of their time and talents for First English. Your care for our church does not go unnoticed.

Yours in Christ and respectfully submitted,
Patty Foster



February *birthdays*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 William Bloom Michael Garrisi Amy Olson Brady Roberts	2 Camden Baker	3 Laura Bloom	4	5 Norman Schenburn	6 Judy Freund Jackie Tambourine	7
8 Christine Dinverno	9 Thomas Atkins Cindy Engle Margaret Rees-Baker	10	11 Meghan Bidigare Glenn Moskaluk Samantha Stevens	12	13 Joe Clor	14 Jim Barnes Charles Jackson Jacqueline Stein
15	16 Beth Plumridge Maggie Weber	17	18 Zelie Conger Nicole Dalian Sara Klingbail	19 Mandy Telegadas	20	21
22 Kristina Dinverno Eric Schreiber Jenna Ulmer	23	24 Edward Geha Jack Kohler Randie Kohler Janet Nicol	25 Rob Breckenridge	26	27 James Ditty	28 Cheryl Berkesch Nanette Sonneman