

*First Sunday of Lent ~ February 22, 2026
Abiding Hope Lutheran Church
We are a Loving Family, Growing In Faith,
Sharing the Hope of Christ...
Rev. Karen Parsh, Pastor
Sheryl Williams, Coordinator of Music*



Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

WELCOME

We invite you to quietly prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

(Please turn off your cell phone)

PRELUDE - A Lenten Walk arr. Hal Hopson

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Please stand

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Holy God,

we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.

Amen.

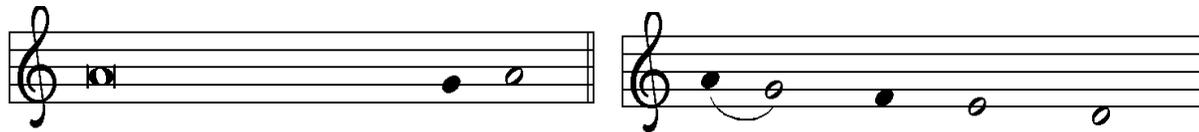
Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN - ELW 325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



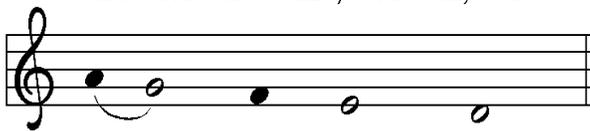
Lord, have mer - cy.



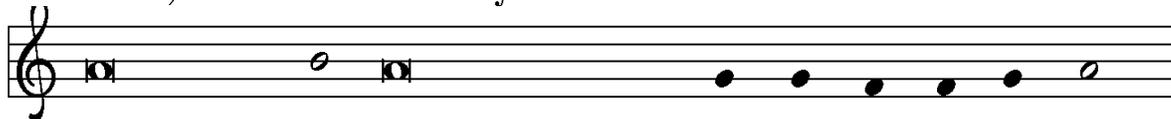
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - men.



PRAYER of the DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let's Pray Together. **Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." ^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM: 32 Sung Responsively  **Tone 9**

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- ¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- ¹ ered away,
because of my groaning ¹ all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me ¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ¹ heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ¹ ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me
the guilt ¹ of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹ time
of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they ¹ shall not reach
them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ¹ of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ¹ you should go;
I will guide you ¹ with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will ¹ not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations ¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust ¹ in the LORD.**

¹¹ **Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are ¹ true of heart.**

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came
through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin
was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there
is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who
did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to
come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died
through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God
and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the
many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the
judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift
following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one
man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will
those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness
reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

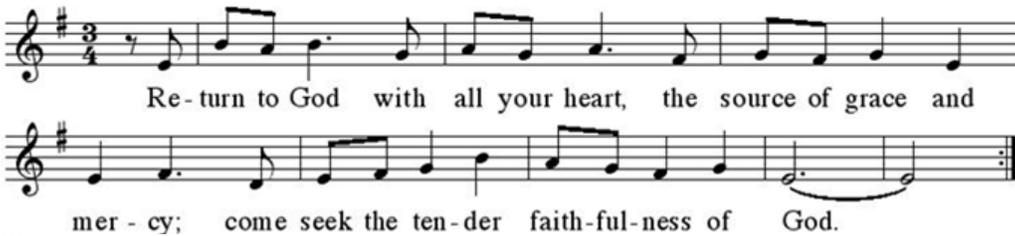
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¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

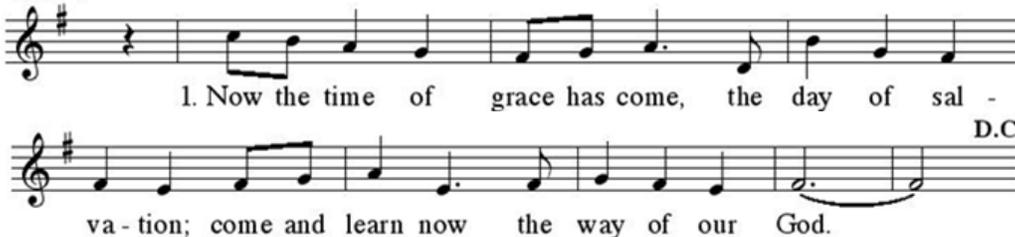
Gospel Acclamation

Refrain



Re- turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer - cy; come seek the ten- der faith-ful-ness of God.

Verse 1



1. Now the time of grace has come, the day of sal -
va - tion; come and learn now the way of our God. D.C.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 4. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, 'and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON – Pastor Karen Parsh

Please stand

HYMN of DAY - When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection for the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. We pray especially for: Trish, Carl, Pastor Karen, Peggy, Christine P., Kathy C., Brendon, Judy Z., Dolly, Darcée, Ava, Ed, Matt, Carolyn, & Elliott, Paul, Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Lauren, Christina S., Jackie S, Harry & Susan, Dick & Diana, Candy & Arch, Leslie, Michele & Sue, Bob, Kathi, Maury & Linda, Damian & Marcia, Don & Donna, and Little Library visitors. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please be seated

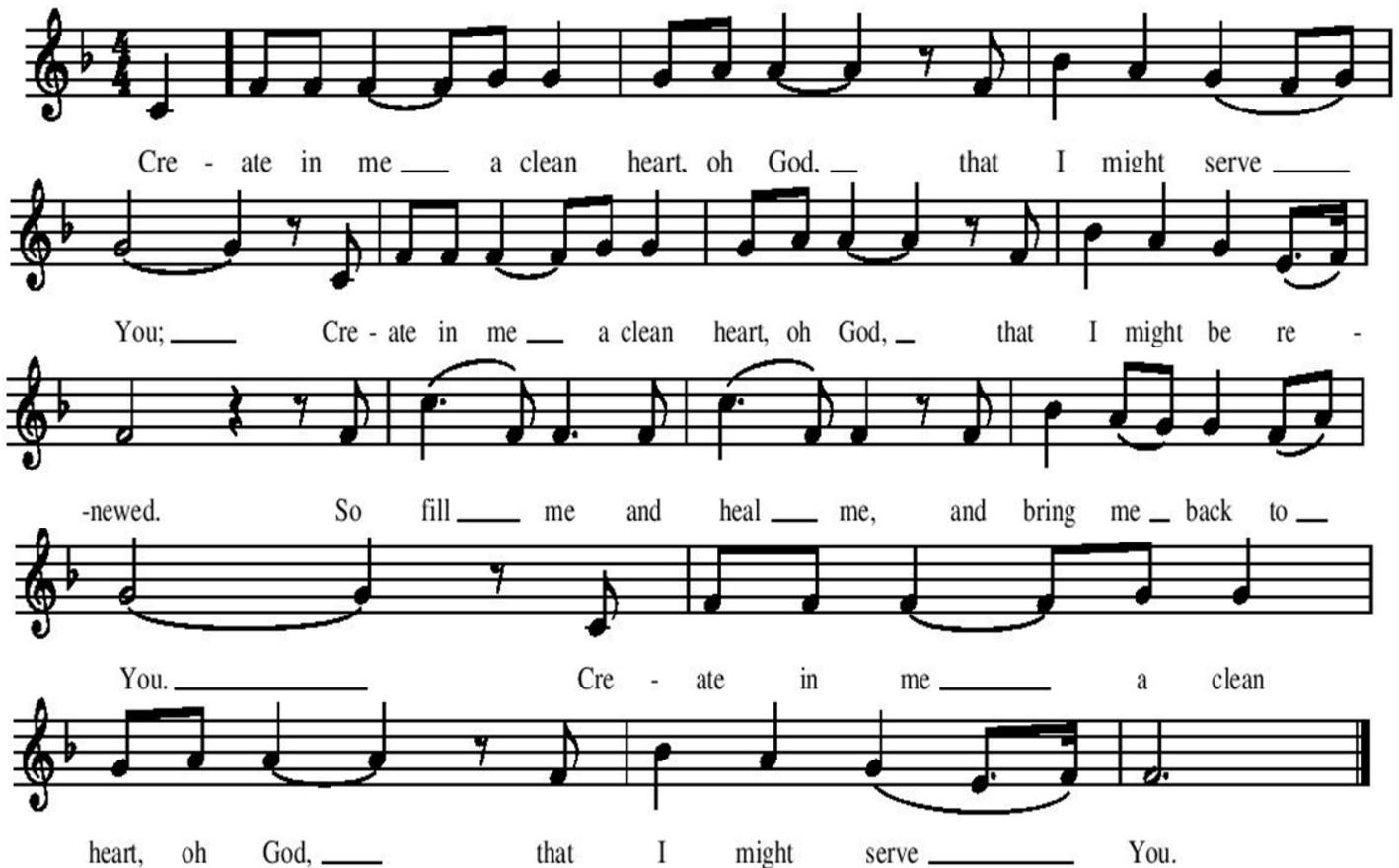
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING and PRESENTATION of GIFTS

OFFERING –

OFFERTORY HYMN - *Create in Me*



Cre - ate in me ___ a clean heart, oh God, ___ that I might serve ___
You; ___ Cre - ate in me ___ a clean heart, oh God, ___ that I might be re -
-newed. So fill ___ me and heal ___ me, and bring me __ back to ___
You. ___ Cre - ate in me ___ a clean
heart, oh God, ___ that I might serve ___ You.

Please stand

OFFERING PRAYER Let us pray together. **God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please Stand

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of
 pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name
 of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING at the TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Please stand

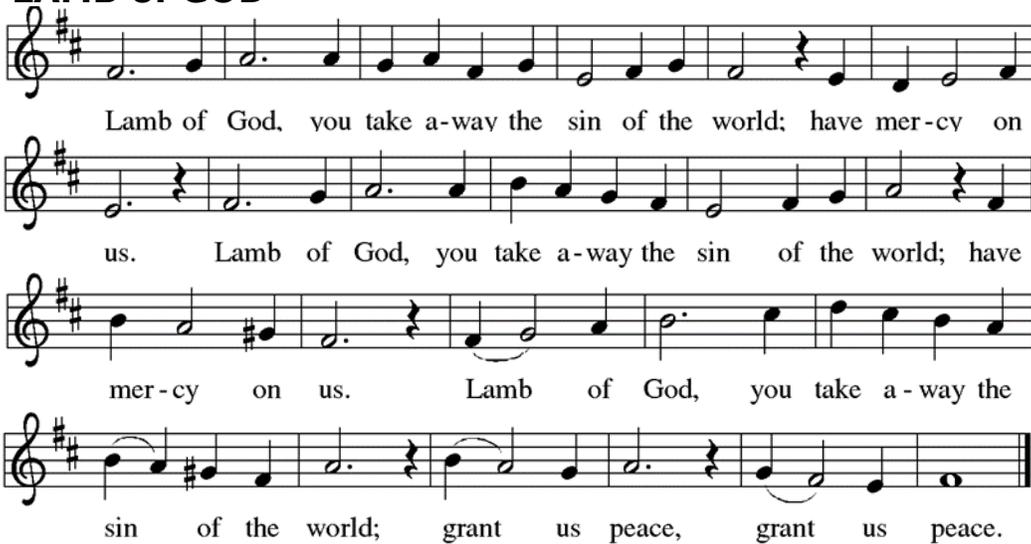
LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

LAMB of GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 613 *Thy Holy Wings* *Instrumental Meditation*

PASTORAL BLESSING

May the body and blood of our † Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God, **at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

O God, where hearts are fearful and constricted,
grant courage and hope.
Where anxiety is infectious and widening,
grant peace and reassurance.
Where impossibilities close every door and window,
grant imagination and resistance.
Where distrust twists our thinking,
grant healing and illumination.
Where spirits are daunted and weakened,
Grant soaring wings and strengthened dreams.

SENDING HYMN - ELW 808 *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

DISMISSAL – Go in peace. Make known the Savior of the world.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

PARISH NOTES ~ February 22, 2026

Pastor Karen Parsh – 814-881-3266 Pastorparsh@gmail.com
ahadministrator@hotmail.com - www.abidinghopeerie.org –
FB: [abidinghopelutheranchurch](https://www.facebook.com/abidinghopelutheranchurch)

**The Flowers this week, are given to the Glory of God,
In Celebration of my Grandson's Birthday ~ Derek Watson, AF
from Beverly Will**

Please keep in your prayers: Trish Cirillo, Pastor Karen Parsh, Dolly Pacileo, Carl Larese, Peggy Kaeberlein, Pat Kerr, Christine Petrone, Kathy Cirillo, Brandon Rock, Judy Ziacik, Darcée Anthony, Ava Whitely, Ed Whitbred, Matt, Carolyn & Elliott Marriotti, Paul Pacileo, Josh, Adrianna, Titus, Lauren Steele, Jackie Seib, Dick & Diana Stoker, Christina Sonthemier, Leslie Gallagher-Kelly & Michele Rion & Sue, Harry & Susan Speakman, Candy & Arch Watkins, Kathy Sinnott, Bob McDaniel, Maury & Linda Allen, Damian & Marcia Santabene, Don & Donna Holder and Little Library visitors.

**Sunday, February 22: Worship 930a ~ Choir: 1045a ~ Bible Study 11a
Zoom Bible ~ 700p**

Monday, February 23: An informational meeting @ 1000a regarding the Hospitality Committee. All are invited to attend (men too). Find out how you can help keep this committee moving forward by offering your time.

Tuesday, February 24: Anyone is welcome to attend a meeting @ 1230p to for this year's *EASTER FLOCK* event on **Saturday, March 28, 1-3p. Volunteers are needed, sign-up sheet in narthex. Raffle baskets and monetary donations are also needed for this outreach event for children. Additional meetings on Tuesday March 10 & 24.**

Wednesday, February 25: Lenten Weekly gathering @ 100p in the F.H. for devotions and easy crafts. Come use your (professional or untried) crafting skills creating special gifts for local non-profits and caring organizations. **Feb 25: rice pillows for the Humane Society's pups and kittens. Printed instructions available in narthex for those who prefer to do the projects at home. **Monetary donations for recipient organizations are always welcome.****

Thursday February 26: Share & Care @ 1p. All are welcome to join this gathering for meaningful discussions about God, Daily Life & Life Eternal

Sunday, March 1: Worship 930a ~ Choir: 900a 1045a ~ Bible Study 11a

Camp Lutherlyn 2026 is open for registration. 1st time campers receive a \$100 discount. One-week sessions begin June 14 to July 26. Additional information and to register .. LUTHERLYN.COM/SUMMERCAMP. Info also on table in narthex.

KAFP Food Drive: February – cereal. Donation basket in Heritage Room.

Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, 9:30a-3:30p. Wednesday, 9:30a-12:30p.
 For immediate pastoral needs, **Saturday-Thursday**, call **Pastor Karen, 814-881-3266**. **Friday's** please contact **Rick Penn, 814-737-9974**

Worship Leaders – February 22, 2026

Videographer	Andy Saska
Greeter/Coffee	Cindy Filson
Assisting Minister/Acolyte	Damian Santabene
Lector/Prayers	Judi Pacileo
Communion Cups	John Holmberg
Communion Tray	Connie Kerr Vogt
Presenter	Carolyn Hayes
Presenter	Diana Stoker
Usher	Rick Penn
Usher	Rich Filson
Counters	Paul & Penny

Creative Service Projects for



LENT



Join us on Wednesdays during Lent for creative workshops making gifts of love for folks in our community with our friends from New Hope Presbyterian Church.

Wednesday afternoons during Lent at 1:00 beginning February 25 in Fellowship Hall.



Enjoy Lenten devotions, snacks, laughter and good conversation while giving of yourself to others. Craft supplies and instructions provided. Printed instructions available in narthex for those who prefer to do the projects at home. Monetary donations for recipient organizations are always welcome.

Lenten Projects

Date & Time	Activity	Benefitting Agency
Feb 25 1-3	Rice Filled Warming Socks	Humane Society Dogs & Cats
Mar 4 1-3	Creative Jewelry	Mercy Center for Women
Mar 11 1-3	Tied Fleece Blankets	Community Shelter
Mar 18 1-3	Making Dinner	Liberty House
Mar 25 1-3	Wall decorations Crosses and posters	Walnut Creek Nursing Home





Abiding Hope Lutheran Church
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www.abidinghopeerie.org

New Hope Presbyterian Church
 5440 Washington Ave.

All are Welcome –
 Handicapped Accessible

