

First Presbyterian Church of Yale



3 East Mechanic Street, Yale MI
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Lent/Easter 2016

Pastor: Rev. Katja Gruening
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www.firstpresyale.org

Worship: Sundays at 10:30am

PastorKatja@gmail.com

A Note from the Pastor

Welcome to our newsletter: Lent Edition. You know what that means? Easter is not far away! I know, I know, too soon! If you're like me, your Christmas decorations turn into winter decorations and are still up as long as the possibility for snow exists. But it's time, my friends, to begin a new season. Lent is a very special and distinct time that we set aside as Christians for the purpose of soul-searching and holy living. For 40 days, we are invited to the practice of repentance – that is turning away from sin and towards Jesus Christ. The goal of Lent is spiritual renewal and a deeper understanding of our redemption.

For that purpose, I will be teaching a rich study examining what Christ accomplished through his death on the cross. We can easily say "Christ died for us", but what does that mean? Why did Jesus have to die? How does life come from death? I hope you will make time to stay after church for an hour to participate, starting Feb. 21st, and running for 5 weeks. I'll be using movie clips and power-point presentation as the teaching materials.

So now I invite you, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent. Pray, confess your sins to God, do works of love and charity, read and meditate on the Word of God, pick up your cross and follow Christ, and don't forget to live. Truly live, embracing life in Christ and living for him, so that you may experience the qualities of eternal life, not only in the future, but right now, in the present.

Yours in Christ's Love,
Pastor Katja

Inside



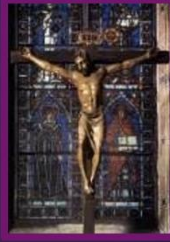
- Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing, Easter Sunday
- Pastor's Lent Study
- Worship Schedule
- Servant's List

Prayer List



(names removed for privacy – available in the hard copy or email mailing)

Expand your Understanding –
with a Lent Study!



Why did Jesus have to Die?

HOW THE CROSS RECONCILES US TO GOD

- Sundays after Worship, 11:30-12:30, starting Feb. 21st, for 5 weeks
- Grab your coffee and meet in the Annex.
- Pastor Katja will be teaching using video and powerpoint

Lesson 1: *The Problem of Sin*

Lesson 2: *The Old Testament
Solution for Sin*

Lesson 3: *The Cross – part 1*

Lesson 4: *The Cross – part 2*

Lesson 5: *The Leap of Faith*

A Prayer for the Season of Lent:

*During these 40 days,
let me put away
all my pride.
Let me change
my heart and
give up all that is
not good within me.
Let me love God
with all that I am
and all that I have.*

~ Genesis Grain

If you missed the
congregational
meeting, you can get
copy of the annual
report at church.

Lent/Easter Worship Schedule

Lent begins Wednesday, February 10th

Sunday, March 6th: Communion Celebration

Sunday, March 20th: Palm Sunday; beginning of Holy Week

Friday, March 25th: Community Good Friday Service,
1pm at Trinity Missionary Church

Sunday, March 27th: Easter Sunday Worship at 10:30am
Breakfast between 9 and 10am

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

We will be collecting for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday, March 27th. This is the one where kids play an important role by collecting coins in their fish banks.

One of the agencies supported by this offering is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). PDA works all over the world in times of natural disasters, but this year they are also supporting our presbytery in assisting the people of Flint. Flint is in our presbytery. As you consider contributing to One Great Hour of Sharing, here is how it is making a difference in our own backyard:

In January, 2016, members of the PDA National Response Team visited the Presbytery of Lake Huron to help with assessments and to discuss ways the church can be engaged in addressing this crisis in the immediate and the long-term needs. The Presbytery is helping coordinate the efforts of Flint Presbyterian churches in getting out water and filters.

One Great Hour of Sharing funds have been provided to support efforts, which include but are not limited to:

- Distribution of emergency water supplies, filters, and filter replacements
- Community education on lead poisoning awareness and treatment
- Identifying and reaching at-risk homes and families
- Working cooperatively with community emergency response efforts and local hospitals to fund the development of ongoing community health resources to monitor at-risk individuals.
- Supporting the spiritual care and reconciliation in a community that feels betrayed
- Assisting Presbyterian churches in the affected areas test for and remediate lead contamination in their own physical plants

Choir Notes

The choir is rehearsing on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 6:30pm. Anyone of any age is welcome to sing with us!

- February 18th
- March 3rd
- March 17th

Easter Breakfast

We will have a wonderful breakfast before the service on Easter Sunday, starting at 9am.

Breakfast casseroles are needed...do you have a drool-worthy recipe?
We'd love to taste it!

YOUTH GROUP

- Grades 6-12
- Sunday Evenings at 6pm, in the Annex. *(except on holidays, and bad weather days)*
- Bring a Friend!
- Fellowship, fun, and spiritual food!

Bryan Goulding and Jillian Borland are the leaders. They would be happy to share with you what the hope and vision is for the group, or if you are a teen, just come and check it out!

What is Lent?

- A season in the church year that covers the 40 days before Easter, not counting Sundays
- A time with special emphasis on prayer, confessing sin, deeper devotion to Christ, and holy living through love and charity.
- An opportunity to make more room for God in your life by giving up something that gets in the way of having time for prayer, reading scripture, for doing acts of love and kindness for other people.

A Word about Per Capita

This year's Per Capita is \$26 per member. This is essentially the cost of being part of a denomination that makes a great deal of published and personnel resources available to its churches, and does mission work at all levels of church government. Part of the Per Capita helps funds our Presbytery office, which runs on one of the smallest budgets of any Presbytery. Part goes to our Synod, and part to General Assembly. Per Capita is a way of supporting the ministry of the church beyond our doors, and it also says "yes, it matters to me to be a Presbyterian".

There's a special offering envelope for per capita, and if you are able, we ask you to consider making that contribution. The church does pay capita for every member who does not, or is not able to do so, but we hope you will. If you need to know more about what per capita funds, you can ask Pastor Katja.

New: Sign-Up for Newsletter via Email

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, that is now an option!

You'll be able to get the full-color version. When we photo-copy the newsletter, we have to do it in black and white, and lose the impact of photos and flyers!

Email PastorKatja@gmail.com, using the email address you want to subscribe with, and we'll put you on the email Newsletter list.

Contribute to Future Newsletters!

We want the church newsletter to include all those events, both church and community, that are important to you! We welcome announcements and articles from anyone in the congregation. Let's have a diversity of authors! If you'd like to submit a photo, a drawing, or a piece of poetry or writing, even better!

Lent/Easter Season 2016

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