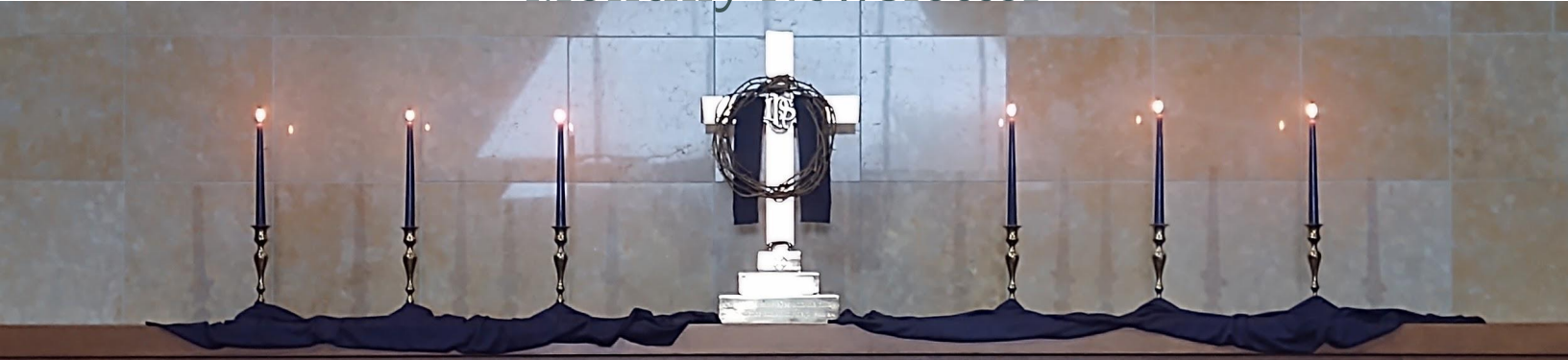


Aston Press

Monthly Newsletter



March 2026

- March 1st - Communion Sunday - 2nd Sunday in Lent
- March 7th-8th - Daylight Savings Time - See Page 2
- March 8th - 3rd Sunday in Lent
- March 15th - 4th Sunday in Lent
- March 18th - PW Meeting
- March 22nd - 5th Sunday in Lent
- March 29th - 6th Sunday in Lent/Palm Sunday

Elder of the Month

Ruth Voss

610-212-5151

Church Office Hours

Erin Schuler Coia
Administrative Assistant

Mondays 11am - 2pm
Thursdays 10am - 2pm
Fridays 10am - 12pm

610-494-2634
astonpcusa@gmail.com

From the Pastor's Desk

I talked about a snowstorm in January last month. Now we had an even bigger one with some people getting a foot or more. Many people lost power. Here are more Bible verses about snow. This one comes to us from Job, the 38th chapter, verses 22-23. God is speaking to Job and asks ²² "Have you entered the storehouses of the snow or seen the storehouses of the hail, ²³ which I reserve for times of trouble, for days of war and battle?" I'm thinking God's storehouses might be getting low by now! I certainly hope we don't get any more snow this winter.

The sermon series for Lent this year is based around Philippians 2:1-11, most particularly verse 5 which says, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus".

- February 22 Having the Mind of Christ: Love,
- March 1 Having the Mind of Christ: Humility,
- March 8 Having the Mind of Christ: Servant-hood,
- March 15 Having the Mind of Christ: Obedience,
- March 22 Having the Mind of Christ: Surrender.
- March 29 Having the Mind of Christ: Faithful Suffering

March 29th is Palm Sunday, and Easter will be on April 5th this year.

The sermon series for Lent is Having the Mind of Christ. During Lent our goal will be to have a mind more like Jesus. In the sermon last Sunday we learned that when Jesus was asked what was greatest commandment he answered by saying 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' These two commandments are to be our guide in life. I think that at this time the second phrase, "Love your neighbor as yourself" is challenging.

There is much going on in our country and world today that is challenging for us as Christians. When children are being placed in prison with their parents, when people are being killed for protesting, when people in detention are dying we need to ask ourselves who is our neighbor? How are we to respond to this as Christians?

God's blessings to all, Rev. Christine

APC Committees

March Birthdays

March 21st - Rev. Bob Boell
 March 29th - Jane Evans
 March 29th - Rob Wellbrock



March Anniversaries

March 3rd - Carann & Greg Tribbett
 March 3rd - Donna & Mark Perryan
 March 17th - Edna & Jack Bomhoff



Buildings & Grounds

Buildings & Grounds - Good at fixing things, landscaping or gardening? - James is looking for volunteers to help in the spring to spruce the building up with volunteers as we give back to our church home before this coming Easter. Please see James Coia before or after church on Sundays if interested in helping



APC Celebrates 160th



Financial Corner

Financial Corner as of January 31, 2026

How are we doing?

	Budget	Jan
Envelope Giving	4,583.33	10,027.00
Loose Offering	50.00	-
DC Learning Ctr	1,329.17	1,200.00
Building Use	83.33	-
Initial Offering	100.00	65.00
Per Capita	300.00	193.00
Investment Fund Div.	291.67	833.54
Misc. Income	20.83	-
Income	6,758.33	12,318.54
Local Expenses	7,755.08	8,786.47
Mission Giving	226.04	-
Operating Expenses	7,981.12	8,786.47
Surplus (Shortfall)	(1,222.78)	3,532.07
Other Mission & Special Offerings		\$ 41.94

Our January 2026 financial results are shown here. We are showing a surplus compared to budget of \$3,532.07. Expenses are higher than normal, with colder temperatures bringing higher electric bills, needed maintenance & repairs. Our Cents-Ability offerings for January & February are designated for Chester Eastside. This includes the February Souper Bowl offerings of canned goods and donations. Colossians 3:23 - "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men." Respectfully submitted Michele Kane



MARCH Memories

As March begins, we are now in the second week of the 2026 Lenten Season. Let each of us meditate on Jesus' last days of ministry and his approach to His death and resurrection. I pray that each of us can deepen our spiritual lives during this time with our Lord.

Five years Ago- 2021 Ruth Voss, Clerk of Session wrote in her From the Clerk's Desk Column, wrote that Lent is a time to prepare for the resurrection. She also said that God is there for us to talk with and to seek His guidance. Ruth reported that Rev. Courtney Willcox would be leading us in worship during Lent. She will also lead a Lenten Study via ZOOM which was titled "Beating Gums." The session formed a committee to seek a new Supply Pastor. Day Care News: March 1, celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday, March 17th St. Patrick's Day Party, March 22nd Rock Our socks day for Down's Syndrome, March 26th Easter Celebration. The Souper Bowl Offering for 2021 was \$190 plus 120 cans of food. The PW Blanket Sunday Offering was \$180.

Ten years ago- 2016- Pastor Graham Robinson in his Column wrote about his study leave experiences in Oregon. He said that he saw a waterfall with solitary Douglas fir beside it which reminded him of Aston Presbyterian's resilience and faith. Day Care News: Day Care Students celebrated the following: Dr. Seuss' Birthday, St. Patrick's Day, Saw a Colorful Magic Show, and held an Easter Egg Hunt. Nathan Tribbett was recognized for reading One Million words at Pennell Elementary School.

Fifteen years Ago-2011- Rev. Jane Ritterson in her "From the Pastor's Desk Column" talked about giving up

computer's, cellphones, and other electronic devices for Lent. Day Care News: March 2nd Dr. Seuss' Birthday, March 11th a Hop-A-thon for MD, March 17th St. Patrick's Day Party, March 25th APC Daycare Pride Day, March 30th A Once Upon a Time Day. A Lenten Bible study titled "Pausing On The Road To Jerusalem" was led by Pastor Jane Ritterson.

Twenty years Ago- 2006 - Bill Schuler, Jr., Clerk of session wrote that God was not dead. His church is alive with love, compassion and that salvation has come through Jesus Christ's resurrection. The following people filled the pulpit in March Rev. Julia Scheetz-Willard, Rev. William Thompson, and Elder Wanda Trawick. Day Care news: March 1st -Tooth Buddy Tales Puppet show, March 2nd Dr. Seuss' Birthday, March 17th. Patrick's Day Party.

Twenty-five years ago—2001 - Pastor Pam Cowan in her "From the Pastor's Hat Rack column" spoke about Jesus using the words of Psalm 22 when He spoke from the cross. She also talked about the poem "Footprints" which describes a person's journey with Christ. The PW Lenten Breakfast was held on March 7th with Tonya Warren of Thomas M. Thomas Church as the speaker. The Christian Careers Column highlighted the careers of Stephanie Allen and Karen Garris as Cosmetologists. The Souper Bowl of Caring Offering for 2001 totaled \$271.12 plus 98 cans of food for Chester Eastside Food Cupboard.

Thirty years ago-1996- Pastor Scott Cupp in his "Ex Cathedra Column" spoke about the forty days of Lent. He said Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem to fulfil His Father's will. Cub Pack 292 turned 10 years old. The PW Lenten Breakfast was held on March 6th with Rev. Bernice Waren of Chester Eastside Ministries as the Speaker.

Thirty-five years ago-1991- Pastor Scott Cupp in his "ex Cathedra Column" wrote about his visit to Washington, D.C. to visit the Smithsonian Museum of African History where he and his Doctoral class had dinner with a former

President of Zimbabwe as part of the PCUSA partnership with the Presbyterian Church of Zimbabwe. Many compliments were received from the folks that attended the 125th Anniversary program and Worship Services. The following new members were received in March of 1991: Charlotte Cassell, Brian Jones, Cherlyne Matthews, Nancy McCann and Jerome McMullen, Jeffrey & Karla Hughes, Raymond & Susan Church, Anthony D'Amato. On March 10th, the Handbell Choir played at Worship under the direction of Andrea Sampson. The following APC members were serving in Desert Storm: Rob Boyer, Bill Rigby, and Mike Monahan.

Forty years ago-1986- Pastor Bob Boell in his column spoke about preparing yourself during the 40 days of Lent for the events ending with the Easter celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Jesus said: "The time has come; the kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the Good News." Mark 1: 15. On March 27th, a Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service was held. Bill Schuler, Jr. was elected as Treasurer of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Forty-five years ago-1981- Pastor Bob Boell in his column asked each member to set some spiritual discipline goals during Lent. He suggested that everyone join one of the Lenten Prayer Groups set up. The PW Lenten Breakfast was held on March 4th with Pastor Bob Boell providing devotions. A criss-cross visitation was held with all members on March 1st and March 8th. The Adult Class was starting a study of the Gospel of Mark. On March 15th, a meet your Officers was held after Worship.

March Memories Continued on the Next Page

Mission Committee -

February was an exciting month - on many fronts. We had more snow than we have seen in years and temperatures that chilled our bones. The bright spot for the month was your response to our SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!!!! Between the Church and our Learning Center over 500 canned goods (273 from LC) were collected for Chester Eastside. YEAH! Additionally cash contributions exceeded \$125, from donations and Cents-Ability collected in January & February. A mere **THANK YOU** is insufficient.

The Learning center used this event for a contest between the upstairs and downstairs classes. Because the number was so close, ALL were winners and the prize was an ice cream party. Thank you Learning Center.

March is upon us. Ash Wednesday was February 18th! Ash Wednesday begins our LENTEN season. The **One Great Hour of Sharing offering** begins with Ash Wednesday and continues to Easter Sunday. The One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) here at APC will begin Sunday, March 1st and continue with Minute for Mission on March 1st and Easter Sunday. The Learning Center children will be receiving the Fish Banks to take home and return to the Church before their Spring Break which begins March 30th. We have Fish Banks available for any and all Church members.



Cents-Ability funds and items for March will go to Delco Helping Hands . Delco Helping Hands has cupboards that assist with the items not covered by food stamps or other food programs. Their cupboards include items such as:

- Hygiene products - soaps, toothpaste, feminine hygiene, shaving cream etc
- Baby needs - diapers, lotion, formula, etc
- Household - laundry detergent, dish liquid, cleaning supplies, etc
- Pet supplies - food for dogs, cats, etc

We will have tubs set out to receive any and all items you wish to contribute in addition to any monies received.

With your help we are able to follow Jesus' example of caring for one another. Looking forward to the month of March being more green than white and more moderate temperatures and seeing your lovely faces in worship.

MISSION COMMITTEE



March Memories Continued

Fifty years ago-1976- Pastor Bob Boell in his column wrote that Lent means the lengthening of days which occurs during Spring when we get more daylight hours. Ash /Wednesday communion services were held at 7:00 A. M. and at 7:30 P.M. The Adult Class was beginning a study of the Minor Prophets. On March 7th a Covered Dish Supper was held with Elder Ed Jones of the Berean Presbyterian Church speaking about the Self-Development of People Program of the PCUSA. On March 4th, a Midweek Lenten Supper was held and a film on World Relief programs was shown.

Sixty years ago- Pastor Bob Boell began his ministry at 2ndPres/Aston Pres. during Lent.

Seventy years ago-1956- Following the February General Alarm fire, Second Presbyterian Church began Sunday School and Worship at the Chester Y, M.C.A.

As we now begin our Lenten journey of 2026, Christ is asking us to repent of our sins, to study his Word, to strengthen our prayer life and to show his love, peace and grace to all persons. Remember our Savior said this in the 14th Chapter of John's Gospel verses 1-3: "Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am you may be also."

Let us step out on the path with Jesus with faith and confidence in his word.

God bless each of us we walk with Christ our Savior.

Bill Schuler, Jr.

Aston Pres. Learning Center



March 2026 Learning Center Events

- March 1st - 6th - Read Across America Week - Dr. Seuss Week
- March 8th - Daylight Savings - Spring Clocks Ahead
- March 9th - Oasis Fundraiser Night
- March 12th - Dr. Seuss Show
- March 19th - LC Board Meeting
- March 20th - Rock Your Socks
- March 26th - EB Visits
- March 28th through April 6th - Spring Break - LC Closed



Rock Your Socks socks for Sale \$2 a pair (kids and adult sizes available - see office for details)

APC Learning Center

Happy March! We have so much to be thankful for as we slowly make our way into spring and hopefully say goodbye to all the snow! We are proud to report that our center did a fabulous job collecting cans during our Souper-Bowl fundraiser this year collecting 280 cans! Both floors did such a great job collecting and they were so close we felt that the whole school earned an ice cream party for all their hard work! This upcoming month is full of fun exciting days with multiple fun themed weeks as well.

Our month starts with Read Across America as we celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday with fun days linking to some of our favorite Seuss books. Monday starts with "My Many Colored Days" as we wear a rainbow of color. Tuesday will be green eggs and clothes day as we enjoy a special snack of green eggs and ham as we encourage trying new things with "Green Eggs and Ham". For "Wacky Wednesday" we will be wearing our clothes mismatched, backwards, and/or inside out. Thursday we will be wearing clothes from somewhere special we have been or want to go for "Oh, the Places You Will Go" and lastly, for Friday we will be bringing in our favorite hats for "The Cat in the Hat". We are all looking forward to reading these classics and even more Dr. Seuss stories.

Throughout the month, we have fun themed days including Panda Day as we wear black and white, Jewel Day as we wear things that shine, Nap Day as we wear comfy cozy attire. We are looking forward to our Oasis Fundraiser from 6 to 8pm on Monday, March 9th as well as all our St. Patrick's Day fun on the 17th as we prepare for our mischievous leprechaun visit and our sock hop as we Rock our socks for Down Syndrome Awareness on Friday, March 20th in place of the 21st. Socks are being sold for \$2 a pair as we will be selling them all month long until the day of the event.

On Thursday, March 19th we will be having our Super Parents Club this week as we invite our parents and little ones to explore the power of play and put our electronics away. Lastly, we are ending our month with Easter Fun and a visit from the Easter Bunny before starting our spring break.

From all the staff of Aston Presbyterian Church Learning Center we wish you all a Blessed and Happy Easter!