



Presbytidings – March 2024

An outreach of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Words from Your Transitional Pastor

The Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

We are in the midst of the wilderness, the midst of transition, and the midst of Lent. Lent provides a wonderful analogy and opportunity to think about the transition. Lent is a time of reflection, repentance, and most importantly preparation. We are looking forward to Easter Sunday, where we will loudly sing *Alleluia*, and celebrate the resurrection in fullness with hope and joy.

The Book of Common Worship (BCW) notes that “Lent is a period of forty days – like the flood of Genesis, Moses’ sojourn at Sinai, Elijah’s journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah’s call of repentance to Nineveh, and Jesus’ time of testing in the wilderness.” Forty notes a completeness, a fullness; forty days is well over a month, and forty years (the amount of time the people of Israel wandered in the desert before entering the promised land) marks a full generation. It is a symbolic number, and a “full” number. If you count the days from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday before Easter Sunday, however, it doesn’t add up; you would count 46 days. This is because the Sundays don’t “count.” As the BCW continues “Every Lord’s Day is a celebration of Christ’s resurrection” and is what I have heard referred to as ‘mini-Easters.’

I bring up these two points about lent for two reasons. First, in a transitional period we often want to ask ‘how long will it take?’ The truth is there is no one answer that fits all churches in a transition, but the work of listening, of being able to faithfully and truthfully answer the question “Who are we as the people of God?” will take more time than forty days (less than forty years); the process will take the amount of time it needs to be done honestly, prayerfully, and fully. I believe that I will be able to share more about the specifics of that process and the transition team that will be leading the congregation through that in the next few weeks. Secondly, because often we think of transitions as times of waiting, of just getting from the proverbial start on Ash Wednesday to the ending and celebratory new beginning of Easter. However, lent is not just a time of waiting; it is a time of reflection, and preparation, and all along the way we have mini-Easters. St. Andrew is creating new beginnings, Easter Sundays, meaningful ministry every step of the way. We are not waiting for the new pastor to be the new beginning; we are already celebrating, engaging in meaningful ministry, right now.

Peace, Pastor Eric



Transitional Pastor

Rev. Eric

Koenig-Reinke

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Office Hours
by Appointment

Administrative Asst.
Mark Brasington

Email
adm.standrewabq@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Thursday
8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

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St. Andrew News and Events

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ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach

— ISAIAH 58

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (PDA)

- Works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, and support for refugees
- Receives 32% of funds.

HUNGER PROGRAM (PHP)

- Takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed
- Receives 36% of funds.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE (SDOP) • Invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues

- Receives 32% of funds.

At St. Andrew we collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday, March 31. You are most welcome to donate any time during Lent. Please note OGHS on your check or online donation. For more information on the One Great Hour of Sharing please go to: Presbyterian Special Offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing (www.pcusa.org)

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!



LIVING THROUGH DISAPPOINTMENT

by Anna Redsand

In his book, *Overcoming Life's Disappointments*, the late Rabbi Harold Kushner writes that disappointment is a normal part of life. He goes on to use the story of Moses to explore disappointment and how we respond to life's setbacks. The most popular stories about Moses are the ones about his triumphs – like meeting God at the burning bush and parting the Red Sea. But Moses, even though the Bible says no prophet ever equaled him, was such a very human hero. His life was filled with disappointment – being forced to run into the desert to save himself after standing up for a fellow Israelite in Egypt, finding the people worshipping an idol when he came down from Mt. Sinai after seeing God.

And his greatest disappointment: After 40 years of leading an obstinate collection of people through the desert, God told him he would not be allowed to enter the Promised Land. Talk about getting slammed with a defeat. Moses had lost his temper with the people and struck a rock to deliver water to the thirsty crowd, instead of speaking to the rock, as God had instructed. Nevertheless, water flowed, so it seems so unfair. I mean, if God would go against God's own command and let the water come out of the rock anyway, why not overlook Moses's lapse of self control and lack of trust after all he had been through with God and those difficult people? This was one Bible story that acutely offended my childish sense of fairness.

Sometimes, as in God's repudiation of Moses, disappointment comes as a consequence of our own actions. Other times it strikes seemingly out of nowhere, perhaps even when we most feel that we are doing what we've been guided to do.

When I was on tour with *To Drink from the Silver Cup*, I took it to people in places of worship, colleges, private homes, coffeehouses, and bookstores. As I traveled, I believed that whoever needed to hear what my book had to say would be present. Sometimes people came by outwardly chance meetings – a short conversation by the check stand of my food coop, a chat with a vendor of silk scarves in Pike Place Market, a woman at a table in a coffee place overhearing my conversation with a friend. I believed I was being guided and that my listeners were also guided.

Then, entirely unpredictably, I suffered a nerve injury that left me in intense pain. I could no longer drive. I got some treatment where I was at the time. Even there, the massage therapist I saw became fascinated about the book and thought it would be especially helpful to her boyfriend; that wouldn't have happened if I hadn't been injured. However, my HMO wasn't covering my treatment, so I adjusted. I left my van 1,500 miles from Albuquerque and flew home, canceling or postponing seven engagements on the West Coast and later several more in the Midwest.

This had been one of my biggest disappointments in a long time. But I received so much help along the way that I found myself asking not, “Why did this happen?” as in, “This isn’t fair!” My question was, “Why did this happen?” as in, “What is the purpose in this?” Through all my pain and need, I was so thoroughly supported. I sensed that something unplanned was going to happen. As I adjusted, some of the purpose seemed to be that I would rejoin you at St. Andrew, to get back into the work our community does for the healing of the world. It was also about adjusting my tour schedule to consider new limitations. That word, adjust, kept coming up. Adjusting to what is, is a normal part of life, part of living through disappointment.

It was after I’d gone through most of this process that I remembered Moses and his big disappointment – far bigger than mine. God reminded him three times that he wouldn’t be entering the land for which he’d worked so hard. The Bible doesn’t include any angry words from this man, and we don’t know if he cried, which would seem reasonable. He adjusted. At the second reminder, he asked God to provide a good leader to take his place – always thinking of his people. Before going up the mountain to die, he told the people how to behave when he was gone and what would happen to them if they did and if they didn’t. He sang a song with them. He accepted his consequence and adjusted accordingly.

Viktor Frankl said that when life presents us with difficulties, we are always free to choose how we will respond. Frankl survived four death camps under Nazi Germany—unspeakably worse than a mere disappointment. He chose to imagine how he could serve after liberation. Accepting and adjusting to disappointment enables us to move forward. Sometimes we are even granted a sense of accomplishment.

This essay, in slightly different form, was first published as a column in the religion page in the Gallup Independent in 2020 and is reprinted with permission. It struck me as a good one to share with you. I would love to engage with you if you have thoughts about it. My email is: aredsand@gmail.com

Holy Week Services at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday – Worship and Liturgy of the Palms at 9:30 am

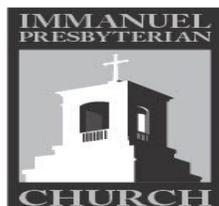
Maundy Thursday Service with Immanuel Presbyterian Church

(This service is at Immanuel Presbyterian – see location and parking map below.)

Good Friday Service at Noon with Immanuel Presbyterian Church

(This service is at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.)

Easter Sunday – Celebrate the Resurrection at 9:30 am



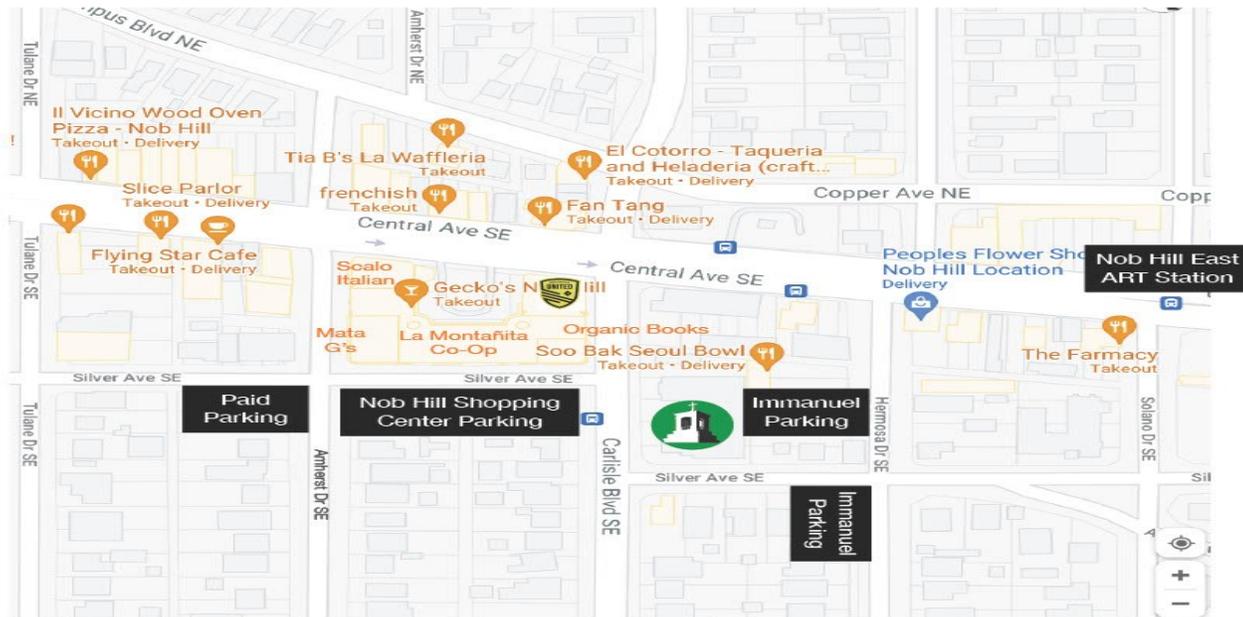
PARKING

There are two Immanuel Parking Lots on Hermosa.

There is Paid Parking at the SW Corner of Silver & Amherst.

There is street parking around Immanuel and metered parking behind the Nob Hill Shopping Center. Please do not use their lot on Silver & Carlisle.

The Nob Hill East ART Station is a 0.2 mile walk from Immanuel.



Lenten Book Discussion

Thursdays on Zoom 5:30-6:30 pm, Pastor Eric continues a discussion on the book *Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times*, by Otis Moss III. It is no secret that we live in a turbulent time (perhaps all times are). The book examines themes of justice, love, spiritual resistance, racism, hope, and aims to give lessons that will allow our personal and collective thriving.

Our conversations have proved rich, and meaningful, leading us to fall behind on the original schedule as we dive into discussion! You can note an updated schedule below, and always remember you are welcome to join!

I hope that you will join me as we think about our highest goals for a church, as we dream for the future, and as we root ourselves in our spiritual lives and the divine.

March 7 – Chapter 4: Beat Bias

March 14 – Chapter 5:

Rework Your Origin Story

March 21 – Chapter 6: Practice Prophetic Grief

March 28 – Maundy Thursday Service

April 4 – Chapter 7: Pardon our Dust

April 11 – Chapter 8: Dance in the Darkness

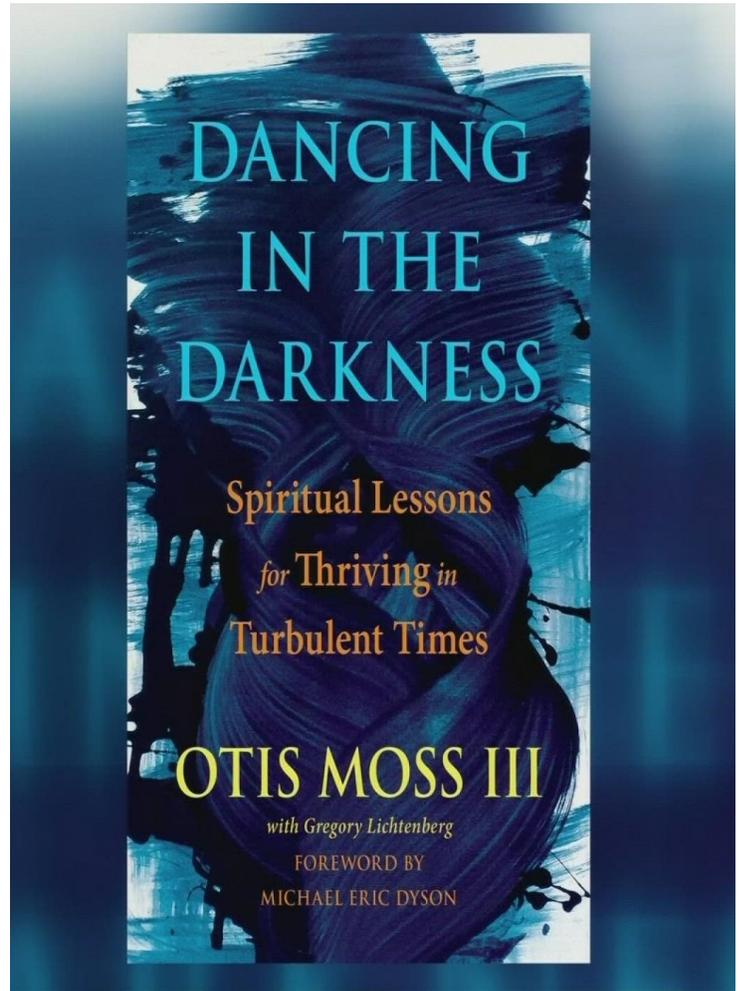
April 18 – Epilogue and Next Steps

The Zoom link to join in and participate in this study is listed below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84595551039?pwd=Q052cG1HMmJUZEk1TDREQ285ZTJadz09>

Meeting ID: 845 9555 1039

Passcode: 581780



Habitat
for Humanity

In a recent sermon message, Eric mentioned the importance of “training others” to carry on the ministries of St. Andrew as time passes. I’m feeling the need to do just that! I have coordinated St. Andrew’s work with Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity for several years. I am familiar with the Habitat staff, the process of recruiting and scheduling volunteer construction workers, the variety of ways to raise funds for a house, working with other denominations to see that a house is completed, etc.

If a person in the St. Andrew congregation is willing to work with me for the next year to get familiar with the tasks, or maybe two people who would like to share the tasks in the future, would you please contact me so we could have a conversation? Connect with me, Marilyn Stoops, at worship, or call me at 505-265-8358 or email me at mstoops@swcp.com

Session Summary

Suzanne's Session Summary

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

We start each Session meeting with a teaching moment and prayer. This week we Pastor Eric has us starting to think about the "Why" of St. Andrew. We gave some good ideas and will be working on this more. During the meeting we started on discussion regarding helping with the Building and Grounds committee, designing a new LGBT welcome sign, and started putting together a team to work on our transition process. We approved language that the Session will approve all solicitations happening at the church, approved continuing the Environmental Health permit for the kitchen, and a building use request from Victoria Lopez.

We had an average attendance of 91 people (includes on-line) in January and our membership as of the end of January is 148.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of St. Andrew's Missions and Programs through online giving, in-person and mailed-in offerings.

Suzanne Busch

Treasurer's Report

<u>January 2024</u>	Current Month	Year-to-Date	Budget
Total Income	79,079	79,079	290,700
Total Expenses	39,022	39,022	346,436
Difference	40,057	40,057	-55,736

Note: large income was due to receipt of monies from individuals RMD (required minimum distributions) from retirement accounts. In most cases, this amount would represent a majority of the individual's pledge for the year 2024.

Board of Deacons

St. Andrew board of Deacons consists of 5 dedicated people, one of which is fulfilling an extended term, and will complete that term mid-year. We are ministering to a collection of congregation members who have some special challenges, while also being in contact w/ the congregation, as a whole, especially when we need Greeters, casserole makers for HopeWorks, and at times of memorial service receptions. We have decided to revise the schedule for serving HopeWorks to four times per year, (reducing from five times per year), or once per quarter; on the second Monday of the following months ... February, May, August and November. We will continue to coordinate with 2nd Presbyterian Church with this revised schedule. We celebrate those "milestone birthdays" #80, 90, 95, so listen for announcements of birthday cake occasionally after our worship service.

Please consider accepting the opportunity to serve on Deacons if the Nominating Committee should contact you. Thank you, Sharon Burkhardt — Moderator, Deacons, 2024



Lectionary Schedule

Sunday – March 3

The Third Sunday in Lent

First Reading Exodus 20:1-17

Psalms 19:1-14

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Gospel John 2:13-22

Sunday – March 10

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

First Reading Numbers 21:4-9

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

Second Reading

Ephesians 2:1-10

Gospel John 3:14-21

Sunday – March 17

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

First Reading Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

Second Reading

1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Mark 1:9-15

Sunday – February 24

Palm/Passion Sunday

First Reading

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29

Gospel Mark 11:1-11

First Reading Isaiah 50:4-9a

Second Reading Philippians 2:5-11

Gospel Mark 14:1-15:47

Maundy Thursday

First Reading

Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14

Psalms 116:1-2, 12-19

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Good Friday

First Reading

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Psalms 22:1-31

Second Reading

Hebrews 10:16-25; 4:14-16, 5:7-9

Gospel John 18:1-19:42

Memorial Service celebrating the life of Edith Waugh-Feliciano

The memorial service celebrating the life of Edith Waugh-Feliciano will be held on Saturday, April 27 at 2:00 pm at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa Avenue NE, in Albuquerque New Mexico.

A reception will follow.



Easter Day Readings

First Reading Acts 10:34-43

or alternate First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

or alternate Second Reading

Acts 10:34-43

Gospel John 20:1-18

or alternate Gospel Mark 16:1-8

Easter Evening Readings

First Reading 2:

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 2: Psalm 114:1-8

Second Reading 2;

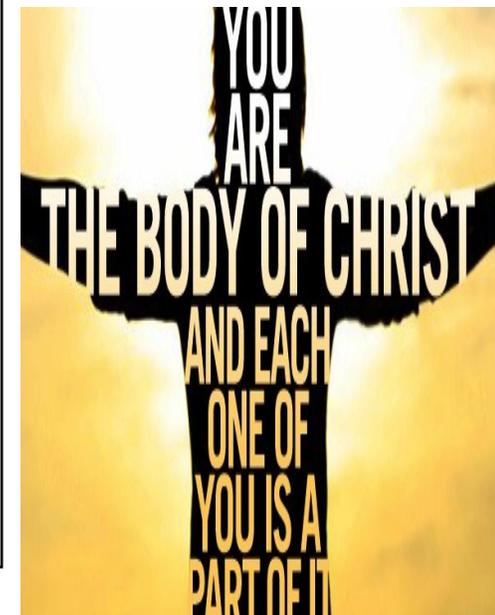
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Gospel 2: Luke 24:13-49



March Birthdays

- 5 Carley Rose Maze
- Kyle Stickler
- 8 Willard Hunter
- 9 Max Light
- 13 Dana Bell
- Frank Lopez
- 14 Beverly Jackson
- 15 Carol Benson
- 18 Paula Delap-Padilla
- Elmer Jackson
- 19 Clyde Scott
- 20 Susan Copeland
- 23 Bob Fosnaugh
- Lucy Encino
- 25 Sean Ward
- Kathy Gaylor
- 26 Brenda Stickler
- 28 Susan Quass



March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	2
3 9:30 am Worship Service and Communion 10:30 am Fellowship Time 11:00 am Adult C.E. 3-5 pm Encantada Band Rehearsal	4 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	5 Presbyterian Women 10:00 am in Adult C.E. Room 4:30 pm Social Justice Committee Weekly Announcements Due	6	7 10 am Stroke Club 10:00 am Historical Jesus Group on Zoom 5:30 pm Lenten Book Study Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	8 7:30 pm ABQ Science Fiction Society	9 Spring Concert New Horizons Band of Rio Rancho at St. Andrew
10 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 11:00 am Adult C.E. 3-5 pm Encantada Band Rehearsal	11 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	12 Weekly Announcements Due	13 4:00 pm Deacons Meeting	14 8:30 am Finance Committee/Zoom 10:00 am Spiritual Formation/Zoom 10 am Stroke Club 5:30 pm Lenten Book Study Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	15 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 10:00 am Outreach Committee 5-7 pm Encantada Band Dress Rehearsal	16 Lopez Birthday Party Activity Room and Courtyard
17 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 3:00pm Encantada Band Concert: Hounds of Spring	18 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	19 Weekly Announcements Due Session 6:00 pm	20 Presbytidings Articles are due for the April Issue	22 10 am Stroke Club 5:30 pm Lenten Book Study Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm	23 7:30 pm ABQ Science Fiction Society	24
24 Palm Sunday 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Fellowship Time 11:00 am Adult C.E.	25 ABQ Philharmonic Rehearsal 7:00-10:00 pm	26 Weekly Announcements Due 6:00 pm Session	27 6:30 pm NM Peace Choir	28 10 am Stroke Club Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30 pm with Immanuel Presbyterian AT Immanuel Choir Rehearsal at 7:00 pm	29 Good Friday Service with Immanuel Presbyterian AT St. Andrew 12:00 Noon	30

31

Easter Sunday
9:30 am
Worship Service
Welcome New Members

HE IS RISEN!
Alleluia!
HAPPY EASTER

