

Lent Evening Program Prayer and Bible Study

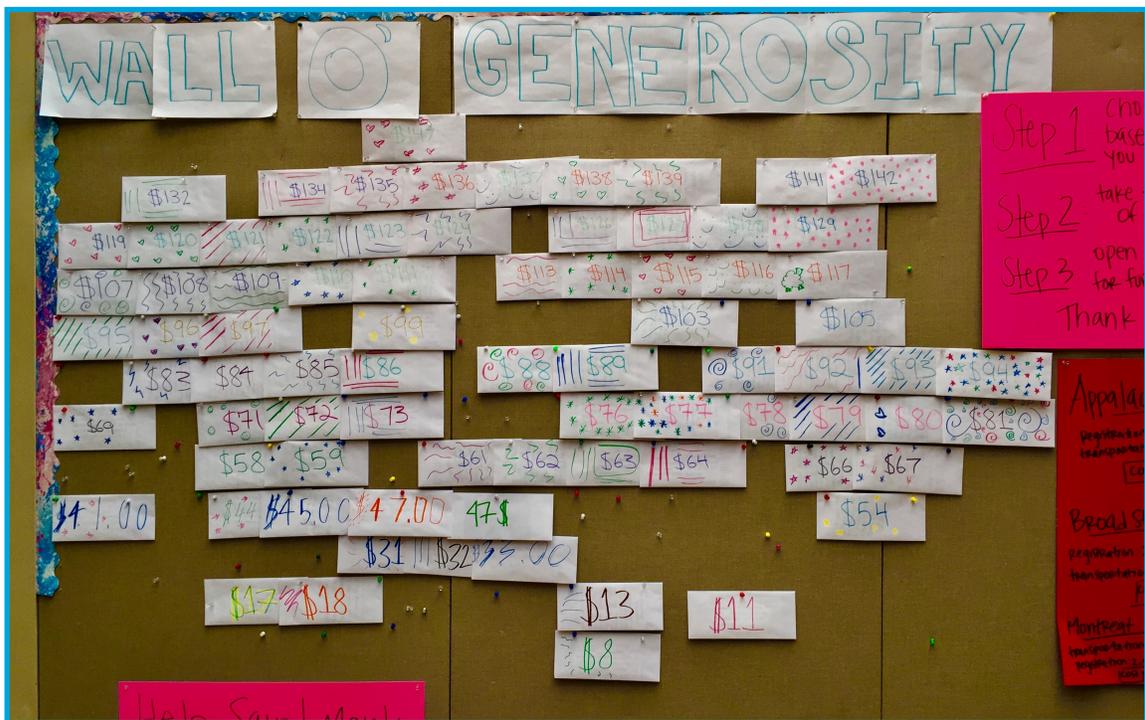
We will follow the stories of John for the season of Lent. Meet in the sanctuary on Wednesday's at 7:00 pm for prayer and discussion.

THEOLOGY, RACISM, AND CHRISTIAN PRACTICE: How Shall We Respond?

sponsored by: Saint Mark Presbyterian Church • The Presbyterian Outlook and National Capital Presbytery • Institute of Radical Reconciliation

More information below on this meaningful series of events happening at Saint Mark

SAINT MARK



Saying Grace from Pastor Roy

The season of Lent is traditionally a time of self-examination and penance in preparation for the observance of Holy week and Easter. Presbyterians have never been keen on excessive focus on acts of penance or undue attention to the self. It seems to draw attention away from the grace that God brings in Jesus Christ that allows us to live as we ought. In reality though it's possible to give attention to both. Lent is the season that provides that opportunity. During these weeks, I encourage you to take upon your self some daily practice that will strengthen your spiritual life and draw you closer to Christ.

For instance, you might read each day the Lenten devotional prepared by Saint Mark members. You could choose to pray each day for someone, for yourself or the congregation. You might have special prayer for your and your family each evening during Lent. You might join other Saint Mark members reading James Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* in preparation for his visit on March 30. You could join the weekly gathering on Wednesday evenings for prayer and study. All of these are simple

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT THE WEBSITE: SAINTMARKPRESBY.ORG

practices that when undertaken strengthen your life in Christ and prepare you for the great celebration of Easter.

Whatever it is that you do, I hope you will mark this season with intentional spiritual practice.

What's Happening: February & March

March 1- Ash Wednesday service at 7:30

March 5- First Sunday of Lent: one service at 9:30, Youth group "thank you" breakfast to follow.

March 12, 19, 26- Two services, Christian Formation for all ages at 9:30

*Wednesdays of Lent: Evening prayer and Bible study, 7pm in the sanctuary.

April 2- one service at 9:30, ministry team meetings follow

April 9- Two services, Christian Formation for all ages at 9:30

April 16- Easter Sunday, communion at 9:30, baptism at 11:00

Potluck brunch + Easter Egg Hunt between services

No Sunday school on Easter Sunday

April 23- Two services, Christian Formation for all ages at 9:30

April 30- Fifth Sunday conversation at 9:30, worship with communion at 11:00

Lent Program

Join us from 7-8 pm for evening prayer and Bible study during Lent March 8 - April 5.

During these weeks we will explore what happened as Jesus prepared for his cross and resurrection, through the stories in the gospel of John.

As Jesus' crucifixion loomed ahead, he engaged in conversation after conversation with people seeking meaning and perspective: A teacher of religion. A minority woman. A disabled man. Grieving sisters.

Join us in prayer and study. Child care is available upon request.

Led by Pastor Roy and Pastor Shelby

The Bible as the Living Word

As the year goes on, the passages the lectionary offers to us are wonderful, and the ways that they so strongly relate to what is going on in the world never ceases to amaze. Soon we begin the stories of John and the ways that people have encountered Jesus as the one who brings life and healing to the world. As it has throughout the ages, the Bible continues to speak loudly and prophetically to our times.

Each week, members of the congregation will lead an open discussion and exercise on one of the lectionary scriptures. These are the passages that are read during worship and that many children's Sunday school classes study as well. This class will offer a chance for adults to delve deeper into the texts for worship and grow together as a community of faith. *We will gather weekly at 9:30, downstairs in the Education Building in Room 105/106.*

February Youth Group Schedule

5- Continental breakfast fundraiser celebration, after church

12- Bible study (MS and HS separate, dinner)

19- Spirituality Centers, cont. (MS and HS separate, dinner)

24- Lock-in

Seeking Temporary Choir members

Would you like to sing in the choir for Easter Sunday (and possibly Lent), but don't have the time to join the choir year-round? Then, please consider this possibility. The Chancel Choir welcomes you to sing on a temporary basis (but of course, you're welcomed to stay after, as well). We rehearse every Thursday from 7:30 to 9 PM (except 3/16) and will sing every Sunday. Please contact Jeff or a choir member if you have questions.

Join the Friends in Action Team!

The Saint Mark congregation has sponsored an FIA team for many years. The team has worked with families from The Ivory Coast, Brazil, Iran, Bolivia, New York and other places. We've helped a single father with 6 children, single mothers, couples, all of whom had young children and/or teen agers. The adults were in their 20's, 30's, 40's. The purpose is to help them rise above poverty and help them on the road to self sufficiency.

What did we do? How much time did we spend? It depended on the needs of each family. We helped some obtain their US citizenship. We helped some learn English or improve it. We helped families understand the American school system. We tutored children. Sometimes, we provided clothing, helped get heat for a family's home, helped with budgeting and taxes among other needs.

Most of all, we let them know we were their friends and often became second families to them. Time spent varied; but with a team of 6 or 8 Saint Markers the time was split according to the talents of the team. There were always a couple of team members who related to the family better, so would provide more help; but it takes a "village" to make these families feel comfortable enough to share private concerns and worries.

Please consider becoming a member of the Saint Mark FIA team. The mentors receive a great deal of support from Monica Barberis-young, the FIA director, and her case managers at the FIA office.

Theology, Racism, and Christian Practice: How Shall We Respond?

See [flyer](#) on our website for more information & pricing.

March 30 - The Cross and the Lynching Tree

Thursday 7pm- Presentation by Dr. Cone with response and discussion

Registration is required. Register [here](#).

Booklovers- The Saint Mark book club

In March we will be reading **Behind Every Great Man: The Forgotten Women Behind the World's Famous and Infamous** by Marlene Wagman-Geller. The author will be skype-ing with us during our discussion. We have rescheduled the meeting for Sunday, March 12, at 12:30 after worship. "This witty, illuminating book reveals the remarkable stories of 40 captivating females, from Mrs. Oscar Wilde to Mrs. Jerry Garcia, who have stood behind their legendary partners, and helped to humanize them, often at the expense of their own careers, reputations and happiness." A fun read if you are a history buff or not!

Quill of the Clerk & Legacy Continues Campaign

The Session met February 21. The meeting was opened with a review of the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12).

- We confirmed that the Health and Wellness Ministry will be managed by the Deacons and connected to the Session through the Parish Life Ministry.
- We voted to pay off the "Legacy loan" of \$54901.54 on March 1. This full payment will save about \$1000 in interest.
- The Session discussed the value of transparency in our financial reporting to the congregation. We committed to provide our 2017 annual report of Ministry teams to the congregation by mid-January 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Casper, Clerk

A note from the Legacy Continues Campaign:

Session voted at their February meeting to pay off the construction loan for the sanctuary renovation early. The current balance on the loan is \$55,080 (payoff balance as of March 1st). There is currently a bit over \$50k in the Legacy Campaign bank account. The remaining \$5k will come from the General Fund. We will thus avoid at least a month or two of interest. Going forward, any collections from the Legacy Campaign will be transferred to the General Fund to pay down the amount loaned to pay off the debt. After that is accomplished, remaining Legacy II pledge payments will begin a nest egg for Legacy III, which is designed to repay the amount borrowed from the church reserves to minimize what was borrowed in the construction loan mortgage. All of Saint Mark is grateful for the faithful pledging and payments that have made all of this possible. Thank you!

Interfaith Power and Light Event: Before the Flood

Friday, March 17, 2017

- 6:30 PM Light Supper, 7:00 Movie & Discussion
- Cedar Lane UU Church, Chalice House
- 9601 Cedar Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814
- Cosponsored by the Washington Ethical Society
- Contact Chris Graham at chraham73@verizon.net or text her at [301 717 4204](tel:3017174204) for more information
- Please bring a dish to share or make a donation!

From Academy Award®-winning filmmaker Fisher Stevens and Academy Award-winning actor, environmental activist and U.N. Messenger of Peace Leonardo DiCaprio, *Before the Flood* presents a riveting account of the dramatic changes now occurring around the world due to climate change, as well as the actions we as individuals and as a society can take to prevent catastrophic disruption of life on our planet. The film follows Leonardo DiCaprio as he travels to five continents and the Arctic speaking to scientists, world leaders, activists and local residents to gain a deeper understanding of this complex issue and investigate concrete solutions to the most pressing environmental challenge of our time.

Saint Mark Prayers

- For our new President, members of Congress and new government leaders, that they might embody Christ's call to care for the least among us.
- For Mary Palmer, on the loss of her sister.
- For Nancy Pack, one of our special friends, celebrating her 60th birthday on March 1.