

March 2023

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church



From the Heart

Dear Friends in Christ,

Matthew, Mark, and Luke record that after Jesus was baptized, he was driven (Mark) or led (Matthew & Luke) by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. For forty days and nights, Jesus fasted. When he was at his weakest point, the devil came to put him to the test.

That story alone is just incredible. First, the idea of going without food for forty days and nights is nearly incomprehensible. I have *From the Heart continued p. 2*

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Worshiping and Learning

Services during Lent

**Lenten Vespers, Thursdays,
beginning March 2,
Supper at 6:15 pm, Worship at 7pm**

This is a very special time in our Christian calendar, Lent. It is the time we as a church family can make preparation for our risen Christ at Easter. Please join us in person or online for weekly Lenten vespers services. Vespers are an evening service of prayer, designed to draw a spiritual close to the day and to prepare ourselves for holy rest. In addition to songs and *continued p. 3*



From the Heart continued

fasted for forty hours before and felt weak and light-headed. I cannot begin to comprehend how Jesus felt after his fast. Yet Jesus still had the presence of mind, body, and spirit to withstand the devil. How amazing his strength!



I gained an even deeper appreciation for what Jesus suffered those 40 days when I had a chance to walk in the Judean desert (see picture) on my Holy Land pilgrimage. What a desolate and inhospitable place. Although Bedouins are able to eke an existence there, it is not a place for the faint of heart. For Jesus to simply survive the sun, heat, and wild animals, he would have had to been on constant guard. Imagine how draining just that portion of his trial must have been.

What was the purpose of Jesus' fast and trial? Was it not enough for him to have died on the cross? For an answer to that question, we might turn to Hebrews:

“Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:14–16, NRSV)

Jesus faced every trial and temptation a human could face, yet at all times remained faithful to God. In this way Jesus can relate to our struggles with sin. He felt the lure and pain of temptation, faced doubts about God's presence and calling in his life (see Gethsemane), and still endured where we fall continually short. What an amazing savior we have!

As we walk the forty days of Lent together, let us all draw from Jesus' example and find strength in our times of trial. May we have courage to trust, humility when we fail, and honesty in our confession. May this time of fasting and penitence yield the fruit of joy when Resurrection Day comes.

Godspeed,

Mall



Living Stones: Peacemakers in the Holy Land

Sunday, March 19, Salad Potluck at 12:15 pm/Presentation at 1 pm (also available via livestream)

Throughout Pastor Matt's pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he and his fellow pilgrims met with a number of peacemakers who are committed to bringing a just, peaceful, and lasting resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict. They are Christians, Muslims, Israeli, Palestinian, clerics, international workers, artists, farmers, scientists, activists, and parents who find healing in sharing stories of their losses in the hope of reconciliation.

Their common desire is that their stories would be shared and that peace could once again come to the Holy Land.

Come and join us for a salad potluck following the second service, and then stay to hear the stories of these peacemakers—stories of tragedy, struggle, hope, and friendship—and how, despite the ongoing tensions in the Holy Land, God is at work building bridges of peace and shining beacons of hope. If you can't make it in person, please join us via livestream on our [YouTube channel](#).

Lenten Services continued

prayers, we will practice "lectio divina" (divine reading) of passages from the Sermon on the Mount. We all have an opportunity to gather before the services to share in a soup, salad, and bread supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:15 pm. What blessings we will receive as we share food and conversation! Bring food or just yourself to share. God and our family would love to join you there.

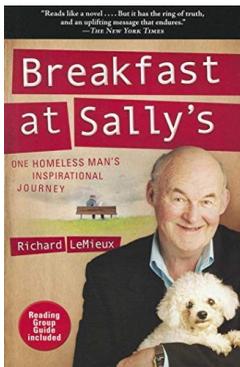
Reel Reflections Will Return in April

Due to the Lenten Vespers schedule, Reel Reflections will take the month of March off and return again on Thursday, April 20.

Adult Sunday School Book Discussion

Breakfast at Sally's: One Homeless Man's Inspirational Journey by Richard Lemieux,
Sundays, 9:45 am

The book is set in Bremerton and reads like a novel but is a true story. The subject of homelessness is serious but the book is uplifting.



Youth Sunday School 6th-9th Grade Youth: You Are Invited!

**Planning Meeting, Sunday, March 5, 10 am,
Upstairs Youth Room**

Attention all 6th-9th grade youth! We want your input. Please join us for a Sunday School planning meeting upstairs in the youth room on **Sunday, March 5, at 10 am**. We will choose our next topic of study and figure out how often class will meet. Muffins and juice will be served!

Summer Camp

**It's Never Too Early to Think about
Summer!**

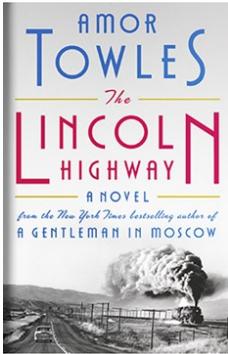
Scholarships for Summer Camp

Summer will be here before you know it and with it the opportunity for fun and meaningful experiences at summer camp! The church is able to help families who plan to have their children attend a Christian summer camp by providing partial scholarships to defray the cost. Please let the Christian Formation Committee know of your interest in a scholarship by sending an email to the church office at administrator@fpcpa.org, using the subject line "Summer Camp Scholarship." The Christian Formation committee will follow up with interested families.

Book Club

***Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles, Thursday,
March 16, 10:30 am, Fellowship Hall**

An Amazon Best Book of October 2021, *The Lincoln Highway* might just be one of the best novels of this decade, which is a feat considering *A Gentleman in Moscow* also holds that distinction (in this reviewer's mind, anyway). Set in the 1950s, *The Lincoln Highway* is filled with nostalgia as well as the gentle naïveté and hijinks of those who are young, optimistic, and on a mission.



The story follows four boys who set out to travel the country in search of a fresh start: Emmett and Billy want to find their mother who left them when they were young, and

Duchess and Woolly are on the hunt for a stashed wad of cash. Sometimes their dreams are aligned but often they are not. In other words, adventure ensues: There's train hopping and car stealing, and with that comes the inevitability of trouble sparked from both good and bad intentions.

Each of these young men is chasing his dreams, but their pasts—whether violent or sad—are never far behind. A remarkable work of storytelling that is a 2021 favorite.

Events

Mexican Train Dominos



Saturday, March 11, 1:30 pm, Fellowship Hall

Climb aboard for an afternoon of Mexican Train

Dominoes! The date is **March 11 at 1:30 pm in Fellowship Hall**. If you have a set of double 12 dominoes, please bring it. If you have never played this game, don't let that keep you away. It is easy to learn! Look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Contact Melanie DeBiddle at 360-457-2997 or Pat Hyden at 360-457-1843 if you have any questions. Hoping to see you on March 11.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 12, 12:15 pm

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, March 12, at 12:15 p.m. for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, and at-large members of the Nominating Committee. Please join us to discern with one another whom God is calling to serve here at FPCPA.

Candidates

Deacons—Class of 2026

Pat Davies, Ruth Brown, Dona Hair, Celia Waalkes-Duff

Elders—Class of 2026

Jim Buckmaster

Nominating Committee—2024 At-Large Positions

Becca Paul, Andy Anderson, Scooter Chapman, Carol Foss, Ardith Hansel, Tom Allen, Beverly Brown

Praise Hymn Sing

2 pm, Sunday, March 26, Sanctuary

Please join us for an uplifting time of song and worship through song. You will leave feeling renewed!

Volunteering & Donating

Semi-Annual Food Drive for the PA Food Bank



During the MONTH OF MARCH our church will be collecting food and personal care items for the Port Angeles Food Bank. Collection barrels will be in the Fellowship Hall starting **March 5**. Food bank staff inform us that donations drop off after Christmas. Usage has increased. Additionally, one of their major food drive partners will not be participating this year. That makes our participation significant. Keep the following in mind

as you make your donation:

- ◆ All donations need to be commercially packaged. No home canned or processed items.
- ◆ Off the shelf items must have a "sell by" date no greater than a year old.
- ◆ Of greatest need are peanut butter, jams and jellies, canned soup, canned fruit, and ready-to-eat items like chili, spaghetti, etc.
- ◆ Personal care items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc.)

Let's make sure the regular FPCPA food bank volunteers have plenty to sort and stock when they work at the food bank in March! Speaking of whom....

Food Bank Volunteers

Please consider joining a group of us from FPCPA at the PA Food Bank (632 N Oakridge Dr.) the second Thursday of each month at 10 am for about an hour of united effort. Please contact Susan Fisher or Barb Pappas (bpappas378@gmail.com) about the application the Food Bank requires (can be completed online) and to be identified as part of our group. You do not have to attend each month, but you need to be cleared in advance.

Special Offering: One Great Hour of Sharing

"One Great Hour of Sharing" (OGHS) is the largest way each year Presbyterians come together to do



mission and ministry for those suffering. This kind of generosity is like a huge wave of compassion to reach those who may have lost sight of the truth that God loves them and that there are communities of caring who surround them.

This is a Special Offering that responds directly to the needs God has called us to fulfill in Isaiah 58. The three programs supported by OGHS all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need:

1. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
2. Presbyterian Hunger Program
3. Self-Development of People

This year we will be asking for gifts on

Palm Sunday, April 2. Checks may be put in the offering basket or mailed (139 W. 8th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362) to the church - with OGHS in the memo line. For online donations (<https://www.fpcpa.org>) click on GIVE ONLINE and choose the “One Great Hour of Sharing” menu item for “Select a purpose.” **We have Lenten Fish Banks as well as Adult Calendars and Activity sheets outside the office door.**

Media Team Needs You!

Summer poses a challenge for filling all the media team slots Sunday after Sunday. In addition to the usual team member absences due to vacations, we’re losing two valued members for an extended 4-month absence. So we need your help. Contact Wayne Brown for more information at 363.207.9628 or webrown43@gmail.com.

Clothes Closet at FUMC

The Clothes Closet at the First United Methodist Church has re-opened its doors to provide clothing for men and women in need. Located at 7th and Laurel, the Closet is now accepting donations of clean, new or gently used clothes, shoes, and bedding. Specific items needed are men’s clothes (no suits or dress shoes)—t-shirts, warm coats, tennis shoes, small sized jeans, socks, underwear, sample-sized hygiene items, blankets, and sleeping

bags. All clothing is free to anyone needing it.

For information or questions please call Paula Hoover at 909-890-8875 or Bobbie Buckley at 360-477-8906.

Session Actions

The Session met online via Zoom on Monday, February 20 at 7 pm, and the following actions were taken:

- Members shared about their experience at the most recent Presbytery meeting, including introduction of the Executive Presbyter, Rev. Laura Teraski.
- Approved the restatement of the budget to reflect both a receipt for the rental income (projected at \$27,480) and a listing in the expenditures of the rental property costs (projected at \$13,980) so that the same can be reported that way in our financial reports, with projected net income from rentals still at \$13,500 presented to the congregation.
- Approved setting a congregational meeting on March 12 at 12:15 pm for the purpose of electing elders, deacons, and nominating committee members.

Friends Near and Far

Getting to Know Cathi, Our New Office Assistant



Cathi, her husband John, and daughter Claire moved to Port Angeles from Naples Florida in August of 2021. After 18 years in the Florida heat it was time to move somewhere cooler! Cathi has a cousin in Port Angeles, and John is from Mt. Vernon, so Port Angeles seemed like the perfect place to move to.

Cathi worked as the Activities and Events Director at a country club in Naples for 17 years and loved every minute of it.

She has three grown children, Claire in Port Angeles, Maggie a schoolteacher who lives in Naples with her husband Patrick, and a son Ryan who is in the Navy stationed in Norfolk, VA.

For relaxation and enjoyment Cathi loves to walk, explore new places, and watch movies.

She is looking forward to meeting the members of First Presbyterian Church and working for the church community.

Thanks for Letting Us Meet

A donation arrived in the mail from the Overeaters Anonymous (OA) group that meets in the upstairs classroom every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. They said they give this donation with "thanks for letting us use the room."

Franklin Staff Would Like To Thank You

Thank you so much for all the wonderful treats you bring in.
 ♥ Kelly Keen

Many thanks for the enticing treats they are always much appreciated.
 Junkit. Seidl

Oh so good, Thanks for food!
 Thank you so much!
 -Garth Richmond

It is so nice to be appreciated!
 Thank you for your thoughtful kindness!
 Cindy Bradford
 Thank you!!
 C

Thank you for all the delicious treats!
 Matt

The thoughtful treats are delicious!
 Thank you!
 -Jennifer

Always yummy cookies Thank you so much!
 Brenda Louik

Thank you for all the wonderful treats! They are so good!
 -Robin Schwab

Thank you!
 Sarah Shaw

Thank you for all you do for our Students and Staff.
 Shelley

We appreciate your generosity and kindness

Thank you
Tessa Camp

Thank for taking care of us.
Jill!

Highlights articles due
 March 20



Newsletter Deadline



FIRST STEP FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

P.O. Box 249 • Port Angeles, WA • 98362

January 30, 2023

Dear Elves, Donors, and Supporters of the Christmas Present program for First Step,

We wish to extend our gratitude for the Christmas program hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of Port Angeles. The time, care, and resources donated to this project are remarkable! We could not have given a fraction of the holiday joy that we were able to give this year without the support of your team of caring and generous elves, donors, and supporters, as well as the use of your incredible space.

Because our programs are heavily focused on long-term home-visiting relationships with families, we are in a unique position to bring supplies and gifts to families across the Olympic Peninsula. We have spent time getting to know each child in the home on a personal and developmental level, helping us to pick just the right gift for every one of them!

Thank you for partnering with First Step to make Christmas bright for hundreds of families!

Thank you for bringing joy and comfort to families in Clallam and Jefferson Counties this holiday season!

"A child with significant delays nearing 4 years of age has been enjoying our "sensory chair" in the playroom at the Port Angeles Drop-In, where he can sit inside and close the cover for a less stimulating play space. I was able to give this family one of the Paw Patrol tent gift sets, because his mother really wanted to get him something similar but has been faced with multiple health and financial barriers to do so. When they opened it together, both the child and the mother were excited about receiving the thoughtful gift I brought."-First Step Home Visitor

"A local family experiencing homelessness this holiday requested bus tokens to assist them in collecting what gifts they could for their two children. I was able to not only give them bus tokens so that they could shop, but also to give them very useful and engaging gifts from your gift room that were already wrapped and packaged. The family was able to spread their limited funds so much farther, and the children received meaningful, hand-made, and age-appropriate gifts."-First Step Educator

"A family with a 5 month old received a gift set including a toy that spins, flashes lights, and plays music when the child presses down on it. I presented the family with the gift at the end of our visit, and before I had driven for even 5 minutes I received a video of the child dancing to the music of the toy. Mom was so excited, because he hadn't started dancing yet until playing with this toy. By our next visit, he had figured out how to press down the top button to play the music and lights."-First Step Home Visitor

With our sincere thanks,



Elisia Anderson
Executive Director, First Step

Thank you so much for the warm and joyful welcome into your space. We so appreciate all you have done to support this project and our work with families. Warmly, and in gratitude,
Elisia

Waste Not, Want Not

Old adage — new application. According to the United Nations, each year about 1.3 billion tons of food produced for human consumption is thrown away—enough to feed the hungry worldwide. When we waste, others want. In the US, one-third of crop irrigation water is wasted growing food that ends in the landfill creating greenhouse gases.



Some Tips for Reducing Food Waste at Home

Shopping: Make a list, check what's on hand so you don't duplicate, buy only what you need. Consider 2-3 smaller trips to the grocery store instead of one big buy-a-thon.

Refrigeration: Make sure your refrigerator is set no higher than 41 degrees. Place newly bought food in the back of the refrigerator (or pantry) so that the oldest food gets used first.

Understand Dates: 'Use by' indicates a date by which the food can be safely eaten. The 'best by' date is about ideal quality, not safety.

Freeze It: The left-overs you're tired of will taste great next week. You might be surprised at what other foods freeze well: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/collection/foods-that-freeze-well/>

Bread: The most wasted food type in the US (38%). Refrigeration increases shelf life by 3–5 days or freeze for up to 6 months. Have a surplus? Check out these recipes: <https://www.tasteofhome.com/collection/ways-to-use-day-old-bread/>

Share: Thirty-four million people in the US are food insecure (feedingamerica.org). Find a Little Free Pantry to stock: <https://olyclimate.org/resources/lfp/> or donate to your local food bank.

Interfaith Earth Care Coalition

March Church Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
Daylight Savings begins March 12: Spring Forward			Food Drive begins. 9 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Disc. the Bible	3 pm Mission & Outreach 7 pm Lenten Vespers Service 7:45 pm Worship & Music		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30/11 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 10 am Youth Planning Meeting		8 am FISH Company 1:30 pm Community Life 6:45 pm Praise Team	9 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Disc. the Bible	10 am Food Bank Helpers 7 pm Lenten Vespers Service		1:30 pm Mexican Train Dominos
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30/11 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 12:15 pm Cong. Meeting 4:30 pm OPOP	1 pm Naomi Circle	8 am FISH Company 11 am Stewardship 3 pm B, G, & P 6:45 pm Praise Team	9 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Disc. the Bible	10:30 am Book Club Noon Prayer Shawl Ministry 7 pm Lenten Vespers Service	St. Patrick's Day 	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30/11 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 12:15 pm Salad Potluck 1 pm Holy Land	Highlights articles due 7 pm Session	8 am FISH Company 6:45 pm Praise Team	9 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Disc. the Bible	7 pm Lenten Vespers Service		
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
8:30/11 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 2 pm Praise Sing		8 am FISH Company 6 pm Deacons Meeting 6:45 pm Praise Team	9 am Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm Disc. the Bible	7 pm Lenten Vespers Service		April 1: TAFY Dinner

March Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversaries

10 Susan Fisher & Mike Ellis

13 Steve & Rita Frick

22 Mike & Zoe Hansen

27 Mike & Cindy Sofie

Birthdays

1 Leif Erickson

2 Marge Vahsholtz

3 Fred Rodolf

4 Pat Pearson

7 Ted Mattie
Gail McDonald

8 John Taylor

10 Rick Leffler

11 Hana Kildall

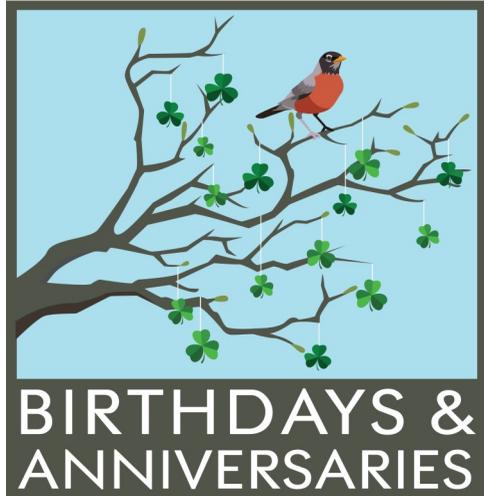
12 David Logan

13 Brenda Nailor

14 Christine Keeling

16 John Locke

MARCH



17 Laurie Fineout

18 Jude Hay
Jason Mayo

19 Tammy Sofie
Diane Zimmer

21 Rod Melville

23 Jeffrey Miller

25 Julie Smith

26 Donna Baldwin

29 Pat Graham

30 Anne Edwards
Jacob Olsen

Puzzles

Friendship Squares

This tasty treat doubles as a game to play with a buddy.



What you need:

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Raspberries
- Blueberries

What you do:

1. Gently break cracker sheets in half to form squares.
2. Heat chocolate chips in microwave for 30 seconds. Stir, then continue heating for 30 seconds at a time until melted.
3. Spoon melted chocolate into baggie and snip a small triangle from one bottom corner.
4. On each cracker, squeeze chocolate lines to form a Tic-Tac-Toe board. Let cool.
5. Using the fruit as X's and O's, play Tic-Tac-Toe with a friend. The winner gets to eat the treat!

[KID0220A]

A friend in Jesus

In the Bible, Jesus shares what it means to be a true friend.

Directions: Use the heart key to fill in the missing vowels from John 15:14, 17, NIV.

a	e
i	o
u	

“Y _ _ r _ my fr _ _ nds _ f
y _ _ d _ wh _ t _ c _ mm _ nd. . . .
Th _ s _ s my c _ mm _ nd:
L _ v _ _ _ ch _ th _ r.”

JOHN 15:14, 17, NIV

Answer: “You are my friends if you do what I command. . . . This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:14, 17, NIV

[KID0220B]

Poetry

All the Beautiful March of Days

All beautiful the march of days,
 as seasons come and go;
 the hand that shaped the rose hath
 wrought
 the crystal of the snow;
 hath sent the hoary frost of heav'n,
 the flowing waters sealed,
 and laid a silent loveliness
 on hill and wood and field. ...

O thou from whose unfathomed law
 the year in beauty flows,
 thyself the vision passing by
 in crystal and in rose,
 day unto day doth utter speech,
 and night to night proclaim,
 in ever changing words of light,
 the wonder of thy name.

—Frances W. Wile

Seeing Stars

The stars shine over the mountains,
 the stars shine over the sea,
 the stars look up to the mighty God,
 the stars look down on me;
 the stars shall last for a million years,
 a million years and a day,
 but God and I will live and love,
 when the stars have passed away.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

Do you like to write poetry? You could see your poem here! Submit a poem to include in next month's Highlights by March 20. For ideas about what to write, you can use upcoming scripture verses as a prompt or perhaps something that moved you from last week's worship—anything that's close to your heart and moves us closer to God by reading it.

Free and metered verse are welcome!

First Presbyterian Church

139 W. 8th St., Port Angeles, WA 98362
360-452-4781 | fpcpa.org

Worship Services

Sundays 8:30 and 11 am
Thursdays in March, 7 pm Lenten
Vespers

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 10 am - 3 pm
Closed for Lunch, 12 - 1 pm
Closed on Friday

The office is behind the church building
off the alley and is handicapped
accessible.

Pastor Matt Paul, pastor@fpcpa.org

Lauren Corder, Office Manager,
administrator@fpcpa.org

Cathi Hughes, Office Assistant,
office@fpcpa.org

Email and phone messages will be
answered when the church office is
open: 10 am to 3 pm, Monday through
Thursday.

If messages or emails are received
outside of office hours, staff will respond
as soon as they are back in the office.

Inclement Weather

Should the church
need to cancel
services and/or
church events due to
inclement weather,
we will utilize
several methods to
inform you about the
closure: 1) the home
page of our church
website (fpcpa.org), 2) our [Facebook](#)
page, 3) our telephone answering
machine message (360-452-4781), and
4) email. Please call or email the office if
you have questions
(administrator@fpcpa.org).



Online Resources

Church Website: fpcpa.org

Online Worship: fpcpa.org/worship

Giving Online:

Look for this
button on our



COVID Protocol: Stay healthy.

Complimentary masks are available in
church office, fellowship hall, and
narthex.

The First Presbyterian Church of Port Angeles is a community of people of all ages who believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and who seek to follow His teachings. We come together to worship God, to grow in our love and support for each other, and to learn about God's will for our lives. Guided by the Holy Spirit, we go out to the community and the world to share our faith and to serve others.