

THE FLAME



February 24, 2025



Monday, February 24

Quilters 10
Chancel Bells 1
Weight Loss Group 3:30
Carillion Handbells 6
Scouts 6:30
FPC Bible Study 7

Tuesday, February 25

Coryell Cupboard 8
Men's Coffee Group 8:30
Intercessory Prayer 9:00
Staff Meeting 1
Coryell Cupboard 4

Wednesday, February 26

Bible Study Via Christi 10
JAM 3:30

Wednesday Night Live 5:30
Youth Ministry 5:30
Choir 7

Thursday, February 13

Women's Bible Study 10

Friday February 28

UWF Sandwiches 2

Sunday, January 26

Caring Fund Sunday

Pre-Lent Indulgent Bake Sale 8:30
Sunday School 9
Church 10
Communion

Listen, I know we're all about "sharing the loaves and fishes," but apparently, someone's been sharing the church kitchen carts with a herd of particularly enthusiastic, possibly caffeinated, rhinoceroses. The one left there looks like it lost a wrestling match with a rogue shopping cart and a particularly aggressive pot roast. So, if you happen to be in possession of our slightly less mangled kitchen cart, the one that doesn't resemble a modern art sculpture titled "Post Apocalyptic Grocery Run," could you please, pretty please with a cherry on top, return it? We promise not to ask what culinary adventures it's been on, though we're definitely picturing some high-speed casserole chases.



February 24, 2025—Transfiguration Sunday



- Exodus 34:29-35
- Psalm 99
- 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2
- Luke 9:28-36, (37-43a)



Jan Dus visited Ponca City last week and gave a meaningful presentation to people of FPC and FUMC. Dus trained as pastor in Prague and studied for a year at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, a Presbyterian Church seminary. He is ordained in the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren (ECCB), and worked as a parish minister, including one year serving a Presbyterian church in Ponca City, Oklahoma. Then Dus moved into humanitarian work with Diaconia, a non-profit social services branch of the Presbyterian Church, and then later with Doctors Without Borders, where he volunteered on eight missions to Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

Dus does humanitarian work as a volunteer – paying his bills by working as a genealogist and leading tours in Central Europe for Americans wanting to connect with their Czech roots.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, the Rev. Dus was in Yemen, working at a hospital on a mission assignment for Doctors Without Borders. He knew immediately: he needed to go home to the Czech Republic to try to mobilize help. Dus, who lives in Prague – has made 10 trips to Ukraine, creating a humanitarian organization called *Camino* that raised about \$80,000 for relief work in 2023, with about half the money coming from Czechs and half from Presbyterians in the United States.

Dus has seen close up what it can be hard to discern from far away: that people in Ukraine live every day with suffering, lament, loss, exhaustion, wounds, both visible and hidden. Hardships become commonplace. The electricity comes and goes, so the heat and lights and sometimes the hope flicker on and off as well. *Camino* is small and grassroots, with no paid staff – working through partners already involved in local communities. In the early days of the war, Dus arranged deliveries of food and hygiene supplies. *Camino* is involved with a handful of projects across Ukraine, assisting everyone from senior citizens to children.

House of Mercy. Before the war, this facility in Vatutine, a small town south of Kyiv in central Ukraine, was home to roughly 35 senior citizens. After the fighting started, refugees from eastern Ukraine fled here – mothers with children, the elderly, teenagers with nowhere to go. About 150 people shelter in House of Mercy now – with several people crammed into each bedroom, people sleeping in the hallways and common areas.

To feed all the new arrivals, the House of Mercy staff decided to start farming, using donations to purchase chickens and pigs and other needed supplies.

Orphanages. *Camino* supports three orphanages, all on the outskirts of Kyiv. The children have been evacuated to Germany and Poland – at one facility, near the start of the war, more than 100 children and their caregivers sheltered in a dirty, wet basement for more than a week, trapped between

Russian attackers and Ukrainian defense forces. The plan is for the children to return when it is safe, but funds are needed to repair damaged buildings.

Food distribution. This program in Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city, is named Mirne Nebo (Peaceful Heaven), the name of an upscale restaurant in the city before the war began.

If you would like to contribute to *Camino*, you can write a check to either church. Camino is backed by the Presbyterian Foundation. You can also get an update concerning Camino every Sunday on Facebook and Instagram under the name “Camino Humanitar.” If you would like to receive email updates, send your name to Ann or Bill Salmons and they can get you on the list.

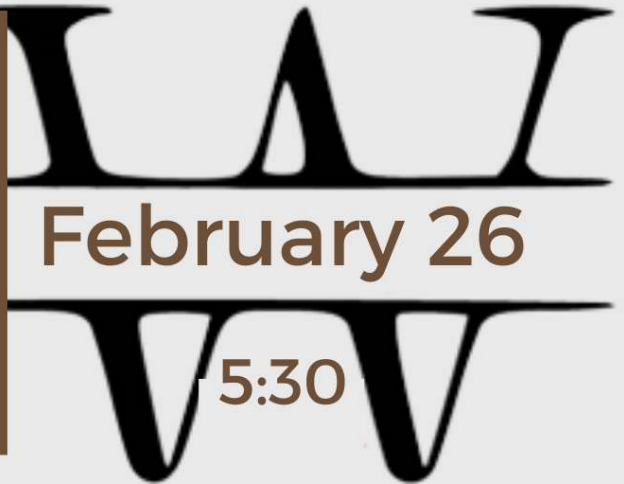


**PRE-LENT
INDULGENCE**

United Methodist
Women are hosting a
“Pre-Lent Indulgence”
Sunday, March 2
8:30 am till 11:30
Bring your sweet tooth &
pick up a scrumptious food item.

PAY WHAT YOU WANT!
All Proceeds go to Missions!

HAPPY FAT TUESDAY
First United Methodist Church 200 S 6th Ponca City 580-762-1681
Where First United Methodists & First Presbyterians Worship Together!



“CZECH MISSION”

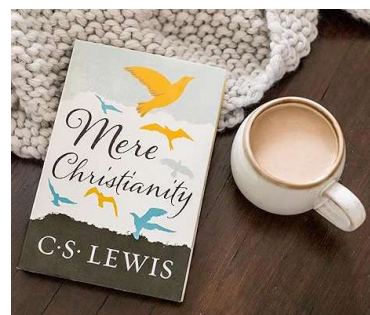
**Kerri Ebbert,
Joe and Lisa Lessert**

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
CHICKEN PARMESAN CASSEROLE**

**Suggested Donation
\$7Adult/\$3Child**



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BOOK REVIEW

MERE CHRISTIANITY by C.S. LEWIS

"C.S. Lewis is the ideal persuader for the half-convinced, for the good man who would like to be a Christian but finds his intellect getting in the way." — Anthony Burgess, New York Times Book Review

Our moral consciousness and moral judgements are proof to the human race that a moral being exists—God.

Mere Christianity explores the core beliefs of Christianity by providing an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to hear a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith. A brilliant collection, Mere Christianity remains strikingly fresh for the modern reader and at the same time confirms C. S. Lewis's reputation as one of the leading writers and thinkers of our age.

The book brings together Lewis' legendary broadcast talks during World War II. Lewis discusses that everyone is curious about: right and wrong, human nature, morality, marriage, sins, forgiveness, faith, hope, generosity, and kindness.

Mere Christianity" is the best-selling Christian book of all time next to the Bible!

Librarian, Jayne Detten

Our Sunday Celebration was well attended and the steering committee served food prepared by Danny's. We thank them for bringing us a hot catered meal on a Sunday! Special thanks for Jose & Laura for cleaning and washing the dishes. It takes a village to have a successful meal. Thanks to Teri for planning the party and Jan for getting it together. We appreciate our steering committee.



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