

# The PRESBY POST



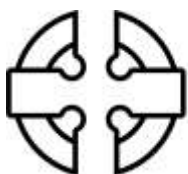
A PUBLICATION OF THE STATE COLLEGE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
STATE COLLEGE, PENNSYLVANIA



FEBRUARY 2024

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STATE COLLEGE  
**PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**



## **Cultivating Readiness for Renewal ~ Lent Begins on February 14 with Ash Wednesday ~**

**T**hroughout scripture we see God's commitment to forming a covenant relationship with creation. From the Garden of Eden, to the Rainbow following the great flood, to calling Abraham on a journey of trust, God has time and again renewed and reclaimed the covenant relationship of compassion and commitment.

We invite you to join us in reflecting on being ready to receive the renewal of the covenant relationship. How are we resistant to new expressions of God's steadfast love, and the life that it calls us into? During the season of Lent please consider which services, opportunities for reflection, and devotional resources will help you assume a posture of receptiveness to the new life that we are being called into. Read on and you will find information about our Ash Wednesday service, a Lenten devotional for families (page 4), as well as opportunities to serve or practice the discipline of humility and generosity through giving.

Next month's PresbyPost will have information about a Spiritual Life retreat at ReFarm, on March 17.

**T**his year's FISH-led Ash Wednesday service on February 14th will be a time of reflection filled with poetry and music. Together, we will explore our cosmic significance and connection with all of God's creation. As we cover our brows with ashes and partake in Holy Communion, we will ponder what it means to be stardust, bearing the image of God.

**ASH**  
*Wednesday*

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**Sunday, February 4, 2024** — 9:00 am  
Rev. John Porter, preaching

**Sunday, February 11, 2024** — 9:00 am  
Sr. Pastor Candidate, preaching

**Sunday, February 18, 2024** — 9:00 am  
First Sunday in Lent  
Rev. Allison Maus, preaching

**Sunday, February 25, 2024** — 9:00 am  
Second Sunday in Lent  
John Porter, preaching



**February 14 — Ash Wednesday**

**February 18 — First Sunday in Lent**

**February 25 — Second Sunday in Lent**

**March 3 — Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 10 — Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 17 — Fifth Sunday in Lent**

### Holy Week

**March 24 — Palm Sunday**

**March 28 — Maundy Thursday**

**March 29 — Good Friday**

**March 31 — Easter Sunday**

## Deacons' Bingo Event

The SCPC Deacons will be hosting a social Bingo event for all ages on Sunday, February 18th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in Westminster Hall. The free event will feature snacks and drinks, along with games of Bingo for small prizes. Come to have fun and feel free to invite a friend!



## State College Presbyterian Church Staff

**Interim Senior Pastor**—Rev. John Porter  
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Rev. Allison Maus  
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**Chrysalis Coordinator (middle school)**—Laura Essinger-Hileman  
scpcchrysalis@gmail.com

**Technology Coordinator**—Michael McGillian

**Stay & Play Preschool Director**—Laura Seeley  
stayandplayscpc@gmail.com Ext. 221

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**Building Manager**—Todd Hockenberry  
bldgmgrscpc@gmail.com Ext. 210

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# All in the Family

**Sympathy** of the congregation to family and friends on the death of:

- Dick Riddle, December 29, 2023
- Louise Tukey, January 4, 2024
- Mary Bundy, Dick and Chris Bundy's daughter-in-law, January 9, 2024 in NC
- Blair Malcom's cousin, Mary Malcom's wife Dottie on January 10, 2024
- William Lloyd, Kevin Lloyd's father, January 13, 2024
- Ted Taylor, January 16, 2024

**Congratulations** of the congregation on the birth of:

- Thomas Lawrence Campolongo on January 17, 2024 to Nathan and Jenny Campolongo in Silver Spring, MD. Proud grandparents are Patt and Larry Campolongo

**Congratulations** of the congregation on the marriage of:

- Sue Powers and David Martz on January 13, 2024

Follow Joel Blunk's health challenge progress at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/thehikewithjoelblunk>



## No Family Fellowship Lunch in February

Due to the Congregational Meeting being held after worship on February 11, we will not hold our February Family Fellowship Lunch. Plan to join us in March! The goal of these lunches is to create opportunities for families at all stages of life to gather, connect, and share a meal together.



March 10<sup>th</sup> | April 14<sup>th</sup>

Pizza and beverages will be provided. A jar will be available if you'd like to make a donation to help cover costs. (Feel free to contact us or bring your own food if you have dietary restrictions). You can RSVP by the Thursday before each date by texting Danielle Rhubarb (315-408-8637).

## New Members in January



Kevin Birmingham  
1978 Park Forest Ave.  
State College, PA 16803

Kevin Birmingham is a familiar face to SCPC and rejoins us by Reaffirmation of Faith. He has returned to State College to care for his elderly mother. Kevin was active at SCPC from 1994 until 2017 when he moved to CT. He served here as a Deacon, sang in the Chancel Choir, and served on a previous Pastor Nominating Committee. His daughters, Sara and Emily grew up here at SCPC and participated in the children and youth programs. Kevin currently works as a consultant for Future Plan.

Rob and Ellen Werner join us by Letter of Transfer from Calvary Presbyterian Church in Indiana, PA. Both are lifelong Presbyterians and longtime members of Calvary Presbyterian. Rob grew up in the Pittsburgh area and graduated from Carson Long Military Academy in 1978. He then received a BS in Economics from Penn State in 1982 and went on to have a career in Banking. He retired as Chief Information Officer at AmeriServ in 2020. Rob always wanted to return to the State College area and they were able to do so after their retirement. Ellen grew up in New Bethlehem, PA and has degrees from Westminster College and IUP. She retired in 2018 from 35 years of teaching music in the Indiana Area School District. Rob is an ordained Elder and Ellen is an ordained Elder and Deacon. Ellen's hobbies include music, reading, walking with their dog, and attending many PSU events. They have 2 adult children, Rob and Laura.



Rob and Ellen Werner  
421 Homestead Lane  
Boalsburg, PA 16827



## WILL YOU PROVIDE A MEAL?

Students gather every Thursday night in the Fireside Room. We are able to provide a welcoming space and a free meal thanks to the generosity of this congregation.



To contribute a meal sign up here

February 25th @6pm  
Fireside Room  
Enjoy a great movie with even better discussion!

WATCH PARTY

PORTRAIT OF A LADY ON FIRE

A moving and intimate narrative about art and forbidden love set in 18th century France



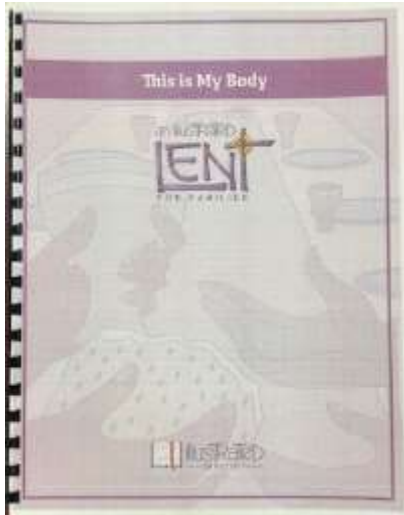
**Lenten Message  
from our Director of  
Education,  
Deannine Shipman**

**W**e wanted to offer something for families to read and do together to celebrate and learn during the season of LENT. In early February, you will find a booklet of devotions and activities, for anyone who would like it, available for you to take home! Copies will be at the back of the

sanctuary and at the Welcome Desk/Office just before Lent begins which is Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Here is a description:

**An Illustrated Lenten Devotional Booklet for Families: This is My Body** is an opportunity for families to take time each week during Lent to be intentional and focus on their faith.

Our theme explores how Jesus lived in his body on earth and invites us to take care of—and embrace the goodness of—our own bodies. Each week highlights a different story from Jesus’ life and connects it to shared human experiences—like growing up, taking naps, or drinking water. By engaging with these stories through a broad lens of embodiment, **“This is My Body”** seeks to inspire curiosity, wonder, and awe in all ages.



We hope this Lenten family resource will help you share in conversation about how God came to be human and live among us.

**What You Will Receive**

- **Seven Family Devotions:** Weekly family devotions include a suggested scripture to read, a short reflection, discussion questions, an activity, a fun fact and a prayer.
- **Coloring & Activity Pages:** Each session comes with a coloring page that goes along with the Bible story, and an activity page.

Many blessings,  
*Deannine*



**February**  
BIRTHDAYS

- February 2 Philip Asante  
Beth Hunter  
Gino Tambourine
- February 9 Erielle Clark  
Joan Plant
- February 10 Jeff Prosser
- February 11 Inga Book  
Ned Wetherald
- February 14 Kathy Groves  
Julie Palmer
- February 15 Jamie Horner
- February 17 Lori Smith
- February 18 John Porter  
Keri Rounsville  
Pat Strong
- February 19 Warren Haffner
- February 20 Steve Mitchell
- February 23 Todd Scholton
- February 25 Laura Steager
- February 26 Fred Thompson— 96!
- February 27 Doug Schaufler
- February 28 Mary Boutselis
- February 29 Kim Phillips



**Come One, Come All—To the Chrysalis  
Coffee House!**

**A**LL AGES WELCOME to come for an entertaining special night. Donations will be welcome and will go to Doctors without Borders.



**Coffee  
House**

**Friday night, February 16th,  
7:00 pm in the Westminster Hall**  
Chrysalis will be hosting the annual Coffee House sharing their unique talents with us to benefit their chosen charity. They hope you will ALL COME on Friday, February 16th at 7:00 pm. Afterwards Chrysalis youth and leaders will stay at the church for an overnight lock-in until Saturday morning after breakfast. Please join us for a fun evening supporting Chrysalis and benefiting a charity!



## Adult Explorations for February Meets at 10:15 am Following Worship

**February 4 ~ "The Past, Present, and Uncertain Future of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at the Heart of Centre County History", led by Phillip Ruth in Westminster Hall**

In this session, historian Philip Ruth will provide a historical overview of the AME Church and congregation, in the context of Centre County's remarkable history as a home for African Americans, and on ongoing efforts to save and preserve the Church building. Philip Ruth has more than 30 years of experience in public history and serves as the director of research for Cultural Heritage Research Services Inc. in Lansdale.

**February 11 ~ TBA**

**February 18 ~ "Student Stress", led by Cheryl Price, in Westminster Hall**

Some stress is normal and even helpful at times! But when exposed to repeated stressful events without the tools to manage it, stress can become toxic. In this session, Cheryl Price will share her insights about how adolescents experience and typically respond to stress, and what can be done to help them cope. Cheryl recently retired after spending 40 years in secondary education, including 22 years as the school counselor at the Delta Program in SCASD and four years in college counseling at the Grier School in Tyrone.

**February 25 ~ "Coping in College", led by Michael McGillian in Westminster Hall**

Although college can be exciting for students, it can also be very stressful. Please join us for a session with Michael McGillian, who will share some of the ways he has been able to effectively cope with stress in college. Michael is the technology coordinator at SCPC and a Telecommunications major at Penn State University.

**February 4, 11, 18 & 25 ~ "Connect" ~ led by Zack Maser, Jamie Bauman, and Laura Millard in Room 10**

Connect is an invitation to deepen your relationship with others and with God by contemplating scripture, lyrics, writing, poetry, and other topics of interest through small group discussions. This is meant to be a time to sit with questions without needing the answers, speak from the heart, pray, meditate, reflect, and be changed by the stories and sharing of others.

Anyone with a desire to Connect more deeply, whether you are a believer or unsure what you believe, is invited to join us. Come as you are to listen, share, grow, and be!



## Thank You to Outgoing Church Officers

A sincere thank you to those who served as Church Officers and who rotated off after January 2023 - a new slate of officers begins their term on February 1st.

**Elders:** Carolyn Bryant, Barbara Cox, Mary D'Ambrosia, and Jason Stimmel

**Deacons:** Kimberly Dawn Falk, Betty Macdonald, Carrie Miller, Reed Miller, Heather Steel, Marcus Wheeler, and Carly Erickson

**Visitation Deacons:** Bitsy Robertson



## LOGOS Is In Full Swing

LOGOS is back in session after our Christmas break and we have been having a blast! Our 1st-5th graders in GECKOS have been enjoying themed nights including Super Hero, Movie Trivia and Airline Nights; while our 6th-8th graders in Chrysalis have been

working their way through the alphabet with themed nights such as "N is for New & Neighbor", "O is for Outside & Opportunity" and "P is for Peace & Presence". LOGOS is a great way for the children and youth of the congregation to enjoy some mid-week ministry focusing on intergenerational relationships surrounding program areas of Bible Time, Worship Skills, Activity Time and Family Time. Interested in what LOGOS is all about? Kindergarten night is coming up on February 20th (snow date February 27th) from 4:15-7:00 pm for our current kindergarteners to spend the evening with LOGOS while being accompanied by their parent. Any grade from kindergarten and above may join us. If you are interested in joining us for Kindergarten Night, please call the church office at 814-238-2422 to register.

Another great way to check out Chrysalis will be to attend the Chrysalis Coffee House on February 16th at 7pm. Enjoy a fun evening of entertainment by our middle schoolers while they raise money for a charity of their choice. Any questions please contact our director, Keri Rounsville ([rouns626@yahoo.com](mailto:rouns626@yahoo.com)) or Deannine Shipman ([deanninescpc@gmail.com](mailto:deanninescpc@gmail.com)).

## Updating our Membership Directory

**We are still in need of many updated photos for our new Online Membership Directory.**

**WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!!!** We want a family photo AND individual photos of folks. When taking a family photo, please be sure to have everyone as close together as possible (using two levels if more than 2 in the photo) as the space for a photo in our database is quite small. We'll be letting you know how to access the Membership Directory soon!

**Send your photo to [marthascpc@gmail.com](mailto:marthascpc@gmail.com).**





With opportunities to **pray**, to **donate**, and to **act**, there are ways for every one of us to contribute to the work of responding to needs in our community and our world.

*God, help my heart see your love, especially where I least expect it. May it inform all that I do.*

### Out of the Cold ~ January 29 - February 4,



As you receive this newsletter State College Presbyterian Church is right in the middle of a week of providing hot dinners, warm conversations, and drop-off-ahead breakfasts for our neighbors at Out of the Cold in their new location at 318 S. Atherton St., just a few blocks from the church. **Thank you** to all the individuals, teams, groups, and committees that have jumped in to help!

Please add your prayers for the wellbeing of guests, staff, volunteers, and our community. May these experiences and connections help us to grow in our care for one another, so we can live in a world where everyone feels seen, supported and loved.

We will need you again in May/June when we will host for a warm-weather week! In the meantime, you are welcome to drop by the shelter to visit – or bring in dinner or drop off breakfast – even outside of our official hosting weeks.



### The Juniper Village Block Party needs YOU!

Is the **February Juniper Village Block Party** already on your calendar? Katie Nurmi and Cheryl Price are leading a hymn sing on **Sunday, February 4th**. Come on by building #1930 for multi-generational visiting, snacks, and singing, from just before 3:00 until 4:00 pm.

Kids of all ages are warmly invited to join in however they are happiest: singing, passing out snacks, visiting, or by hanging out nearby with a quiet game, puzzle, or craft that they've brought along.

**We still need volunteers to take the lead for a couple of parties in 2024.** Bizz Maser has created a guide that makes it all easy. Volunteer by clicking. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1GY-BO-piPMSWPnGyn0qxfdeaNcidh5h9RrynJkRHeQ/edit>. Participants are always welcome to join early for the 1:45 viewing of the morning's service, just before the party.

### Krislund Cap Party!

Our lid and cap (and empty, unlabeled Rx bottle) collection has been SO successful that we already have a picnic table, **and we need some help to sort the current inventory**, and get it all ready to ship to the facility that turns our collection into durable community seating. **We're making it a party!**



Please join us at beautiful Camp Krislund on Saturday, February 17th from 9:30-noon, and 1-3:30 — or simply stay as long as you can! Experienced team members will be leading the charge. RSVP to Dale Cox ([wirebender73@aol.com](mailto:wirebender73@aol.com)) or by calling Camp Krislund at (814-548-6698) so we can expect you and be ready for you!

Your caps and lids keep this project going. **Please help us keep everyone safe by making sure your lids fit in the bin with the lid closed. Volunteers check the bins twice a week. If you beat us there, and find the bin full, please take your lids to the church office instead.**



### Looking Ahead: the Social Justice and Mission Team will be hosting **Emergency Clean-Up Buckets** (<https://cwskits.org/assemble-kits/emergency-cleanup-buckets/>)

item collection and bucket building in March and April. We made nearly 50 buckets last year, and delivered them to the pickup point in time to meet the Maryland bucket depot's semitruck on its pickup trip.

Curt Dell is chairing, and FISH is already planning to help out. **We'd love to have your help, too!** Reach out to Cricket Hunter ([missionatcpc@gmail.com](mailto:missionatcpc@gmail.com)) to get connected, and figure out how best to help in a way that fits your talents *and your busy life*.

# FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>4 Communion Host OOTC @ OOTC 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Exploration Hour 10:00 am College-Age Donuts -TR 10:15 am YoPro Bible-TR 11:00 am Deacons-MR 12:00 pm Explore-FR</p>	<p>5 6:00 pm Scouts-WH 7:00 pm Scout Den-10 &amp; 11 7:00 pm Centering Prayer-Z 7:00 pm Theology un Tapped-McClanahans</p>	<p>6 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Cong. Prayer-Z 4:00 pm LOGOS Geckos 5:15 pm LOGOS Chrysalis 7:30 pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>7 12:30 pm Wednesday in the Word-Zoom/FR 6:00 pm FISH 6:00 pm PNC-Rm 10 7:00 pm Spiritual Life-Z <b>8:00 pm Women's Fellowship</b>-Federal Taphouse</p>	<p>8 6:00 pm PSF-FR 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Adult Ed-Z</p>	<p>9 11:30 am-GIFT Book Club-FR</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Congregational Meeting 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:00 am Exploration Hour for children and youth 12:00 pm Explore-FR</p>	<p>12 5:00 pm Worship Ministry-MR 6:30 pm SJMT-Z <b>7:00 pm Men's Bible</b>-FR 7:00 pm Scouts-WH 7:00 pm Scout Den-10 &amp; 11 7:00 pm Centering Prayer-Z 7:00 pm Youth Ministry Advisory Committee-Z</p>	<p>13 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Cong. Prayer-Z 4:00 pm LOGOS Geckos 5:15 pm LOGOS Chrysalis 7:00 pm Personnel-MR 7:30 pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>14 Communion 12:30 pm Wednesday in the Word-Zoom/FR 6:00 pm PNC-Rm 10 7:00 pm-Ash Wednesday Service <b>8:00 pm Women's Bible</b> Study-MR</p>	<p>15 5:00 pm Stay &amp; Play Open House 6:00 pm PSF-FR <b>7:00 pm Men's Covenant</b> Group-MR 7:00 pm Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Finance-Z</p>	<p>16 7:00 pm Chrysalis Coffee House and Lock-in PresbyPost Deadline</p>	<p>17 Chrysalis Lock-in 6:00 pm YoPro Game Night-FR</p>
<p>18 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Exploration Hour 10:15 am YoPro Bible-TR 11:30 am Session-MR 12:00 pm Explore-FR <b>6:00 pm Deacons' Bingo</b> Event-SH</p>	<p>19 7:00 pm Scouts-WH 7:00 pm Scout Pack-SH 7:00 pm Centering Prayer-Z</p>	<p>20 8:00 am B&amp;P-Rm 10 9:00 am SMART Work Day 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Cong. Prayer-Z 4:00 pm LOGOS Geckos 5:15 pm LOGOS Chrysalis 7:30 pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>21 12:30 pm Wednesday in the Word-Zoom/FR 6:00 pm FISH 6:00 pm PNC-Rm 10 7:00 pm Generosity Comm.-MR <b>8:00 pm Women's Fellowship</b>—Federal Taphouse</p>	<p>22 6:00 pm PSF-FR 7:00 pm Chancel Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Scouts Pinewood Derby</p>
<p>25 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Exploration Hour 10:15 am YoPro Bible-TR 12:00 pm Explore-FR 6:00 pm Watch Party-FR</p>	<p>26 Stay &amp; Play Closed <b>7:00 pm Men's Bible</b>-FR 7:00 pm Centering Prayer-Z 7:00 pm EMU-Z</p>	<p>27 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Cong. Prayer-Z 4:00 pm LOGOS Geckos 5:15 pm LOGOS Chrysalis 7:30 pm Handbell Choir</p>	<p>28 12:30 pm Wednesday in the Word-Zoom/FR 6:00 pm FISH 6:00 pm PNC-Rm 10 <b>8:00 pm Women's Bible</b> Study-MR</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>FR=FireSide Rm MR=Martin Rm WH=Westminster Hall SH=Social Hall TR=Tower Rm Z=Zoom</p>	<p>Exploration Hour: Coffee Hour Pathways, Oasis, Adult Opportunities</p>

STATE COLLEGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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Vol. LXI

Number 2



**February PresbyPost**  
Friday, February 16, 2024  
**March PresbyPost**  
Friday, March 15, 2024



## Stay and Play Preschool

Open House & Enrollment  
Feb. 15, 2024 5pm - 6pm

**YOU ARE INVITED**



- \*Meet:** Teachers, the Assistant Director & Director
- \*Ask:** About our program, policies & practices
- \*Get:** Application for 2024-2025 school year

Applications can also be found on our website under the "forms" tab for digital submission:  
<https://www.scpresby.org/stayandplay.html>



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