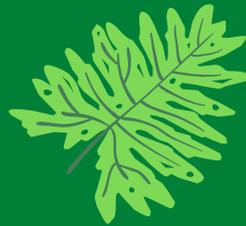


THE LEAFLET



The Weekly Newsletter from Seven Oaks
Presbyterian Church

Birthdays This Week

March 28 Kyle Mixon
March 29 Bev Elbert

From the Pastor

Sharing Our Blessings

Our March collection items for Sharing God's Love are Baked Beans, Canned Beans, and Dried Beans.

Children and Youth

Join us via Zoom on Sunday nights:
5:00 for Children and 6:00 for Youth.
If anyone would still like to have an activity box, contact the church office or Michaela.

This Sunday's worship, we will be sharing in the gospel story of Lazarus. The story itself is powerful, as we hear Jesus proclaimed as the Messiah, the light of the world, by the ever studious Martha. Perhaps during this time of isolation, we find ourselves being studious within our homes, as well! What I drew from the story of Lazarus is entirely new with this reading, however. We often focus on the familial grief which is real during this time, or perhaps the miracle of the resurrection, which so many long for as loved ones are ill and dying. But what struck me this time is the final words: Lazarus Come out! These are powerful words for us as we shelter inside our homes, caring for loved ones and ourselves. When we finally hear the words, "Come Out", there will be so many across this world who will weep with joy. The songs ringing in the streets of Italy will be celebrations. It will be a moment of Easter, rejoicing for Death has gone and the light of the world is visible in one another again! What a gift it will be when we, too have our hands and feet unbound and the sweet presence of those we love is once again ours. It is a blessing to have virtual community; let's be honest about that. But what a celebration we shall have when we too get to say, Come Out, all God's people! Come Out! Perhaps this Lent, we can hold to this and look forward to that moment when God's people are gathered in person again. What will you do first? Whom will you do it with? Let us be prepared to greet the light of the world by readying our hearts to hear the words, Come Out, people of God. Come out! See you on Sunday!
Pastor Jana

Alternative Ways to Give

To give via text:

Step 1

Enter 732-56 after To:

Step 2

Type Sevenoaks as your message and hit send

Step 3

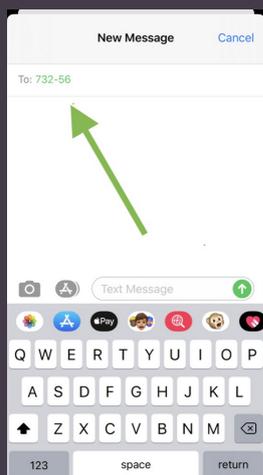
You will be prompted to click a link in order to complete your gift.

To give via our website:

Step 2

Click on "Give" at the top right. A window will open that will guide you through the process.

Step 1 go sopc.net



Know God.
Find Community.

Do you steal? Maybe.....

The Presbyterian Women Bible Study for 2019/20 Horizons "Love Carved in Stone" is about the Ten Commandments. Through this study we are looking at each word, ten in all. The study has been full of discussion and new insight, but the best lesson so far has been Lesson 7, You shall not steal (Exodus 20:15). I don't steal, I have never taken something that was not mine, but after studying this lesson, I find that maybe I have stolen and most likely so have you!

Thinking about stealing brings to mind thieves; people who rob others; people who rob stores; people who take from those that can't defend themselves; but it is really much more than that. Stealing is not paying your tithe; stealing is gossiping about others - you steal their worth, their joy and their faith; stealing is about borrowing something and not returning the item or money; stealing is taking that box of paper clips from your employer; stealing is about not caring about the community around you; stealing is treating others as property or expendable; stealing is keeping people waiting, because that means we do not value their time or think that our time is more important.

We rob when we don't make time for others. We rob when we cut others to size with snide remarks. We rob when we refuse to defend people when they are taunted or discriminated against. We rob when we offer shallow platitudes instead of authentic caring. We rob when we exaggerate our abilities in order to gain an advantage. We rob when we are unkind. We rob when we take advantage of people's trust or innocence. We stand in need of grace when we take from someone that which makes a life of dignity possible. We rob/steal when we do not care for the poorest among us.

Frightening judgment (judgment refers to moments when the truth of one's choices and the consequences of them become crystal clear) lies in store for those who, cloaked in self-righteousness, fail to provide aid and support to those in need. When we do not help those in need, we rob people of the dignity of life itself. This Word calls our personal choices into question and it raises questions about community, even church, priorities. We may not judge the ethics of our decisions based on our own needs. In light of God's values, we must ask, does this damage others? Does this priority take into account the dignity of everyone in a global community?

So, are you looking at "You shall not steal" in a new light? (Edited from "Love Carved in Stone" and submitted by the Ruth Circle)

Want Us to Send an Easter Card to Your Friends and Loved Ones?

For a donation to SOPC of \$5 for each card, we will send your friend or loved one an Easter card, letting them know that you are thinking of them. Choose from the following card covers, email us (at sopc@sopc.net) the name and address of the recipient(s), and let us do the work for you. Donations can be made by mail or through any of the alternate ways to give listed. What a great way to share love, without sharing germs!

Design A



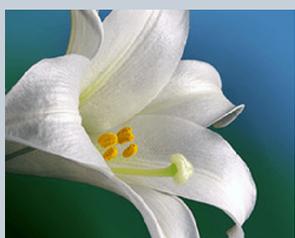
Design B



Design C



Design D



You may also purchase virtual Easter lilies at the normal cost of \$14 (or a donation of choice to apply to SOPC operating budget). Your donation will be published in our online bulletin, along with those who have already purchased lilies.

Online Adult Sunday School Classes

In an effort to maintain our Christian education program and “forsake not the gathering of ourselves together” in this time of physical distancing, we would like to invite you to join in our new online Sunday School class. Anyone interested is welcome to participate in the class. This class will combine all three, regular adult Sunday School classes into one single, online study.

We will begin our first session this Sunday at 9:30 AM, using the same Zoom technology we used for last Sunday’s worship service. For those who may not have joined in for worship service last Sunday, using Zoom is simple. All that is required is for you to click on the link (at the bottom of this page) about 5 to 10 minutes before the class starting time or copy this address into your browser: <https://zoom.us/j/644596158>. You can also participate by phone (audio only) by calling 1-646-558-8656. When prompted, type in this meeting number: Meeting ID: 644 596 158

You will automatically be connected to the session via your laptop, desktop, or cell phone. You will even be able to ask questions and make comments, during class.

The first session will focus on a method of prayer called Lectio Divina, or sacred reading. This prayer/meditation method is an ancient one, many of us Protestants are not familiar with it and therefore, do not know how to use it in our personal devotions. This prayer method is one of the oldest forms of Christian prayer, believed to have begun in the early church in the 3rd century C.E. After learning how to effectively employ Lectio Divina, we will begin using this form of meditative prayer to open each of our regular, online Sunday School sessions in the coming weeks.

Following our Lectio Divina portion, we will continue the study of the gospel of Matthew (begun by the Brewing Faith class several weeks ago.) This week, we continue with the 14th chapter and, time permitting, the 15th a well.

We look forward to “seeing” you this Sunday morning at 9:30!



SOPC Schedule of Virtual Events this Week

Sunday	Monday	Thursday
9:30 Sunday School	10:30 Monday	6:30 Christ and the
11:00 Worship	Morning Prayer	Chocolaterie'
5:00 Children	Meeting	
6:00 Youth		