

February 2022

Third Presbyterian Church



Third Presbyterian Church Family and Friends

What's Going to Happen Next?

You've read the headlines.

You groaned about the state of the world.

You've wondered what's going to happen next.



Image from the Film, *The Pale Rider*
Starring Clint Eastwood
Based on Revelation 6:8

We've all done it. The things we see swirling around us leave us with a feeling dis-ease. At times we feel frightened and at other times we feel grumpy. And so, we wonder, what's going to happen next?

You've seen the news. At times, it seems like it's one piece of bad news after another. We've moved from the original **COVID** to the Delta Variant and now to the Omicron Variant. It's overwhelmed the medical community. Medical Centers and Emergency Rooms have been overwhelmed. Some have waited hours and hours in Emergency Rooms to be seen. Medical Care is being rationed. As Americans, we've never experienced anything like it.

At the same time, we've watched with alarm as **Russia** has threatened to invade Ukraine.

It's not the first time this has happened. In 2014, Russia invaded Ukraine and took the Crimea section of that part of their country by force. Any military action Russia takes against Ukraine will reverberate around the world. And if Russia does act, the adversaries of freedom; China, North Korea, and ISIS, will be watching to see how NATO and the United States respond.



We've watched East Asia with concern too because of the actions of **Communist China**. Communist China which is ruled by an oppressive dictator that does not respect human rights. China has taken islands in the South China Sea. **The islands that are claimed by several nations such as Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Japan.** The Chinese military are turning the islands into staging bases. What's especially frightening about this is the islands lay along a major interstate waterway that the world depends upon for trade. By taking those islands the Chinese could disrupt trade around the world.

All of this would seriously affect the economy of the United States. Dollar Store for example depends on goods from that part of Asia to sell them to you for a dollar or a dollar-and-a-quarter! Many of the running shoes we wear for example from Reebok and Nike come from that part of the world too as do much of our clothing. At the same time, huge quantities of oil move through that oceanic interstate waterway system. Nations depend on that oil to fuel their economies.



This comes at the same time as another nation in East Asia, **North Korea**, has been routinely firing off rockets toward China and the United States. North Korea is run by a Mafia-like-family where people have starved to death during the last ten years. Most of the people live in poverty. The government spends their money on missiles and the development of nuclear weapons. As I write this, North Korea has again fired off missiles. Their missiles with nuclear tipped armaments may have the ability to reach the United States.

China and North Korea's actions are fueling an Arms Race in Asia. **India** has responded to the Chinese threat by developing one of the most powerful militaries in the world. The Philippines have been buying new military hardware to do the same thing. Likewise, **Australia** plans to develop and deploy nuclear submarines like the ones used by the United States and British Navies in order to protect themselves against attacks from the Chinese.



Most ominously of all, the **Japanese** are building a bigger Army, Navy, and Air Force to counter China. We learned during World War II that the Japanese are a formidable adversary.

All of these things are occurring at the same time when we are having **supply chain** issues in our country. In January, I went to the grocery store and found there was no whipped cream, half-and-half, lettuce, and milk. We had a fuel shortage in the late 1970s from an oil embargo, but we have not seen food shortages in stores since the Great Depression. Similarly, building materials have sky-rocketed. We've seen the price of gasoline rising too. **What's going to happen next?**

Last January, we witnessed what was for many a scary insurrection on the Nation's Capital. Congressman Jason Crow, an Army combat veteran who served three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, recalls what happened that horrifying day in article you can read here: <https://coloradosun.com/2022/01/06/jan-6-capitol-riot-jason-crow-anniversary/> When we read these things, we wonder, what's going to happen next? As Christians, what are we to think when we see these things? It looks ominous.

FIRST, the Bible says bad things will happen in our world. After all, bad things happened to Jesus. Jesus was an innocent person that was arrested, beaten, tortured, and murdered for something He didn't do. No one could have ever endured anything worse than what Jesus experienced. Jesus warned His followers that bad things would happen to them (see Matthew 5 and Mark 13). So, we know bad things will happen.

Revelation, the last book in the Bible, talks about the bad things happening on earth. In Revelation 6:1-8, we are told about four different colored horses. Each horse has a rider and each of the colored horses gallop across the world creating painful problems for people, families, nations and the world. Let me tell you a bit about Revelation chapter 6.

- The **first horse** described is a **white** horse. The white horse rides across the world sewing a conquering spirit. It's a horse that incites people and nations to control and dominate others. It appears we can see this horse in the news right now.
- The **second horse** is a **red** horse. It goads people and nations into fight. It divides people and sews resentment and bitterness wherever it goes. Feelings are hurt. People feel violated. Countries feel bullied. All of this leads to fighting and war. The war can take different forms. The war might be between a parent and child or spouses. It might be a political war in a nation that leads to people fighting each other in the streets. It might be war where nations militarily attack each other. There were more wars in the last century than at any time in history. It seems as if this horse is on the media. We can see the divisiveness and fighting it stirs on Social Media platforms.

- The **third horse** is a **black** horse, brings famine, inflation, and want to nations. People lack food. Food prices sky-rocket. Food insecurity becomes common. There is scarcity of items in stores that leads to panic buying. People hoard things because they're afraid they won't be able to buy them later. The rider on the black horse divides the world between the haves and have nots. The have nots are the majority world and the haves are the minority world like the United States. The *Hunger Game* movies portrayed the war between the haves and have nots.

As worrying as the first three horses are, it's the fourth horse, the **pale** horse, that is the most terrifying of all. This is what Revelation says about that horse, "there was a pale-colored horse. Its rider was named Death, and Hell followed close behind. It was given authority over one fourth of the earth, to kill by means of war, famine, and disease." This horse is terrifying because it only brings death. It brings death to peace, relationships, jobs, hope, and ultimately it brings death to life itself.

The Rev. Billy Graham believed these horses and their riders were galloping across the world right now in his book *Approaching Hoofbeats*. The Rev. Graham's assessment deserves thoughtful consideration. If these are riding across the world, let me make two thoughts.

First, these horses can be slowed down. This is how we do it. Every time a Christian...

- responds with grace to a harsh word,
- or shares what they have with others in need,
- or offers an encouraging word to someone feeling down,
- or prays for peace,
- or works for peace between people,
- or shares what Jesus has done for them with a friend or workmate,
- or reacts with calmness and compassion instead of with anger and fear,
- or supports missions in their community and around the world that draw people closer to Jesus...

...they slow the horses down.

Don't miss this. Every Christian can slow these horses down. Dr. Graham wrote that when we "care" for the world we can slow down the hoofbeats of these horses

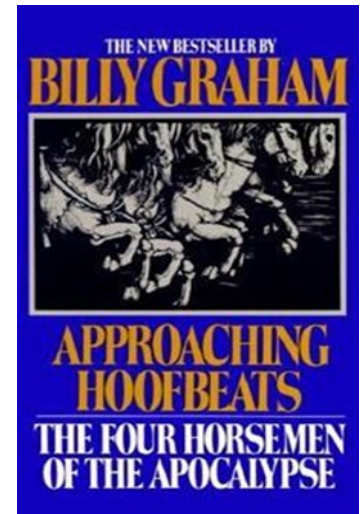
(*Approaching Hoofbeats*, p. 178). We can slow the horses down by the things we say and the things we do. We do it when we respond in faith and not in fear. We do it when we give even though we do not feel like giving. We do it when we respond in grace to a person that has been insensitive.

Here's the good news, as a church, we are slowing these horses down! We are making a difference. This is one of the most amazing things we do as Christians and in the church every day!

I see it happening in my church family when a Christian reaches out to a person struggling in the congregation. I see it happening when Christians respond with kindness when they are attacked in their community. I see it happening when the church fights against and feeds those experiencing food insecurity, supports reading programs and children's ministries, and funds colleges and seminaries. I see it happening around the world where new Presbyterian churches are being built in places as diverse as Communist Cuba to war torn Irbil in Iraq.

I see it happening when we remember the words and actions of brave Christians who lived during the last half-century. One reason we are inspired by the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther, King, Jr, or Mother Teresa, the Rev. Billy Graham, or Archbishop Desmond Tutu is they believed every person was created by God and that every person mattered. Archbishop Tutu lived in a nation that was torn apart by racial injustice. Archbishop saw the oppression, lived during the oppression, was one of those oppressed, and yet he became a hero as a Christian to his nation, the continent of Africa, and the world through his words and actions.

Archbishop Tutu was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize because he said things like, "Without forgiveness, there is no future." Animosity, suspicion, and fear are not the way to a brighter future. Letting go of the past and its toxic feelings, setting healthier boundaries, and forgiving the other person whether they deserved it or not is the way into the future. Dr. King, Mother Teresa, the Rev. Graham, and Archbishop Tutu are revered across the world because they courageously and sacrificially slowed down the apocalyptic horses in Revelation. Every Christian can do it too.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Coretta Scott King, wife of Dr. Martin Luther

Second, we can slow these horses down when we remember God rules. It is a central tenet of the Presbyterian faith. God rules over the world. Psalm 24:1, which flew on a large banner outside the front of Union Presbyterian Seminary, when I was a student there, reminded me of this every day. Psalm 24:1 says, **“The Earth is the Lord’s and Everyone and Everything in it.”**

In spite of the ups-and-downs we experience every day we anchor ourselves in the knowledge Jesus rules over the world. Our Lord is sovereign over the four horses in Revelation. As-a-matter-of-fact, in the previous chapter of Revelation, Revelation 5:6, we are told that Jesus, the lamb of God, is sitting on His throne in Heaven. The writer is telling us Jesus rules over the world.



Jesus Reigns In Heaven
Stained Glass Window

Later in Revelation 19:6-11, we are told unmistakably that war, famine, selfishness, greed, spitefulness, evil, and death will all be defeated by Jesus. Our God reigns. Dr. Brian Blount, a New Testament scholar and the president of Union Presbyterian Seminary wrote these words in his remarkable commentary on *Revelation* for the *New Testament Library Series* (p. 13),

“Revelation’s revelation is that Jesus Christ is Lord.

It is that simple and that straightforward.

**Jesus Christ is the Lord of human history,
the director of human destiny,
the controller of human fortune.**

Jesus is Savior, Redeemer, transformer, and Lord.”

Dr. Blount powerfully reminds us Jesus is Lord. When bad things happen to me and they do happen about 2-3 times-a-day; not that I’m counting, I repeat these words to myself. These words help me center myself and remain calm. **“Jesus is Lord. Jesus was ruling the world before this bad thing happened and Jesus is still ruling the world. Nothing has changed.”**

What’s going to happen next? We don’t know but we do know this, one, as Christians and the church of Jesus Christ we can affect what happens in the world, and two, we anchor our lives in the knowledge that Jesus reigns over our lives and the world.

Pastor Larry

Editor’s Note: In addition to his degrees in theology and counseling, Pastor Larry holds a college degree in history and a master’s degree in American and European History. He is also a graduate of the senior service college in the Air Force, the Air War College, where he studied national security affairs.

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SOS SUPPORT GROUP

Virtual Meeting

Every Wednesday in March

12:00 to 1:00 pm

More details Coming!

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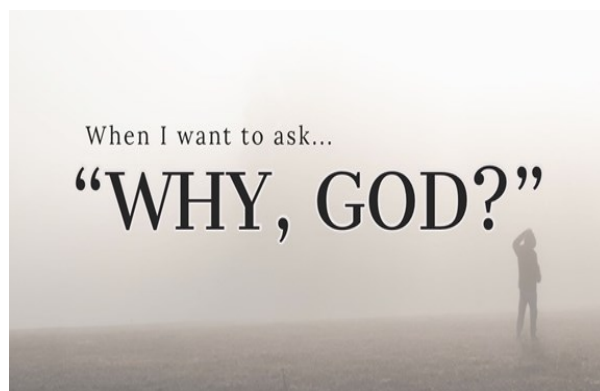


Why God?

Recently a person in our church family asked me about a passage in the Bible. He told me what Jesus did in a story from the Bible was not fair and he was right! It wasn’t fair, so he asked me this question, “Why?”

I thought about his excellent question. We’ve all asked that question, “**Why God?**” when it comes to something that happened in the Bible or something that happened to us or another person.

The question, “**Why God?**” pushed me to put together a series of sermons that will ask that question “**Why God?**” starting this spring!





Online Sign-Up for In-Person Worship

Once we are able to be back in person, please sign-up here: <https://bit.ly/TPCSignUpWorship>

Sign-ups will be used every Sunday for the foreseeable future.

If you have any issues with the sign up process please contact Lexi at lexilynn27@gmail.com

Most Asked For Addresses

Anne Basnight
Lake Taylor Hospital
1309 Kempsville Road
Room 31A Dogwood
Norfolk, VA 23502

Judy and Tim Cook
5079 Easy Street
Mobile, Alabama 36619-1763

Lexi White
1419 Spruce Drive
Holbrook, NY 11741



Carter Griffin
Pearson Hall West
Room 113
310 Alumni Mall
Blacksburg, VA 24061-9502
(Room Number Change)

Brandon and Laura Griffin
7521 Ripplepointe Way
Windermere, FL 34786-5594

LOOK at What is Happening at Third!*Tuesdays at 6:30pm—Dance—Calvin Crofford**Wednesdays at 7pm—AA Meeting**2nd Saturday of each month—10am—2pm Clothes Closet***Reverend Dr. R. Clement Dickey, Jr.****1934-2022**

Dr. Clement Dickey passed away peacefully at home on Wednesday, January 12. Those of you who were here at Third Church in the 1980s will remember him, his wife Pat and their children Lori and David as they very frequently attended worship services. During those years Clement held the position of Parish Associate here at Third and filled the pulpit on many occasions. He was called from his home state of Texas to Norfolk Presbytery in 1976 as the Presbytery Executive and remained in that position until his retirement in 1990 when they moved to Mathews, VA. Clement was Vice-chair of the board of trustees that raised funds to establish Westminster Canterbury in Virginia Beach and worked with Suffolk Presbyterian Church to establish EDMARC Hospice for Children. A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, March 19 at 2 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church in Mathews, Va.



**Do your little bit of good where you are;
it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the
world.**

*Archbishop Desmond Tutu**1931-2021*

Join Us For Worship Every Sunday

Live Stream Worship Every Sunday at 11 am

Join us each Sunday morning for virtual worship at 11 am. Below is the Zoom link where you will be able to see those leading worship and along with parts of our liturgy. Below is the new and updated link, phone number and password as of July 13th.

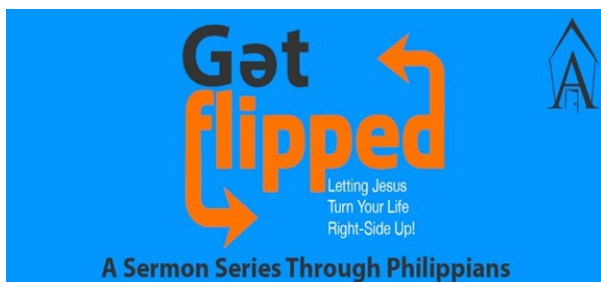
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/605837516?pwd=V0R5VmNCQ2Mraml1TFdOVXpGMepiQT09>

If you do not have computer access, you can call in with your home or cell phone using Zoom's dial in option.

Meeting ID: 605 837 516
Password: 23518
Phone: 312-626-6799

Upcoming Pulpit Schedule

February 6—Pastor Toney
February 13—Pastor Toney
February 20—Stacy Apelt
February 27— Eric Peltz



Pastor Larry's Next Sermon Series
The Book of *Philippians*
Get Flipped—Letting Jesus Turn Your Life Right-Side Up!

Offering Totals for January

January 9

Total Offering - \$3,527.46
Initial Offering—\$15.00

January 16

Total Offering - \$1,927.50
Pastor's Discretionary Fund—\$50.00
General Fund—\$200.00

January 23

Total Offering - \$1,386.90

January 30

Total Offering—\$1,726.70
Initial Offering—\$2.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund- \$200.00

Office Hours

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9am-1pm.
Please feel free to call or send an email, if you need any assistance.



Ash Wednesday Service
Third Presbyterian Church
Wednesday, March 2nd



Dee Curtis—February 10
Cedric Maxwell—February 14
Samantha Suski—February 25



Debbie & Ray Platte—February 8

Presbyterian Women

Ongoing projects:

- A. new or gently used clothing for shelters.
- B. brown bags for St. Columba.
- C. stamps for the American Philatelic society.



The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

1931-2021

Prayer List

Please remember the following people and families in your prayers, that they might be lifted up through your conversations with God:

- Clara Barnes
- Jessica and Ray Fitzgerald & Family
- Cheryl and Fred Holtz
- Ginny Davis
- Steve Glover
- Larry McKinney
- Anne Basnight
- Darlene Pick
- Kitty Ribaud
- Aileen & John Coggeshall
- Marlin Stockdill
- Phil and Claudia Cary
- Ruth Bray
- Holly Gaff
- Nancy Babor
- Laurie Morrissey and her mother
- Chris and Michelle Adams
- Coralie Draper
- Janet Cortez-Nichols
- Pastor Larry and Peggy Toney
- Our Church
- The Session

If anyone has a prayer concern, please contact, Dee Glover. You can call a prayer request in by calling Dee at 757-588-7964 or call the church office. You can also email to thirdpc@hrcoxmail.com .

Who are you?

We are asking members of our church family who they are. Here is what Di Ricks shared with us!

Below are the questions we asked Di Ricks.

1. What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

Chocolate

2. What is your favorite movie?

Forest Gump

3. What is the name of one of your favorite restaurants? New River Tap House



Di at right with her family

4. Tell us something about the work you do or have done. I am retired from the Federal Aviation Administration.
5. If you could meet one person, who would it be? Jesus.
6. What do you like best about Third Presbyterian? How involved Pastor Larry is with the community and the Church family!
7. What do you cherish about your relationship with Jesus? Jesus is always with me and has guided me through some really tough times.
8. Has God spoken to you through a favorite Scripture verse, or hymn/song, or a sermon? The hymn "Here I am Lord" opened my eyes and led me to serve on 3 short-term mission trips to Peru to provide clear drinking water systems and teach people hygiene.

- 9. Please share something about yourself that others might find interesting. A Joint House Resolution was passed in the Virginia State Senate and House of Delegates that commended me for inspiring and chairing a fund-raising project that raised over 1.3 million dollars over the course of eight years for the American Cancer Society and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.
- 10. Is there anything else you would like to add? I first listened to the live stream of 3rd Pres on Easter Sunday 2020. I was immediately drawn to Pastor Larry’s Sermon. Ever since that day, I feel like I have become part of the 3rd Pres. family and enjoy helping out at the Clothes Closet and wherever else I am needed. I think this idea of asking members of our church family “who we are” is awesome because it will draw us closer together. I look forward to meeting and getting to know each other in the future.

Would you like to share your email address with others? Yes, it is diricks91@gmail.com

If you are neutral in situations of injustice,
you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

If an elephant has its foot
on the tail of a mouse
and you say that you are neutral,
the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu



MEN’S BREAKFAST

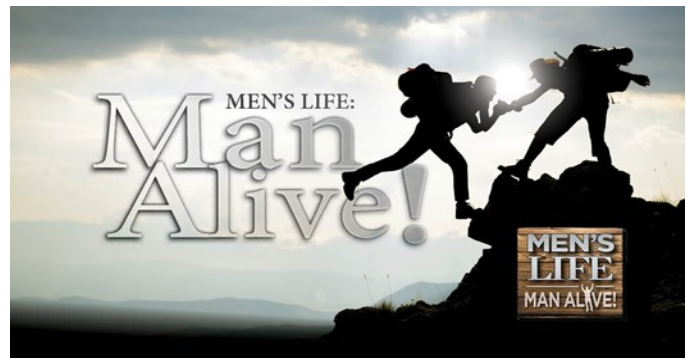
SUNDAY, 8:00 am

February 27th

Mom and Pop’s Diner

331 East Bayview Blvd, Norfolk

**Pastor Larry Devotional
“David’s Mighty Men”**



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

I wanted to write a short piece but decided that this letter the church received from our General Presbyter and the 2021 Moderator of the Presbytery Council was worth everyone to hear. Their words:

“This past year has been a roller-coaster, and 2022 appears to be shaping up in a similar way. Churches that ended 2021 with in-person worship may find themselves back in a virtual situation. Masks are more important than ever, as are vaccines and boosters.

Despite these challenges, the ministry and mission that you carry, locally and globally, remain inspired and, perhaps most importantly, adaptable. Congregations continue to join together in worship and outreach and continue to find new ways to be the hands, feet, and voice of Christ in the world today. We as Christians are known by our love, demonstrated in so many tangible and intangible ways. As long as we continue to share the love and good news of Jesus Christ, in whatever form or fashion that appears, we are fulfilling our purpose as Christ’s church.”..... The Rev. Liza Hendricks and The Rev. Dr. Lou Ventura

We have faithfully supported the Presbytery during these difficult times so that they may continue to do their work in the world. In 2022 we will continue to do so. Please continue to send in your pledges and tithes so that Third Church stays alive and vibrant into the coming years.

P.S.—Don’t forget to send in your Initial Offering envelopes to help offset the cost of them.

Nancy Babor



Presbyterian Women Bible Study News

Covid-19 continues to rear its ugly head. We had to cancel our Presbyterian Women Bible Study Meeting in January and now in February. To help all to remember, if we are not having in-person worship, we are not having our PW Bible Study Meeting. We will pick up where we left off when we meet again.



Shepherd's List 2021



Teri Howard

757-274-3311

Claudia and Phil Cary

*Dee Glover

*Steven and Claudia Glover

Ginny Davis

Jessica Fitzgerald & Family

Nancy and Vernon Barham

Dorothy Grandstaff

Larry and Peggy Toney

Dennis Griffin

757-618-3005

Marguerite Duke

Betty Hart

Susan Howlett

Garland and Peggy Russell

Carol and Tom Maxwell

T.J. and Larry McKinney

Stacy Apelt and Judy Floyd Apelt

Lexi White

Tom Maxwell

757-531-9851

Cheryl and Fred Holtz

Teri Howard

Janice daSilva

**Brittany French

Dave and Jenni Joyce

Kitty Ribauda

Shelli Quales

Holly Gaff and CJ Jones

Nancy Babor

757-588-7501

Susan Mayo

*Dolores Ominski

Darlene Pick

Debbie and Ray Platte

John and Aileen Coggeshall

Amy and Dennis Griffin

Ginny Keisel

*Dee Curtis

*Anne Basnight

Stacy Apelt

757-583-5872

James daSilva

Jennifer Lavalley & Family

Ron and Inda Ratcliff

Meghan Powell and Geno Morgan

Tim Green & Family

Nancy Babor

Jim Rudiger

Malinda Hanna Davis

Jim Rudiger

757-588-5311

Michael and Teresa Gibbs

Joseph Bray

Ruth Bray

Pete and Debbie Goode

*Chuck and Suzanne Olejasz

Artie and Milinda Derrenbacker

Marlin Stockdill

*no email-please call

**Text

Red+Shut-in

Calvin Presbyterian Church

2901 E Little Creek Rd, Norfolk, VA
23518 (757) 587-1591

• Food Pantry Hours

Monday, Wednesday and Friday
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

• Third Saturdays of the month
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

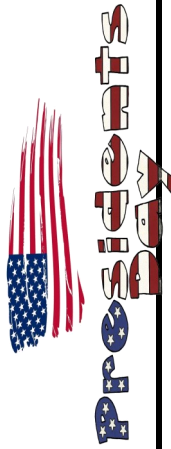
The food pantry serves Norfolk zip codes 23518 and 23503. Those in need of assistance may obtain a referral from any of the participating churches.

Pantry Wish List:

- 25 oz Apple Sauce
- 16 oz Baked Beans
- 24 oz Beef Stew
- 15 oz Peas
- 15 oz Green Beans
- 1 lb 13 oz Canned Fruit
- 32 oz Jelly
- 18 oz Peanut Butter
- 32 oz Pancake Mix
- 24 oz Syrup
- 1 lb Rice
- 8.25 oz Tuna Helper
- 6 oz Tuna
- 15 oz Spaghetti O's
- 15 oz Thick Soup
- 64 oz Juice
- 12 oz Luncheon Meat
- 7.25 oz Macaroni & Cheese
- 13.75 oz Mashed Potatoes
- 13.7 oz Oatmeal Individual Packs
- 16 oz Spaghetti Noodles
- 26.5 oz Spaghetti Sauce
- Dry Milk, Individual Packs

Please, no baby food, coffee, tea, sugar, pickles, olives, condiments, tomatoes, cranberries, canned milk, crackers or mushrooms.





February 2022

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------|
| | | 1 6:30-10pm Dance Group-C. Crofford-FH | 2 7pm AA Meeting | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 11am Virtual Worship | 7 | 8 6:30-10pm Dance Group-C. Crofford-FH | 9 7pm AA Meeting | 10 | 11 | 12 10am-Noon— Clothes Closet?? |
| 13 11am Virtual Worship | 14 Valentines Day | 15 6:30-10pm Dance Group-C. Crofford-FH 6pm Session Mtg | 16 7pm AA Meeting | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 11am Virtual Worship | 21 President's Day | 22 6:30-10pm Dance Group-C. Crofford-FH | 23 7pm AA Meeting | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 11am Virtual Worship | 28 | | | | | |



Third Presbyterian Church
8065 Carlton Street
Norfolk, V23518

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Larry O. Toney, Pastor
Debbie Platte, Secretary
Joseph C. Bray, III, Organist/ Choir Director
Clara Barnes, Sexton
Teri Howard, Clerk of Session
Holly Gaff, Treasurer
Nancy Babor, Financial Secretary

Presbyterian Women

Nancy Babor, Monday Night Circle

Presbyterian Men

Tom Maxwell, President
Fred Holtz, Vice-president
Jim daSilva, Secretary/Treasurer

SESSION

Building & Grounds

Tom Maxwell

Stewardship

Nancy Babor

Memorial Committee

Nancy Babor

Witness & Outreach

Worship

Teri Howard

Administration and Personnel

Dennis Griffin
Stacy Apelt
Jim Rudiger