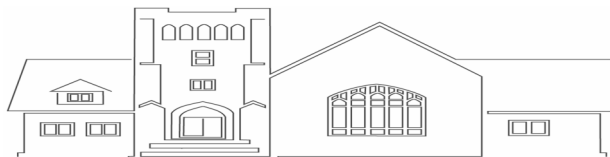


**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
NEWTON, IOWA  
641-792-2790**

*"The Mission of First Presbyterian Church of Newton, Iowa is to share the love of God and grow the body of Christ through joyful worship and fellowship, devoted prayer and study, and humble service in our community and world."*

# THE MESSENGER



**March  
2020**

## **Meghan's Musing**

### Lenten Disciplines

On Transfiguration Sunday (the last Sunday before Lent) I encouraged the congregation, as I do every year, to take on a Lenten discipline.

The season of Lent offers us an opportunity to really focus on our faith, on our relationship with God and even on our relationship with the church family in a special way that no other time in the church year does. So this year, I'm inviting you to enter willingly into the valley of Lent. And rather than "giving up" something for Lent, I'd like to invite you to "show up" for Lent. Show up for worship, perhaps challenge yourself to come for worship every Sunday in Lent. Perhaps challenge yourself to get up early and show up for the Lenten breakfast. Every Lenten breakfast. Every week. Or participate in the evening Lenten Devotion and Study on Wednesday evenings. Or perhaps show up for the special services at the beginning and end of Lent: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, the Cross Walk on Good Friday. Perhaps challenge yourself to show up for church life activities. Show up for worship and fellowship opportunities that you might not have otherwise. Show up and see how you might be changed. Show up and see how our church family might be changed.

But if you still feel like you need to give something up, perhaps be guided by these words from Pope Francis:

*Do you want to fast this Lent?*

*\*Fast from hurting words and say kind words.*

*\*Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.*

*\*Fast from anger and be filled with patience.*

*\*Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.*

*\*Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.*

*\*Fast from pressures and be prayerful.*

*\*Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.*

*\*Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.*

*\*Fast from grudges and be reconciled.*

*\*Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.*

In our Transfiguration Sunday scripture from Matthew, Jesus tells his friends: Get up and do not be afraid! I would like to add: Get up and show up! Show up and be transformed! Get up and do not be afraid!



Gladys G. Wynn Sparks, the daughter of Ira and Jessie Viola Cleair Wynn was born on April 16, 1922 in Lovilia, Iowa. She was a graduate of Lovilia High School in 1939. On January 13, 1940, Gladys was united in marriage with Roscoe Keeton. They were blessed with two children, Larry and Sandra. Gladys was later united in marriage with Wilbur Sparks in December of 1976. She was a sales assistant for Iowa Southern Utilities in Newton for 25 years, retiring in 1980. Gladys was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Newton and a former member of the Lovilia Chapter of OES.

Gladys died on Friday, February 7, 2020 at the Nelson Manor Nursing Home in Newton. She was 97. Her memorial services will be held on May 22, 2020. A private family burial will be at the Woodlawn Cemetery in Lovilia at a later date. In lieu of flowers the family requests memorials to the First Presbyterian Church or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Memorials may be left at the Wallace Family Funeral Home & Crematory in Newton. If you are mailing your memorial to the funeral home please add, Attn: Sparks Family on the envelope.

Those left to cherish Gladys' memory are her children, Larry D. (Debbie) Keeton of Tulsa, Oklahoma and Sandra Keeton Murrow of Mitchellville; her stepson, Royce (Connie) Sparks of Newton; seven grandchildren, Chris, Clint, Chad, Curt, Mike, Annette and Betsy; and her 15 great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, stepson, Laverne Sparks; son-in-law, David Murrow; and brother, Edgar Wynn.



Robert Dean Johnson, father of Kim DeGraff, died on Monday, February 17, 2020 at Accura Health Care of Newton- West. Funeral service was held Friday, February 21, at Baxter Congregational United Church of Christ. There was a private family burial at Liscomb Cemetery.

Robert was born on May 21, 1937, in Liscomb. He lived in the Davenport/Rock Island area until 1949, when he and his four sisters moved to his grandparents' farm, east of Liscomb. He graduated from Liscomb High School in 1955. On December 31, 1955, Robert and his high school sweetheart, Phyllis McKibben, were married and they lived in the Liscomb/ Conrad area. He worked for a couple of years in Marshalltown at a foundry and Melbourne Food Locker before working for Paul Franzenburg at Franzenburg Locker and Charlie's Market, both in Conrad. Loving the grocery and meat business, they purchased the grocery store in Baxter and moved there in 1969. They owned and operated the Baxter Food Center for 20 years. He then worked at HyVee in Newton and retired after 15 years.

Robert is survived by his wife, Phyllis; four children, Michael Kevin (Jody) Johnson of State Center, Barry Dean (Terri) Johnson of Polk City, Kimberly Sue (Scott) DeGraff of Colfax, and Jody Anne (Scott) Vogt of Gold Canyon, AZ; 9 grandchildren; two step grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren; four step great grandchildren; and three sisters. He is preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law, a sister, son-in-law James "Jim" Schnell, and 4 brothers - in-law. In lieu of flowers, donations may be directed to Hospice of Midwest or Baxter Congregational United Church of Christ.



For the Sparks and Johnson families as they learn to live with the absence of their loved ones.

For Steve Weeks, who is having tests done for a mass in his brain. It is not life threatening, and Steve has an extremely positive outlook.

For those who are suffering from the various strains of flu and congestive conditions.

For those who are suffering with unspoken situations in their lives.

For our government officials, especially during this election year.

For the people of South Sudan.

## 2019 Lenten Breakfasts and Devotions

A wonderful tradition that continues in our church is the Lenten breakfasts and devotions. These start on Ash Wednesday and continue every Wednesday morning through Lent. We start breakfast at 6:45 am with devotions following. We strive to finish by 7:45 to 7:50 for those needing to get to work.

Below is the schedule for this year. A big “thank you” goes out to Jane Repp for making the contacts to find those who will prepare the meal and those who offer the devotions each week.

We hope to see many of you there.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Cook</i>	<i>Devotions</i>
March 4	Barb Taylor	Larry Anderson
March 11	Shari DeCook	George Wilkening
March 18	Kay Parsons	Gary Parsons
March 25	Jane Repp	Mickey Van Baale
April 1	Linda Curtis-Stolper	Linda Curtis-Stolper



LentenBreakfasts  
& Devotions



**March 8th is the beginning of Day Light Savings Time. Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead an hour before going to bed Saturday night, March 7th.**

**For those who are not fans of having the time change, put it on your calendars now that we fall back on November 1st.**

## 519<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Meeting Report

February 8, 2020  
Covenant Presbytery Church  
West Des Moines, Iowa

Rev. Meghan Davis, Linda Curtis-Stolper and I attended the meeting. Highlights of the meeting were:

- ♦ Very moving worship service entitled "Hope in the Midst of Change" with the message presented by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka.
- ♦ A presentation by Rev. Dr. Rodger Nishioka entitled "21<sup>st</sup> Century Reformation: Seven Trends that are changing and challenging the church." Nishioka serves as the senior associate pastor at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS. Prior to his joining the ministry at Village, he served for 15 years as the Benton Professor of Christian Education at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. He is a very dynamic speaker – one I wish everyone had the opportunity of hearing. The seven trends he spoke on were:
  1. From tribal education to immigrant education.
  2. From Mission out there to Mission right here.
  3. From reasoned spirituality to mystery-filled spirituality.
  4. From mass evangelism to one-on-one evangelism.
  5. From credentialed leadership to gifted leadership.
  6. From high tech to high touch (Used the new Google commercial as an example).
  7. From discipleship to apostleship. Disciples come together – Apostles go out.
- ♦ Heard, discussed and voted on two overtures that were passed and will be sent to General Assembly for the next General Assembly meeting. One was on The Presbyterian Climate Accord and the other on Fossil Fuel Divestment.
- ♦ Learned we have a candidate, Amy McGriff, from First Presbyterian Church in Oskaloosa, that will be enrolled as an Inquirer in seeking to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament. (Teaching Elder)
- ♦ The COM (Commission on Ministry) reported on a variety of topics which included new liaisons to make biennial visits to churches; adopted a Code of Ethics for Ruling and Teaching Elders; granted the status of honorably retired to 3 ministers; and gave the dates of some upcoming meetings and training sessions.

The next meeting will be in May. The location is yet to be determined.

Mickey Van Baale, Commissioner to Presbytery

## Church Life

Gary Parsons, Chair

Our committee met on February 11. The purpose of this meeting was to plan events for 2020 so they can be entered on the church calendar. We normally do not plan an activity for June because of the ice cream social and committee members are generally very involved in helping with that. The following list are the events and dates approved by the committee. \*NOTE: The dates for the ice cream social and Ecumenical Rally Day service are set by other committees.

February 16, 2020	Drake basketball game and dinner at Pagliai's in Johnston after the game
March 15, 2020	Potato Bar following worship
April 12, 2020	Easter Breakfast
May 24, 2020	Graduation Breakfast for Allie Norvell with Christian
June 9, 2020	Ice Cream Social
July 12, 2020	Worship at Woodland, potluck to follow with Worship and Music Committee
August 30, 2020	Downtown churches Ecumenical Rally Day service
September 20, 2020	Progressive Dinner
October 18, 2020	Movie Night
November 22, 2020	Thanksgiving Feast and Communion, with Worship and Music Committee
December 13, 2020	Caroling and chili
January ?, 2021	Grinnell College basketball game and meal after. *NOTE: 2021 schedule not available at this time

Our first activity was to attend the Drake vs Evansville game on Sunday February 16. We had 22 church members who attended and we saw a very good game. Evansville is the last place team in the conference this year but they were very competitive Sunday. In fact they were ahead at halftime. Drake came alive in the second half and won 85-80 but it was in question to the end. Garrett Sturtz had a very good game, scoring 11 points and drawing a lot of fouls. He has scored in double figures in 5 of the last 8 games. Drake has 13 wins and 1 loss at home this season. There were 4 to 5 thousand people in attendance at the Knapp Center. Probably about half to three fourths full. Mickey Van Baale talked to Garrett after the game and he was very pleased we were at the game. It is a fun experience. Easy to get to, easy to park, easy to walk to Knapp, easy to get to seats. In other words, if you didn't go this year please consider going next year. After the game 16 of us went to Pagliai's Pizza in Johnston and had a great meal and great fellowship.

## Worship and Music

Jeanette Shannon, Chair

The Worship and Music Committee met on Feb. 11, 2020. Events coming up for Lent and Easter were discussed.

- ♦ Thank you to Jane Repp who was responsible for contacting people to cook Lenten breakfasts and provide devotions for Wednesday mornings during Lent.
- ♦ Ash Wednesday devotions will be led by Pastor Meghan. Imposition of ashes will take place in the sanctuary.
- ♦ Mickey has ordered palms for Palm Sunday. We are hoping youngsters will be available to pass them out. They may process in with the choir then sit with their parents. We will have communion during the service.
- ♦ Mickey will have a form for ordering Easter lilies inserted in the March 1 bulletin. After that, the forms will be available in the narthex. The lilies will be delivered on Thursday, April 9 and stored in the parlor until the next day.
- ♦ Maundy Thursday will also have communion.
- ♦ The Cross Walk will take place on Good Friday. Following that the Lily cross will need to be assembled and the deacons and this committee will decorate it.
- ♦ Church Life will take care of Easter breakfast and Christian Nurture is responsible for the egg hunt.
- ♦ People may take their lilies after church and deacons will deliver to shut-ins.



Worship and Music Committee



*Easter Lily  
Orders*

As is our church's tradition, the Deacons and members of the Worship and Music committee will be putting together the Lily Cross for display on Easter Sunday. You may order a lily or additional ones to honor or in memory of loved ones. An order form will be inserted in the March 1st bulletin. After that, the forms will be available in the Narthex.

The last day to order is Sunday, April 5. The lilies will be delivered from Hy-Vee on Thursday, April 9.

The cost this year will be \$11. Be sure to indicate on the form if you will be taking yours home or leaving it to be shared.



## Point person needed for Ice Cream Social

Tuesday June 9, 2020 has been set as the date for this year's Ice Cream Social fundraiser for Mission Committee.

Persons have been recruited to prepare the food, but one thing is lacking. We need a point person to put the event together. We would like to have someone separate from the food preparers to be Chairperson of this year's event.

If you are willing to take the job on or would like to talk about what this job entails, please call Linda Anderson at 641-521-1153 or email at [wilsand96@yahoo.com](mailto:wilsand96@yahoo.com)

The Racial Harmony & Justice Working Group is offering a study of Ibram X. Kendi's book "How to Be an Antiracist" over the course of six monthly meetings (March-August). The group will meet at The Cellar Peanut Pub (403 W 4<sup>th</sup> St N, Newton) at 6:00pm-7:00pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Participants should read the designated section of the book prior to the monthly meeting and be prepared to discuss thoughts, questions, and curiosities spurred by the reading (reading schedule below).

**About the book:** "Antiracism is a transformative concept that reorients and reenergizes the conversation about racism - and, even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. At its core, racism is a powerful system that creates false hierarchies of human value; its warped logic extends beyond race, from the way we regard people of different ethnicities or skin colors to the way we treat people of different sexes, gender identities, and body types. Racism intersects with class and culture and geography and even changes the way we see and value ourselves. In *How to Be an Antiracist*, Kendi takes readers through a widening circle of antiracist ideas - from the most basic concepts to visionary possibilities - that will help readers see all forms of racism clearly, understand their poisonous consequences, and work to oppose them in our systems and in ourselves. Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science with his own personal story of awakening to antiracism. This is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond the awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a just and equitable society." (from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com))

### Reading/Discussion Schedule:

March 3 - Introduction and Chapters 1-3 (Definitions, Dueling Consciousness, Power)

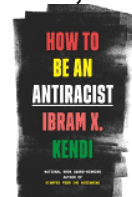
April 7 - Chapters 4-6 (Biology, Ethnicity, Body)

May 5 - Chapters 7-9 (Culture, Behavior, Color)

June 2 - Chapters 10-12 (White, Black, Class)

July 7 - Chapters 13-15 (Space, Gender, Sexuality)

August 4 - Chapters 16-18 (Failure, Success, Survival)



The Racial Harmony & Justice book club is free and open to all. Participants are responsible for purchasing their own books. Contact Rev. Jessica Petersen (641-792-3773) or Rev. Meghan Davis (641-792-2790) with any questions regarding the study.

## Mission Committee

Larry Anderson, Chair

The committee met Feb. 2 and took the following actions:

- Sent \$300 from the Cents-ability offerings to hunger programs – half to the local food pantry at Salvation Army and half to Presbytery (which is then divided between Presbytery hunger initiatives and PC(USA) programs.
- Finalized plans for “food-tasting” at Salvation Army during the bread line Feb. 7. We plan to continue this monthly and feature dishes made with food available to bread line recipients. We also plan to partner with Carol Camp, as her community garden program through ISU Extension will be supplying produce to the bread line program.
- Noted that FPC will be responsible for volunteers for laundry nights April 13 and 27 in shifts from 4 to 6 and 6 to 8 PM.
- Celebrated the congregation’s generosity in donating to the EmPower Fund. (The fund was utilized for a loan for a used car on Feb. 12.)
- Celebrated Days for Girls, which is donating 65 feminine hygiene kits to be delivered to El Salvador by Veronica Mangrich during the next medical delegation.
- Discussed the ice cream social (see separate article).
- Upcoming events: Take Away Hunger, Mar. 25 in Lynnville; Mariners in Mission, Apr. 24-31 at Camp Grier; Presbyterian Women, event Mar. 25 in Indianola

Thank you for supporting these ministries!

Larry Anderson, chair

At our February 9 meeting, in our new meeting location of the parlor, we:

- † Heard and approved the minutes from our January meeting.
- † Reviewed our February visits.
- † Learned that our most current financial report shows a balance of \$304.44.
- † Received a report from Shirley Stevens that she sent 31 cards in January and 12 thus far in February.
- † Remembered Gladys Sparks who died February 7, 2020.

Diane told deacons that she had updated the visitation list and the list had been distributed, along with yearly financial information for 2019 and a list of devotion and flower delivery duties for 2020.

Diane Moles, Moderator







**Church Directory with photographs:** Warren Erickson and Dave Stolper will be taking photographs to update our Church Directory. Members are encouraged to personalize their photo with “props” or by dressing in attire that shows a favorite activity or hobby, or by

having your picture taken in a special or favorite place, or in some other way showing who you are or what you do. You will be contacted, or you may contact Warren (275-1926 or 792-8630) or Dave (840-2422) to set up a time and place for a photo session. There will also be a form available to indicate what personal information you would like in the directory along with your photo.

**Transportation Ministry needs a new coordinator.** Our prior coordinator (Gary Parsons) has taken on new responsibilities so we are in need of someone to coordinate those who need rides to and from church with those willing to provide rides to and from church. Please pray about this opportunity to serve God through helping others. Contact Marilyn McCallister (641-792-9688) for more information.

**Pacesetters Winter Show** was February 1. Some of our members were able to attend to watch Allie wrap up her Pacesetter career. Also performing was Allie’s dad, Chris and a surprise appearance by Jen and the other moms. Dana Hashman’s granddaughter, Piper Karr, was one of the junior Pacesetters. Watch for pictures next month.

**Members welcome to join the Membership Committee!** Our three main areas include:

Publicizing information and opportunities for both our members and the community i.e. church brochure available for distribution; Sundays at Four programs open to the community; entry in 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

Caring for current members i.e. through prayer; providing rides as needed; encouragement through cards, calls, visits; updating the church directory

Encouraging new membership i.e. Bread Ministry; Greeting Ministry; follow-up of first time visitors

Feel free to visit with our current members about the committee: Warren Erickson, John Taylor, Joan Tyler, Mary Roskilly and Marilyn McCallister.

As always, many thanks to all of you who serve to be a welcoming church to our visitors and members.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn McCallister, Session Rep. & Chair

## Christian Nurture

Mickey Van Baale, Chair

We have prepared and sent out a survey about having a nursery during church and starting up Sunday school. These went out to parents of our “littles” and possible people for the nursery coverage and/or teachers for Sunday school.

If you are interested in helping with the nursery or Sunday school or both, please let myself or Steve Gehling know. We’ll be glad to get you the information right away.

Finally, won’t you be our neighbor? No wait, that’s not quite right! Won’t you be a member on our committee? Being on the committee does not mean you have to teach Sunday school or be a volunteer in the nursery, but it also doesn’t mean you can’t.

In addition to the items listed above, there are some ideas bubbling for young marrieds where child care would be available. Your ability to attend a meeting a month, if there is something to meet for, and your creativity are the only requirements.



# 2020 *BIRTHDAYS* & **EVENTS**

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thur**

**Fri**

**Sat**

1	2 4:45p– Personnel	3 11a Gentle Yoga 3:30p Mission 6p Book Club at Peanut Pub	4 6:45a Lenten Breakfast 9:30a @WBS 5:30p Meal & Lenten Study 7p Choir	5 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	6	7
8 Day Light Savings Begins 9a Deacons in Parlor	9 Kevin Peska 3:30p Mission	10 11a Gentle Yoga 4p Worship & Music	11 Linda Curtis-Stolper 6:45a Lenten Breakfast 9:30a @WBS 2:30p Mbrship 5:30p Meal & Lenten Study 6p B&F 7p Choir	12 3p Chair Yoga	13	14
15	16 Godspell Issifou	17 11a Gentle Yoga 7p Session	18 6:45a Lenten Breakfast 9:30a @WBS 5:30p Meal & Lenten Study	19 6:30a Early Men's Group 9a Men's Group 3p Chair Yoga	20	21 Julie Fisher
22 Elsie Nelson	23 Dan Skokan	24 11a Gentle Yoga	25 6:45a Lenten Breakfast 9:30a @WBS 5:30p Meal & Lenten Study	26 Don Black Les Gause 9a Day for Girls 3p Chair Yoga 6p Evening Days for Girls	27	28
29	30	31 11a Gentle Yoga 1:30p JCRSP 6p Pub Theology				

## Regular Worship Schedule

9:00a Adult Sunday School  
10:00a Fellowship

10:30a Worship  
11:30a Fellowship



<b>March</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b> <i>Worship &amp; Music</i>	Karen Quinn	Kathy Ventling	Terry Rickers	Joan Tyler	Linda Campbell
<b>Host Elder/Deacon</b> <i>Church Life</i>	Janet Shields	Jeanette Shannon	Linda Kirchhoff	Larry Anderson	Taylor McGonegle
<b>Greeters</b> <i>Julie Brodersen</i>	Terry Rickers Bev Rossow	Chris & Peggy Lickiss	Janet Shield Rachel Skagga &/or Taylor McGonegle	Dick & Shirley Mielke	Randy & Carol Camp
<b>Ushers</b> <i>Worship &amp; Music</i>	Mary Jane Tripp Suzy Funk	John & Barb Taylor	Kevin & Toni Peska	Don & Sharon Black	Bonnie Rasmussen and Shirley Stevens
<b>Audio</b> <i>Worship &amp; Music</i>	Kyle Doerring	Terry Rickers	Marilyn McCallister	Cathy Rickers	Tom Mott
<b>Counters</b> <i>Budget &amp; Finance</i>	Tara Zehr Bret Doerring	Jonnie Carpenter Tom Weeks	Jen Norvell Janet Shields	Terry Rickers Peggy/Chris Lickiss	Bev Rossow Toni Peska
<b>Bread Ministry Baker</b> <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Diane Moles	Shari DeCook	Sandy Simbro	Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell
<b>Bread Ministry Taker</b> <i>Barb Taylor</i>	Barb Taylor	Mickey Van Baale		Barb Taylor	Linda Campbell
<b>Communion Set up</b> <i>Worship &amp; Music`</i>	Toni Peska Jeanette Shannon				

First Presbyterian Church  
220 N 2nd Ave E  
Newton, Iowa 50208

641-792-2790

Return Service Requested

## Lectionary —

### March, 2020

#### **March 1 – 1st Sunday in Lent**

Gen. 2:15-17; 3:1-7; *Ps.* 32;  
Rom 5:12-19; Matt. 4:1-11

#### **March 8 - 2nd Sunday in Lent**

Gen. 12:1-4a; *Ps.* 121;  
Rom. 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17

#### **March 15 - 3rd Sunday in Lent**

Exod. 17:1-7; *Ps.* 95; Rom. 5:1-11;  
John 4:5-42

#### **March 22 - 4th Sunday in Lent**

1 Sam. 16:1-13; *Ps.* 23; Eph. 5:8-14;  
John 9:1-41

#### **March 29 - 5th Sunday in Lent**

Ezek. 37:1-14; *Ps.* 130; Rom. 8:6-11;  
John 11:1-45

### April, 2020

#### **April 5 - Palm Sunday**

Matt. 21:1-11; *Ps.* 118:1-2, 19-29  
Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 26:14-27:66 *or*  
Matt. 27:11-54

#### **April 12 - Easter**

Acts 10:34-43 *or* Jer. 31:1-6; *Ps.* 118:1-2,  
14-24; 1 Cor. 3:1-4 *or* Acts 10:34-43;  
John 20:1-18 *or* Matt. 28:1-10

#### **April 19 - 2nd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 22-32; *Ps.* 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9;  
John 20:19-31

#### **April 26 - 3rd Sunday of Easter**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41; *Ps.* 116:1-4, 12-19;  
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35