THE Marketplace

MARKET SQUARE
Presbyterian Church
A Beacon of Hope on the Square

MARCH 2026 | 717.257.1270 | marketsquarechurch.org

Athletes exercise self-control in all things; they do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly, nor do I box as though beating the air....
(1 Corinthians 9:25-26)

Rev. Stanley Jenkins
Pastor, Head of Staff

Our English word "ascetic" comes from the Greek askesis. Originally it referred to an athlete's training regime. In the later religious context, however, it often reflected a negative body image and morbid self-punishment. But that seems to be missing the forest for the trees. Paul uses the metaphor of askesis to reflect the need for preparation to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Just as an athlete must train for a race, the disciple must prepare with self-discipline to work toward the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God. We don't run aimlessly like chickens with our heads cut off and we don't exhaust ourselves in shadow boxing. We keep our eyes on the prize. We maintain focus. Body shaming is not the point.

Lent is a time of preparation, a time of training—a time of askesis. We are called to enter the desert with Jesus, participating with him in his 40 days of self-reflection and wrestling with the devil—(the forces that would seek to distract both Jesus and us from our mission)—all in preparation for our final destination—our final victory—through the triumph of Palm Sunday, to the catastrophe of Good Friday, all the way to Easter that we might rise with Jesus to new life, rebirth—and a liberated agency, empowering us to help build the Beloved Community, repair the ripped canvas of community, and be the ministers of reconciliation we have been called to be.

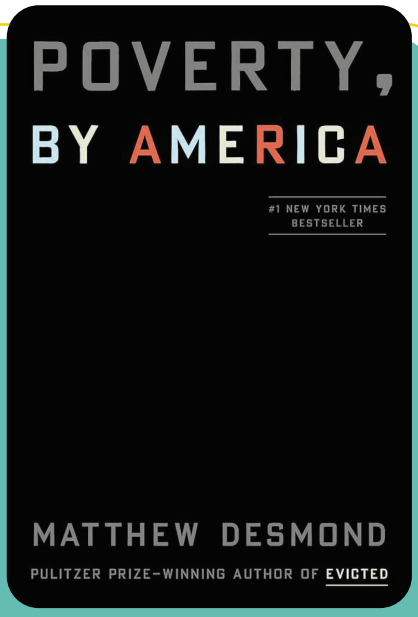
Let's not get distracted with shame and guilt—but rather seek the parts within us that we need to bring to the light for healing. Let's not cultivate despair and rage against the machinations of the forces of darkness—but rather practice the discipline of hope, remembering the promise that though things might get worse before they get better—they will get better—and we do in fact actually have something to say about that. We are not helpless, but are part of a great body, empowered and enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

We have a solemn responsibility to be a beacon of hope on the square in these difficult times. This takes discipline, training, focus—and joy. The race we run is glorious. The work we have been given is meaningful and transformative. The fellowship we have with one another is sustaining, joyful—and fun.

May this season of Lent bear fruit in our lives, our church, and our community. Eyes on the prize, church!

All Church Read

This Lent, we invite you to read *Poverty, by America* by Matthew Desmond alongside others at Market Square. The book challenges us to consider how poverty in the United States is shaped by collective choices—and how, with greater awareness, we can choose a different path. As a Matthew 25 Church, this shared reading will help us reflect on our call to work for justice and the eradication of systemic poverty. We'll conclude with a discussion and luncheon on March 22. To request a copy, contact Nancy in the church office at sheets@marketsquarechurch.org (we have plenty of copies) or purchase your own (we highly recommend Hearts and Minds Bookstore, a local independent bookstore owned and operated by wonderful people!)



Here's a read-along schedule:

February 22: Prologue, Chapters 1-2
March 1: Chapters 3-4
March 8: Chapters 5-6
March 15: Chapters 7 through the epilogue
March 22: Discussion and lunch!

Rev. Allison Smith
Supply Associate Pastor

Adult Forum: Join us for the Lenten Bible Study

This Lent, our Adult Education hour will be an in-depth exploration of the passages of Scripture that we'll also be focusing on in worship. This Bible study is led by Elders Kevin Burrell and John Dame who bring their unique insights and perspectives to the conversation! Being a part of the conversation has been really meaningful for me, because as a group we can go deeper into the scriptures than we get to in worship alone.

I love preaching, but the 10-15 minutes in worship that we spend exploring the scripture in the sermon is really limited. On the Sundays I preach, I often feel as though I get an "extra helping" of inspiration and encouragement because I get to spend all week thinking about and wrestling with what the passage might have to say to us in our present lives. By the end of that week there is so much that doesn't make it into the sermon! So, during Lent, you're invited to get an "extra helping" too! As a group we'll read the passage, share our questions, our insights, learn from one another, and share the ways we see the stories of Jesus' life and ministry intersecting with our own.

Lunch & Learn

March 1: Join us for a light lunch and a discussion of 1 Samuel 21-31. If you're looking for a story full of intrigue, drama, revenge and summoning the dead, 1 Samuel has it all! This session will take us through the end of the book of 1 Samuel. We'll have time to connect with each other around this fascinating and often overlooked part of our scriptures. Bring your questions, a sense of humor, and your imagination! L&L meets at 12:30pm in the Youth Room (4th floor).

STEWARDSHIP

YTD Pledge.....$33,690
YTD Budget $41,670
Deficit $7,980

Our January year-to-date pledges total $33,690, reaching over 80% of our budgeted goal of $41,670 and leaving a manageable deficit of $7,980. Despite holding only three in-person services this month due to winter weather, our congregation has shown a strong commitment. As a reminder, if you are unable to attend services in person, you can still participate through our online giving options, including convenient recurring weekly donations that run automatically. If you would like assistance setting up online giving, please contact Michelle at sheaffer@marketsquarechurch.org or 717-257-1270 x17.

Reserve Flowers for Easter Sunday

Deadline: Wednesday, April 1

As we prepare to celebrate the joy of Easter, we will once again fill our sanctuary with bright daffodils, tulips, and Gerbera daisies. You are invited to share in this beautiful tradition by sponsoring flowers in memory of someone you love, in honor of someone dear to you, or in celebration of a special occasion.

The cost is $15 per person remembered or honored.

You may participate in either of these ways:

- Place a check in the offering plate with "Easter flowers" in the memo line, or
- Give online at marketsquarechurch.org using a credit or debit card.

To let us know the name(s) you would like included:

- Watch for forms in upcoming bulletins, or
- Email Nancy at sheets@marketsquarechurch.org with your memorial or honor designation. (Email is especially helpful so we have everything in writing, though you're always welcome to call the church office if needed.)

All names will be printed in the In Memory and In Honor list in the Easter Sunday bulletin on April 5, 2026.

If you would enjoy helping place the flowers in the sanctuary on Saturday, April 4, please be in touch with Nancy in the church office. It's a lovely way to begin the Easter weekend together.

Re-Imagining Planned Giving

THE Beacon Society
Market Square Presbyterian Church

In recent bulletins and midweek emails (if you haven't already signed up for *The Beacon Light*, please contact the church office), we've been exploring planned giving through the Beacon Society — and we want to take a moment to clear up a few common misconceptions. Planned giving isn't only for the wealthy, it isn't something you put off until old age, and it doesn't require a large sum. In fact, the average age for a first planned gift is just 53, often coinciding with writing or updating a will. Most of us already hold the bulk of our assets in everyday things — our homes, savings, retirement accounts — and a planned gift is simply a decision about where a portion of those resources will go one day. Gifts come in all sizes, and even a small percentage can make a profound and lasting difference for the ministries we love. For most people, a planned gift becomes the most meaningful and transformative gift we will ever make, strengthening the ministries we love for generations to come. Stay tuned in the weeks ahead as we share more about what planned giving really looks like — and how you can be part of it, whatever your stage of life.

Worship Schedule for March 2026

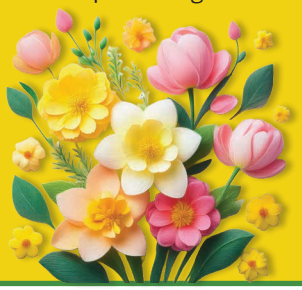
March 1: 2nd Sunday in Lent
9:30 am Korean Language Worship in the Davis Chapel
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
11:00 am English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
The Reverend Stanley J. Jenkins preaching
Sacrament of Holy Communion

March 8: 3rd Sunday in Lent
9:30 am Korean Language Worship in the Davis Chapel
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
11:00 am English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
The Reverend Stanley J. Jenkins preaching

March 15: 4th Sunday in Lent
9:30 am Korean Language Worship in the Davis Chapel
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
11:00 am English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
The Reverend Allison R. Smith preaching

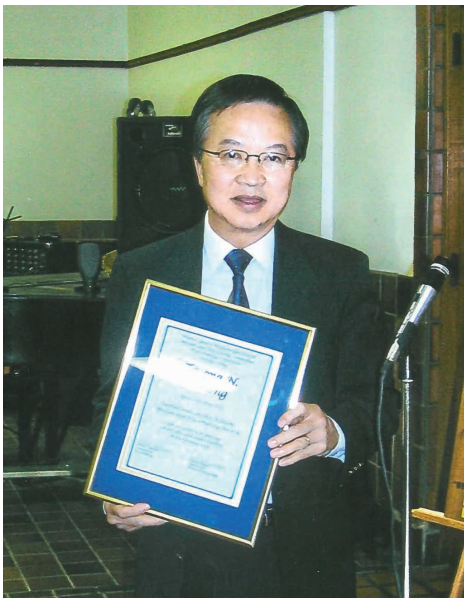
March 22: 5th Sunday in Lent
9:30 am Korean Language Worship in the Davis Chapel
The Reverend Nam Gil Roh preaching
11:00 am English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
The Reverend Stanley J. Jenkins preaching

March 29: Palm/Passion Sunday (Holy Week Begins)
9:30 am Korean Language Worship in the Davis Chapel
The Reverend Ki Nam Lee preaching
11:00 am English Language Worship in the Sanctuary
The Reverend Allison R. Smith preaching



arts ON THE Square Gallery
Market Square Presbyterian Church

Arts on the Square Gallery: **"Faces & Places: Works by Mindy Deardorff and Sherryl Heberlig"** is on view in Geneva Hall and the Atrium through Sunday, April 19. Check out a short video featuring interviews with Mindy and Sherryl on Market Square's YouTube Channel using the QR code at right. —**Beth Hager**, *Gallery Coordinator*



A blast from the past: Dr. Phuong Truong receiving the 2005 Peace Award from MSPC's Peacemaking Committee. Speaking of the Peace Award, it was started by two people in the picnic photo: Sam and Carol Williams (backs to the camera on right). Also in the photo are J. Nedra Schilling (whose foundation enabled us to pay for our new organ) and Elizabeth Atticks. Margee Kooistra found these photos during her recent move to assisted living at Bethany Village.

Music Notes

Tyler Canonico-Dilley
Minister of Music & Organist

Dear friends,
We have just begun our journey into Lent. During these Sundays, we will hear from our siblings in Christ about what Holy Week means to them personally. Yet to truly understand the fullness of Holy Week, we must walk the entire path with Jesus – including the moments that are solemn and challenging, not only the joyful ones.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday (March 29). This year, we will gather at the foot of our front steps at 10:30 a.m. to hear Scripture proclaimed. From there, we will process around the block – chanting and singing – before returning to the sanctuary for worship.

On Thursday, April 2, we will gather again for Maundy Thursday. In this sacred service, we remember the Last Supper, when Jesus instituted the Eucharist and washed the feet of his disciples. There will be an opportunity for optional hand or foot washing, we will share in Holy Communion, and the evening will conclude with the stripping of the Chancel in preparation for Christ's crucifixion.

We will return on Good Friday to mark the crucifixion and death of Jesus. An especially moving Tenebrae service is planned, with Scripture readings, hymns, and choral anthems guiding us through the solemnity of the day.

Then, on Easter Sunday, we will gather to celebrate Christ's resurrection. Our service will begin quietly as we stand at the empty tomb with Mary in her grief. From that stillness, we will move into joyful celebration of the risen Christ.

How can we skip part of the story? We cannot. I hope that after hearing these testimonies, you will plan to join us for the fullness of Holy Week and walk the entire journey together.

Looking ahead, our next Arts on the Square program will be held on Friday, March 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. We are delighted to welcome the father-and-son duo Richard Amoroso Sr. and Jr. Performing as Amoroso da Capo, they have captivated audiences with violin and cello arrangements spanning sacred, classical, disco, and pop music. They have appeared in prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, and have maintained a long association with the Philadelphia Orchestra. This promises to be a wonderful evening of music, and I hope to see you there!

Peace and love,
Tyler

Sanctuary Choir Repertoire for March:

March 1 (Second Sunday in Lent) – "I Will Lift Mine Eyes" by Jake Runestad and "God So Loved the World" by John Stainer

March 8 (Third Sunday in Lent) – "Sicut cervus" by Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina and Herbert Howells' "Like as the Hart Desireth the Waterbrooks"

March 15 (Fourth Sunday in Lent) – "The Blind Man" by William Grant Still and "The Lord Is My Shepherd" by Joseph Clokey

March 22 (Fifth Sunday in Lent) – "Dry Bones" arranged by Tom Fettke and Thomas Grassi, and "Out of the Deep" by William Croft.

March 29 (Palm Sunday) – "Hosanna to the Living Lord" by Richard Voorhaar and "The Way to Jerusalem" by Harold Friedell

The Howard Gospel Choir of Howard University, photo by Beth Hager.

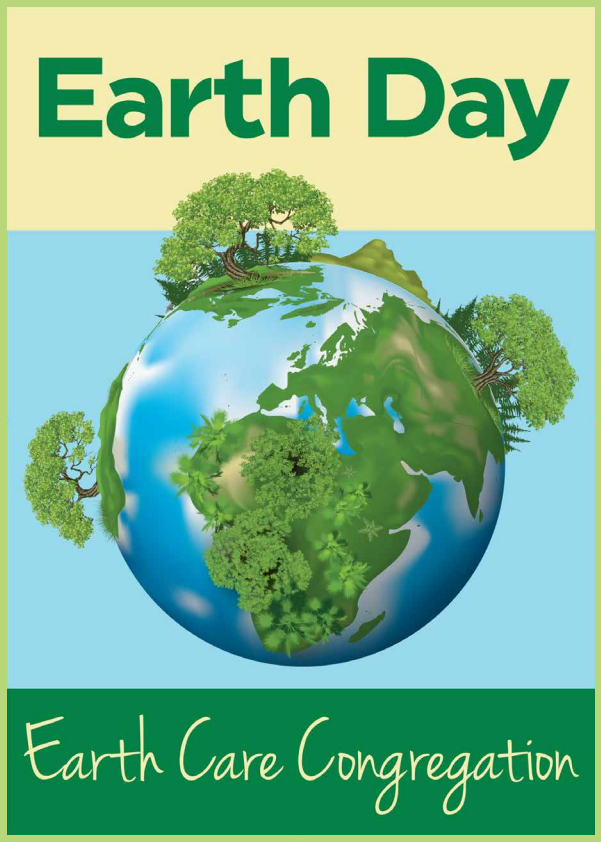
Friday, March 20
7:00 pm
Amoroso da Capo
Their first Harrisburg appearance!
arts ON THE Square
Market Square Presbyterian Church
Amoroso da Capo
Sacred, classical, disco and pop
by father and son violin and cello duo.
Market Square Presbyterian Church • 20 S. Second Street, Harrisburg PA
A donation of $15 is suggested.
Complimentary parking in the adjacent Market Square Garage.

SAVE THE DATE

EARTH DAY – APRIL 19, 2026

The day begins with the Ecology Action Committee sponsoring the Adult Forum at 9:30 a.m.

BIRDS / TREES / CLIMATE CHANGE



Earth Day Special Offering

A special offering will be collected on Earth Day, April 19, this year to support the PA IPL (PA Interfaith Power and Light), of which Market Square is a member.

The Room for the Inner Way

March 1: Experience spiritual practices, some familiar or some new, and join others before worship in the Room For the Inner Way. "'Spiritual' is not just something we ought to be. It is something we are and cannot escape....It is our nature and our destiny." (Dallas Willard) Join Pastor **Anne Ross** and **Elizabeth Terry** at 10:00 a.m. on March 1 for thirty minutes of prayer and meditation to center your spirit before worship.

Holy week begins March 29th!

Our Church Family

Ray Davis "rang the bell" signifying the end of his cancer treatment on February 9!

The Kunkels have a new grandbaby, Elliott Anne!

Are Your Candles Toxic?

Aromatherapy candles are one of life's simplest pleasures. However, your seemingly harmless candles could be filling the air in your home with toxic chemicals.

What's Wrong With My Candles?

- Synthetic scents may contain hundreds of different chemicals, which release microscopic particles when a candle is burned. Some of these particles may cause health problems when inhaled.
- Paraffin wax is made with a petroleum byproduct. Choose natural wax candles instead.

Natural Candle Alternatives

- Buy 100% beeswax or vegetable wax candles (including coconut, hemp, and non-GMO soy) with cotton wicks.
- Look for candles scented with 100% natural essential oils
- To reduce soot, trim wicks to 1/8 inch, and do not burn candles in a drafty area.
- Find safe candles from certified green businesses at GreenPages.org.

Debbie Olson (Source: GreenAmerica.org/toxic-candles)

Earth Wisdom *by John Taylor*

"Poems are made by fools like me, but only God can make a tree."

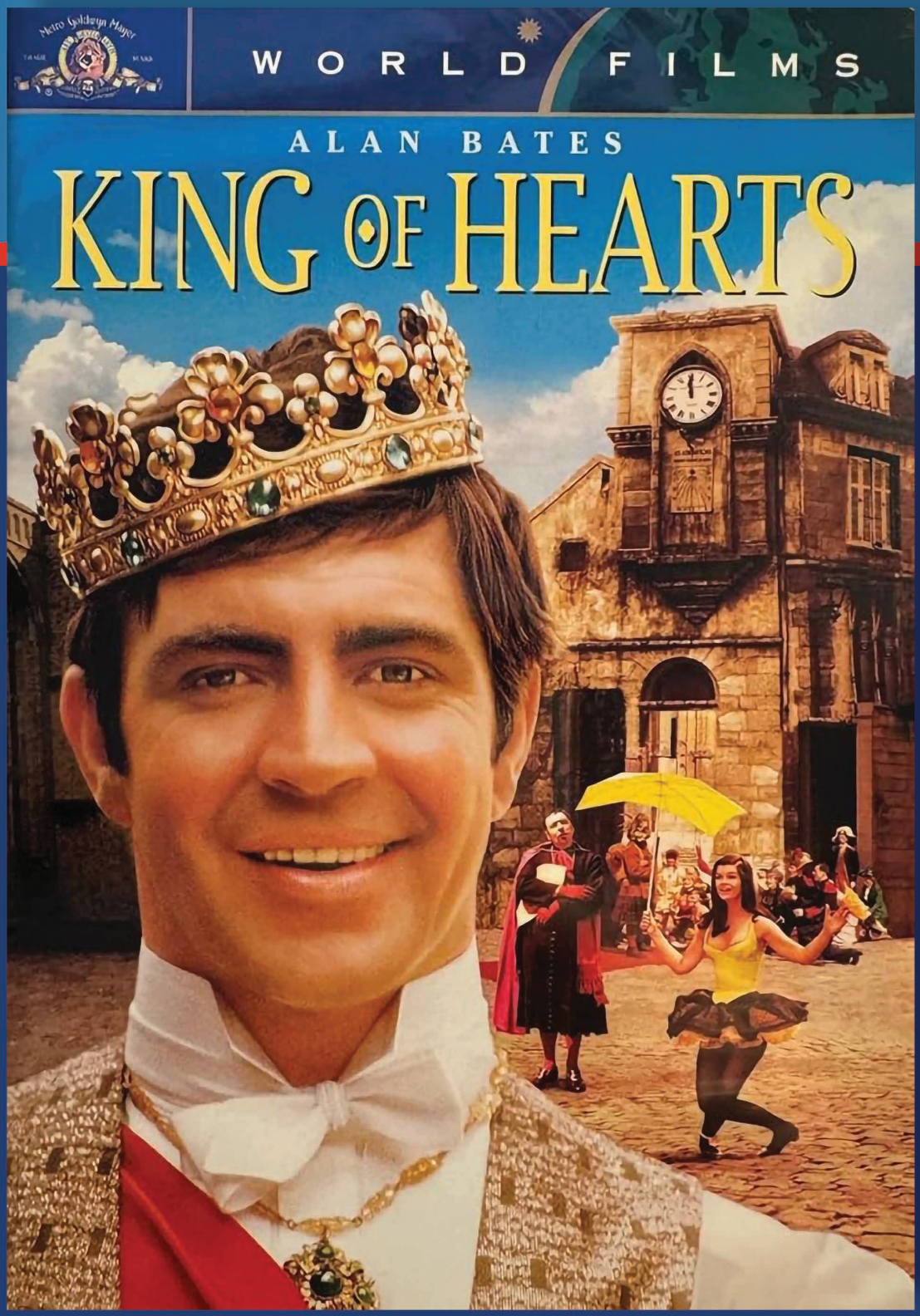
So wrote poet Joyce Kilmer in 1913. In fact, according to the Book of Genesis, God made trees even before he made humans. And why not? We humans could not exist in the world if it weren't for trees.

Trees are vital to life, providing the very oxygen we breathe while absorbing harmful carbon dioxide, filtering air and water, preventing soil erosion, cooling our urban centers, conserving energy and offering critical habitat and food for both humans and animals.

Trees are fundamental to healthy ecosystems, regulating climate, managing water cycles, and supporting biodiversity, making trees essential for life on this planet.

MOVIE NIGHT AT MARKET SQUARE!

Friday, March 27 | 6:45 pm | Geneva Hall



Hosted by
Dr. Jamie Caffier

Join us for the showing of the cult favorite *King of Hearts*, Director Philippe de Broca's 1966 wartime fantasy that shows delightful insights into human behavior. A World War I soldier, separated from his battalion, still searches for an alleged enemy bunker in a small French village. The inhabitants of the village teach him about beauty and love, in the midst of war's terror.

Session Activities: February 2026 Update

by Cindy Bendroth, Clerk of Session

Market Square's Session is responsible for the church's mission, governance, and programs. Pastor Stan Jenkins moderates the Session. Current Ruling Elders may serve up to two consecutive, three-year terms. Active 2025 Elders are:

Terms Expiring in 2026	Terms Expiring in 2027	Terms Expiring in 2028
Cindy Bendroth (2nd term)	Sandy Bell (2nd term)	Beth Cate-Freeman (2nd term)
Kristin Cassell (1st term)	Betsy Cobb (1st term)	Emily Dame (1st term)
Dale Laninga (2nd term)	Andrew Hunter (2nd term)	Beth Hager (2nd term)
Dave Lehman (2nd term)	Steve McMullen (1st term)	Cherstin Hamel (1st term)
David Volkman (1st term)	Lana Walmer (1st term)	Barb Jewett (1st term)

Membership

Reinstated Melinda Cree and Karissa Bonawitz to the membership rolls per their request.

PC USA Offerings

Approved the collection of Presbyterian Church USA's One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Easter Sunday, April 5, 2026. Background: The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Ecology Action

Unanimously approved to continue as an Earth Care Congregation by recertification and re-affirm Market Square's commitment to the Earth Care Congregation pledge. Background: Earth Care Congregations is a program of the PC USA.

Approved the collection of a special offering on Earth Sunday, April 19, to benefit PA Interfaith Power and Light. Background: This is an organization that we joined last year which exists to support the multi-faith climate and environmental moral movement in Pennsylvania & Delaware.

Finance

Approved using the Mapp Family donation to fund the elevator expenses. Background: the elevator is working but needs some expensive refurbishing.

As of February 17, 2026, there were 324 members on the church membership rolls. If you have any questions about Session activities, you may talk with me, a Session member, or one of our Pastors.

Pilgrimage of PEACE

Lots of Market Square folks attended the Pilgrimage of Peace walk on February 4th, along with many others who wanted to take a stand against violence and authoritarianism.

News From The West Bank

Little Melissa brings joy to the West Bank. Holding baby Melissa (born in early October), are grandparents Jamal and Saddiya Meqbil.

Also in the family are aunt Yara, and uncle Ameer. Melissa's other uncle Amro attends Nablus University, and uncle Yazan and aunt Shahed live in Los Angeles.

Dear ones all - Those of us at Market Square Church are blessed to have the Meqbil family reporting to us directly from the dangers of life in the West Bank. Several of us were privileged to visit the Meqbil family in 2007, when in the West Bank with Pastor Jim Brown. We've maintained regular email contact since then and the Meqbils feel a connection with our congregation. Their daughter, Yara, is a physician; Amro and Ameer are sons living at home. Melissa is the first grandchild, daughter of married son Zain. Oldest son Yazan is married, was educated in the US and visited annually until he relocated to California.
—**Margee Kooistra**

From Jamal Meqbil

Hope all of you are doing good and healthy.

I just wanted to check in and share a little about the family and how things have been lately. Life in the West Bank has been really difficult, and every day comes with its own stress and uncertainty, especially with how dangerous the roads have become, and how the economic situation has worsen.

Yara has been going to the hospital almost every day, and honestly it's exhausting and worrying, because even simple movement feels unsafe. We keep praying she stays protected and that things get easier for her soon.

On the brighter side, Melissa is getting better—she's continuing her follow-ups and going regularly to see her doctor, and we're really hopeful she'll keep improving step by step.

As for Amro, he's currently in Nablus for university. We miss him a lot, but we're proud of him and just praying he stays safe and focused with everything going on.

Ameer in 10 grade, he did well, all Time he and all of us are afraid from the settlers and the soldiers. In general, the whole family is trying to hold on, support each other, and stay strong despite the conditions. Some days are heavier than others, but we're doing our best.

And truly, our biggest wish is that Ramadan will be a month of prayer, worship, and calm, a month of peace for everyone.

Take care and keep us in your prayers.
All loves
Jamal

Daylight Saving Time Begins!

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed the night before March 8—the first day of daylight saving time. Spring forward!

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Images from the spectacular, sold out Howard Gospel Choir of Howard University concert on February 15. The Choir performed to an enthusiastic audience and began the concert with a moving rendition of "Lift Every Voice And Sing."

The Arts On The Square committee provided dinner for the performers following the show. Photos by Beth Hager.

Sunday Services

Korean Language Service—9:30 a.m.
in the Davis Chapel.
Sermons on YouTube
(link on the church website's
Worship page).

English Language Service—11:00 a.m.
in the Sanctuary.

The service is livestreamed
on our YouTube channel
https://shorturl.at/xeBHi

The button for the livestream is at the
top of the homepage of our website.
marketsquarechurch.org

OUR MISSION

To proclaim and live the Good News of Jesus Christ by welcoming friend and stranger alike into our diverse and inclusive family of faith regardless of race, class, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or worldly condition of any kind as we celebrate our gifts, work for justice, peace, and a sustainable environment, reach out in mission, and witness to God's transforming love.