



First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

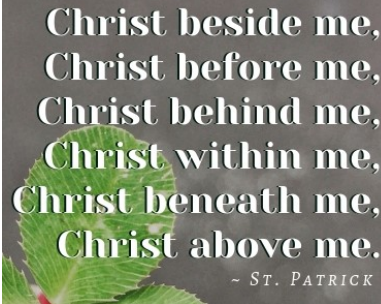
Chronicles

March 2021



14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193
703-670-7834

<https://fupcdc.org>
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People of the Church, Ministers
Rev. Adam C. Bowling, Pastor
Dana Van Slyke, Chancel Choir Director
Justin Streletz, Pianist/Organist
Rebecca and Chris Anderson,
Contemporary Worship Directors
Ike Evans, Jubilation Handbell Director
Joann Paige, Nursery Supervisor
Tiffany Ramsey, Little Hands Preschool Director
Homer Detrich, Sexton
Kim Parker, Office Manager

From Pastor Adam



Dear pre-COVID Self,

I couldn't have warned you, if I tried. Words just don't do justice to how quickly things changed in just a few months.

One minute you're finalizing summer vacation plans at your favorite dinner spot, and the next minute you're fighting the urge to buy excessive amounts of nonperishable goods, while calculating your family's toilet paper usage.

It seems like overnight you learned a whole new vocabulary with words like *social distancing*, *quarantine*, *ventilators*, and *droplet transmission*. You've become proficient at Zoom and can intelligently debate herd immunity, vaccination timelines, and the best ways to flatten the curve.

Our once thriving economy is now handing out furloughs, and almost overnight we've become a nation of home-schoolers (oh, homeschooling, you're really something). We've mourned for our high school seniors, worried about our senior adults, and lamented the increasing racial tension threatening to divide our great nation.

But, pre-COVID me, please know that somewhere along the way you're going to stop to ask a really vulnerable but important question: "God, where are you in the middle of this?"

The answer may be hard to find as the days grow longer and the news seems darker.

But dig deep.

It's there. God's there.

Continued on page 2

You'll find God in the still small places where he always has been and always will be, revealing his greatest glory.

Look for God in everything from the birthday parades to family movie nights. You'll find God in the return of families around the dinner table and the unrushed nightly bedtime routines. He's on your countless walks around the neighborhood and in the Zoom reunions with extended family.

You'll feel God's presence when you're playing board games with your kids, teaching them how to cook and clean, and especially when you see your previously overcommitted family finding rest and perspective in a new, simplified routine.

You'll hear amazing stories of God working through our frontline workers, caring selflessly for the sickest of patients and often at the expense of their own families. God will be evident in the melody of pots and pans banging from the balconies of high-rises, as people unite in the most difficult of times.

God's hand will be visible as communities rally together to support local businesses and as friends and neighbors dust off of old sewing machines to make face masks to protect each other. You'll feel God's presence when you look up to see the Blue Angels and Thunderbirds soar through the sky, or even as you look down and find messages of hope in colorful sidewalk chalk in your neighborhood.

I guess what I would want you to know is that there are going to be some really hard times to weather, but, in the middle of the uncertainty, there's an opportunity to reaffirm God's promise that He is with us, for us, and will never leave us.

King David said it this way:

***Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me
and the light become night around me,"
even the darkness will not be dark to you;
the night will shine like the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
— Psalm 139:7-12***

Even the darkness is not dark to God, because He is light. There is nowhere we can go where He is not fully present, protecting us even as the things we hold certain seem to be crumbling around us.

Look for God's faithfulness in the big and small things.

And be brave in the "time-such-as-this" opportunities to speak hope to a struggling world.

Yours on the journey,
Pastor Adam



Session Notes

At the February Zoom Session meeting, we had 100% attendance for the third month in a row. Your elders are faithful.

The Clerk's Annual Statistical Report for 2020 was approved and is included in the Annual Report packet. Among the positives are average attendance at worship 190 pre-COVID and many, many views of our on-line services, about 79% of membership attends worship. We had a net gain of membership of 3 people to a total of 239. Also 35% of adult members attend one or more of our Adult Christian Education groups.

Session approved splitting the Treasurer position responsibilities into a Gift and Giving Coordinator (one-third of the time required) and Treasurer (two-thirds of the time required). The new position will begin as soon as someone can be named and trained.

The Finance and Administration committee is planning for a review of the financial records of 2019 and 2020 on May 15, 2021. Since this review involves close contact of several people, it was postponed until it may be more safely accomplished. The committee also recommended fully funding our contribution to National Capital Presbytery's unified giving fund at \$6,600.00. This is our contribution to the work of the presbytery over and above the per capita amount. This funds many ministries of the presbytery and our congregation has received several grants from programs funded by the unified giving.

Session approved funding of up to \$22,000.00 for installation of a fiber optic line from Verizon which will provide a much-needed upgrade. They authorized Norman Cobb to sign Verizon and USA Cable contracts for this project and Gary Smith to write the needed checks.

Submitted by Sara Porter, Clerk of Session

Easter Flowers

This year, we will once again be flowering the large wooden cross for Easter, but due to the pandemic, it will be done a bit differently. **We need lots of flowers to make this happen.**

Here is how you can help. On **Saturday April 3, between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM**, please bring some home-grown or store bought flowers and place them in one of the large buckets of water that will be placed by the church door.

Please remember to wear your mask and socially distance when dropping off your flowers.

Members of the worship team will decorate the cross early on Easter morning.

The cross will be placed by Minnieville Road so that we can share Easter joy with our neighbors.

The Worship team thanks you for your help!



DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.

2021 BOARD OF DEACONS A Ministry of Compassion and Service

Class of 2021

Agnes Fokwa
Debbie Folly
Lisa Fortner
Kathy McNeely
Carol Schwalm
Celine Sonkwa

Class of 2022

Debbie Cornelius
Liz Goolgasian
Charlotte Stultz

Class of 2023

Bob Albrecht
Sandy Chamberlin
Claudia Cunningham
Pam Emert
Ellen Nuernberger
Tracy Stevens

Ellen Nuernberger, Co-Moderator 703-878-0009
Carol Schwalm, Co-Moderator..... 703-680-7673

*We love to hear from you. **If you need to be connected with your Deacon**, please contact Carol Schwalm or Ellen Nuernberger by calling the numbers listed above or the church office (703-670-7834).*

New Flower Sign Up

We have a new way to sign up for flowers! We now have a sign up genius that is quickly filling up. When signing up, please indicate who the flowers are in honor or memory of in the comment section. In addition, after the service the flowers are typically given to a congregational member who is in need of feeling some love from the congregation. If you wish to keep the flowers instead, just indicate this in the comment section or email me. The cost for purchasing flowers continues to be **\$40.00**. You may pay for them by sending a check into the office made out to FUPCDC. Please write flowers and the Sunday you signed up for in the memo section.

Thanks for your patience and flexibility as we switch to this new method. If you have any trouble signing up, please email me at gailzcobb@gmail.com and I will be happy to help you!



Lenten Services

Lenten Worship Services

A short Lenten scripture and prayer service will be available online each Wednesday at 7:00 PM through March 24. On Thursday, April 1, we will celebrate Maundy Thursday online at 7:00 PM with virtual communion.

You will be able to view these services the same way you view Sunday services on our YouTube channel "FUPCDC Video".

The link is <https://www.youtube.com/c/FUPCDC>.

Chancel Choir will meet at 7:30 PM immediately following each Wednesday prayer service. Wednesday Night Bible Study will resume after Easter on Wednesday, April 14.

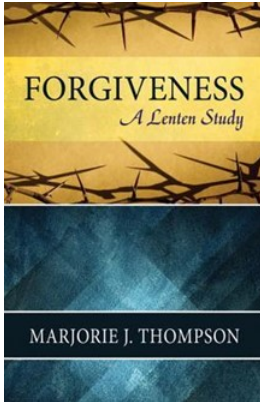
Lenten Devotional

Again & Again, A Lenten Refrain, a devotional, will be emailed to you until Easter (about three times each week). Please look for the devotional in your email mailbox.



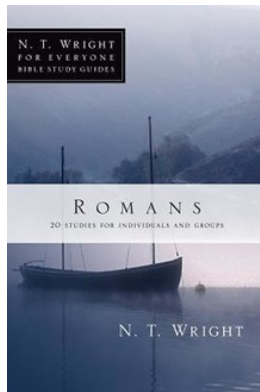
Adult Christian Education

Spring Adult Education Classes



Forgiveness: A Lenten Study

Beginning Sunday February 14 – March 21, join us on Zoom at **8:30 – 9:30 AM** for FORGIVENESS: A Lenten Study. This is a Lenten study by Marjorie Thompson, a Presbyterian Pastor. She explores the way we practice our approach to our Christian duty. Everyone has experienced or is experiencing forgiveness in some form. Is forgiving the best path to healing for the injured? Are there emotional barriers involved with forgiveness? With lively discussion, and much scripture throughout our 6-week journey, we will create a livable and meaningful definition of forgiveness. While Forgiveness is a Christ taught virtue, we were never given instructions on application! Contact Cathy Smith at office@fupcdc.org for additional information.

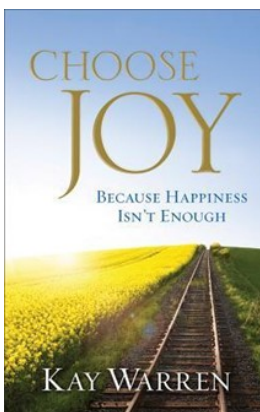


Romans

Join us on **April 11 at 8:30 AM via Zoom** for a 9-week study on the **Apostle Paul's Book of Romans**. We will use the *Romans 18 Studies for Individuals and Groups* by N.T. Wright to guide our exploration.

We will look at the early church of Rome and some of their struggles and how compare to our world today. We will read the book of Romans and discuss the readings in each session.

For more information, please contact Curt Hoagland at choagieva@yahoo.com.



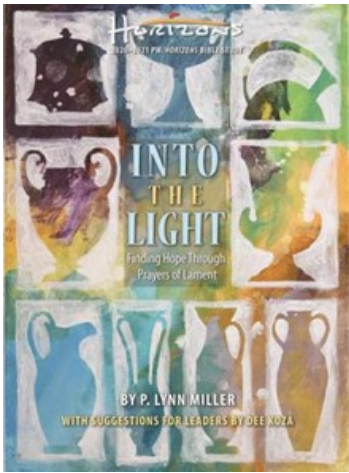
Women's Monday Bible Study also known as Bible Buddies

Is a joy-filled life really possible? Join the "Bible Buddies" on **Monday nights at 7:00 PM** on Zoom to learn about Joy in good times and the bad times. In her book, Choose Joy: Because Happiness is Not Enough, the author Kay Warren, teaches that true joy is deeper, richer, and more accessible than one might think. She shares the path for finding and experiencing soul-satisfying joy in the peaks and valleys of life. The book may be purchased from Amazon or Thrift Book stores online.

"Bible Buddies" is a group of FUPCDC ladies and their friends who meet from **7:00–8:30 PM every Monday** to discuss the book and share joys and concerns as they pray together and learn more about God. For more information, please contact Betty Matthews at office@fupcdc.org.

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Adult Christian Education



Horizons Monthly Bible Study

"Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament" is the title of the 2020-2021 Horizons Bible Study. The group meets on the **second Monday of the month**, September through June, at **9:30 AM**, via Zoom, for discussion and viewing of the video. The emphasis is on the hope we can find in the scriptures even as we lament our circumstances.

If you would like to join this study, please contact Sara Porter at office@fupcdc.org.



Pastor's Wednesday Evening Bible Study

Pastor Adam's Bible Study on Wednesday at 7 PM, via Zoom, is continuing the study of the Gospel of Matthew. All are welcome. This bible study will take a short break during Lent beginning February 18. It will resume on Wednesday April 14.

Fair Share Community Speaker Series

Join us on **Saturday March 20 at 7 PM** via Zoom, for a program on Grief and Loss During the Pandemic.



We are all exposed to things in our lives—every single day—that can cause us to feel grief and loss. Recent experiences in all our lives—including the COVID19 Pandemic—may have added to the grief that we have experienced. During this Fair Share program, Claire Hoagland will be sharing her insight on grief and loss—and some ways to support yourself during the times of grief and loss that you may be experiencing now.

Claire Hoagland is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who has over 25 years of experience in working with individuals of all ages and with families. Currently she is a Behavioral Health Consultant at a local military medical clinic where she works in primary care. She helps patients of all ages with assessing their need for changes they feel are needed in their lives and providing coping tools and resources to meet those needs. Open to all.

Mission and Outreach

One Great Hour of Sharing

So what is One Great Hour of Sharing? Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Your gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, food for the hungry, and community development that helps people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program and Self-Development of People, all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

One Great Hour of Sharing lets us come together as a Matthew 25 Church to open our door as well as our hearts to share the love of Christ through our ministries of justice, compassion, and joy. It is the church saying, "We'll be there when you need us."

Stay tuned for more information about how you can participate in One Great Hour of Sharing.



**YOU SHALL BE
CALLED
REPAIRERS
OF THE
BREACH.**

- ISAIAH 58

POURED OUT" BY LAUREN WRIGHT
PITTMAN | © A SANCTIFIED ART LLC
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Mission and Outreach

Souper Bowl of Caring Food Drive

WE DID IT! Thanks to your generosity, FUPCDC collected 3,411 pounds of food for the ACTS food pantry. That's 145 pounds more than our previous highest total in 2019.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." - Matthew 25:40



Thank you!

Mission and Outreach



P.O. Box 74
Dumfries, VA 22026
703-441-8606
Fax 703-221-3585
actspwc.org

January 26, 2021

First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City
14391 Minnieville Road
Woodbridge, VA 22193

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the ACTS Board of Directors, and those individuals your donation aides, I would like to thank you for your gift of \$1,530.00 on 12/10/2020. I also want to send you wishes for a very happy new year!


As we are seeing the spikes in COVID-19 cases, as well as the ripple-effect of high unemployment and financial uncertainty for so many families in our community, it is a tremendous blessing to see the outpouring of support that we've received. Because of you, a family has food on their table. Because of you, a family's heating bill was paid. Because of you, someone escaping a violent home life now has a safe place to stay. Because of you, someone who was seriously considering suicide now has found renewed hope in life. All of these services that we provide are because of you.

While the prospect of a new year is always exciting, we know that there are still significant challenges present. By coming together as neighbors, we can continue our mission to foster hope and provide relief for those who are suffering and rely on us for help. As we wind down after a busy holiday season, the spirit of giving that you have shown inspires us to keep going strong into this New year.

We are grateful for your generosity, trust and most importantly, your commitment to the ACTS mission to alleviate hunger, homelessness, and personal violence to help people achieve self-sufficiency in the Prince William County area.

We know you can contribute to numerous organizations, and we sincerely thank you for selecting ACTS. In addition to your financial contribution, please consider donating your gently used furniture and other items to our Thrift Store. Your donation makes a difference in the numerous lives we touch each day.

Sincerely,


Steven G. Liga
CEO/Executive Director

The portion of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993 relating to IRS regulations requires that charities certify whether donations were made in consideration of a transfer of goods or services from the recipient agency. ACTS certifies that this donation was not accompanied by such transfer.

UTILITY & FOOD
ASSISTANCE

HOUSING & SHELTER

THRIFT STORE

HELPLINE &
SUICIDE
PREVENTION

SEXUAL ASSAULT
SERVICES

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
SERVICES



UW #8001
CFC #21878
CVC #8118

Congregational Connections

CARE - A - VAN 4 JOY

Congregational Connections was out visiting again on a very cold February 20th! The weather didn't put a damper on the smiles and a short visit at four homes. More visits will follow....



Grace Ofosu-Addo and
Sandy Chamberlin



Becky Elliott (Charter Member)
and Jeanette Gregory



Sofie Garrett and Jeanette Gregory



Sylvia Hoffmeier with Benjamin
Ann Randles

Little Hands Preschool



Little Hands
Preschool

REGISTRATION FOR
2021-2022
OPENING SOON!



We are excited to **OPEN** preschool registration for the
2021 - 2022 school year tentatively by March 26th.

Cub Scout Pack 289

2020 Annual Report to First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

This report provides an overview of the Cub Scout Pack 289 activities for the congregation and leadership of the First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City. The interruption of COVID-19 presented enormous challenges at all levels, for the nation as a whole, down to the local community. In addition, from the Scouts BSA national organization's financial and legal struggles to the merger of the Occoquan and Bull Run districts into one Prince William district, this past year has been a time of change. Through it all, Pack 289 has persisted and continued our mission to provide a high quality, outdoor-based program for all eligible Cub Scouts that encompasses and achieves the aims of the Boy Scouts of America. We currently have 69 Scouts and 28 adult leaders with strong support from our parent volunteers.

We were fortunate to have completed much of our program year by the time the initial quarantine restrictions were issued in March. While we were not able to conduct our usual spring and summer Pack campouts and related in-person events like our rain gutter regatta competition or marching in the Dale City Independence Day parade, our den leaders and parents adapted to the virtual environment and continued meetings via Zoom or similar platforms, so that most Scouts did complete rank for the year. We conducted a virtual rain gutter regatta in June, and a virtual community clean-up in July, and wrapped up our program year with a drive-through bridging in August. Dens and individual families also participated in virtual campouts and other events conducted by the National Capital Area Council.

With the move to virtual Scouting and limited in-person group sizes, there was some attrition, but new adult leaders stepped up and current leaders raised a hand to take on new or vacant roles. Their support facilitated a great start to our 2020/21 program year, with a combination STEM Saturday/Join Scouting event in September, and an actual in-person fall campout at Prince William Forest Park in October, when group meeting restrictions were somewhat relaxed. By continuing to maintain our year-round program in a virtual or small group environment, we were able to attract and absorb Scouts from surrounding units that were being disbanded.

Popcorn continues to be our only fundraiser, and was conducted all online this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. While far below a normal year, many of our Scouts were able to help finance their Scouting activities, and will hopefully be able to pay their own way should day and resident camps be offered this coming summer.

As a Pack, we have shifted event plans and adapted to virtual environment, but it continues to be the dedication of our Scouts and volunteers that make the success of our Pack possible.

Joshua Gaw
Pack 289 Committee Chair
February 2021



Boy Scout Troop 964

2020 Annual Report to First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City

Despite having to adapt to a global virus pandemic, BSA Troop 964 experienced a successful 2020. New Scouts were recruited, many Scouts advanced in rank, a variety of activities were held and new leadership rose to the occasion.

In March, enough Arrow of Light Scouts were recruited to the troop from local Cub Scout packs to form three new patrols of eight to ten scouts each. This offered some of the older boys an opportunity to lead them through the early ranks as Troop Guides. During 2020, contact was made with many upcoming Arrow of Light Scouts and the troop looks to grow by about ten more boys early in 2021.

The troop kicked off the year with an Eagle Court of Honor celebrating two Eagle Scouts. Four more were added to the ranks over the course of 2020, with projects that included a beach clean-up, memorial tree planting, improvements and maintenance at an outdoor pavilion and a food drive. The other Scouts in the troop earned 39 rank advancements during 2020, for all ranks from Scout through Life. Many merit badges were also earned, with increased opportunities to earn merit badges virtually.

Although challenged at first with new restrictions on gathering sizes and distancing, the Scouts of Troop 964 quickly adapted to holding their weekly meetings virtually using Zoom. Summer camp was attended virtually in 2020. Patrols began to hold campouts and in-person activities in late summer and the annual Pumpkin Chuckin' was held in November with strict adherence to the governor's mandates. Although the effort to adapt was valiant, all the Scouts agree that they look forward to the day when the troop will again be able to function similarly to how it ran pre-COVID.

Historically, Troop 964's main fundraiser and signature activity has been the annual Train Show. It was not able to be held in 2019 or 2020, but tentative plans are being made to hold the merit badge class in conjunction with the Manassas Heritage Railway Festival in June. The troop is also looking at holding a Christmas tree sale during December 2021 to replace our train show as a fundraiser.

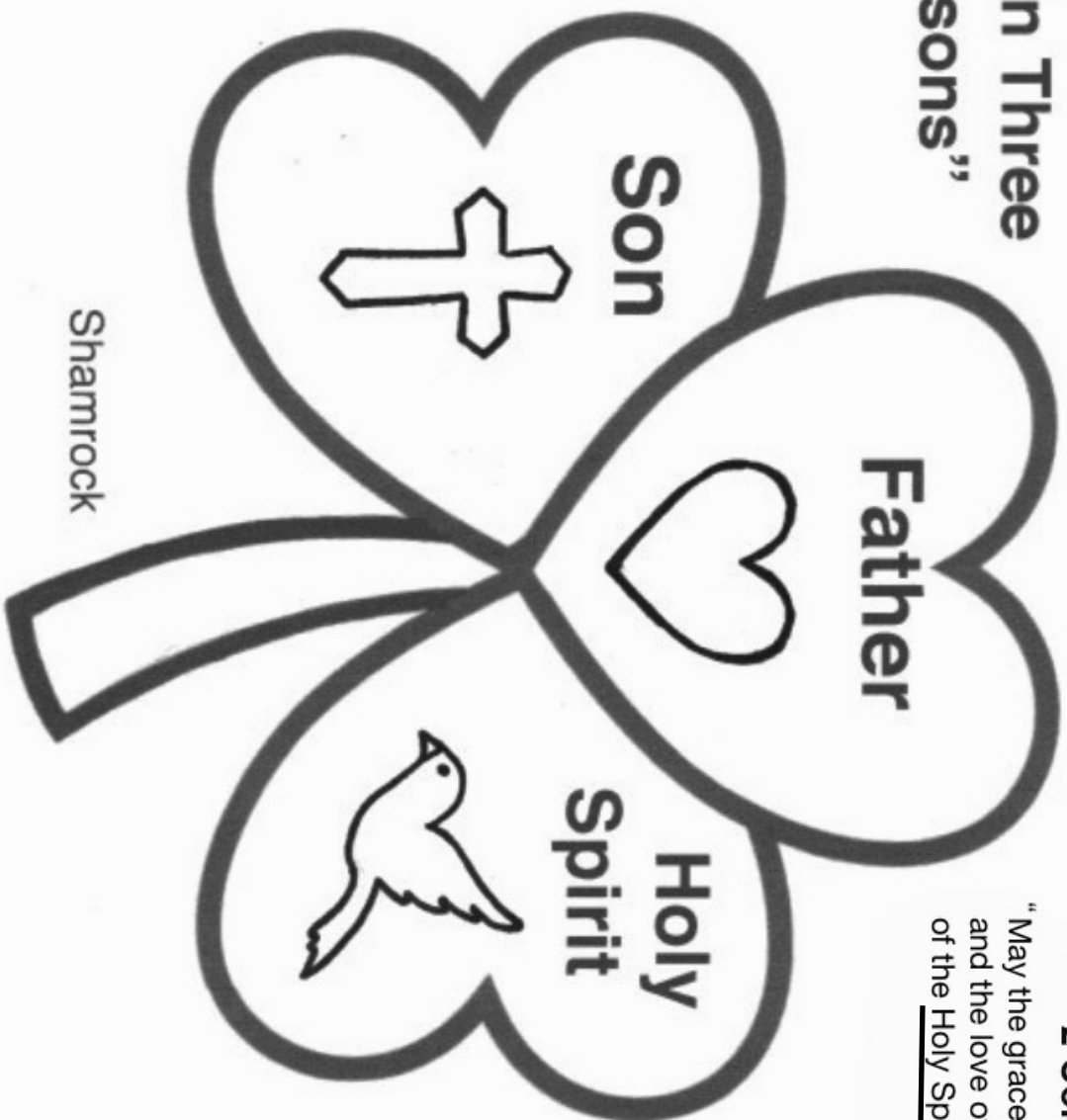
2020 saw the passing of the Scoutmaster baton from Mr. Rob Stonaker to Mr. Steve Upthegrove. The transition was smooth and well-supported by both gentlemen as well as the strong contingent of Assistant Scoutmasters. The troop committee also continues to thrive with many adults invested in helping the troop run behind the scenes.

Troop 964 would like to thank First United Presbyterian Church of Dale City for their continued support as our charter organization for the 43rd year. We look forward to many more years of mutual support.



The Holy Trinity

**“God in Three
Persons”**



2 Corinthians 13:14

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”