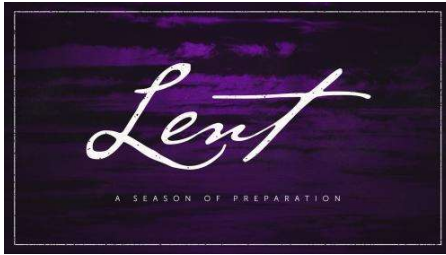


# The Commitment to Serve

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18;  
Luke 13:31-35



covenant ritual: \_\_\_\_\_ is moving between these cut up pieces of animals

the fox and the hen: \_\_\_\_\_ will stand between the danger and the ones he loves

Jesus commits himself to service that involves \_\_\_\_\_

let the Holy Spirit stretch my commitment:  
one opportunity when I can \_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_

**TODAY:** Second Sunday of Lent — Jesus shows us that he is willing to sacrifice everything in order to serve the world he loves; service takes commitment.

NEXT WEEK: Third Sunday of Lent

## FROM THE DEACONS

Thank You to the congregation for the gifts received Jan 13-Feb 2:

Received for General Ministries:	\$ 9,791.31
Received for Christian Education:	\$ 756.81
Community Offering: Guiding Light	\$ 458.02
Mission French Africa <i>Mpindi's</i>	\$ 175.00
DMS	\$ 20.51

From the Treasurer:

Year to Date Receipts: \$46,531.40  
Year to Date Expenses: \$ 43,673.54

## Community Offerings

### TODAY: Fellowship Food Pantry

The Fellowship Food Pantry is operated by volunteers who have been trained by the Love Your Neighbor staff. The Call Center provides resources and referrals and emergency food support to the Grandville community who are in urgent need of help.

<https://www.fellowshipcpc.com/food-bank/>

Mar 23: Fellowship Food Pantry  
Mar 30: Life Skills  
Apr 6: Resonate Global Mission – *Rodriguez family*

## THIS WEEK

Monday, Mar 17

Friday, Mar 21

Tuesday, Mar 18  
6pm Life Skills

Saturday, Mar 22

Wednesday, Mar 19

Sunday, Mar 23

Thursday, Mar 20

9:30am Worship  
10:45am Church School  
11am Adult Bible Study  
11am Congregational Listening Circles

## COMING UP

Mar 24 Elders  
Deacons

Apr 13 Congregational Listening  
Circles

Apr 14 Exec

Apr 17 Maundy Thursday Worship

Apr 19 Youth Group Worship Night

## STAFF

Tom VanderPloeg (Pastor)  
Barb Sanders (Care Ministry)  
Andrew Lenhart (Worship)  
Barb Van Ryn (Youth Ministry)  
Laura Williams (Admin Assistant)  
Katherine Sneller (Custodian)

4375 Ivanrest SW, Grandville MI 49418. 616-532-2350

[www.fellowshipcpc.com](http://www.fellowshipcpc.com)

# March 16, 2025



## Welcome! We are glad you are here!

### CHILDREN ARE WELCOME in our service

Also available during worship:  
Nursery for infants & toddlers;  
Coloring pages and crayons for kids;  
Puzzle & sermon notes written by Pastor Tom for students Grades 3 & up  
(found by weekly bulletins)

### LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & SONGSHEETS are available at the sound booth

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### Call to Worship

*Come Thou Fount  
The Praise is Yours  
Jesus Messiah*

### Prayers of the People

**Scripture** *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Luke 13:31-35*

#### **Genesis 15:1-12**

##### **The Lord's Covenant With Abram**

**15** After this, the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,  
your very great reward.”

**2** But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” **3** And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

**4** Then the word of the Lord came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” **5** He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

**6** Abram believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

**7** He also said to him, “I am the Lord, who brought you out of Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land to take possession of it.”

**8** But Abram said, “Sovereign Lord, how can I know that I will gain possession of it?”

**9** So the Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer, a goat and a ram, each three years old, along with a dove and a young pigeon.”

**10** Abram brought all these to him, cut them in two and arranged the halves opposite each other; the birds, however, he did not cut in half. **11** Then birds of prey came down on the carcasses, but Abram drove them away.

**12** As the sun was setting, Abram fell into a deep sleep, and a thick and dreadful darkness came over him.

#### **Genesis 15:17-18**

**17** When the sun had set and darkness had fallen, a smoking firepot with a blazing torch appeared and passed between the pieces. **18** On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram and said, “To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—

#### **Luke 13:31-35**

##### **Jesus' Sorrow for Jerusalem**

**31** At that time some Pharisees came to Jesus and said to him, “Leave this place and go somewhere else. Herod wants to kill you.”

**32** He replied, “Go tell that fox, ‘I will keep on driving out demons and healing people today and tomorrow, and on the third day I will reach my goal.’” **33** In any case, I must press on today and tomorrow and the next day—for surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!

**34** “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. **35** Look, your house is left to you desolate. I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**Message** “The Commitment to Serve”

*Make Me a Servant  
The Compassion Hymn*

### God's Parting Blessing

## CHURCH LIFE

**LISTENING CIRCLES** Council will be holding Listening Circles to hear feedback on the six statements that were shared in the recent letter to the congregation on 3/9 (digital access can be found in the Midweek). Feedback gathered will be used to help determine the best way forward for Fellowship. We will be holding Listening Circles on 3/23 and 4/13. **Please sign up for one of those dates, but not both.** Signup is available online and at the Information Center.

Thank you for your prayer and participation in discerning God's will for our church!

**EASTER FLOWERS** Easter Flower order forms are at the Information Center. There is also an online order form accessible through the link in the midweek (payment instructions on form). If you would like to purchase flowers, please have completed order form and payment to the marked slot at the Information center or to the office by **NEXT WEEK Sunday, March 23.** Thank You!

**SUNDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY** The class is in Room 10, and it will begin around 15 minutes after the end of worship and will end 45 minutes later. All are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact **Mike Philo** (LMPHILO@aol.com) or **Dave Cook** (dcook0104@gmail.com).

★ Find daily scriptures and prayers for LENT in the *Seeking God's Face* devotional — [www.seekinggodsfac.org](http://www.seekinggodsfac.org)

★ Keep up to date with all the activity of the Church Renewal Lab at [www.fellowshipcrc.com/crl](http://www.fellowshipcrc.com/crl)

## PRAYER FOCUS

- Please continue to pray for **Chris Cook**. Although many details are pending, it looks like her surgery may be approved soon!
- **Linda Philo** had surgery this past week to replace the socket from her first hip replacement done in 2023. The socket did not adhere to the bone as it should (because of a cyst) and has shifted out of position. Give thanks surgery went well and pray for a good recovery.
- **Sarah and Rachel Lenhart** are thankful for progress in healing from concussions. Rachel's headaches are gone. Pray for diligence for her with lots of PT exercises as she continues healing.
- Continue to pray for **Gary and Sue Roode** as Gary makes progress toward regaining strength, and for Sue as she cares for him at home.
- Continue to pray for **Randy and Cathy Kraker** as Hospice is helping to provide care for Randy at Waterford Place.
- Continue to pray for **Jean Cisler** as Hospice is helping to provide care for her.
- For the **Fellowship Food Pantry** and the families that receive support through this ministry. Pray also for the volunteers who staff the pantry each week. We give thanks for the donors who help stock the pantry shelves.

## MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

### BACKPACK BUDDIES

Thank you for remembering our 31 Backpack Buddies in your prayers and through your giving.

We are currently well stocked with canned chicken and with plastic grocery bags but there are few things we need for March/April :

- Fruit Cups
- Nutrigrain bars
- Canned pastas

Thank you for your support of this ministry.

**Sandy Campo** (616)889-3134

### TODAY

9:30am Worship

10:45am Church School

11am Adult Bible Study

4:30pm Youth Group-9<sup>th</sup>

6pm Youth Group-11/12<sup>th</sup>