



Hello church family,

We're in a season of big questions. Our two congregations are exploring what our future might look like together, whether consolidation makes sense and how we would honor what matters while being honest about the challenges we face. These are not easy conversations, and there's no manual that tells us exactly what to do.

At the same time, our country is in upheaval. Immigration enforcement actions are separating families. Vulnerable communities are under attack. Our government institutions are being dismantled before our eyes. The loudest voices keep insisting that strength means domination, and that security means cruelty. It's exhausting and disorienting, and many of us feel caught between anxiety about what's happening and uncertainty about how to respond faithfully.

This Lent, we're turning to the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. This was Jesus' first major sermon and his opening declaration of what matters in God's powerful reign of love. By blessing the poor, the grieving, the weak, and the peacemakers, Jesus gives an alternative vision for humanity. He insists that God blesses exactly the people the world overlooks or crushes, and calls us to be a part of that blessing.

The Beatitudes won't tell us whether to consolidate our congregations. They won't give us a five-point plan for fixing what's broken in our country. But they'll remind us who we are, what we value, and how Jesus calls us to live in the world. They'll ground us in clarity about what matters when everything feels chaotic.

Over six weeks, we'll move from identity (who does God bless?) through character (how do blessed people live?) to cost (what does faithfulness require?) to public witness (what does it mean to be salt and light right now?). We'll ask what the Beatitudes mean for how we treat our vulnerable neighbors, how we make decisions as congregations, how we show up in a moment that demands both courage and compassion.

So this Lent, I invite you to let the Beatitudes speak to our congregations' future, to our calling as Christians in this political moment, to what it means to follow Jesus when the stakes feel high. Let these familiar, rich words do their work in us. Let them clarify what matters. And let's discover together what faithfulness looks like now.

Peace,
Ben

Lenten Poem

The Guest House by Jalaluddin Rumi (trans. Coleman Barks)

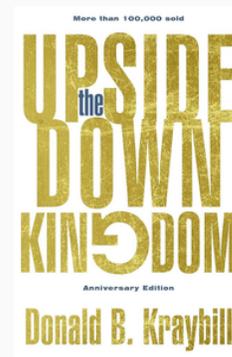
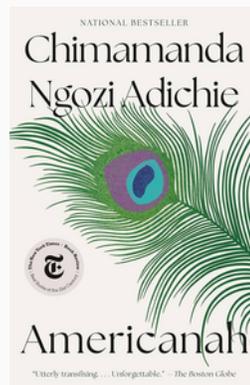
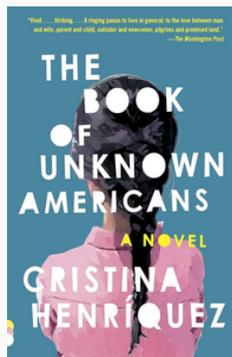
This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.



Suggested Reading for Lent

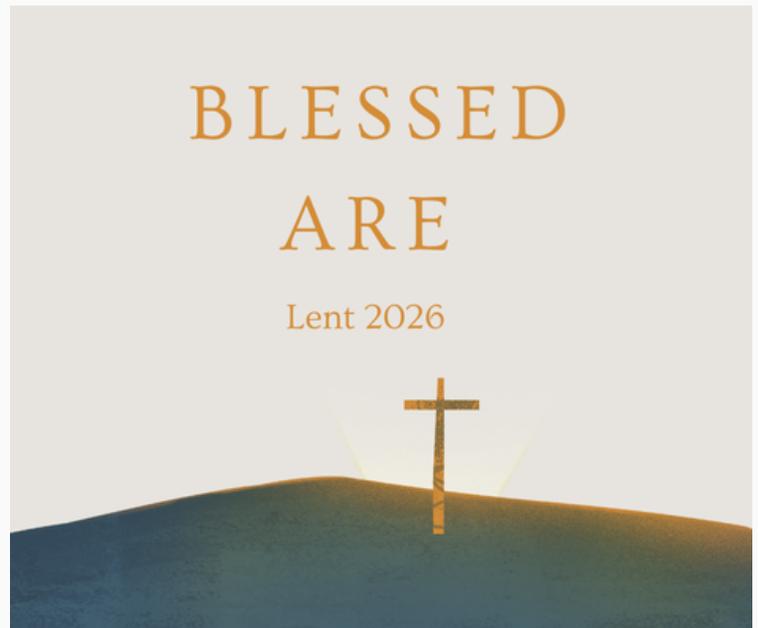
“The Book of Unknown Americans” by Cristina Henríquez

“Americanah” by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

“Upside-Down Kingdom” by Donald B. Kraybill

Lenten Theme: “Blessed Are”

Blessed are...” With these two words, Jesus opened his public ministry by turning the world’s values upside down. In a season when the country is in upheaval and we’re making important decisions about our future, the Beatitudes offer us something both simple and refreshing: clarity about what matters. This Lent, we’re dwelling with these familiar, rich words week by week, asking what it means that God blesses the vulnerable, calls us to mercy and peacemaking, and sends us out as salt and light.”



Lenten Devotional

You’re invited to deepen your Lenten journey with [this daily devotional created by Pastor Ben](#). Each day offers a short reading, a prayer, and space to reflect on that week’s Beatitude. The format is simple and contemplative, inspired by the ancient practice of the Daily Office, which are fixed prayers that ground us in God’s presence no matter what the day brings. Whether you’re new to daily prayer or have practiced it for years, these devotions are designed to help you carry the Beatitudes with you through the week. The devotional is designed to be read on a cell phone or tablet. Printed copies are available by request.

Lent Worship Schedule

Ash Wednesday, February 18 @ FPC Dimondale 7:00pm
Maundy Thursday, April 2 @ Delta 6:00pm (dinner + worship)
Good Friday, April 3 @ FPC Dimondale 7:00pm
Easter Sunday, April 5 @ Delta 10:00am

Spring Worship Schedule

March - April 5 @ Delta at 10am
April 12-26 @ Dimondale at 10am
May @ Delta at 10am

Spring Meetings & Events

Wednesday, March 4
10:00 am Property Team Meeting
Monday, March 9
4:00 pm Resources Committee
Thursday, March 12
6:00 pm Howling Dog Recital
Saturday, March 14
Quarterly Presbytery Meeting at Dimondale
Monday, March 16
6:30 pm Session Meeting Delta
Sunday, March 22
Annual Meeting after worship

Wednesday, April 1
10:00 am Property Team Meeting
Thursday, April 2
6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Dinner & Worship
Friday, April 3
7:00 pm Good Friday Worship at Dimondale
Monday, April 13
4:00 pm Resources Committee
Monday, April 20
6:30 pm Session Meeting Delta

Go to deltapresby.org/calendar for the full calendar

Office Communication

Ben is at the office on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00-5:00. However, sometimes he goes on visits or has meetings during that time frame. You're always welcome to drop in and say hi or talk! If you'd like to ensure he's there, email him or call him ahead of time (517-646-9120). The office phone is checked on Mondays and Wednesdays; the office email is checked regularly. The quickest response comes through email or by calling Ben at 517-646-9120.

Weekly Calendar

Sundays	10:00 am Worship
Mondays	9:00 am Office Hours
Wednesdays	9:00 am Office Hours 9:30 am Quilting 2:00 pm Bible Study
Thursdays	7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Choir Schedule

Rehearsals take place on Thursdays from 7-8pm. Joint choir rehearsal at Dimondale in February
Delta in March;
Dimondale in April

What's going on this week?
I missed worship last week,
what happened?

Find answers to all your
questions
at deltapresby.org

We give thanks to Art for
coordinating the website!

Financial Updates

	PLEDGE RECEIPTS	TOTAL RECEIPTS	TOTAL EXPENSES	SURPLUS (DEFICIT)
NOVEMBER	\$ 3,220	\$ 4,480	\$ 24,920	\$ (20,440)
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$108,345	\$ 129,267	\$ 129,934	\$ (667)
BUDGET	\$129,510	\$ 145,710	\$ 134,880	\$ 10,830
% of Budget	84%	89%	96%	
DECEMBER	\$ 22,112	\$ 23,202	\$ 12,365	\$ 10,837
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 130,458	\$ 152,469	\$ 142,299	\$ 10,170
BUDGET	\$ 129,510	\$ 145,710	\$ 134,880	\$ 10,830
% of Budget	101%	105%	106%	
JANUARY	\$ 9,987	\$ 15,296	\$ 9,204	\$ 6,092
YEAR-TO-DATE	\$ 9,987	\$ 15,296	\$ 9,204	\$ 6,092
BUDGET	\$ 99,500	\$ 124,800	\$ 123,800	\$ 1,000
% of Budget	10%	12%	7%	

March Birthdays

Jack Keys 03/02
 Denise Vogler 03/10
 Terri Westmoreland 03/11
 Wendy Benzette 03/15
 Roger Small 03/19
 Bill Stirling 03/21
 Sharon VanCourt 03/24
 Lena Pratt 03/26
 Bonnie Reemsnyder 03/26
 Frank Jackson 03/28
 Doug Dykstra 03/31

April Birthdays

Mary Jo Kelley 04/05
 Mary Koehler 04/07
 Mary Mead 04/09
 Shelly Shinevar 04/13
 Cindy Schilling 04/14
 Henry Lyon 04/20
 Frances Johnston 04/21
 Donna Dickert 04/25
 Anne Ryan 04/28
 Richard Mead 04/29

May Birthdays

Janet Small 05/07
 Paul Seppala 05/09
 Trudie Frick 05/13
 Bob Buchanan 05/19
 Rhonda Fort 05/21
 Briahna Bishop 05/22

Session Class of 2026

Jane Elsinga, Sue Settle, Art Kelley, Jim Constandt, Jon Vogler, Chuck Jennings

Deacon Class of 2026

Geri Jennings, Mary Jo Kelley, Rhonda Fort, Jane Thomas, John Elsinga

Mission Giving

March

Personal need items, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, Tampons, body wash, etc.

April

T-shirts and undergarments



HELP REFUGEES IN NEED OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE

A gift of any amount to Catholic Charities of Ingham, Eaton & Clinton Counties will help local refugee families with rental assistance.

Federal funds that once covered \$600 in monthly rental assistance for refugee families were eliminated. Since then, families have struggled to keep up with the rising cost of rent. As a result, 20 families we serve are now behind on rent and at risk of losing their homes. With a total of \$13,000 in unpaid rent, we need your help to keep these families and others from becoming unhoused in the coldest months of the year.

Fundraiser for Refugee Families in Lansing

On Sunday, April 19th from 3-5pm at Edgewood United Church of Christ, there will be a fundraiser for refugee families in Lansing. In 2025, federal rental assistance for refugee programs nationwide were cut and our new neighbors need help staying in their homes. The event will feature storytelling and songs from refugee neighbors, a panel of area interfaith leaders with scriptural and theological reflections on supporting our immigrant neighbors, highlights from our support agencies, a legislative update, and a fundraising ask. We will finish with light snacks we will purchase from refugee-owned businesses in town. Please come and support this important local effort.

[Click here for more information on ways to support.](#)

Update from the Exploration Process

On February 8th, both congregations gathered for a town hall meeting to continue our exploration of consolidation. With guidance from the Administrative Commission, we shared insights from our Joint Sessions' work on core values and priorities, then broke into small groups for meaningful conversation about hopes, concerns, and questions. The AC will continue meeting with both Sessions to address the feedback received and guide our ongoing discernment process.