

MARCH 2021

# THE VOICE

Official Newsletter of  
Friedens United Church of Christ

**Listening  
to each other,  
to the divine.**

This is our focus during this Lenten season.

**Life-giving work.**

**Learning to stay at the table, to stay in community is  
part of that call a Christian family.**

**In order to listen to each other, we must also find our  
voice and use it.**

**Loving each other as we live together in all our  
differences means engaging with one another.**

Listening with God's own ears. Differences in age and ability offer us opportunities to see first hand how God works.

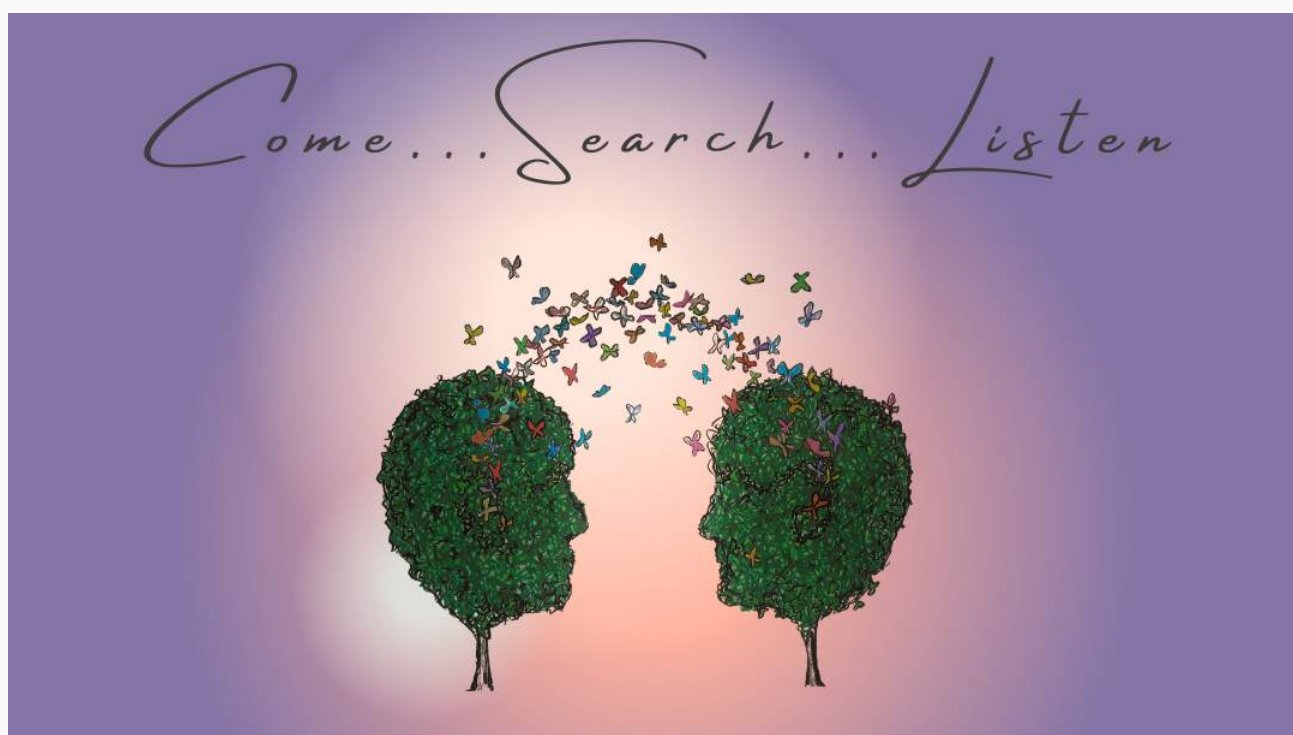
This is not always easy and yet it is so worthwhile.

Join us each Sunday as we practice our way into be-ing.

# Lenten Series: Listen

March 7 "Finding a Word: Listening to the Texts"  
(Proverbs 1: 20-23)

The Wisdom tradition within Christianity invites us to love knowledge, especially the self-knowledge that comes from examining ourselves in relationship to the liberating Word of God. Lectio divina (“divine reading”) is an ancient tradition of mixing the reading of scripture with prayer and meditation. Rather than an analytical approach to the words of scripture, it is a way for the words to simply be present and live in us. What will we hear when we let go of what it all is “supposed to” mean and simply let it reside within us?





# Lenten Series: Listen

## March 14 "Finding Your Power: Listening for Healing" (Mark 5: 24-34)

Prayer as a spiritual practice may come easily for you and maybe it doesn't. Even the most devout among us has doubts about prayer's power at times. What is it? How does it work? This week we will consider that the mechanics of what happens in prayer is not as important as that we do it. Because whether or not the outcome for ourselves or others is an actual healing, the very act of being entangled with God and with others through prayer has healing and power-bestowing benefits.





# Lenten Series: Listen

## March 21 "Finding Your Mystic: Listening Beyond the Voices" (Romans 12: 2-12)

We often have a “cast of characters” living inside our heads that love to carry on endless conversations — each from their own perspective. The chatter of our minds can sometimes keep us from a deeper listening and it is often difficult to decipher exactly what constitutes a mystical connection to God. Getting our True Self into the chairperson’s set in the committee meeting does not mean ignoring those voices of pessimism, people-pleasing, or accusation, but instead listening intently to them and not letting them bully us into action based on fear. Letting them in and letting them go is the prayer of the mystic within.

## March 28 Palm Sunday Service: "Finding Your Purpose: Listening to Your Heart"

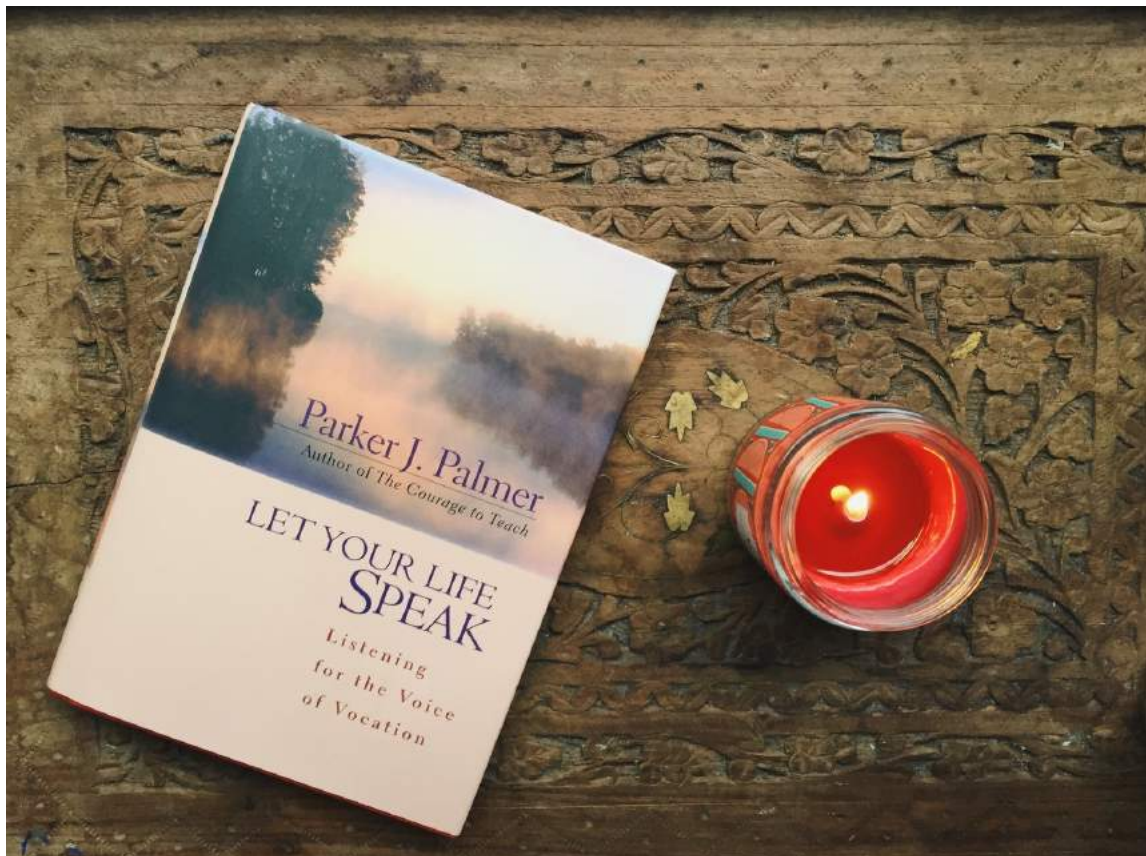
# Wednesday

# Lenten Discussion

Gather online via ZOOM at 6pm to discuss the book "Let Your Life Speak" by Parker Palmer.

ZOOM link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8970299603>

Meeting Room ID: 8970299603



# Holy Week Schedule

April 2nd - Good Friday: 6pm service at church and online

April 4th - Easter Sunday: 10am service at church and online; Flowering the Cross - Don't forget to bring your flower!





# Confirmands and Youth Return!





**ONE GREAT HOUR  
OF SHARING**



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Offering taken Sunday, March 14th

You are welcome to include your donation to One Great Hour of Sharing in your offering envelope or you can donate directly to the

UCC National Office by text:

**TEXT OGHS TO 41444 AND FOLLOW THE  
PROMPTS TO GIVE SECURELY.**





# Giving Snapshot

Thank you for your faithful giving so far this year.

Your support is appreciated and we would be unable to continue our life-giving ministry without YOUR support. Unfortunately, our January & February Giving was down and we didn't meet our budgeted goals.

Jan 3rd: Goal=\$3,461.53 Actual=\$5,425

Jan 10th: Goal=\$3,461.53 Actual=\$2,864

Jan 17th: Goal=\$3,461.53 Actual=\$1,255

Jan 31st: Goal=\$3,461.53 Actual=\$3,340

Deficit= \$2024.15

Feb 7th: Goal=\$3,461.53 Actual=\$1,791

Feb 14th: Goal=\$3,461.53 Actual=\$1,056

Feb 21st: Goal=\$3,461.53 Actual=\$2,562

Feb 28th: Goal=\$3,461.53 Actual=\$3,525

Deficit= \$8,934

# Giving Options to support Friedens Ministry

Monthly Income	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%
\$500	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25
\$1,000	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50
\$1,500	\$150	\$135	\$120	\$105	\$90	\$75
\$2,000	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100
\$2,500	\$250	\$225	\$200	\$175	\$150	\$120
\$3,000	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150
\$3,500	\$350	\$315	\$280	\$245	\$210	\$175
\$4,000	\$400	\$360	\$320	\$280	\$240	\$200
\$4,500	\$450	\$405	\$360	\$315	\$270	\$225
\$5,000	\$500	\$450	\$400	\$350	\$300	\$250

To determine your weekly giving, divide the % by the number of Sunday's in the month.

Example: Monthly income=\$500; 10% Tithe in a month with 4 Sundays=\$12.50 each Sunday.

*"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matthew 6:21



# Online Giving Options

Did you know that you can send your offering electronically? You can! We use Vanco as our online giving processor and the link is available on our website and on our Facebook page. We have also included the links at the end of this article.

Unfortunately, Vanco charges Friedens a 2.75% fee (based on the amount of the donation) for each debit/credit card transaction which adds up over time. Would you prayerfully consider covering that charge as a part of your online giving? All you have to do is click the box that reads: "Optional: - Give additional 2.75% to help offset the processing fee". The amount of your donation is then automatically calculated to include this new amount. Please contact the church office or any council member for more information.

<https://giving.irvingtonucc.com>

# March Self-Care: Cancer Screenings

Cancer takes more lives each year than Covid-19 and it can lurk within us, often undetected. Cancer comes in many forms, and Pastor Tarrah MAY have it now. During a recent regular mammogram and follow-up sonogram, a mass was detected; requiring her to have a biopsy within the next 3-4 weeks. Had she neglected her regular screening, this would've been missed as it is undetectable through regular self-exams. We stand in prayerful hope with her that this doesn't bring a cancer diagnosis. And remember friends, breast cancer doesn't discriminate. Anyone can get it. Regular screening and early detection is key to best outcomes. Have you been putting off a screening? A mammogram or a colonoscopy? GET...IT...DONE! YOU are worth it!



# **SMOKED PORK CHOP**

**FIREWORKS FUNDRAISER**

**Sunday, March 21, 2021**

**10:30 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.**

**Carryouts**

**Irvington Community Building**

**1" PORK CHOP  
Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy  
Green Beans & Slaw  
Dessert**

**\$ 12.00 Each**

**Tickets Available**

**Irvington Fireworks Display**

**will be on**

**June 26, 2021**

# IN PERSON WORSHIP 10 A.M.SUNDAYS

or visit us online at  
[facebook.com/irvingotnucc](https://www.facebook.com/irvingotnucc)

