

Ponca City Christian

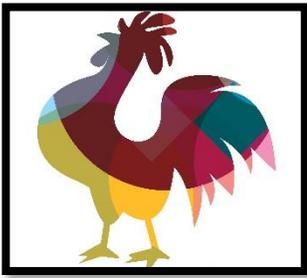
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Seeking, Serving, Sharing
March 6, 2022



Images of Lent

As we approach the celebration of Easter, we must first pass through the days of reflection during the season of Lent. This series of images bring the story of the final days of Jesus to the forefront of our meditations as we ponder the intersection of the ministry of Christ and our own experiences.



But He said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

Luke 22:34 (NASB)

Those final hours before the arrest of Jesus brought many challenges to the disciples who were with him in the upper room. The pace of the story quickens as Jesus tries to offer them teachings that will prepare them for the next stages of ministry. Peter is sure he is prepared for what is coming. He claims he is ready to be arrested and even die if that is what it takes to stay at the side of Jesus. But Jesus knows Peter's limitations. He knows that Peter will not have the fortitude to live up to his claims of loyalty.

While Jesus is honest with Peter, notice that he does not condemn him. In the eventual moments of denial, Peter does not fall short of Jesus's expectations. Peter falls short of his own expectations. During this conversation in which Jesus predicts these denials, Jesus told Peter that he has prayed that Peter's faith may bring him back to a place of being supportive of the other disciples. Let us all take comfort in this exchange. While we may often disappoint ourselves, Christ hopes we are able to move past our setbacks and continue to contribute to the wellness of the world. Christ doesn't dwell on our shortcomings, but instead encourages our potential. There is no reason to be anything but honest about our lives. We do make mistakes. But we must not forget to extend enough grace to ourselves to allow us to recover from those times we fall. – Pastor Stephen



Friendship Garden

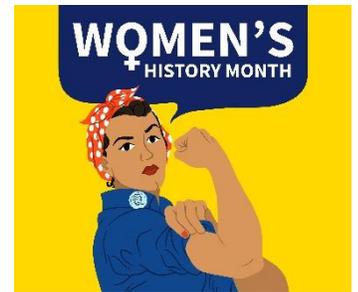


Raising Up!

No, it is not Easter yet, but spring is on the way and this year we are adding raised beds to the Friendship Garden! We have some planning to do in order to be ready for planting. If you would like to help us decide the best way to bring these additions to our garden, please join us for our initial planning on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 11:00 AM in the fellowship hall. – Pastor Stephen

Happy Women's History Month!

The commemoration began in 1978 as "Women's History day" in Sonoma County,



California, and was championed by Gerda Lerner and the National Women's History Alliance to be recognized as a national week (1980) and then month (1987) in the United States, spreading internationally after that. International Women's Day is on March 8. The 2022 theme is "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope." This theme is "both a tribute to the ceaseless work of caregivers and frontline workers during this ongoing pandemic and also a recognition of the thousands of ways that women of all cultures have provided both healing and hope throughout history."

- National Women's History Alliance

Sunday, March 6

Service Information

"If you are the Son of God..."

Luke 4:1-13