



# COALVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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## MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER



from the Pen of Bro. Len

### I Need Some Peace of Mind and Heart

During this season of Lent, it is the hope of all believers that we will experience certain manifestations of God's Grace along our journey from Ash Wednesday to Resurrection Sunday. Among those "graces" is Peace of mind & heart. We live in a pressure cooker world fraught with all manner of annoyances and trivialities that can really make our journey difficult. So, maybe you've asked yourself or another, "How Can I have Peace?"

Let's see what Jesus has to say in answer to our questions. Jesus said in John 14:27, *"I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid"* (NLT).

Let me suggest the Bible gives us five keys to finding peace.

**1. Accept that you're forgiven.** *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Romans 5:1 NIV). On the outside, we may believe our stress comes from something related to our lives and our choices. Maybe this is true, but our deepest stress comes when we try to live out of harmony with God. When we're out of tune with God, we won't have peace in our lives. We've all made mistakes. Those mistakes make us feel guilty. But the Bible says, *"We have been justified through faith."*

Micah 7:18 reminds us, *"Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance? You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy"* (NIV).

**God delights in showing you mercy. Let him!**

**2. Recognize God is with you.** *"You, Lord, give true peace to those who depend on you, because they trust you"* (Isaiah 26:3 NCV).

You don't need to face everything on your own. God is with you. Your focus determines your peace. That's why it's so important that your first response to a crisis is, "Lord, I know you are here with me."

The Psalmist wrote, *"God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble . . . Be still, and know that I am God!"* (Psalm 46:1, 10 NLT). When these verses were written, 180,000 troops had surrounded the city of Jerusalem. The Israelites were under extreme stress. **What did God say to those Israelites?** He said the same thing he says to us under stress today: **"Relax. I'm in control."**

**3. Obey God's principles.** *"Those who love your teachings will find true peace, and nothing will defeat them"* (Psalm 119:165 NCV).

You already know this. The Bible isn't just a book of history; it's the owner's manual for life. If you ignore the owner's manual for your car, you'll pay the price. The same is true when you disregard the Bible's instructions.

God created you to abide by certain principles. Stress comes when you ignore those principles. It's not enough to teach others to obey biblical principles. You must live by them too. If you're

weighed down by stress right now, ask God if there is an area of your life that you're not obeying him in. **Peace comes through obedience.**

**4. Trust God's plan.** *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take"* (Proverbs 3:5-6 NLT).

Often, life makes little sense. But even when we don't understand what's happening, we need to hang on to the truth that God does understand. He has a plan. You'll find **four verbs** in Proverbs 3:5-6. The first three are actions God wants us to take.

- **Trust** in the Lord with all your heart.
- **Don't depend** on your own understanding.
- **Seek** God's will in all you do.

When you do those three actions, God promises to take the fourth action—**direct** your path. That leads to peace.

**5. Ask for God's provision.** *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers"* (Philippians 4:6 TLB).

Most of us love to worry. We may counsel others to stop worrying and trust the Lord, but it can be hard to take our own advice. Worry is the opposite of peace of mind. Philippians 4:6-7 is God's answer to worry. God's command not to worry has no qualifiers to it. But the Lord gives us an alternative to our worries. He tells us to pray. **You can either pray or panic.** That's your choice. **Worrying solves nothing. But prayer does.** God can solve anything that's stressing you. The most important conversation you can have about your worries is with God.

God wants all of us to live in peace. **I like this definition of peace: "A sense of order that comes from ordering my life according to God's will."** No matter what's going on in your life, you can live in God's peace. Jesus tells us in John 14:1: *"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me"* (NLT).

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**Senior Lunch, Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 AM.** We will meet at Broome's Restaurant in Ocean Springs for lunch. Hope to see you there.



Brothers and Sisters, it is the month of March and we are ready to march on our knees!! Yes. We know some of us can no longer go to the Lord on our physical knees, but we sure can take our hearts and place them at the foot of His cross in meditation and prayer.

You have an opportunity to pray for specific issues that God has allowed to come to our ears. But not only to our ears, but to our hearts. Suggestion, keep your prayer journal/paper near you as you listen to the news. Jot down any issue you sense God is wanting 'you' to pray for. That's a lot, but He will guide you through all of your prayer time.

Let your prayers be lifted up now as we prepare for the new spring and all that God has for us. We've had the winter time to stay in and soak up God's word and now we will use that to further His kingdom. His seeds are planted in your soul.

**May the garden of your heart be nourished by the living waters of the Holy Spirit and the rays of His living 'SON' continue to shine on you and you be fruitful in your walk with your Lord. AMEN!**

## CORNERSTONE

Hello from Cornerstone! Welcome to March. Once again we want to thank you for helping us raise enough funds to purchase 10 round tables along with a cart for the CLC. If you get a chance, go check them out. In the month of March, our second Sunday luncheon will be on the 10th. We invite everyone to come out and join us after the second service and bring your favorite dish.

One Sunday in January, I stood up and asked the congregation for prayers for myself. I don't normally like to do this but had been having a particularly hard few weeks. I poured out my heart. During communion that day, a man came to the piano and prayed over me. This is someone I haven't had the chance to get to know yet. I felt so touched that he would go out of his way to approach me and pray for me. Later, when I was still feeling sick and in pain, I thought of something Devry said to us in the first service. He said a lot of times we pray and then we don't feel worthy of God actually answering the prayer. Devry said he realized that not only do we need to come to God with prayers, we need to receive what God has for us. We need to let God send us those answers and blessings. So, I thought.. you know what? I'm going to receive the blessing that man prayed over me, along with all the other people I asked to pray for me. It was a couple of weeks later that I started noticing my prayers were being answered. So, I would say Devry is right, don't be afraid to receive what you've asked God for! Also, never be ashamed to ask for prayer for yourself! How else will anyone know? Thank you all!

Phyllis

Philippians 4:6 – 7, NIV

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**12:30 PM, Easter Egg Hunt, CLC**

**Maundy Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30 PM, S**

**Good Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

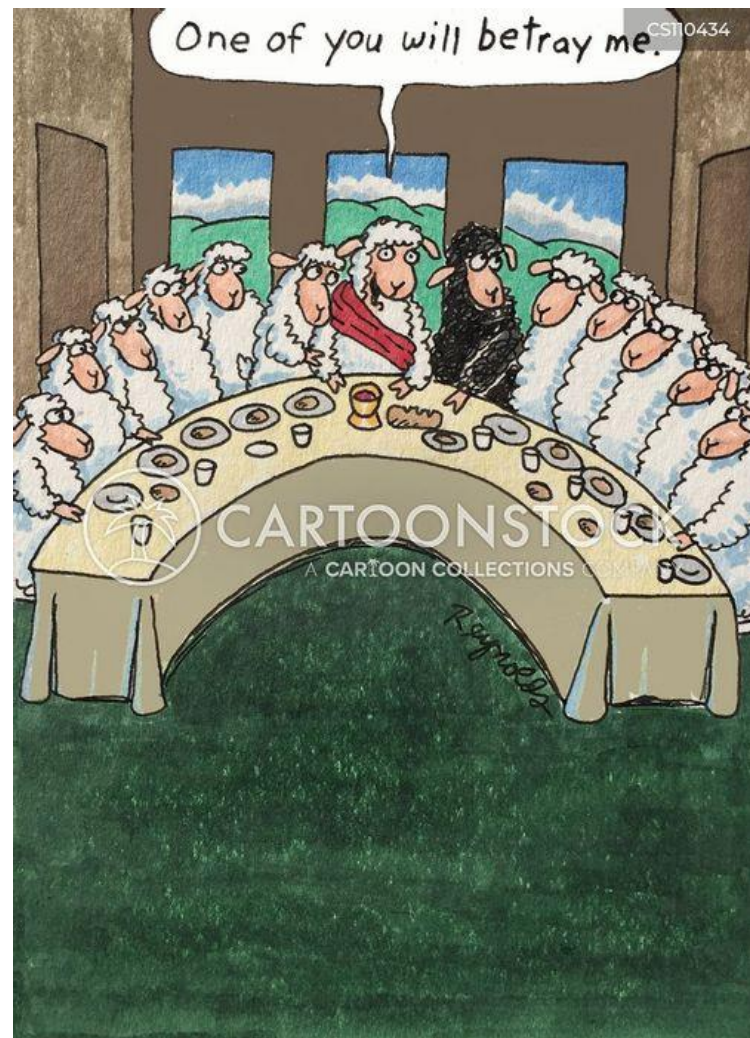
**7 AM GF Breakfast, CLC**

**Easter, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**6:30 AM, Sunrise Service, S**

**7:30 AM, Breakfast, CLC**

**9 AM, Combined Worship, S**





**Birthdays**  
**Anniversaries**  
**Monthly Events**  
**Scheduled Meetings**  
**Weekly Events**  
**CLC – Christian Life Center**  
**FH – Fellowship Hall**

**S – Sanctuary**  
**CW – Contemporary Worship**  
**TW – Traditional Worship**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> SL – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon**  
**AB – Administrative Board**  
**BG – BUNCO Group**  
**CB – Cornerstone Band**

**FISH – Young Adults**  
**JAM – Children's Ministry**  
**MT – Mission Team**  
**SL – Senior Luncheon**  
**UMYF - Youth**

March 2024						
◀ February						April ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1  7 PM, AA, FH	2 Peggy Bleil Janie Foote
3 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	4	5  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC 6 PM, MT, FH	6 11:30 AM, SL, Broome's OS	7  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	8  7 PM, AA, FH	9
10 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S 12 PM, 2 <sup>nd</sup> FL, FH  4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	11  6 PM, AB, FH	12 Danny Crosby  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	13	14  12 – 3 PM, BG, FH  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	15  7 PM, AA, FH	16
17 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S Gilbert & May Nell Rossi Trochesset 4:30 PM, JAM, CLC 6 PM, UMYF, CLC 6 PM, FISH, CLC	18 Valerie Moore Paula Yennie	19  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	20	21 Candy Webb  6 PM, Choir, S 7 PM, CB, S	22  7 PM, AA, FH	23  Prep for Easter Egg Hunt, CLC
24 9 AM, TW, S 10 AM, SS, FH 11 AM, CW, S Robert Arnold  12:30 PM, Easter Egg Hunt, CLC	25	26  5:30 PM, Yoga, CLC	27	28  6:30 PM, Maundy Thursday, S	29 Megan Leferrier 7 AM, GFB, CLC  6:30 PM, AA, CLC	30 Joel Byrd  9 AM – 3 PM, CLC Reserved
31 6:30 AM Sunrise Service, S 7:30 AM Breakfast, CLC 9 AM Combined Worship, S	<b>Backpack Blessings</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> – chicken noodle soup 10 <sup>th</sup> – oatmeal/grits 17 <sup>th</sup> – Beanie Weanies 24 <sup>th</sup> – Ramen noodles 31 <sup>st</sup> - Ravioli					