

March 2024



**Ministers: The Congregation**  
**Pastor: Ian McMichael**  
**Church Secretary: Kristi Nelson**  
**Pianist: Kate Schneider**  
**Custodian: Rex Rutledge**

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# General Announcements

Mary Cocking and Pastor Ian are leading a bible study Sunday mornings, following Worship, learning about the differences and distinctions in the Gospels. All are Welcome!

Signups to assist with Worship during March and April are available on the clipboard outside the sanctuary and we have plenty of jobs to fill!

We are looking for readers to participate in the Passion of Our Lord narrative which we will be using again this Palm(Passion) Sunday. You may use this link to sign up for that!

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kW6GUu7GL4iYQo20LL9i0jgYLIYGzBwuZirwiqg3deg/edit?usp=sharing>

The next PAC (Peace Action Conference) meeting will be March 12 at 11:30 am. This group focuses on Community Outreach and Evangelism. We will be planning some spring events pertaining to the community garden and gardening in general, so please join in if this is your calling!

## -----Lent Schedule 2024-----

First week of March--This is our "Visit a shut-in week.". Stay tuned for more information about how you can participate!

March 13--Community Soup and Bread at Trinity, followed by a short time of card writing to people either inviting them to Easter or checking in again with shut in/those who have moved. Soup begins at 5:30.

March 19 (Tuesday)--Bundle making (for LWR) at Peace at 1:00 pm.

March 28--Maundy Thursday service at Peace at 7pm.

This will be a combined community service (Trinity, Plymouth, and Colfax Community Church) here at Peace, with Soup at 6:15 pm proceeding the 7:00 pm Worship service.

March 29--Good Friday service at Trinity at 7pm.

March 30 (Saturday)--Easter Egg Hunt at Trinity at 10am (?)

March 31--Easter! There will be a brunch served from 9:30 am to 10:40 am, proceeding the 11:00 am Worship Service.

There will be transportation available for ALL dates!! If you would like a ride, please call the office (397-2121 and leave a message so Kristi can call you back to confirm!). We want everyone to be able to come and not have transportation be an issue!!

***Your financial gifts can be received in a number of ways!***

In addition to leaving your offering during in-person worship, we also have, Tithe.ly, our online giving platform, which can be found here:

[https://tithe.ly/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1302894](https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/1302894)

You may also may also drop your offering in the mailbox at church or mail it to:  
309 N Lake Street, Colfax, WA 99111

## *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

8th - Marche McNeilly

25th - Russ Jamison

26th - Gabe Cocking

28th- Corrin McMichael

21st- Kent and Diane Miller (1992)

28th Jody and Krista Boyd (1987)

# Pastor's Message

The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

–Mark 1:12-13

Dear Members of Peace and Trinity,

Lent is, as we know, the journey towards Easter. And we also know, although we might feel this to varying degrees, that Lent is not meant to be an entirely joyful journey. It is a reminder, as if most of us need it, that life is in fact harder than we would like it to be most of the time. One of the best images brought forth in Lent, when it comes to being part of a difficult journey, is that of the wilderness. We remember how Jesus went out into the wilderness, alone, to be “tempted by Satan.” Although the angels were with him, I can imagine those forty days were also quite lonely.

I tend to like the wilderness. I'm not as adventure prone as, for example, my dad. He has hiked various sections of the Pacific Crest Trail, and on any given weekend you can find him fishing, running, or staring at the computer counting down the seconds on his satellite clock to try his luck at booking an Alaskan cabin only accessible by plane. Think of the fish to be caught at a place like that! I, on the other hand, take a sort of nuanced approach. You probably won't find me trying to survive three weeks on freeze-dried food, or catching my dinner for the night, but I also very much appreciate a nice campfire, roasting marshmallows, and going to sleep inside a sleeping bag. I appreciate cooking dinner over the fire, taking walks to the river, and playing disc golf. All things that can be done at a maintained campsite!

Now, I don't necessarily need the quiet of a rustic Alaskan cabin, but one thing I do appreciate about being outdoors is the quiet. In a way, the vastness of the sky at night, even if you are surrounded by others, still reminds us how small we are, and it almost makes me feel alone in the world, but in a good way. The crackle of the fire, the rustling

of the deer outside your tent, the dew on the tent when I wake up, are all reminders that the world is immensely large, and that, even as small as we are, God decided that the world needed one of me too, and one of you! How wonderful is that?

I guess what I am trying to say is that it isn't always a bad thing to feel small. It also isn't always a bad thing to feel alone. Spending time alone in nature can bring one to life and prepare one for the busy-ness of everyday life when you return to the "real world." To be alone, and to be OK with being alone, is a sign of confidence and probably also a sign of maturity.

But then, just when we are OK with being by ourselves, when we are enjoying the quiet of the wilderness, and pondering the immensity of the universe, God, as God often does, flips the script. Because guess what? We are never alone. We are never alone even as we are tempted by Satan in the wilderness. We are not alone in our tent in the middle of a campsite. We are not alone in a rustic Alaskan cabin. We are not alone no matter where we are, and that is good news. Even in Lent, as we wonder about our own mortality and struggle to find joy in the journey, God is with us always. We are never alone.

I hope you take that to heart this Lenten season.

Peace,

Pastor Ian

