

Pastor's Ponderings

The Rev. Emma Horn

Friends,

This Sunday we will begin the fifth week in Lent, the last week before we begin to enter into Holy Week. Unless you are very liturgically minded, work in a church or are employed at a place that sells Easter candy or gifts, this can feel like just another week. In a year where it can feel like we have been living a perpetual Lent, it almost feels like there is nothing particularly remarkable about the last week before Holy week. It's just a "normal" week. I wonder about how the disciples felt during the week before the events of Holy Week. I wonder if they really knew what was coming, if they had really prepared themselves. After all, they had plenty of notice that the things that Jesus had been sharing with them about his death and resurrection were going to come true, even if they didn't know the exact date and time. Over and over again in conversation, he had told them to prepare for a time when he was no longer among them in person and over and over again they seemed to not comprehend. In this week's passage, John 12:20-33, we get a passage that many call Jesus' Farewell Discourse. In this passage, he invites them to truly listen to who he was, to truly pay attention to the cost of discipleship and how difficult it will be. He is inviting them, on the eve of Palm Sunday *to listen and to think* about what it means for their lives after he is no longer with them. The things they had heard him talk about for so long were finally coming true, and they were being asked to live the rest of their lives with intentional faith.

Throughout this season of Lent, we have been exploring the idea of covenant. This week we dive deeply into how the passage invites us to hear the story of Jesus life, death and resurrection with intentionality and let ourselves be changed, that our lives may *intentionally* be lives that embody grace, love, forgiveness, and hope. You are invited to join worship this Sunday, either in person or online as we explore this idea further.

JOYS AND CONCERNS FROM MARCH 14, 2021

Our pastor's contact information can be found on the front page of this newsletter. Pastor Emma is available for conversation and prayer. Also, please continue to share your joys and concerns with us so that *we* may continue to support each other in specific prayer requests.

Joys and concerns may be submitted to the office via email or by phone. We check messages regularly.

Please let us know of answers to prayer - so that we can give thanks to God!

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Doris Trivits on Sunday, March 14th. Doris had spent the week in Christiana Hospital with an undiagnosed illness, and returned to her daughter's home Saturday afternoon where she spent her final hours with her family. We ask prayers of comfort for Doris' family. Details of her memorial and burial will be forthcoming.

We offer prayers of comfort and condolence to Kelly Firment and her family upon the sudden death of her mother, Nancy Smith. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to La Carcajada/ Huston Firment fund at the Delaware Community Foundation by mail to P.O. Box 1636 Wilmington, De 19899 or online to <u>www.delcf.org/firment</u>.

Tom Craven reports that his sister, Susan, passed away Saturday, February 28th. We lift up prayers for Tom and his family.

2021 FINANCIAL UPDATE		WORSHIP LINKS
Friends, Remember that you may continue to mail in your pledge/donation or use our on-line portal by clicking HERE.		March 14, 2021 "Covenant: Turning An Embodiment of Love"
Year to Date Total Giving 2021:	\$61,569	 Audio/Video link Bulletin/Liturgy link
Budgeted Giving 2021:	\$244,249	



Join us for the *Midweek Lenten Devotional*. Please gather with us via Zoom every Thursday (excluding Maundy Thursday) from **11am to about 12pm** where we will spend time looking into the text for *that* day more in depth. This weekly meeting may be joined from the Zoom app, the Zoom website, or by calling in using a home or cell phone. The Zoom information as well as instructions on how to access the meeting is outlined below.

For those who are unavailable to join us during that specific time, a video recording of a portion of the meeting will be posted on our YouTube channel by the end of the day each Thursday in Lent.

Please note that the meeting link and call in information is the same week to week.



Remaining Meeting Dates/Times

Mar 18, 2021 11:00 AM Mar 25, 2021 11:00 AM

The Rev. Dr. Hilary Livingston of Head of Christiana Presbyterian, facilitating

Join Zoom Meeting (audio and video or audio only)

If you already have a Zoom account set up, you should be able to join the meeting using the link below.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82533472721?pwd=MytEbFFrdjdDaEsxNG10ZWFlaUExZz09

To join by phone (audio only):

Instructions can be found inside the devotional booklet. Please contact the office if you need additional help.

Click HERE to view a PDF copy of the 2021 Lent Devotional materials.



Our **Annual Jonathan Beech Memorial Concert** will be presented virtually this year, since last year's Thirteenth Annual Concert had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. The concert will include anthems presented by a virtual choir of over 70 singers (including many from our Lower Brandywine Choir), who have been busy since January recording all of their parts individually. Although this doesn't replace a live, in-person performance, it keeps the spirit of the concert going, and is somewhat of a technological marvel itself. The plan is to launch the YouTube video March 17 at 7:00 PM. Please look for a link to the concert mid-week on the church website, or at the concert website: <u>JonathanBeechMemorialConcert.org</u>. If you have never been able to come to the concert, this is a chance to view an abbreviated concert without leaving your home! If you cannot join us at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, it will still be available for viewing after that point through the same links mentioned above.

This year's concert will benefit three organizations: **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Neuro-Oncology, Camp Sunshine of Maine, and Make-A-Wish of Philadelphia, Delaware, and the Susquehanna Valley**. If you wish to contribute, as usual you can mail a check to: Jonathan Beech Memorial Concert, 474 Greenwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348. If you prefer to make a donation on-line, you will be able to make a Pay-Pal donation on the website. Thanks to all for your continued support.

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanita-SPECIAL OFFENINGS HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

LBPC will receive the OGHS offering on Sunday, April 4th. Click <u>HERE</u> to give online.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LBPC Cooks by Zoom on Tuesday, March 23rd at 6PM!

Where: Your own kitchen!

Let's get № C**@@k na** R

Menu: Fajitas

RSVP to Betsy Coons, <u>betsycoons@comcast.net</u> or text 484-643-2479.

She will send you the easy shopping list and recipe.

We'll all cook together and then sit down together (Via Zoom!) to enjoy the meal.



<u>These Days</u> for April|May|June 2021 have arrived. If you would like a copy mailed to your home, please respond to lpbc@comcast.net

Copies are also available as you enter the Social Hall.

Community COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics at Nemours

If you are 65 years or older, and a resident of Delaware, you might be interested in learning about covid-19 vaccination clinics at Nemours Hospital.

Vaccinations are offered by invitation and appointment only. To register, follow the link below:

Register: Nemours Community COVID Clinic Registration Link

Questions: CommunityCOVIDVaccinations@nemours.org



Al-Anon/Alateen is a recovery support fellowship for families and friends of alcoholics. Al-Anon/ Alateen members share how attendance has helped them more fully understand their alcoholic relative, and how they can enjoy a full and happy life, regardless of whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not. Al-Anon meets twice weekly and Alateen meets once a week at LBPC:

Al-Anon Meetings: Monday 7:00-8:00 pm and Wednesday Noon-1:00 pm

Alateen Meeting: Monday 7:00-8:00 pm

Due to the pandemic, Al-Anon and Alateen are having virtual meetings.



Monday through Thursday from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

HOWEVER

Voicemail is always monitored. If you have an urgent need, do not hesitate to call. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

300th Anniversary Campaign Update



We have reached \$295,938 toward our pledge goal of \$300,000. *We are so close! There's still time to donate to the 300th campaign!!* Contact Linda Natali at <u>linda.natali@comcast.net</u> or visit <u>www.vancopayments.com</u> to give electronically, or mail your check to the church office with a memo, "300th Anniversary."



Did you know that you can contribute to LBPC with a stock contribution? Or electronically via Vanco services? Vanco – visit our website and follow the instructions to "contribute online."

Stock Transfers – inform your investment company to send the transfer to Fidelity Investments. Our DTC is 0226, Account **Z72-118389.** If needed – Fidelity Investments – 4001 Kennett Pike Ste. 120, Greenville, DE 19807, our Account Executive is Daniel Glazer 302-428-3776 ext. 78869.

Please remember to advise Linda Natali at linda.natali@comcast of your donation, so that we may credit your giving account promptly.

Donations of Required Minimum Distributions from Retirement Accounts

Did you know that you can make a donation of all or a portion of the Required Minimum Distribution from your retirement account to tax exempt charities, such as Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church and your donation will be tax exempt?

Here's how it works. If a person is at least age 70½, they must take at least a minimum distribution from their IRA or incur a penalty equal to one-half of the otherwise required minimum distribution amount. They may take more than the minimum at their discretion. These individuals may instruct their IRA account manager to distribute any amount of their choosing to one or more tax exempt charities such as Lower Brandywine Presbyterian.

When that is done, it is considered to be a tax-exempt contribution. Lower Brandywine would acknowledge to the giver the receipt of that contribution from their IRA. Also, this contribution is tax exempt even if the individual does not itemize deductions for income tax purposes because the IRA account manager would not identify this to the IRS as reportable income in accordance with the tax code.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW

Christian Education News and Announcements

DATE CHANGE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Rogers Day has been rescheduled to Saturday, April 17th. Stay tuned for more information!



To make an Easter Flower dedication, please fill out this form and return it to the church office along with a check for \$18.00 per plant. Make checks payable to Lower Brandywine Presbyterian Church and mark your check, "*for Easter Flowers*." You may return your dedication by email, by dropping it in the offering plate before worship, or by mailing it to the church office. (101 Old Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807)

□ In loving memory of _

To the Glory of God

Dedications must be received by Monday, March 29th.

Name

Phone Number

*You may pick up your flowers after the Easter service.

March 2021 Lectionary Readings

Third Sunday in Lent—March 7

Exodus 20:1–17 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 1:18–25 John 2:13–22

Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 14

Numbers 21:4–9 Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22 Ephesians 2:1–10 John 3:14–21

Fifth Sunday in Lent—March 21

Jeremiah 31:31–34 Psalm 51:1–12 or Psalm 119:9–16 Hebrews 5:5–10 John 12:20–33

Passion/Palm Sunday—March 28 Liturgy of the Palms Mark 11:1–11 or John 12:12–16 Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29 Liturgy of the Passion Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 31:9–16 Philippians 2:5–11

Mark 14:1-15:47 or Mark 15:1-39 (40-47)

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES			
MARCH BIRTHDAYS			
03/02	Martha Coats		
03/03	Becky Kennedy		
03/06	Heather Garvey		
03/12	Brenda Boucher		
03/13	Thomas Craven		
	Julie DiNatale		
03/17	Joshua Boucher		
03/18	Madelyn Underwood		
03/22	Tylor Walther		
03/23	Stephen Salle		
03/24	Cooper Coats		
03/25	Mauricette Benzing		
03/26	Emily Underwood		
	Bruce Webber		
03/27	Enzo Natali		
	Roman Garvey		
03/28	Marilee Calibrese		
03/29	Joyce Murphy		
03/30	Donna Beech		
MARCH ANNIVERSARIES			
03/01	Brian & Dot Kent		
03/10	Christopher & Alexis Kenny		
	Jesse & Heather Garvey		
03/20	Enzo & Linda Natali		
	Edward & Ann Major		
03/25	Rev. David & Mimi Lovelace		

ZOOM AND WORSHIP CALENDAR WEEK OF MARCH 15TH

3/15	Al-Anon/Alateen Meeting	7:00 PM		
3/15	F & A Meeting	7:00 PM		
	Contact John Danzeisen for Zoom information.			
3/16	Zoom Fellowship	9:00 AM		
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87286676223?pwd=UnpFVEVxOHRWemZOZ3p1ZHhIaUljQT09				
3/16	Richard Rohr Study	12:00 PM		
	Contact Sandra Borror for Zoom information.			
3/17	Al-Anon Meeting	12:00 PM		
3/17	AA Meeting	8:00 PM		
3/18	Zoom Lenten Devotional Study	11:00 AM		
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82533472721?pwd=MytEbFFrdjdDaEsxNG1OZWFlaUExZz09				
3/20	Session Retreat	10:00 AM		
	Contact Pastor Emma for Zoom information.			
3/21	Zoom Adult Bible School	8:00 AM		
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81477282701?pwd=NFFhV29ITjJUYkJ5bTJpMjBhZGswdz09				
3/21	Zoom Children's Sunday School	10:00 AM		
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84572504707?pwd=N1hyOGlzTHJYQk1UNGhQbExVTHduUT09				
3/21	Worship Service	10:00 AM		



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