

March/April 2024

The Shepherd

Just a closer walk with Thee. Grant it, Jesus, is my plea. Daily walking close to Thee. Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Lyrics from a familiar song. Isn't that what the Lenten Season is all about? A closer walk with Thee.

It is Lent already, during the Lenten season we have a few special events, which started on February 14th, Ash Wednesday. A day where we focus on ourselves. What did Jesus do for me? What sins have I committed during my life thus far? What stripes did I place upon Him?

John the Baptist said to repent of your sins and change your ways, so that you may be considered for the Kingdom that is to come. Wait, is that what he said?

It's your life that must change, not your skin! And don't think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as father. Being a descendant of Abraham is neither here nor there. Descendants of Abraham are a dime a dozen. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? Because if it's deadwood, it goes on the fire.

- Matthew 3:9-10 (The Message)

Lent and Easter are a reminder to all of us, of the Love of God, the Sacrifice He gave to show His Love and a reality check for us. Is our heart, mind, and soul right with Him? Have we allowed the Holy Spirit to enter in and clean house, so that He may live within us?

Spend some time this Lenten Season checking your heart, mind, and soul. Share your love for Him with others, so that they may come to know His love also.

Take a closer walk with Jesus.

Blessings,

Pastor Cyndi



**Columbiana First
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Office Information

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Office Hours

**Monday, Wednesday, & Friday
9:00am—1:00pm**

Our Staff

***Pastor Cynthia Midlick
cmidlick@msn.com**

***Financial Secretary
Eileen Laffarre**

***Custodian
Bradley Moore**

***Team Leader/Organist
Monica Detwiler**

***Choir Director
Steven Burbick**

***Music Consultant
Sally Bricker**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

(If we have missed your special day,
please notify the church office to be
added to the list! 330-482-2382)

**Kaitlyn Culp 03/02
Diane Hardenbrook 03/08
Jim Hum 03/10
Jean Brooks 03/17
George Midlick 03/17
Bob Belding 03/21
Ruth Williamson 03/29**

**Lori Bailey 04/03
Dorothy Merreot 04/05
Jay Williamson 04/07
Rita Welce 04/11
Tina Ambrose 04/23
Richard Gorcheff 04/25
Don Leonard 04/26
Gabriella Schweikert 04/30**

**If your birthday is in March or
April and it is not on the list we
wish you also a very
Happy Birthday.**

TRUSTEE NEWS

We will be having Tri-State Glass re-caulk the windows in the Prayer Garden area. This is a much-needed project, the cost for this part of the project will be \$1470.00.

A new leak in the Sanctuary roof has been found, and Roof-rite was able to come and place a rubber membrane over the area and replace the clay tiles that were cracked in the area with the clay tiles we had on hand. Praying that we will not see any more leaks in the near future.

We had the Elevator worked on, S & S Elevator came out and replaced a guide wheel that had come loose. The Elevator was down for a couple of days but is up and running.

The parsonage is in the process of being rented. New Tenants should be moving in at the end of March.

So many things going on at the church, thankful for all those who have been there to help out when needed. A big thank you to Sam for what he has done the past couple of months.

A big thank you to all those who continue to support our church so that we can address issues as they come up.

Looking forward to Bob & Betty returning from their much-deserved vacation.

Yours Truly,
Pastor Cyndi

Good As New Shoppe

We had a great 2023 year, sales were up. After paying consignees and insurance we had money left. Our mission is to help others so we went to the City of Columbiana and helped two people with their utilities. We also give to the church monthly to help with utilities and whatever else is needed. God is good!

We will be participating in the Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd & 24th with the retail merchants here in Columbiana.

Spring arrivals will be starting on April 1st.

We have been blessed,

Marge and Linda

Store hours Friday 10-4

Saturday 10-3.

Store Phone Number: (330) 831-0399

Church Women United

We met for a fellowship Breakfast on February 21st, It is always a good time meeting up with our church family, sharing a meal and catching up with each other. Our next Fellowship Breakfast will be on April 17th, at 10 am.

We will be meeting at the Dutch House, no reservations needed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **In person Worship Services are on Sunday's at 10:30am.**
- **Adult Sunday School class 9:30 am Sunday mornings.**
- **Bible Study Wednesday mornings at 11 am in the Pastor's Study. We are using Max Lucado's book They Walked with God. Each week we cover a Character of the Bible.**
- **Soup Sale will be in March, Pre-orders only. Deadline for Soup orders will be March 3rd. Soup Pick-up will be on March 8th from 3:30 to 5 pm.**
Soups that will be available to order are: **Chicken Noodle, Potato, Stuffed Pepper, Vegetable, Ham & Bean, and Chili.**
- **Ham Dinners will resume in May on the 14th, from 4 to 6 or until sold out. \$10.00 each. Please let your friends know. We suggest calling the office to reserve at 330-482-2382.**
- **Anyone who can help with the Ham dinner please call Anne Brown at 330-831-1112. There will also be a sign up sheet at service Sunday.**
- **March 17th we will have Chef Brad's Brunch after Worship Service.**
- **March 18th deadline to order Tulips, Hyacinths, and Lillies in memory of your loved ones for Easter. Call 330 482-2382.**
- **March 28th we will be having our Maundy Thursday Service/ Dinner. If you can come and join us. The Dinner will start at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. Reservations will need to be made so that we have a count for how many we will be serving. To make reservations please call the church office 330 482-2382.**
- **Good Friday Service will be held at 5 pm. Sanctuary will be open from 3 to 5 for personal prayer and meditation.**
- **Easter Service will be held at our regular Worship Service time 10:30 am.**
- **April 17th, 10 am, Breakfast at the Dutch House, no reservation needed. Come and join us for a meal and fellowship. All are welcome.**

Christina House

**The Christina House is a safe place for battered women,
Judy Stevens delivers donated items every month or so.**

**The following is a list of items needed for the
Christina House in Lisbon:**

**Paper towels, disposable diapers, baby wipes, tissues, toilet paper,
sanitary napkins/tampons, laundry detergent, bleach, bath soap,
cleaning supplies, towels/washcloths, underwear, bras, socks,
baby clothes, pajamas (women's and children's), shampoo,
deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair spray, disposable
razors, canned food, dry food mixes, beauty shop certificates,
stationary, light bulbs, alarm clocks and aa batteries.**

Way Station

We are also collecting nonperishable foods for The Way Station.

**There are boxes and baskets at church where these items
can be collected.**

Thanks to all that donate!

Devotion for Lent By Leigh Boelkins Van Kempen

*1 O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger,
or discipline me in your wrath.*

*2 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;
O Lord, heal me, for my bones are shaking with terror.*

*3 My soul also is struck with terror,
while you, O Lord—how long?*

*4 Turn, O Lord, save my life;
deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love.*

- Psalm 6

I have a confession to make: I have a hard time saying, "I'm sorry." Or, perhaps, more accurately, I say, "I'm sorry, but ...". My acknowledgement of how I have hurt someone or disappointed someone is often followed by my excuse for why it happened. However, I don't think I'm unique in this. Perhaps you, too, have a hard time saying, "I'm sorry."

Psalm 6 is the first of seven penitential psalms (6, 32, 38, 51, 102, 130, 143) frequently used as part of the Christian church's Lenten observance, starting with Ash Wednesday. The theme of these seven psalms is consistent: the psalmist expresses deep sorrow for his sin, asking God for help and forgiveness. In today's psalm, David itemizes his distress. Both his body and his soul feel overwhelmed with terror. David realizes he is experiencing the consequence of his own sin. He cries out in physical and spiritual pain, knowing that God's discipline is justified for the ways he has disobeyed God.

David's confession before God is anchored in his confidence that God will forgive. He calls out for God's deliverance, convinced that God will hear and answer because of God's steadfast love. In spite of the situation in which David finds himself, he knows that he will not permanently abide in terror and distress because of God's unfailing love. "Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping. The Lord has heard my supplication; the Lord accepts my prayer" (vv. 8-9).

As we enter this Lenten season, we can say, "I'm sorry" before God. When we confess before our merciful Lord, we are assured of God's forgiveness. Instead of saying, "I'm sorry, but," we can say, "I'm sorry because of Your steadfast love and forgiveness!" What a wonderful God we serve!

Prayer: Holy One, we confess before You our sinfulness, our brokenness, and our need to experience Your abundant mercy. Help us, each day, to come before You and say, "I'm sorry." In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Preparing for Easter, Devotions by Billy Graham

THURSDAY

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:35–43

As we approach the celebration of Good Friday, I'm reminded of the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross and the glory and the power in each saying.

Jesus was alone. He had come to His own, and His own did not receive Him. When He was being arrested in the garden of Gethsemane, we are told that "all the disciples deserted him and fled" (Matthew 26:56). The crowds who had so recently shouted, "Hosanna!" would soon shout, "Crucify him! ... Crucify him!" (Matthew 21:9, 27:22–23).

Now even His loyal Twelve had left. And at last we hear Him cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34). Not only had He been forsaken by His human companions, but now in that desperate and lonely hour, He—because He was bearing our sins in His own body on the cross—had been forsaken by God. Jesus was enduring the suffering and judgment of Hell for you and for me.

How can you show your gratitude to God for allowing His Son to endure the shame and suffering of the cross?

FRIDAY

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:44–49

Good Friday celebrates the day our Lord died for our sins on the cross. I have often sat by the hour and tried to imagine the agony and suffering He went through because of our sins. At one point He said from the cross, "It is finished" (John 19:30). He meant that God had accepted His work on the cross as the penalty for our sins.

Christ's death on our behalf is the reason God can forgive us and still be just. And His death teaches us the depth and breadth that there should be in our forgiveness of one another.

While that holy Friday was tremendous, it was only a prelude to Sunday morning when He was raised from the dead. Godly women had come to see His tomb, but angels made the glorious announcement, "He has risen!" (Luke 24:6). His resurrection guaranteed that we, too, will be raised, if we are believers and obeyers of His Word.

As you celebrate the truth that Jesus came from Heaven to redeem you, are you reflecting His likeness to those around you?

SATURDAY

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:50–54

From Genesis to Revelation, we are warned that "it is later than you think." Paul writes to Christians in Romans 13:11–12: "The hour has already come for you to wake up from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."

There are millions of people around the world who do not have peace at this moment because they have never found the secret of peace. Some of them may have riches today as a result of greed and covetousness; but their souls are lean, their hearts are cold toward God, their consciences are dulled, and their minds are blinded.

They need to know that there is a God of marvelous love who sent His Son Jesus Christ to this world. And as a demonstration of His mercy, Christ—who is the Prince of Peace—went to the cross to make a way for peace between God and mankind.

Are you living in the reality of Jesus' victory over death? In what tangible ways can you share that victory with others so that they, too, can have life?

EASTER SUNDAY

Read: 1 Corinthians 15:55–58

Easter is a season of great gladness for those who know Christ. But for those who are without "the light of the knowledge of God's glory" (2 Corinthians 4:6), there is nothing to rejoice over.

Jesus left us with the great hope and certainty that He is going to return to bring a new Heaven and a new earth where, we are told, there will be no more sorrow, trouble, or death for those who have believed and followed Him. There will be trouble, sorrow, and suffering for those who have neglected or rejected Him.

As Christians, our great task is to obey the command to tell the whole world about Christ crucified, buried, yet risen again. My prayer for you during this season of the year, when we meditate on our Savior's great sacrifice for us on the cross, is that you will be filled with great peace and hope, because "He is risen!" That is the Good News.

As you follow Christ, are you obeying His command to tell others that He is risen indeed?