

Exeter Church of Christ



"Is not this the kind of
fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free and
break every yoke?"

Isaiah 58:6, NIV

February 23, 2020

320 East Firebaugh / 592-2909

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you."

— Anne Lamott



Welcome to Worship



CONGRATULATIONS to Lynn Care and Rodney Creekbaum on their wedding yesterday at the Porterville Church of Christ. Grandson (of Lynn), Zack Ludden had the honor of performing the ceremony.

THIS FRIDAY (28th) Zack Ludden will speak and serve as director of the annual Porterville Youth Rally. It will begin at 8:30 am and end at 4:30 pm. (We have scholarships available for youth who would like to attend. Check with Zack for details.) Later that day the Blackstone Church of Christ in Tulare will host the monthly area-wide singing at 7:00 pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards. After about a week in Porterville's Sierra View hospital, Marcia Searle passed away last Wednesday. Her memorial service is planned for this Saturday, February 29, 11 am, in our church facility. In lieu of flowers, if you would you would like to make a memorial contribution in Marcia's name, the family suggests the Manor House, where Marcia served in the Ladies Auxiliary for many years.



SERVICE OF Remembrance

IN ADDITION to Marcia's service this Saturday, there will be a memorial service the following Saturday, March 7, for another of our own, Peggy Shackelford. It, too, will begin at 11 am and be conducted in our church facility.

Today's Word: "Fasting"

Should we fast today and, if so, why?



WEDNESDAY evening at



7:00 our mid-week service will delve into Hebrews 7 and the priesthood of Melchizedek.



Lenten Reflection: Luke 4:3-4

God tests Jesus in the wilderness and Satan tempts him to satisfy his desires by inappropriate means.

One need is hunger. It would seem that satisfying hunger should not be characterized as inappropriate. Food is a created good to be enjoyed.

The Slanderer (Diabolos) suggests that Jesus should create his own food. If he really is the Son of God then he should provide his own bread. He should satisfy his hunger. There is nothing that prevents him from doing this if he really is the Son of God.



Jesus does not respond by saying, "I could make bread from these stones if I wanted to." Rather, he addresses the Slanderer's presumption about what the purpose of his wilderness experience is. While the Slanderer wanted to minimize the wilderness experience by reducing it to physical hunger, Jesus reminds him about its real purpose.

The purpose of the wilderness is not a physical endurance test as if acetic practices are about how much a human being can physically endure. Rather, the wilderness is about a hunger for God; it is about depending on God for strength for the soul. Jesus is in the wilderness to clarify his mission and deepen his dependence on the Father.

The wilderness reminds us that we can't live on bread alone. Our material ambitions—from food to clothing to housing to video games—cannot satisfy the deepest longings of the human soul. When we live at this level we ultimately feel empty and this emptiness will kill our souls. When we live at this level, the mission of God takes a back seat.

In the wilderness we hunger and thirst for God. Fasting reminds us that the fullness of life is not found through pizza and beer, but eating the bread of God. Authentic life feasts on communion with God and embraces, by God's strength, the mission of God.

Fasting leads to feasting. When we fast from the idolatry of instant gratification, we learn to feast on God for true life.

— John Mark Hicks

In 1863 President Lincoln declared April 30 to be a day of national repentance, fasting, and prayer. He said:

"It is the duty of nations ... as well as of men ... to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon. ... Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has grown, but we have forgotten God."



Church of Christ

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Sunday

Bible class 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM

Wednesday

Bible class 7:00 PM

What Did You Give Up for Lent?

It's a common practice for people to choose to sacrifice something during the Lenten season. Stephen Smith of *OpenBible.info* watches the hundreds of thousands of Lent-related tweets during the week of Ash Wednesday and records the most common items given up by people.

As you can imagine, the No. 1 item is chocolate, but here are some of the more interesting items to sacrifice, listed along with their sequence in the list:

4. School
11. Lent
25. Giving up things
27. Netflix
44. McDonald's
54. Winter
61. Procrastination
73. Selfies
92. Sweet tea
94. Sarcasm
100. Hot Cheetos

Who knew Hot Cheetos were so popular? However, 46 people apparently tweeted they are giving them up during Lent.

