

“THE MESSENGER”

PUBLISHED BY ST. PAUL’S UCC, MIDDLETOWN OHIO 45044

Rev. Rich Luh, Pastor 937-993-5464; Church – 513-422-4519

March 2024

LENTEN AND EASTER SCHEDULE

We invite all of you to join us for the following services this month:

3 – “Beautiful Law” – Communion - Altar

6 – Lenten Lunch here at St. Paul’s; Pastor Jeff Wilder, speaking – 12 noon

10 – “No Matter What”; Church Council after church in Church Parlor

13 – Lenten Lunch at First Christian Church – Pastor Rich, speaking – 12 noon

17 – “Deep in Our Hearts”

20 – Lenten Lunch at First Baptist Church – Pastor Daniel Cardenas, speaking – 12 noon

24 – Palm Sunday – “What He Went through for Us”

28 – Maundy Thursday Service with Communion at First Christian Church – 7pm

31 – EASTER SERVICE WITH COMMUNION (Pew) – “Now What?”

RESURRECTION

We see in the Risen Christ the end for which man was made and the assurance that the end is within reach. Christ rose from the grave changed and yet the same; and in Him we have the pledge and type of our rising.

BELLS ARE RINGING AGAIN!

Our Bell Choir will be up and running for Lent with performances on March 24th and 31st.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY

Last month we lost a faithful servant of Jesus Christ and a dedicated member of our church family with the passing of **James Stanton Rockwell**. He was a key component of the Clothes Closet, and he did so many tasks and services around the church, from serving at Coffee Hour and keeping a record of attendance at worship to cleaning out the garbage cans and cleaning up after activities, he will be sorely missed by all of us. He passed away on February 6th. We had a Memorial Service for him on February 25th during our morning worship.

He is finally reunited with his folks and embraced by God, who says, "Well done, good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over little and now I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master."

EASTER

Just what does Easter mean to you? At one time it was when people went out bought special clothes, especially for their children, to wear on that day to church. For a few people, it was a time for them to actually show up to church for the first time that year (the other being Christmas). For those who were confirmed, it was the first time they partook of the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

For this day and age, less and less people bother to come out to church at all, much less on Easter. Oh, there are those who will make an effort to attend worship on Easter Sunday with their spouses and families, but more and more find it less enticing for them to show up at all!

It's too bad this happens, because these people really fail to see the importance of celebrating Christ's victory over death and announcing, through his resurrection, to all His brothers and sisters that we all can rise up from the grave that holds us in because of our sins we have committed or the bad judgements

we have been guilty of the past year – all of which tend to hold us back from realizing our potential to do good in the world we live in and to become better at being followers of Christ.

Easter is the pronouncement from our Savior that nothing can hold us back from being what we are capable of being, except ourselves! He has broken the chains we find ourselves entrapped with and encourages us to get up and go out and live our lives according to His teachings. What better opportunity is that?

So, when Easter comes upon us on March 31st, it behooves all of us to muster up the courage and the enthusiasm to get out and become a part of the worshipping community to celebrate the glorious opportunities God gives to each of us to blossom forth as loving and caring children through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Hopefully, that's what Easter means to you as well! On behalf of Sue and myself, we wish each of you and your loved ones a Blessed Easter celebration – a celebration of a renewed life through the Risen Christ.

Shalom,

Pastor Rich

<u>LITURGISTS</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>	<u>USHERS</u>
3 – CINDY BURNETT	JULIE RATLIFF	LARRY/DARLENE ADAMS
10 – CORRINE LOWMAN	LARRY ADAMS	CARL/JENNIFER BATLINER
17 – JULIE RATLIFF	RICK LYONS	TOM/MARCIA SHIBLEY
24 – ABBEY BREEDING	CHUCK CLARK	CHUCK CLARK/DAN FLORY
31 – MARSHA MINGE	CHUCK CLARK	LARRY/DARLENE ADAMS

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

OUR TRIUMPHANT HOLY DAY;

WHO DID ONCE UPON THE CROSS

SUFFER TO REDEEM OUR LOSS.

HALLELUJAH!

Remember – CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS ON MARCH 10TH! You lose an hour of sleep!

SPRING by William Shakespeare

When daises pied and violets blue, and lady-smocks all silver-white,

And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue Do paint the meadows with delight,

The cuckoo then, on every tree, Mocks married men; for thus sings he, Cuckoo!

Cuckoo, cuckoo! – O word of fear, Unpleasing to a married ear!

When shepherds pipe on oaten straws, and merry larks are ploughman's clocks,

When turtles tread, and rooks, and Daws, and maidens bleach their summer smocks
The cuckoo then, on every tree,

Mocks married men; for thus sings he, Cuckoo! Cuckoo, cuckoo! – O word of fear,

Unpleasing to a married ear!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

2 – Rich Luh

17 – Pat Beatty

3 – Todd Edwards

23 – Austin Schultz

6 – Crystal Barraclough

25 – Jeff Adams

15 – Kathleen Batliner

30 – Elizabeth Batliner

HELP WOULD NICE!

We are hosting the Lenten Lunch on **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH**, and if you are able, we would appreciate it if you could help serve and clean-up – and if you can, please give Barb Flory a call at 513-594-3126.

SHALOM UPDATE

From the Board of Directors, they wrote just after hosting the WINTER SHALOM for five weeks, they served 76 different total guests. This included 24 females, 51 males, and 1 child. SHALOM was prepared for the number to be extensive, but they never imagined these numbers at this point in the WINTER schedule.

But they thank all who have helped in any way to provide meals and volunteers in these peoples' time of need. Our church served a dinner for the homeless on February 25th – many thanks to those who prepared, bought items for the dinner, and helped serve and clean-up: Barb Flory, Larry and Darlene Adams, Hillary Fraley, Pastor Rich, Calleigh Barraclough and her friend Stephen.

PASTOR AWAY ON VACATION

Pastor Rich and Sue will be away on vacation from Sunday after church on March 31st through Friday, April 5th. Pastor Jeff from First Christian will be covering in case of an emergency. Please check with Barb if you need pastoral assistance.

HELP NEEDED!!

Our Clothes Closet lost a faithful worker in Jim, when he passed away and now, we have a real need for someone, male or female, who could get the door when someone comes to drop off clothing or when clients arrive. The two or three women we have working now in the Closet often cannot hear when someone is at the door so having a person do that job would certainly be a great help.

If you can do this on Tuesdays from 10-1, please let Pastor Rich know of your interest.

BIBLE STUDY

We will be finishing the Book of Acts this month. You are invited to join us for these sessions in the Church Parlor every Tuesday from 1-2 pm.

OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES

To Chuck Clark on the death of his brother, ***JAMES ALBERT CLARK***, last month.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

Charlene and Jack Kinyalocets, Charlene Hale, Anne Turner, Ruby McQuade, Judy Brewer, Dan Flory, Judy Curtis