

“THE MESSENGER”

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MARCH 2023

LENTEN SERVICES SET! SOUP AND SANDWICH

This year we are having noon-time lunches and short meditations with First Baptist, First Christian, and First United Methodist. Here is the schedule:

March 1 – First Baptist Church, Pastor Scotty Robertson **“MARKS OF THE CROSS”**

March 8 – First Christian Church, Pastor Jeff Wilder **“GIFTS OF THE CROSS”**

March 15 – First United Methodist Church, Pastor Kim Armentrout **“BLESSINGS OF THE CROSS”**

March 22 – St. Paul’s United Church of Christ, Pastor Rich Luh **“LESSONS OF THE CROSS”**

March 29 – First Baptist Church, Pastor Scotty Robertson **“GLORY OF THE CROSS”**

These services and meal start at 12pm and will be over no later than 1 pm.

Come and join us for our Lenten journey as we fellowship with our sister churches.

We could use some help in getting the lunch ready at our church on March 22nd. If you can assist, please let Pastor Rich know or call the church office. Whatever you can do will be appreciated. We will serve soup, sandwich, and cookies.

“The best thing to give to your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent, tolerance; to your friend, your heart; to your child, a good example; to a father deference; to your mother, conduct that will make her proud of you; to yourself, respect; to all people, charity.” Arthur

James, Lord Balfour

THIS MONTH'S BENEVOLENT GIVING

For March, our special offering will go to the UCC ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING. Funds given provide support relief services whenever or wherever disaster strikes; humanitarian aid, famine relief and help to resettle refugees from famine and wars; plus ministries for homeless children in the inner cities of the world.

LENT IS A TIME FOR SEARCHING

We are now in the season of Lent. It is a time for us to look inwardly to figure out where we stand in relation to our call as disciples of Christ. We often get so busy with our own agendas in everyday life, that we forget the important aspect of our life is how well we are doing God's work, reflecting the love, hope, compassion, and forgiveness of our Lord in the process.

Lent is a time when we take a long, hard look at ourselves to determine what we need to do in order to follow the path that Christ lays out for us to live. We need to search our hearts to discern what we need to do to right ourselves from the mistakes we have made and to right ourselves before our friends, family and of course, God.

Many times people spend so much energy in getting themselves physically attractive, via face creams, mascara, etc. or physically fit through gym workouts, running, jogging, special diets. Yet, Lent is a time when we are to concentrate on our spiritual fitness and beauty. Working on this will help to create a new you that won't fade with age.

However, just like there is a need to have a steady routine for exercise in order to keep in shape, we also must exercise our faith to avoid getting out of shape and rendering ourselves rather useless in doing the Lord's work. How do we stay in shape spiritually? Reading the Bible more consistently than on Sunday mornings during worship; finding some alone time to feel the presence of God in your life; searching for ways to learn more about your own talents and abilities and how you can utilize them for the work of our Lord.

Yes, Lent provides us with ample opportunities to discover what we are missing in our spiritual life and how we can find it. And do you know that this is not done by us alone. The Lord is present in our lives to assist us in finding our way back into his loving arms and to rediscover what it truly means to be his beloved.

Shalom,

Pastor Rich

COME, JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

We enjoy a Coffee Hour after worship in our Friendship Hall and we do have Sunday School for the little ones – right after the Children’s Message. So why not join us for worship and fellowship. It all begins at 10:15am.

Messages:

5 – “Bold Blessing”

12 – “Thirsty Voices”

19 – “Restored”

26 – “Breath of Hope”

Liturgists:

Abbey Breeding

Chuck Clark

Julie Ratliff

Cindy Burnett

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2 – Rich Luh

3 – Todd Edwards

6 – Crystal Barraclough

15 – Kathleen Batliner

17 – Pat Beatty

23 – Austin Schultz

25 – Jeff Adams

30 – Elizabeth Batliner

SUNDAY LUNCH

We have enjoyed eating together at area restaurants the past two months and now once again we will go out on March 26th to a place yet to be selected. Hope you can join us for food and fellowship!

BIBLE STUDY: We meet every Tuesday from 1-2pm in the Church Parlor. Currently we are studying the Book of Luke. Any interested are cordially invited to attend.

CLOTHES CLOSET: This ministry celebrates its 2nd Anniversary this month; and we thank our dedicated volunteers for putting in all their heartfelt effort in making this outreach a success. They are winding down with winter wear and gearing up for spring clothing. They operate every Tuesday from 10-1pm. If interested in helping, please see Jim Rockwell after church.

THE LION AND THE MOUSE by Jeffreys Taylor

A lion with the heat oppressed, One day composed himself to rest: but while he dozed as he intended, a mouse, his royal back ascended. Nor thought of harm, as Aesop tells, mistaking him for someone else; and travelled over him, and round him; and might have left him as she found him, had she not – tremble when you hear – tried to explore the monarch’s ear! Who straightway woke, with wrath immense, and shook his head to cast her thence. “You rascal, what are you about?” said he when he had turned her out. “I’ll teach you soon,” the lion said, “To make a mouse-hole in my head!” So saying, he prepared his foot to crush the trembling, tiny brute; but she (the mouse) with tearful eye, implored the lion’s clemency, who thought it best at last to give his little prisoner a reprieve.

“Twas nearly twelve months after this the lion chanced his way to miss, when pressing forward heedless yet; he got entangled in a net. With dreadful rage, he stamped and tore, and straight commenced a loudly roar. When the poor mouse, who heard the noise, attended, for she knew his voice. Then what the lion’s utmost strength could not effect, she did at length. With patient labor she applied her teeth, the network to divide; and so at last forth issued he, a lion, by a mouse set free. Few are so small or weak, I guess; but may assist us in distress. Nor shall we ever if we’re wise, the meanest, or the least despise.

HATS OFF!

This issue we lift up Charlene Kiniyalocts. Charlene makes delicious goodies for coffee hour at various times during the year. She spearheads our involvement with SHALOM and prepares the dinner we serve to the homeless. She takes care of our vestments and other items for worship. She does a lot of things around the church we don't even realize – and she has been doing this for years!

We salute you Charlene, for all your dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of St. Paul's. Our hat is off to you!

TAKE TIME

Take time to **work** – It is the price of success.

Take time to **think** – It is the source of power.

Take time to **play** – It is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to **read** – It is the fountain of wisdom.

Take time to be **friendly** – It is the road to happiness.

Take time to **dream** – It is hitching your wagon to a star.

Take time to **love and be loved** – It is the privilege of the gods.

Take time to **look around** – It is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to **laugh** – It is the music of the soul.

IF SPRING CAME BUT ONCE IN A CENTURY INSTEAD OF ONCE A YEAR, OR BURST FORTH WITH THE SOUND OF AN EARTHQUAKE AND NOT IN SILENCE, WHAT WONDER AND EXPECTATION THERE WOULD BE IN ALL HEARTS, TO BEHOLD THE MIRACULOUS CHANGE. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

SERVING THE HOMELESS

On February 19th our church served the dinner for the homeless at First United Methodist Church through SHALOM. Many thanks especially to Charlene Kinyalocets for organizing this for us; and to the volunteers that helped that evening: Jack Kinyalocets, Darlene and Larry Adams, Chuck Clark and Ginger, Calleigh Barraclough, Austin Schultz, Hillary Fraley, and Rich Luh. We served 20 people and provided items for their breakfast the next morning.

ON EVERY ROSE by Joseph Mary Plunkett

I see His blood upon the rose
And in the stars the glory of His eyes,
His body gleams amid eternal snows
His tears fall from the skies.
I see His Face in every flower.
The thunder and surging of the birds,
Are but His voice – and carven by his power.
Rocks are His written words.
All pathways by His feet are worn,
His strong heart stirs the ever-beating sea,
His crown of thorns is twined with every thorn.
His cross is every tree.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER!

Hillary Fraley has decided to join our congregation. She belongs to a UCC Church in Illinois. She has been living in Chester Ohio for the past 13 and 1/2 years.

We welcome you Hillary to our family!