



Newsletter

March 2019

**Glorifying God by Making, Maturing, and
Mobilizing Enthusiastic Disciples for Jesus Christ**

PASTOR'S REFLECTION

Within the church year there are two seasons of preparation. We begin our 'church' year with Advent. A time to prepare for the coming of Jesus. In the spring we prepare ourselves for the Jesus' death and resurrection during the season of Lent.

Often people 'prepare' during Lent by giving something up, in hopes that they can further focus on their relationship with Christ. These can be important rituals that help us grow, but they can also be a bit of a show. I remember in college I chose to fast each Wednesday during Lent. I used my meal times for prayer and reflection. At the end of Lent that year Liz asked that I never fast again, because each Wednesday when I did not eat, I became a grump. I was not very fun to deal with. I was doing a 'spiritual thing' but it was not really getting down into the nitty gritty of my life.

I don't think this means that I don't fast, or that that I don't give up chocolate. But stopping there is not enough. Often, we look on the surface, make a quick change, and think we have solved everything. Becoming 'Christ-Like' is a life long journey.

This year during Lent we are going to talk about giving things up, but I want us to give up more than just chocolate or fast food. Can we give up the negative habits and mindsets that hold us back? Can we give up our mis-ordered priorities and refocus on what truly matters? Join us during Lent as we explore what "Giving Up..." looks like.

MARCH WORSHIP

Sunday March 3, 2019- "See All the People- The Astounded Crowd" Luke 9:28-43 (Communion)

Wednesday March 6, 2019- Ash Wednesday- "Giving Up..." Psalm 51:1-17

Sunday March 10, 2019- "Giving Up... Control" Luke 4:1-13

Sunday March 17, 2019- "Giving Up...Stuff" Luke 18:18-30 (Sunbeam Choir)

Sunday March 24, 2019 "Giving Up...Comparison" Genesis 1:26-28

Sunday March 31, 2019 "Giving Up...Vengeance" Matthew 5:21-22;43-48

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE & LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday March 6, 2019 @7pm. The service will be held in the sanctuary and will end with the imposition of ashes. All are welcome.

Join us the following week on Thursday March 14, 2019 as we begin our Lenten Bible Study. This year we will be exploring the book *Irresistible* by Andy Stanley.

From the publisher...

"Once upon a time there was a version of our faith that was practically . . . irresistible. But that was then. Today we preach, teach, write, and communicate as if nothing has changed. As if "The Bible says it," still settles it. It's time to hit pause on much of what we're doing and consider the faith modeled by our first-century brothers and sisters who had no official Bible, no status, and humanly speaking, little chance of survival. What did they know that we don't? What made their faith so compelling, so defensible, so irresistible? Buckle up . . . you're about to find out. More importantly, Andy will invite you to embrace the version of faith that, against all odds, initiated a chain of events resulting in the most significant and extensive cultural transformation the world has ever seen. A version we must embrace if we are to be salt and light in an increasingly savorless and dark world."

The Study will begin at 7pm each Thursday during Lent and end with our Maundy Thursday Service on April 18, 2019. Come at 6pm for a light meal and a time of fellowship.

Books will be available on the Welcome Table in the Gathering Room. (Come even if you don't want to read) If you wish, you can donate \$15 to cover the cost of the book.

COMMISSION ON THE WAY FORWARD-UPDATE

At the time when I am writing this, we are still a few days away from General Conference 2019 (Feb 23-26). By the time you are reading this, they will be meeting or will have finished. I continue to ask that you keep the United Methodist Church in your prayers. No matter the outcome there will still be questions and unknowns. I will try to provide a brief update as soon as General Conference has concluded.

At this point, Bishop Peggy Johnson has scheduled a time to report to the Conference on Saturday March 16, 2019. The meeting will take place at West Lawn UMC in Reading from 10-12. All are invited to attend. Following that meeting I will be looking for a chance to follow up with the congregation (most likely during the Sunday School time). Stay tuned for more details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Ad Council meeting will be held Monday March 11th @ 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Caring Cupboard Sunday is March 10th. Please bring in your donations of toiletries and non-perishable foods. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Sub and pretzel sandwich orders are due March 20th with pick up on March 28th between 10:30-11:30 AM. All proceeds from the sub sale go towards the front door fund.

The monies collected up to February 17th for our Front Door Fund are: Individual donations-\$185.00, Primary Dept.- \$100.00 and January sub sales \$140.00. The Grand Total is \$4526.20.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES...

It's hard to believe it's time to start working on V.B.S. This year's theme will be To Mars and Beyond. Be on the lookout on ways you may be able to help us have a great week. Dates to come soon. Vicki

FLOWER CHART...

March 3 – Tim & Barb Laraia
March 13 - Open
March 17 – Paul & Karen Leicht
March 24 - Open

The Flower Chart is in the vestibule on the Railroad St. side of the church.
Sign up for your favorite Sunday to sponsor flowers for our church.

WORSHIP LEADERS...

Greeters/Ushers: Paul & Karen Leicht and Larry & Joan Strait

Scripture Readers:

MARCH 3: Pastor Stoltzfus
MARCH 10: Barb Laraia
MARCH 17: Pastor Stoltzfus
MARCH 24: Ed Kaylor
MARCH 31: Pastor Stoltzfus

Sound System Operators:

MARCH 3: Seth Schell
MARCH 10: Barry Smith
MARCH 17: Dick Lasher
MARCH 24: Don Brubaker
MARCH 31: Seth Schell

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



March 1 – Terry Patrick	15 – Harriet Linebaugh
2 – Arlene Gable	19 – Selma Patrick
5 – Barbara Laraia	28 – Kevin Brubaker
10 – Anna Scipioni	28 – Aiden Schell
10 – Cara Scipioni	29 – Nannette Rechel
12 – Emily Scipioni	



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Tim & Barbara Laraia – March 3
Paul & Karen Leicht – March 14
Jeff & Elsa Patrick – March 31



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