

March, 2020 Mosaic Newsletter

From Pastor Paul's Desk.....

Lent is here!

How prepared are you to face the temptations in your wilderness? In scripture, we know that after the baptism of our Lord, he was led into the wildering solitude by the Holy Spirit where he experienced everything that we experience in our own lives. He became hungry and he was tempted to derail.

Scripture attests to that fact. *"After Jesus had gone without eating for forty days and forty nights, he was very hungry."* Matthew 4:2. Jesus was physically hungry like any of us. The difference between Jesus and us is that we don't only get physically hungry, we get spiritually and even morally hungry.

After his temptation, he regained the power to come down from the mountain and start something new. He began the formation of his disciple-making team. Jesus along the way directed the disciples to *"Go to the people of all nations and make them my disciples."* Matthew 28:19. You and I have become who we are today because of this Great Commission. We also have been made into disciple-making machines.

The challenge that we face today is looking inside of ourselves, checking into our hearts and souls and evaluating ourselves if we truly are fruitful in our own disciple-making process. Do our engines function properly? Have we our bearings in place? Do we even have the gas to run our Jesus engines?

Living in such a time as this, challenges are thrown at us every day of our lives. Temptations have become the order of the day. Our world is broken and it has become a breed of uncertainties.

The good news is that in times of our trials and tribulations, the Lord stands with us and strengthens us. James, a servant of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ boldly proclaims that *"God will bless you, if you don't give up when your faith is being tested."* James 1:12.

What are your plans for the coming days and weeks as we journey during this season of Lent? During Lent, we apprentice to Jesus in his forty-day sojourn in the desert. This coming Lent, the Spirit will be taking you into your personal desert. You are going to be hungry, thirsty, challenged, frustrated, burned out, angry, uncomfortable and you will be tempted.

Will you stay strong, counter misinformation, speak truth to power, set the records straight and fight evil power that is swallowing us up? My brothers and sisters in Christ, we are warned to *"Put on all the armor that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself."* Ephesians 5:13.

This Lenten season as you journey through your wilderness, I encourage you to get yourself ready, pray at all times, love your enemies, feed the hungry, provide shelter for the homeless, give drink to the thirsty, cloth the naked and most importantly, become a true disciple of Jesus Christ by making disciples for the transformation of the world. It's only when you act this way that you will make Jesus the element of your experience.

My prayer for you: May the season of Lent fill you with the Holy Spirit and blot your transgressions. May you be led in the right direction to gather vital and fruitful resources for the betterment of humanity. May you live in peace with one another. Amen!



Worship: 9:15 am
 Children's Sunday School: 9:30 am
 Coffee Fellowship: 10:15 am
 Adult Sunday School: 10:35 am

March Worship Outline



Sunday, March 1, 2020

1st Sunday in Lent
 Greeter(s): Kadie Amara
 Usher(s): Sam and Jan Hawbaker



Sunday, March 8, 2020

2nd Sunday in Lent
 Greeter(s): Judy Kennedy
 Usher(s): Barbara Vinson and Jean Grimm



Sunday, March 15, 2020

3rd Sunday in Lent
 Greeter(s): Jan and Sam Hawbaker
 Usher(s): Roy and Juanita Zug



Sunday, March 22, 2020

4th Sunday in Lent
 Greeter(s): Laura Mosier and George Hargrove
 Usher(s): Kaye Winters and Nancy Hommel



Sunday, March 29, 2020

5th Sunday in Lent
 Greeter(s): Sherry Slaterbeck
 Usher(s): Kaye Winters and Nancy Hommel



Announcements

Yard Sale

We will be having our annual church yard sale on Saturday, May 17, from 8 am - 2 pm and are now beginning to take donations. Please put donated items in the first part of the Cluster. We are using the middle room of the Cluster for organizing. All of the items there have been priced and categorized so please do not put anything in that area. We are accepting lightly used clothing, housewares, holiday items, tools, books, office supplies, jewelry, and toys. We really appreciate clean items. We can manage small items of furniture, but nothing large. We do not want any electronics, computers, or TVs. We are really in need of BOOKS! If you have a question please call or email, Beth Evanko, Debbie Harris, or Kathy Seymour. If you wish to have a yard sale of your own in front of our church, please talk to Pam Arbogast about renting a plot. Her information is: arbomt@gmail.com or 814 238 2330.



PRESCHOOL POSITION:

The Park Forest Preschool is hiring a Teacher Assistant in our non-profit State College area Preschool for our 4-year-old classroom. This will be a 4-month position, until the end of this school year. The Teacher Assistant would work closely with the Lead Teacher in helping to implement the curriculum for our preschoolers. High school degree or GED is required. The Teaching Assistant hours run from 8:30 am -12:30 Monday thru Friday at \$10.00 an hour. If you are interested please contact us at Park Forest Preschool

(814)-231-8492 or email director@parkforestpreschool.org

Riddle!

Q. What's the best way to study the Bible?
A. You Luke (look) into it.



Church members want to believe that their church, their children's ministry and their youth programs are safe. They believe that sexual abuse would never happen in their church, in their building. Abusers take advantage of this environment of trust, especially where few safety measures are in place. MinistrySafe provides state-of-the-art tools and trainings created by sexual abuse attorneys with extensive knowledge of standards of care and evolving best practices.

All paid staff and volunteers who work with children are required to take this simple online sexual abuse awareness training. In fact it's good training on sexual abuse awareness for all of us. The training consists of a series of 9 short videos and ends with a 25 question quiz. The whole thing takes about 1 ½ hrs. and you can start and stop as convenient.

To take this training contact Rose Park, Christian Education Director at rosepark@verizon.net or call 814-860-6770 for the user id and password

Giving Reports

We need all members' help in identifying your preferences for receiving your Giving Reports. We have put all of this information online and Giving Reports will be printed from the computer. In an effort to reduce time and costs, we are asking all members if they need Quarterly reports or if only a Year End Giving Report is acceptable? Also we are asking if receipt by email is acceptable or do you need a hard copy? There is a sheet on the table next to the envelopes for you to register your preference. If you have any questions please contact Sue Hamilton 571-2104 gigs.hamilton@gmail.com

WORK DAY

Trustees will be holding their annual work day on 14 March 2020 starting at 8:30 am. In addition to the usual cleaning and maintenance performed by our members, we will also focus on church safety issues. Specifically, all of our storage areas (Prism, Parlor, Angel Wings, Boiler Room, and other general storage rooms) have lots of clutter to the extent some have become serious safety issues. We will be going through each area with the goal of reducing clutter and improving safety. If you have items stored in these areas, we respectfully request you assist us during the work day to ensure nothing "valuable" is accidentally tossed.

Please do not feel there is nothing you can do. There is plenty of work that can be done for people of all skill levels and physical abilities. Youth – we will gladly sign community service paperwork for the time you volunteer.

Children's Sunday School

During the Children's Sunday School, the children will pick Heifer International animals to learn in preparation for future collections from the congregation. Stay tuned!



Baked Potato & Ice Cream Bar



Join us to enjoy a build your own baked potato and ice cream bar on Sunday, March 29th at 12:00 noon in the Prism.



It's time to make Easter Eggs! United Methodist Women will again be making peanut butter eggs to sell at \$1 each. Egg “shaping” will happen every Friday and egg “dipping” every Monday at 1 pm in the church kitchen from now until Holy Week. Many hands are needed. If you can help, just show up! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

NEW Bible Study: *I'm Waiting, God.* Find help and hope for times when it's hard to wait on God. This is a 4-session study that will be held the 1st Wednesday of every month at 3:30 pm in the church parlor, ending in June. Study books are available from Judy Kennedy at \$15 each.

United Methodist Women to be Highlighted Sunday, March 22



United Methodist Women prepared 66 birthing kits at their January meeting. The kits will be dedicated on Sunday, March 22. Kits are used to assist midwives in countries where access to doctors and hospitals is limited.

Also on Sunday the 22nd a map will be introduced to the congregation showing all the places in the world where we have been in mission—not just United Methodist Women, but the church as a whole. The map will then be placed on a wall in the foyer for all to see.

We will also present our annual Special Mission Recognition pin. A secret to be revealed on that Sunday morning!

And finally “*Pi Day*”! A little late for the real Pi Day, but we’re gonna celebrate it anyway—with REAL pie! UMW women will be baking an assortment of pies to be served, along with ice cream of course, during the coffee fellowship.



Jelly Bean Poem

A poem about colorful jelly beans,
To remind us of what Easter means.

God's gift of his Only Son,
And the victory we all have won.

Jelly beans with colors so bright,
Yellow is for the golden sunlight.
Green is for the grass he made.
Red is for the blood He gave.

Black is for the sins we've done,
White is for the grace of His Son.
Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
Pink is for our new tomorrow.

Jelly beans so sweet to eat.
It's a prayer, a promise, a special treat.
To help us remember Jesus' days,
As we walk and follow in his way.



Praying

for Our Children

Last month we discussed teaching our children about the sovereignty of God and the peace that comes from knowing that God is in control. As we encourage our children to read the Bible they will find stories of men and women who seek God. An example of trying is Peter as he learned firsthand the importance of focusing on Jesus literally but for us it is also appropriately figuratively. Peter is walking toward Jesus on the water but letting the wind distract him he takes his eyes off Jesus and begins to sink. He lost focus! We teach our children to focus on school, athletics, music, etc. but do we teach them to focus on God? When our focus is on Him our problems become smaller as He becomes bigger. We don't hear the wind as much and we walk in faith more and rest in assurance He is there to save us. Encouraging our children to read the Bible and pray daily help them to see who God is and how amazing He is. They will learn to keep their eyes on Him and not the pull of the world.

Matthew 14:27-31

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water."²⁹ "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of our children, a wonderful gift you have given us! Help them to read the Bible and pray to You daily so that they will **focus** more on You and less on the distractions of the world. We thank you for Your plans for our children and ask Your blessing on them for a bright future. Thy will be done in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Praying for Our Adult Children

It is in the Bible we see God's sovereignty depicted through His words and actions demonstrating His love for us. This faith in God sustains us through trials and adversity just as depicted in the poem "Footprints". God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. Joseph and his trials is an example as he reminded his brothers that the evil they intended for him was turned into good by God. As we encourage our children to depend on God's direction and wisdom, they can become less anxious and more secure in knowing that God is in control of their lives. Through prayer and reading the scripture our children will learn to trust in God's sovereignty. They will understand that just as the tree that Zacchaeus climbed was planted many years in advance so that he could seek Jesus on that fateful day, our sovereign God is in control and will guide them as they rely on Him in the days ahead.

Romans 8:28

*²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to **his** purpose.*

Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the gift of our adult children; a gift that we have been blessed to receive. Help them to deepen their faith in Your sovereignty and trust you more fully in all aspects of their lives. Encourage them to pray and read the Bible more each day. Most of all we want them to experience more of You to become more Christ like. Thy will be done in Jesus' Name, Amen.

March 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
8:30 am: Choir Rehearsal 9:15 am: Worship Service 9:30 am: Children's Sunday School 10:15 am: Coffee & Fellowship 10:40 am: Adult Sunday School	1:00 pm: Easter Egg "Dipping"	8:00 am: Secretary Office Hours 8:45 am: Park Forest Preschool 11:00 am: Pastor Office Hours	8:45 am: Park Forest Preschool 3:00 pm: Abigail Circle and Bible Study	8:00 am: Secretary Office Hours 8:45 am: Park Forest Preschool 11:00 am: Pastor Office Hours 4:00 pm: PFP Committee Meeting 7:00 pm Joint SPRC Meeting	8:45 am: Park Forest Preschool	
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