

---

# THE BELLRINGER



March 2019

---

## Pastor's Study

Every Lent I think I am really ready for something - - like I've packed for a trip, just waiting to begin the adventure. And then, on Easter Sunday afternoon, when the church is silent and I am headed to my mother's for Easter Sunday dinner, I wonder if I actually journeyed anywhere at all. Did I make a meaningful journey during Lent, or did I just carry Lent around, like a suitcase, and never really go anywhere?

As I ponder this question, I find it helpful to remember where and why Lent came to be. Easter is a BIG deal, and the early church recognized how big of a deal it was. Early in the life of the Church, leaders knew that to really be ready for the BIG Easter day, believers needed to prepare. They needed a season for self-reflection and confession in preparation for Easter. Lent was formed. Lent was formalized in 325 at the Council of Nicaea, defined specifically as a 40 day period (reflective of Jesus 40 days in the wilderness), a period of preparation "when those who wished to be baptized, and eventually the whole Christian community, might turn again to God and seek to come to terms with their own sinfulness, and to anticipate the assurance of God's life changing grace in the news of Christ's resurrection." Preparation during Lent typically involves a focus on spiritual practices. We seek to pray more. We may fast. The goal is to remove everything that distracts us so that we can get down to the core of what we need - - Almighty God.

I get that, conceptually. I understand that. So then why is it that I can pack and prepare and commit to a Lenten journey, and then arrive at Easter unsure if I went anywhere?

Sometimes we go through an experience or journey and don't realize immediately the impact that it had on us. I noted recently that I find myself still contemplating the sermon that Pastor Lisa preached on Ash Wednesday last year during our joint service with the Methodist Church; a sermon about being willing to give up that which is most precious to us. Last Easter I may not have seen where

my Lenten journey went, but now as we approach Ash Wednesday yet again, I now see I did go somewhere after all - - and that I am even still journeying through that Lent.

And sometimes, too, we could better engage in the journey. It is easy to carry around Lent - to wear purple, to adorn our heads with ashes, to pray, to sing Lenteny songs. All of these motions can be made without really engaging in Lent. It is easier to "do Lent" to "carry Lent" to "look Lent" than it is to truly enter into it - in preparation, in earnestness, willing to go not where I am comfortable, but where I am called.

And where we are called is important. Lent confronts us with the reality that are days are not unlimited, and as they speed by what we do with our days is important. It seems as if life runs on fast forward - - speeding from Christmas to Epiphany to Lent. It

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Pastor's Study
- 2 Session Highlights
- 4 Prayer List
- 8 Calendar
- 10 Scriptures

must not have been all that different in the time of the early church as leaders then recognized the need for believers to slow down, and prepare for Easter. In the midst of the busyness we stop for a moment and mark our heads with ash – reminding ourselves and each other that the days are not without end, and that we would be wise to take the 40 days before us to prepare.

And so, I begin Lent again. Seeking to not just go through it, not just carry it, but to fully enter into it. How about you?

Our faith community has an abundance of opportunities to make Lent meaningful this year - - Ashes to Go, a congregation wide book study, two Bible studies, Sunday School classes, community meals, and worship full of prayer and special music. I hope we will enter fully into these things

And when you arrive at the foot to the Cross on Easter morning, I pray that you are keenly aware that God has taken you somewhere, and that your journey may continue from there.

Christ's peace- Diane 

## Session Highlights

The Session met on February 21<sup>st</sup> for its regularly scheduled meeting.

Minutes of the January 3<sup>rd</sup> Session meeting, and the two congregational meetings (January 27<sup>th</sup> and February 10<sup>th</sup>) were approved. The Annual Statistical Report for the PC (USA) was reviewed and approved. The ordination and installation of Glen Janus was noted, and Glen was welcomed to his first Session meeting.

The report of the Pastor included requesting approval for Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> (received), information on the Lenten calendar (Bible studies, Movies That Matter, Community Meals, etc.), and a request to perform two weddings. Pastor Diane also reported on the lunch that was provided to the Ministerial Association on February 14<sup>th</sup>, with thanks to Kathy Beleny, Alice Wiseman, Dorothy Evans and Sue Seiler for their contributions. Diane requested vacation for March 14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> (approved), and noted that she will be at the Synod Assembly March 21<sup>st</sup> – March 23<sup>rd</sup> in Adrian, Michigan. Steve Davis will lead worship on March 17<sup>th</sup>. Diane shared some information in her report on growth in the church, the meaning of membership, and work for continued growth in the church; she noted that the hospitality of the congregation plays a significant role in welcoming people and encouraging them to come back to church after visiting, and the outreach and invitations (by a couple of folks in particular) have resulted in many new people coming to church to check it out. The Trustees report included Pastor Diane sharing what she knew about the furnace; presently it is working.

Dorothy Evans provided the Deacon's report. Reports of other ministries were given.

Policies and Procedures included a proposed schedule for review of policies, and Stewardship included an update on the One Great Hour of Sharing, the Pentecost Offering, and Electronic Contributions. Based on Stewardship's recommendations, the Session approved moving forward with electronic contribution capabilities.

A report regarding Presbytery held on February 9<sup>th</sup> at Southminster was provided.

The following policy updates were reviewed and approved: weather closings, investment withdrawal, and long term investment.

An idea for recognizing officers finishing their service to the church was presented and received by the Session as a good idea to recognize those officers who most recently completed their terms of Service.

The next meeting of Session will be March 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.



The One Great Hour of Sharing campaign kicks off March 10<sup>th</sup> during worship!

The One Great Hour of Sharing is an ecumenical offering that began during World War II to help bring relief to struggling people around the world. Today the offering is taken by eight denominations funding projects in more than 100 countries ([www.onegreathourofsharing.org/about](http://www.onegreathourofsharing.org/about)). This offering is one of the four official annual offerings of the PC (USA), and one of the two of these four offerings that our congregation participates in. Funds received go to help Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which serves many communities throughout the United States, and to programs around the world, such as programs for clean water.

For this year's campaign, the Stewardship Ministry of the church (responsible for planning and implementing this campaign; members are Mike Seiler, Al and Dorothy Evans, and Betty Blose) made some exciting plans. Each household in the congregation has been assigned to a "school" (of fish that is!). We have sharks, piranhas, barracudas and clown fish! The "schools" will "compete" to gather loose change for the One Great Hour of Sharing. Each family will receive a fish bank on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> for collecting their donations (and more banks are available). Then, on April 28<sup>th</sup>, we will collect the offering, with final school tallies to be provided the first week in May.

As we launch this special campaign on March 10<sup>th</sup>, we will have special elements in worship, as well as activities during Fellowship Hour to help celebrate. Support your school of fish on March 10<sup>th</sup>! See you in worship!

## Church Leadership

During the month of February we were blessed to ordain and install Glen Janus to the office of Ruling Elder and to install Sharon Berryhill to the office of Deacon. Thank you to these two wonderful people for answering their call to be part of the church's leadership. Glen and Sharon, we give thanks for you!



At the end of this year we have a number of officers vacating their positions due to term limits or extended service. Beginning in 2020, we need three Trustees, two Deacons and two Ruling Elders. If you would like more information on any of these offices, or if you believe you may be called to a ministry of leadership, please see Ray Aldrich, Chair of the Nominating Committee.



Jane and Greg Speros  
Abigail Bonceck  
Family of Mary Reddick (Ron  
Hearrell's sister)  
Family of Brian Mead  
Bellbrook Police Department  
Katie Henry  
Noel  
Sharon Berryhill  
Anji Erickson  
Andrew Berryhill  
Steve Berryhill  
Betty Blose  
Jana's Parents and Aunt  
Loy Bonceck  
Kay Hodson  
Family of Joe Smallwood  
Family of Mary Berryhill  
Family of Marie Doran  
Family of Doris Dumford  
Will Wiseman  
Larry Dumford  
Barb Wagner  
Capt. Edward Boncek  
Alzheimer Patients and caregivers  
Cancer Patients and caregivers



Terry Allen- 620-4811  
Dorothy Evans 317-5008 or 287-7219  
Kim Hensley 848-4756  
Pat Crowe- 672-1073  
Allene Circle-Rader 848-8218  
Donna Ruschau 429-2107  
Sue Seiler 848-2043. 478-1426 or  
604-1426

Call with assurance of confidentiality, love  
and prayer



Virginia  
Darlene  
Betty  
Bud  
Barb  
Larry  
Ben and Charlotte  
To visit or send cards please check with  
office for addresses.

# February Happenings

## March 6<sup>th</sup>- Ashes to Go

We will be offering the imposition of ashes through our “drive through” Ashes to Go on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend worship on Ash Wednesday and would like to receive ashes, please drive through or come into church during this time. Help us spread the word too - all are welcome!

## Ash Wednesday Service

Our Ash Wednesday Worship Service will be held in conjunction with the Bellbrook United Methodist Church at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Join us for this meaningful and powerful start to the Lenten season as we worship together.

## Lenten Opportunities

**You are invited to participate** in a congregational-wide reading of a book titled *Because I Rejoice*. One copy of this book will be provided to each household that wishes to participate. There is no cost to the book to you (but please only take one if you intend to participate). A reading schedule for the book can be found here. You are welcome to join the Wednesday Evening Bible Study group that will be working through this book during Lent. We meet at 6:00 p.m. . Alternatively, you can read it on your own, as a family, or with others in your neighborhood. The readings will be worked into Sunday morning worship during Lent. Copies of the book are in the office and will be available during worship on March 3.

**We will be gathering on Thursdays** during Lent for a simple community meal, worship and banner making. Simple meals will be offered at 6:00 p.m. each Thursday beginning March 7<sup>th</sup>, and running through April 11<sup>th</sup>. A freewill offering will be collected to help cover the cost of paper products and other supplies. Come! Please feel free to invite anyone who might be looking for a community for Lent. If you would like to help with the preparation of one of these meals, please speak with Pastor Diane.



## Movies That Matter Film Series

Our next Movies That Matter will be March 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. Our film for this session is *Babette's Feast*. This 1987 film tells the story of a family living in a strict religious community in a Danish village in the late 1900's who take in a refugee (Babette) from the Franco-Prussian War. To repay the family for their refuge and hospitality, Babette prepares an extravagant feast for them. The film is rated G and is 1:43 in duration.

This film was selected as a list of recommended films from the study guide that came with a study of hospitality that the Wednesday evening Bible study was doing prior to Lent (and will continue after Lent). For the months of March through July, our Movies That Matter feature will be a film about hospitality.

Pastor Ed McNulty, nationally recognized film critic and the facilitator of our post-viewing discussions of the films we watch, said that the food in this film is amazing and will make us hungry. Fortunately, refreshments are provided for viewers! Join us!



## 30 Our next meeting of The Third Thirty

will be following Fellowship Hour (11:30/11:45ish) on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The topic is physical wellness, and the session will be facilitated by Nicole Van Pelt who is a physical therapist. The session will include a discussion of why maintaining a level of activity throughout our lives is important, provide us with some sample activities and exercises we can do at home, and also include a discussion on one of (if not the most!) influential aspects of physical activity – motivation! To help guide the discussion and address your top questions and concerns, Nicole welcomes the submission of questions. You can note them on a piece of paper and hand them to her in worship, or send them to the office and we will get them to her. A simple lunch will be provided for those attending. Please RSVP, if possible, on the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

(For clarification, we will still have our regular Fellowship Hour with snacks and coffee. This is a separate event with additional food



**The directory** is ready and available in the narthex. If you would like an electronic copy please contact the church office and request it be emailed to you.



- 2-Kelly Janus
- 9 - Terry Allen
- 12- Molly Janus- Neil Qiang
- 15 - Don Hopping
- 24 - Jim Contestable
- 25- Margaret Aldrich
- 26 - Luke Smallwood
- 30 -- Michael Anspach- Drake Bryan



- 15 - David and Nicole Van Pelt
- 19 - David and Carrie Carbone

## Special dates

- World Day of Prayer, March 1, 2019
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, March 3, 2019
- Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019
- First Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2019
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 10, 2019
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2019
- First day of spring, March 20, 2019
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 24, 2019
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 31, 2019



## Hymn of Lent

Author: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993).  
This hymn was first published in [In Search of Hope & Grace: 40 Hymns and Gospel Songs](#).

Tune: Picardy (French melody, 17<sup>th</sup> century arrangement)

Rather than a Hymn of the Month, we will have a Hymn of Lent this season. The Hymn of Lent is *You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd* also known as *Christus Paradox*. This beautiful meditative hymn contrasts attributes and images of Christ that appear to be in conflict with each other (such as peace-maker and sword-bringer), all bound together in the mystery of the Incarnation. As we prepare during Lent for the cross and the empty tomb, we prepare for Christ's "defeat and victory" which are bound up together in the one who is "our death and our life".



# New Hymnal!



The church received a gift of *Glory to God* hymnals, the newest hymnal of the Presbyterian Church. This gift was received not with the intent of replacing an existing hymnal, but with the intent of supplementing what we have. The *Glory to God* hymnal will be in the pews during the Season of Lent for our experimentation and exploration. It has a purple cover.

Why does the church create new hymnals and how does one come to be?

The “blue hymnal” (The Presbyterian Hymnal) that we currently use was authorized by the General Assembly of our church in 1983 when the two major branches of the Presbyterian Church were reunited. This hymnal (as you know from singing from it) includes music for the Christian year, hymns for the Lord’s Day (Praise, Communion, Baptism, etc.), many other hymns for worship and general use, Psalms, rounds and canons, and service music. The hymnal was in part a recognition of the reunification of the church, but also was focused on worship renewal as well as key issue of living faith in life such as caring for the environment and promoting peace.

The purple hymnal, *Glory to God*, was authorized in 2004 by the 216<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. In 2008, a hymnal committee was formed. The committee was tasked with developing a hymnal that would ensure “the enduring value of traditional hymnody” but also recognize changing styles of worship and incorporate some new types of music to reach younger worshippers.

The process for selecting pieces for *Glory to God* was complex. Eight hundred churches from a cross-section of the PC (USA) were invited to rate every hymn in the blue hymnal (The Presbyterian Hymnal). Another 777 congregations were asked to maintain a record of everything they sung for an entire year! Additionally, the committee sent letters to approximately 40 composers inviting the submission of texts and tunes. And, an open submission process brought in more than 4,000 other hymns and songs for consideration. All of these pieces were sifted through and ten sample hymnals developed and distributed at national church gatherings for feedback. The 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly asked that the committee consider including other liturgical material as well.

The final form of *Glory to God* includes many familiar and favorite hymns, new hymns, and hymns and worship music from other traditions (Taize, for example) and liturgy. The hope is that the hymnal will provide solid theological and worship grounding, while opening the church’s singing to more diverse styles of music to engage all ages.

The Worship Ministry (Nancy Hearrell, Kathy Beleny, and Glen Janus), Choir Director Loy Boncek, and Pastor Diane all welcome your feedback on this new resource. May our faith be nurtured by it and Almighty God glorified by our worship.

(The information in this article comes from *Glory to God: A Companion*, Carl P. Daw, Jr. The introductory article titled “The Development of *Glory to God*” written by David E. Eicher was the primary source. Much more information on the history of hymnody in the church and on this hymnal is available in this book. Please see Pastor Diane if you are interested in learning more.)

# MARCH

					1	2
3 <b>Communion</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour	4 Deacons 10am  Noon-Bible study	5  Winter's Library 4:00-6:00pm	6 Ash Wednesday  Ashes to Go 4-6  Ash Wednesday Service 7:00pm  11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 7:00pm Troop 75	7  Trustees 7:00pm  Lenten Dinner 6:00pm  Worship 7:00pm	8	9
10 <b>OGHS Birthdays</b> 8:45 am Keystone Class 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour with cake <b>2:00pm Movies That Matter</b>	11 Noon-Bible study  Historical Society 6:30pm	12 Book Club 10:00am  Winter's Library 4-6	13 11:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75	14 Lenten Dinner 6:00pm  Diane on vacation	15  Diane on vacation	16 Winter's Library 1:00-3:00pm  Diane on vacation
17 <b>Anniversaries</b> <b>Guest Pastor- Steve Davis</b> 8:45 am Keystone 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour <b>11:30 Third Thirty Fitness and Wellness</b> Diane on vacation	18  Noon-Bible study  Diane on vacation	19 Men's Breakfast 8:30 (BBC) 	20 1:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75 Session 7:00pm	21 Lenten Dinner 6:00pm  Diane at Synod	22  Diane at Synod	23  Diane at Synod
24  8:45 am Keystone 10:00 am Worship 10:20 am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Fellowship Hour	25 Noon-Bible study	26	27 1:00am Bellcreek Seniors (FH) 6:00pm Bible Study 7:15pm Choir 7:00pm Troop 75	28 Lenten Dinner 6:00pm	29	30
31						

## Adult Faith Formation Opportunities

There are three adult faith formation opportunities happening presently. These are open to anyone who wishes to participate. You may join a group at any time.

**Sunday Morning Sunday School Class** – The adult Sunday School class (referred to as the Keystone group) meets beginning at 8:45 a.m. on Sunday mornings. This group is presently watching a video on the Old Testament that provides a look at each book of the Old Testament, as well as background, historical context, geography, and other important information. Following the video, there is discussion. The Keystone Adult Sunday School Class meets in Fellowship Hall.

**Monday Noon Bible Study** – The Monday noon Bible study is presently watching a series from The Great Courses on Key Figures in the New Testament. This study looks at a person or people from the New Testament each week, including scriptural references about the person, information from non-canonical historical texts, and other historical documents. Discussion follows the lecture. The lectures are not inter-dependent making it easy to join in on the series at any time. This class meets in the Board/Choir Room (the room with the green chairs next to the large classroom).

**Wednesday Evening Bible Study (6 p.m.)** – The Wednesday evening Bible study is beginning a study of our Lenten book titled Because of This I Rejoice, which was selected for congregation-wide study during this holy Season. The Wednesday evening group reads scripture, lifts up portions of our weekly reading, and has open discussion. This group meets in the classroom.

If you are seeking an opportunity to be part of a faith formation group, please feel most welcome to join any of the above groups. Some people participate in more than one. All are welcome!!

## Extending Hospitality to Families with Small Children

The Session and Christian Education Ministry will be working in the coming months on supporting small children in and during worship. For the time being, toys and some snacks have been placed in the library for those who are attending with young children. If you see a visiting family with young children, please welcome them and let them know about the resources in the library.



## Prayer for the Children

Whether real or imagined, childhood anxieties are best confronted in the same way as adult anxieties: through prayer and the assurance of God's presence. Teach this traditional prayer to a young person in your life – and find comfort in it yourself:

God in heaven, hear my prayer.  
Keep me in thy loving care.  
Be my guide in all I do.  
Bless all those who love me too.  
Amen.

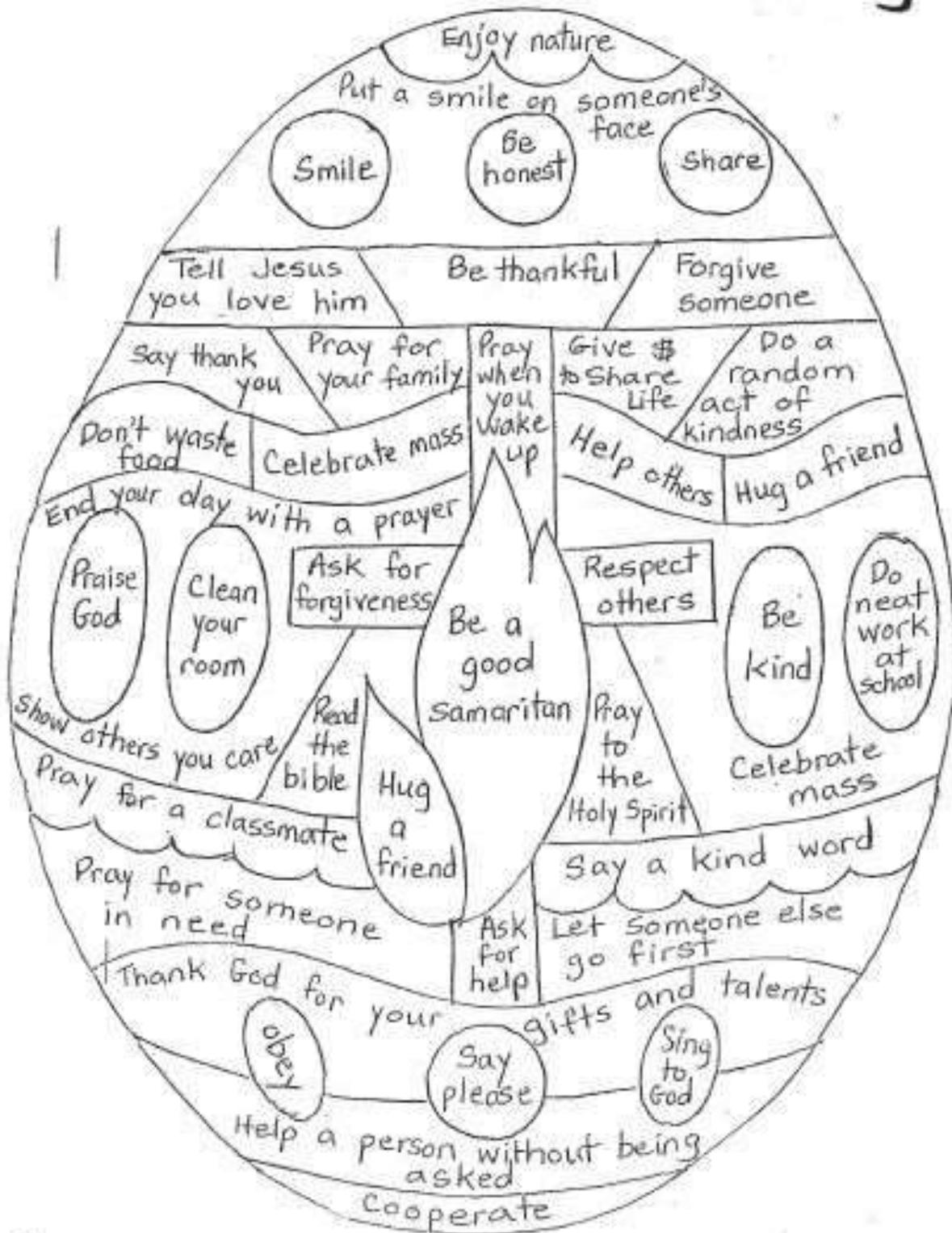




## Reading through the Bible Scriptures for March

- Day 60 - Matthew 8:14-34; Leviticus 1-2; Proverbs 19
- Day 61 - Matthew 9:1-17; Leviticus 3-4; Proverbs 20
- Day 62 - Matthew 9:18-38; Leviticus 5-6; Proverbs 21
- Day 63 - Matthew 10:1-25; Leviticus 7-8; Proverbs 22
- Day 64 - Matthew 10:26-42; Leviticus 9-10; Proverbs 23
- Day 65 - Matthew 11:1-19; Leviticus 11-12; Proverbs 24
- Day 66 - Matthew 11:20-30; Leviticus 13; Proverbs 25
- Day 67 - Matthew 12:1-21; Leviticus 14; Proverbs 26
- Day 68 - Matthew 12:22-50; Leviticus 15-16; Proverbs 27
- Day 69 - Matthew 13:1-23; Leviticus 17-18; Proverbs 28
- Day 70 - Matthew 13:24-58; Leviticus 19; Proverbs 29
- Day 71 - Matthew 14:1-21; Leviticus 20-21; Proverbs 30
- Day 72 - Matthew 14:22-36; Leviticus 22-23; Proverbs 31
- Day 73 - Matthew 15:1-20; Leviticus 24-25; Ecclesiastes 1:1-11
- Day 74 - Matthew 15:21-39; Leviticus 26-27; Ecclesiastes 1:12-2:26
- Day 75 - Matthew 16; Numbers 1-2; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15
- Day 76 - Matthew 17; Numbers 3-4; Ecclesiastes 3:16-4:16
- Day 77 - Matthew 18:1-20; Numbers 5-6; Ecclesiastes 5
- Day 78 - Matthew 18:21-35; Numbers 7-8; Ecclesiastes 6
- Day 79 - Matthew 19:1-15; Numbers 9-10; Ecclesiastes 7
- Day 80 - Matthew 19:16-30; Numbers 11-12; Ecclesiastes 8
- Day 81 - Matthew 20:1-16; Numbers 13-14; Ecclesiastes 9:1-12
- Day 82 - Matthew 20:17-34; Numbers 15-16; Ecclesiastes 9:13-10:20
- Day 83 - Matthew 21:1-27; Numbers 17-18; Ecclesiastes 11:1-8
- Day 84 - Matthew 21:28-46; Numbers 19-20; Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:14
- Day 85 - Matthew 22:1-22; Numbers 21; Song of Solomon 1:1-2:7
- Day 86 - Matthew 22:23-46; Numbers 22:1-40; Song of Solomon 2:8-3:5
- Day 87 - Matthew 23:1-12; Numbers 22:41-23:26; Song of Solomon 3:6-5:1
- Day 88 - Matthew 23:13-39; Numbers 23:27-24:25; Song of Solomon 5:2-6:3
- Day 89 - Matthew 24:1-31; Numbers 25-27; Song of Solomon 6:4-8:4
- Day 90 - Matthew 24:32-51; Numbers 28-29; Song of Solomon 8:5-14

# Lent is For Loving



Spirit of God, fill me with Jesus' life



**Bellbrook Presbyterian Church**  
72 West Franklin Street  
Bellbrook, OH 45305-1903

BUILD RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
0000