

Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

March 2022

Lent is here! What an incredible time of the year. Lent is the season of 40 days (not including Sundays), leading up to Easter.

After my trip to Israel, I feel like I have a deeper understanding of Jesus' journey to the cross. It was a wonderful trip and thank you for your prayers while I was gone.

I want to share some of the insights I gained with you. Beginning Wednesday March 9 at 7 PM on zoom I will be leading a Bible Study on the scriptures and pictures of the stories and places we typically hear about during the Lenten season. You will get to see some of the places I visited and hear what was happening with Jesus in those places.

My prayer is that we will all deepen our understanding of the scriptures as we see, hear, and study God's Word. In addition, I will be preaching on the Lord's Prayer during worship. We will be taking this familiar prayer and looking at each section in depth.

Lent is a wonderful season to reflect on and work to deepen your faith. Special services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are planned. I hope you will join us on Sundays and for the special services as well. Let us join together to learn and grow this Lenten season.

Blessings,

Cindy

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
367 Cedar Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
412-531-8554
www.mtlebcc.org

PASTOR: THE REVEREND DR.
CINDY McCLUNG

WORSHIP
WITH US



CAYA (Contemporary) Worship 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 AM

PLEASE JOIN US!





March Worship Leaders

- 6 - Jeff Hawn
- 13 - John Crist
- 20 - Dan Wahl
- 27 - Chuck Sargent

VISION STATEMENT

God's vision for Mt. Lebanon Christian Church (DOC) is that we be a Christ-centered church; growing in faith through prayer, worship, and Bible study; growing in service through outreach; growing in love through Fellowship.



Please remove Ashley Neil

MT. LEBANON CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

A Church Alive with the Holy Spirit!
367 Cedar Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15228
Office: (412) 531- 8554
Fax: (412) 531- 4155

“Every Member Is A Minister”

- Cindy McClung
- John McCarty
- John Crist
- Chuck Bieri
- Joyce Lackey

- Pastor
- Assistant Pastor
- Board Chair
- Director of Music
- Secretary

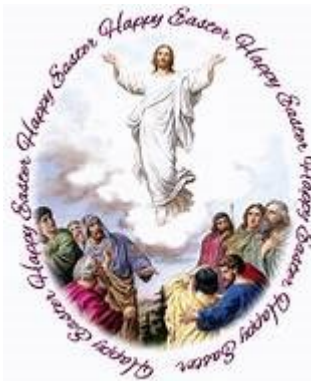
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Reimagining the Church Worship and Christian Education Retreats Surveying the Worship Experience Retreat-Sat. 3/12 10am-1:pm

As part of the reimagining the Church project, this retreat focuses the Worship experience for on online (Zoom) and in-person attendees. Please plan on joining us to evaluate our current worship at this Church, then discuss ways to improve it. If you are on the Worship Team or have been attending the Small Group sessions, your attendance is highly recommend and are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided for in-person attendees.

Surveying the Christian Education Experience Retreat- Sat. March 26, 10am - 1 pm

As part of the Reimagining the Church project, this retreat will focus on the Christian Education for online (Zoom) and in-person attendees. We will evaluate our current discipleship and then discuss ways to improve it. If you are part of the Christian Education Team or have been attending the Small Group sessions, your attendance is highly recommend and are encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided for in-person attendees.



Celebrate Our Savior

On Easter morn, we celebrate our Savior;
 Whatever people seek in Him, they find.
 In history, there has never been another
 So holy, sacrificial, good and kind.

His resurrection makes us all immortal;
 In heaven, we'll be together with our King.
 Eternally we'll share in all His blessings;
 Happy Easter! Jesus Christ is everything!

By Joanna Fuchs



To God You Shall Return

The traditional Ash Wednesday words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" might seem depressing. But in our often death-denying culture, some might find it refreshing to hear the frank statement that we can do nothing to save ourselves, physically or spiritually - that, no matter how we try to avoid sin, we can't untangle ourselves from self-interest. How liberating, then, to know we don't have to! God loves us as we are and sent Jesus to break sin's power over us.

A pastor described Ash Wednesday as the point you can pinch in the middle of a long piece of ribbon, such that when you lift it high, the two ends - one symbolizing our baptism and the other our funeral - meet and touch. We come from dust and will return to dust, but as we come from God and will return to God.

Ash Wednesday reminds us that we're always in God's love.



If (s)he's an apple and you're an orange,
celebrate your differences -
make a great fruit salad.



Services in-Person, via Facebook Live or Free Conference Call

We will continue to film the Facebook Live services on Sunday at 9:30 and 11:00 am even though we are meeting in person now. We will also continue to use "Free Conference Call" using phone number 425-436-6348 and access code 284262#. Remember, you can view past services on our Facebook Live page by clicking here, pick Video and select what you want to watch. (or enter this <https://www.facebook.com/MtLebanonCC/>) **Face masks are required at all Services.**



IN NEED OF PRAYER

Please contact The Elders for any prayer concerns or even just to talk. The Elders pray for those in our congregation who need prayers from those on our prayer lists and those mentioned during our worship services. If you are in need of prayer and would like to be included in our private prayer list or in the newsletter prayer list, please contact the church office or one of the Elders. Please pray for our church family, friends and neighbors. Pray for all of America and the World as we fight this COVID-19 virus.

Prayer List

Erma Wilson
Pajak and Wagner families - Death of Stephen
Marie Jensen - broken leg, requires surgery
Ann Peden - healing and relief from pain - Friend of Rev. Cindy
Rick Fleischauer - Traumatic brain injury - nephew of Jane McCarty
Linda Carmen - healing of leg
Audrey Houke
Dorothy Hawn
Jim Powell -
Art Mace
Deborah Sykes - spiritual strength
Karen Newman
Betty Rothermel
Ed Pajak
Ron Brown
Duane Ready
Veterans and their families
Active service military
Peace in the Ukraine

Also, please remember in your prayers our members who are homebound. Helen Butler, Connie McCarty, Ruth Schmidtter, Lee Scott and George Hafner.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 - Clare Maree Newman
19 - Lee Scott
27 - Amy Angotti
28 - Janet Bowers
29 - Erma Wilson

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

7 - Verna & Bernie McGinley
18 - Diane & Richard Ozanick
19 - Horst & Doris Riddler

Volunteer Opportunity



If you're looking for a great way to give back to the community, the Education Partnership needs you! Come volunteer and help support 157 schools, 57,000 students and over 8,000 teachers in the Southwestern Pennsylvania. We have volunteer opportunities every day of the week except Sundays. Our greatest need is Saturday afternoons when teachers are shopping at The Teacher Resource Center. For more information please contact Stacy Barltebaugh-Gmys at 412-922-6500 or Stacy@TheEducationPartnership.org

You see the calendar of all the volunteer opportunities at <https://events.civicchamps.com/organizations/2817/calendar/month>



Get Your Newsletter Online

Anyone who wants to receive their Newsletter online just needs to let the secretary know.

The advantages are:

- You get your Newsletter as soon as it is approved, not 3 or 4 days later
- Your Newsletter is in full color
- The Church saves money on ink, paper and postage
- Your Newsletter will not come torn and tattered from the mail

If you want to try it let Joyce know by calling the church, email, churchoffice@mtlebocc.org, or leave a note on her desk. If you decide that you don't like it, contact Joyce again and you will be put back on the mailing list.



March Outreach:
Book Drive - Pittsburgh Prison Book Project

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church is partnering with Pittsburgh Prison Book Project, to improve the quality of life for people incarcerated in PA by providing free access to educational materials, books and resources. With diminished budgets for under-stocked prison libraries, these donations are often the only means prisoners have of obtaining literary or reading material.

As we generously share God's love and wisdom, let's take time to PRAY for the incarcerated.

We're collecting new or gently used books from the topics below: Note- no spiral bound, musty or stained, highlighted or underlined books will be accepted. They have no need for bibles since they are provided by the chaplains.

- Job Hunting Guides
- "How to" trades- plumbing, woodworking, etc
- Law and Legal Resources
- Arts & Crafts / Hobbies
- Beginning Languages
- Native American Indigenous Authors
- Automotive Repair
- Horror/Vampires
- History
- Engaging Science Books
- Hood Urban Novels, African American Protagonist
- Small Business Ideas/Self Employment
- Self Improvement
- Comic Books (Super Heroes)
- Mythology
- Dictionaries (paperback)

Please bring new or clean, gently used books to the Outreach table in the Narthex by Sunday, March 27.



LENT means (Let's Eliminate Negative Thinking)

As for me, I love music. I love to play instruments and sing with others. I can think of no more glorious sound than a body of people who love their Lord, singing and making melody in their hearts. Whether the voices are blending together in harmonious a cappella or accompanied by an organ or instruments, there is no sound on earth more heavenly than the sound of Gods people in song.

Music has its own international language, breaking down cultural barrier, cutting across age differences, and erasing denominational lines. For centuries its soothing strains have calmed anxious hearts, incited courage in the fainthearted, comforted the grieving, healed the wounded, rescued the perishing, and drawn wanderers home. I know that throughout my life I have treasured the hymns and songs of the church. They have been my dearest companions in dark hours of loneliness and discouragement and my greatest encouragers in times of celebration and adoration. During my life I have never failed to find new strength from these strong, timeless statements of faith.

As Martin Luther once said, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music."



Thanks to Shirley Ostrander
01-13-2001
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

There is something about Ash Wednesday that speaks directly to our hearts. The symbolism speaks powerfully to us. People flock to churches and services are full. They seem to be saying "I need ashes." They will wear them the rest of the day with no embarrassment. It is as if they are saying, "Look, God is giving me another chance."

QUESTION?

How do you intend to make this Lent different from previous ones?

Learning about Lent can be taught by children. Jesus seeing how wisely he had said, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." (Mark 12:34)

A contest was held to find the most caring child. A four-year-old won. His next door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Seeing the man sitting in his backyard crying, the little boy walked over to the man, climbed onto his lap and just sat there. When his mother later asked him what he had said to the neighbor to make him cry, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

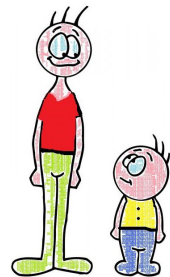
Now I know why Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me for the kingdom of God belongs to them." Whenever we reach out to someone in need, or offer a listening ear, or go out of our way to make some feel welcomed, we are not far from the kingdom of God. God does not break into our lives from the outside, God breaks out of our lives for the inside.

QUESTION?

How will you be present for another this Lent?



You have to do your own growing
no matter how tall your grandfather was.








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March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	2  7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	3	4	5
6 First Sunday in Lent 11:00 am United Service	7	8 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	9 7:00 pm Bible Study: Jesus in the Holy Land (via Zoom)	10 7:00 pm Elder's Mtg.	11	12 Worship Retreat 10 am - 1 pm
13 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional	14 7:00 pm Trustees Mtg.	15 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group. 7:00 pm Board Mtg.	16 7:00 pm Bible Study: Jesus in the Holy Land (via Zoom)	17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19
20  9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service First Day of Spring	21	22 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	23 7:00 pm Bible Study: Jesus in the Holy Land (via Zoom)	24 7:00 pm Vision Team	25 Newsletter Deadline	26 Worship Retreat 10 am - 1 pm
27 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	28	29 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	30 7:00 pm Bible Study: Jesus in the Holy Land (via Zoom)	31	<p>What your heart possesses, Your life expresses.</p> 