

Christian Reporter

Mt. Lebanon Christian Church

February 2023

It's coming! Lent is coming! Lent is the solemn observance that commemorates the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness fasting and being tempted by Satan.

I am very excited about the way MLCC will be celebrating the season of Lent this ar. We will be learning about Lent and deepening our Christian faith through experiences, worship and prayer. We will begin with an experience of history and learning about the season of Lent by celebrating Shrove Tuesday/Fat/Tuesday, also know as Mardi Gras. What is it really all about? We will gather after worship on Sunday, February 19 for food, fun and fellowship.

On Wednesday, February 22 we will gather for Ash Wednesday worship to begin the season Lent. We will welcome the Laurel String Duo along with some of our instrumentalists from the congregation for a wonderful Taize' service. This kind of service is contemplative, softly lit an full of music, scripture and prayer (no sermon).

On Sundays during Lent we will hear about and experience what it was like for Jesus and the disciples during Holy Week. We will step into the happenings of that sacred week.

There will be a Maundy Thursday service and the opportunity to pray during Good Friday. There will also be prayer stations available on Good Friday as well. Of course, we will gather on Easter to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Don't miss out on this Lenten Season. Bring a friend! Blessings! Cindy

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



PASTOR: THE REVEREND DR.
CINDY McCLUNG

WORSHIP
WITH US



Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 & 11:00 AM

PLEASE JOIN US!



February Worship Leaders & Elders

<u>Elders</u>	<u>Worship Leaders</u>
5 - Verna McGinley	5 - Chuck Sargent
12 - Brad Montgomery	12 - Verna McGinley
19 - Sally Myton	19 - Dan Wahl
26 - Chuck Sargent	26 - Jeff Hawn

MISSION STATEMENT

Serving Christ!

Living and Sharing Faith, Hope and Love

VISION STATEMENT

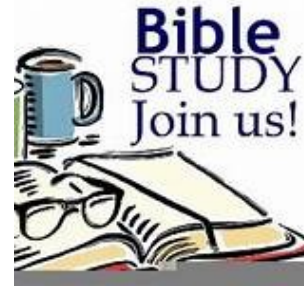
God's vision for Mt. Lebanon Christian Church (DOC) is that we be a Christ-centered church; growing in faith through prayer, worship, and Bible study; growing in service through outreach; growing in love through Fellowship.

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"

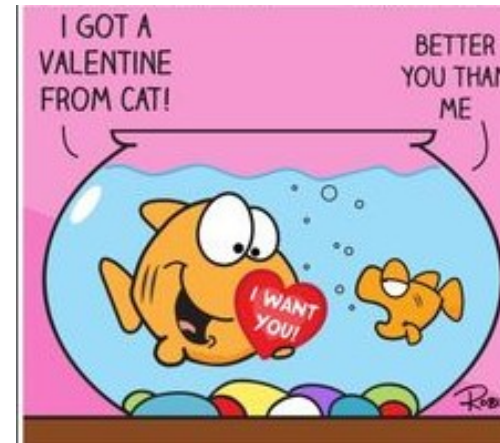
Cindy McClung	Pastor	minister367@mtlebocc.org
John McCarty	Pastor	john.mccarty@mtlebocc.org
Tom Spray	Board Chair	tomspray@hotmail.com
Chuck Bieri	Director of Music	charlesbieri@yahoo.com
Joyce Lackey	Secretary	churchoffice@mtlebocc.org



Bible Study

Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today by Adam Hamilton.
 Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom.

This 6-week study invites us into an honest conversation about the Bible. We'll begin with foundational questions such as, How and when was the Bible written? Who decided which books made it into the scriptures and why? How literally must we read it? And, Is the Bible ever wrong? From there, we'll consider questions people frequently ask that continue to divide Christians and denominations alike. In approachable and inviting language, Hamilton addresses these often-misunderstood biblical themes leading readers to a deeper appreciation of the Bible so that we might hear God speak through it and find its words to be life-changing and life-giving.



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

We will continue to film the Facebook Live services on Sunday 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](https://www.facebook.com/MtLebanonCC/), pick Video and select what you want to watch. (or enter this <https://www.facebook.com/MtLebanonCC/>)

My Lenten Jar

I always have nice things that I'd like to do, but never seem to make time to get to: write a letter to a friend, visit a lonely person, call a distant friend. At the beginning of Lent, I write down 40 plus tasks, one per little slip of paper, and toss them in a jar. Then, each morning of Lent, I pull one out and do the task written there. It teaches me that I like surprise and variety in my Lenten practices. For me, this is a simple way to concentrate on the disciplines of giving alms and doing good for others.



In the coldest February, as in every month in every other month in every other year, the best thing to hold on to in this world is each other.



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@mtlebooc.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.



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 please contact the church office.

Church Members

Joanne Houston
Persinger family—birth of Caleb
Mary Crist
Daryl Gray
Bill Green
Audrey Houke
Karen Newman
Mary Nicholson
Ed Pajak
Duane Ready
Also, please remember in your prayers our members who are homebound. Helen Butler, Connie McCarty, Ruth Schmidletter, Lee Scott and Betty Rothermel.

Friends and family

Matt - Dan Wahl's Nephew - recovery
Joanne - Bill Green's daughter
Holstead Family—death of Patrick
Katy Creenan - cancer
Bob Conroy Sr. - stroke recovery
Ann Peden - cancer
Kathleen Miller - kidney concerns
Arthur McCarty
Rick Fleischauer - brain injury - nephew of Jane McCarty
Leo Schober - healing
Hugh Pollon - Father of Bonnie Philippon
Richard Sykes
Ed Totin - Father of Anne Totin
All those affected by Mass shootings
Peace in the Ukraine

Our food pantry shelves are bare!

MOST NEEDED ITEMS!

- CANNED FRUIT (PEARS, PEACHES, PINEAPPLE, APPLESAUCE, MANDARIN ORANGES, FRUIT COCKTAIL)
- HAMBURGER HELPER PRODUCTS
- JUICE (NON-REFRIGERATED)
- CANNED CHICKEN/CHILI/STEW
- JELLY
- PASTA SAUCE (GLASS OR CANS)
- CEREAL
- CANNED / DRIED BEANS
- SPECIALTY SOUPS (PROGRESSO, CHUNKY, ETC.)
- BOXED POTATOES (MASHED, SCALLOPED ETC.)
- CANNED PASTA
(CHEF BOYARDEE – SPAGHETTI OS, RAVIOLIS, ETC.)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 - Verna McGinley
- 21 - Jeff Hawn
- 26 - Barbara Jenkins
- 27 - Christina Atkins
Kayla Wolff

Scratch Paper

If any one is in need of scratch paper for home or office, there is a stack in the copy room on the paper cutter. Take what you need.

Joyce



Church Donation Statements for 2022



Member donations statements have been handed out at Sunday Service and mailed out to those who couldn't get them in person.



Special Giving - Water Wells

Our donation for the World Vision Clean Water project for 2022 totaled \$1,040. That amount will be matched by a donor from the church. Thank you to all who contributed so that those in the world who do not have access to clean water can be helped.



January Board Meeting Notes

- Bible studies are continuing on Wednesdays at 7pm.
- Dining Disciples have still been meeting monthly (3 groups) If you would like to participate, please notify Rev. Cindy.
- The Program Team met in January and made plans for a number of events for the rest of 2023.
- New bibles – The Trustees approved the purchase of 12 Common English Version Bibles. Most of our current bibles are in bad shape. We are looking for people to see how they like these before we make a bigger purchase.
- The installation of the sump pump in the kitchen has been completed. More maintenance is still in progress in the kitchen.





THEY'LL KNOW WE ARE CHRISTIANS BY OUR LOVE

It's easy to talk sentimentally about love. It's much more difficult to apply it to needy people and situations. The scriptures clearly teach, however, that the proof of God's presence within our lives is our willingness to share His love with humanity. The earthly badge of our heavenly citizenship is our love relationship with others. A life of love is a deliberate choice on our part. We must choose this lifestyle against our natural bent for self-centeredness. Soon, with the Holy Spirit's enablement, our new life of love becomes a natural behavior. Then, the emotional feelings of inner fulfillment follow. Responding to the needs of others will never be a duty; rather it should be a privilege of normal Christian living. Our love in action will bring joy to a brother or sister in Christ and even show nonbelievers that we are Christians not only in name but in deed as well.

Peter Scholtes wrote this hymn while he was a parish priest at St. Brendan's on the South side of Chicago in the 1960's. At the time, he was leading a youth choir out of the basement, and was looking for an appropriate song for a series of ecumenical, interracial events. When he couldn't find such a song, he wrote the now-famous hymn in a single day. His experience at St. Brendan's and in the Chicago Civil Rights movement, influenced him for the rest of his life.

A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another. John 13: 34,35



Stop in the name of Love



And meet the Supreme!



Sitting in the Chapel



During the Lenten time I always give ashes out in the St. Clair Hospital's Chapel. A few years ago I was sitting there quietly and an older man came in. All was silent for a few minutes then the man said to me, "If God wanted us to think of things in the past, He would have put our eyes in the back of our heads." Then he got up and left. How weird I thought. As the morning went on I was quite busy. At lunch I couldn't forget the man who spoke to me in the chapel. What was I thinking? It was true; I was dwelling on my past and things I could have done better. Sometimes it was hard for me to forgive others and many times, myself.

Why forgive?

There are several good reasons why we should forgive. For example, it brings healing and peace to our lives. Nursing a grudge is bad for one's health.

Another reason is that we were put on earth for a purpose...born into this time and place to help carry out God's plan for the universe and for all people.

What may seem very small, and/or unnoticed, like a flower in the desert rose fragrance seems to have no effect. But a flower does not have an effect and the whole world is different because of it,

God created us and placed us on this earth for a purpose, like that desert flower. What do we want to flow from us into this world? Forgiveness is a good answer.

Then Peter approaching asked Him, Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times? Jesus answered, "I say to you not seven times but Seventy-seven times." Mt. 18: 21-22



A sunrise is God's way of saying lighten up



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.	2  Groundhog Day	3	4
5 11:00 am United Service	6 7 PM Program Team	7 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	8 Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.	9 7:00 pm Elders Mtg	10	11
12 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	13	14  Valentine's Day 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	15 Bible Study at 7pm on Zoom.	16	17	18
19 Mardi Gras Celebration 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	20  President's Day	21 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	22  Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm	23 	24	25
26 Lent Begins 9:30 am CAYA 11:00 am Traditional Service	27	28 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <p>I was going to waste, But Jesus recycled me.</p>  </div>			