



Mt. Lebanon  
Christian Church

## MLCC Newsletter – March 2025



### Worship with Us

In-Person or Facebook Live

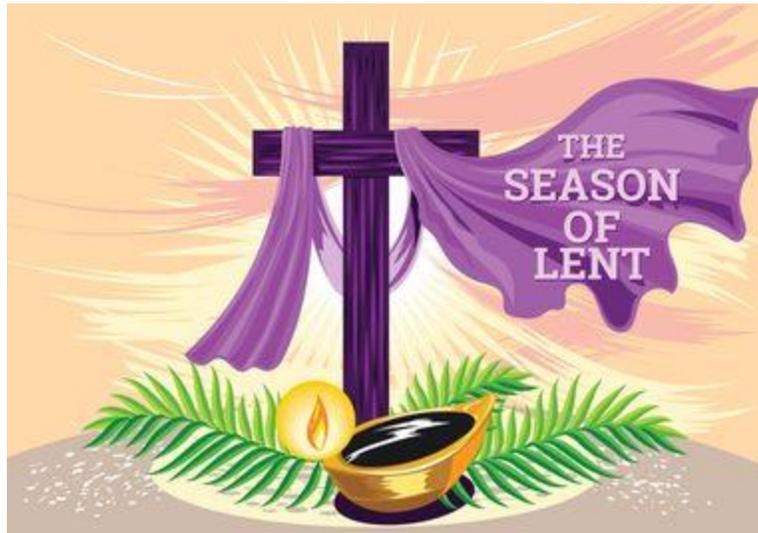
Traditional Worship: Sunday at 11:00 AM  
CAYA Contemporary Worship: Sunday at 6:00 PM

**Mt. Lebanon Christian Church**  
367 Cedar Blvd  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

<http://www.mtlebocc.org>

Dr. Cindy McClung: [minister367@mtlebocc.org](mailto:minister367@mtlebocc.org)  
Assistant Minister: The Reverend John McCarty: [john.mccarty@mtlebocc.org](mailto:john.mccarty@mtlebocc.org)

**Our Mission:**  
**Serving Christ!**  
**Living and Sharing Faith, Hope and Love**



## Minister's Message

This year, the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5. Lent is a season of reflection, repentance, and renewal. Lent commemorates the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert and being tempted by Satan before he began his earthly ministry.

During Lent this year at Mt. Lebanon Christian Church, you will have the opportunity to connect, grow and serve. There will be opportunities to spend time with one another over a meal, learn about Jesus' final days through Bible Study and worship, learn about a healthy lifestyle of eating through the Daniel Plan book group, serve others through donations of footwear and outerwear, and be reminded of and challenged to take seriously the words of scripture about caring for the least of these and justice. Special Worship services and regular Sunday morning worship give us the chance to praise and worship God, to connect with others, and to grow in our faith.

Our Lenten theme for worship this year is "Walk a Mile in My Shoes." Together we will explore what we as children of God can do to better understand one another, and to be able to live together in God's kingdom on earth.

May your Lenten season be full of new understanding and deepening of faith!

Blessings!

Cindy

0000

---

## Lent Around the World

Lent is observed in many different ways across various cultures around the world. Here are some unique and fascinating Lenten traditions:

## Europe

1. **Italy**: In Italy, people celebrate "Carnevale" before Lent, which includes parades, masquerades, and feasts. On the last Sunday of Lent, known as Palm Sunday, Italians create intricate decorations from palm leaves.
2. **Spain**: Spanish cities host elaborate processions during Holy Week (Semana Santa), with participants wearing traditional robes and hoods while carrying religious statues through the streets.
3. **Poland**: In Poland, the tradition of "Święconka" involves the blessing of Easter baskets filled with foods like eggs, bread, and sausage, which are then eaten on Easter Sunday.

## Latin America

1. **Brazil**: The famous Rio de Janeiro Carnival marks the beginning of Lent with vibrant parades, music, and dancing.
2. **Mexico**: Mexicans celebrate the season with "Carnaval" and "Semana Santa" (Holy Week) processions. Palm Sunday is particularly important, with people weaving intricate palm crosses.
3. **Guatemala**: In Antigua, residents create beautiful "alfombras" (carpets) made of colored sawdust, flowers, and other materials for Holy Week processions.

## Africa

1. **Ethiopia**: Ethiopian Orthodox Christians observe "Abiy Tsom" (Great Lent) by abstaining from all animal products and engaging in increased prayer and church attendance.
2. **Nigeria**: In Nigeria, Lent is marked by fasting, prayer, and community service. Many Christians also participate in Passion plays, re-enacting the events of Jesus' crucifixion.

## Asia

1. **Philippines**: In the Philippines, Lent is observed with processions, Passion plays (known as "Senakulo"), and the "Pabasa" tradition, where people chant the Passion of Christ.
2. **India**: In Goa, the "Shigmo" festival coincides with Lent and includes parades, dances, and traditional music. Christians in Kerala observe Lent with fasting, prayer, and special church services.

## North America

1. **United States**: In New Orleans, the Mardi Gras festival marks the beginning of Lent with parades, costumes, and parties. Many Christians across the country also participate in "Ash Wednesday" services and give up certain luxuries for the season.
2. **Canada**: In Quebec, the "Carnaval de Québec" is a winter festival that includes parades, ice sculptures, and various outdoor activities leading up to Lent.

# Support MLCC

Mail Checks to: Mt. Lebanon Christian Church - 367 Cedar Blvd. - Pittsburgh, PA 15228

Or Give online at [mtlebocc.org](http://mtlebocc.org)

Or **Online Giving** available through our Givelify by clicking on <https://giv.li/rwhcas> or clicking on the QR code below



Your gift of time, talent or treasure enables MLCC to serve Christ by living and sharing faith, hope and love.

It's simple to donate once or set up reoccurring donations using the Give link. Options for giving include helping with Building Maintenance projects and Community Outreach programs.

There are plenty of ways to get involved. Volunteer opportunities include:

AV Tech - Contemporary Worship Musicians - Social Media - Child Care Nursery - Small Group Leader - Landscaping - Greeter - Community Service - Event Planning  
For more information about volunteering contact John McCarty.

---

## March Service & Outreach

### Step Into Compassion: A Lenten Service Project

Imagine facing the bitter cold without a coat or walking miles in worn-out shoes. For many experiencing homelessness, this is a daily reality.

This Lent, **MLCC is partnering with City Mission** to bring warmth and hope to our neighbors in need. We invite you to **donate new or gently used shoes and outerwear** to help provide comfort and protection for those struggling with homelessness.

Drop off your donations at the **Service and Outreach table in the narthex** by **Sunday, April 20**. Together, let's make this Lenten season one of **kindness and compassion**—living out God's call to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Will you join us in making a difference?

# March Madness Service & Outreach

## 🏀 March Madness with a Mission – Year Two! 🏀

Get ready to slam dunk for a good cause! MLCC is bringing back **March Madness with a mission**, and you're invited to join the fun.

The Game Plan:

For just a **\$20 donation**, you can take part in the NCAA bracket challenge while supporting a local ministry. Whether you prefer digital or paper, we've got you covered!

1 **Fill Out Your Bracket:** Complete your NCAA bracket **online at ESPN (details coming soon)** or grab a **paper copy** and fill it out by **March 17th**. (We'll email the selected teams on the evening of **March 16th**.)

2 **Choose a Ministry:** When you submit your bracket, include your **name** and the **local ministry** you'd like to support.

3 **Win for a Cause:** When the final buzzer sounds on **April 7th**, the bracket challenge winner will celebrate victory and **all the winnings** will be directed to the local charity of their choice.

**How to Enter:**

📧 **Online:** Submit your bracket online (details coming soon).

📧 **Paper:** Scan and email your completed bracket to **jane.e.mccarty@gmail.com** by **March 17th**.

Let's **make this March Madness count**—one bracket, one ministry, one mission at a time! 🌟 🏀

---

## Dining Disciples



Join us for Dining Disciples!

Dining Disciples are groups that meet once a month for lunch or for dinner to get to know others, talk about faith and find ways to live out our faith in our everyday lives. Dining disciples is a great way to connect with others, grow in your faith and find ways to serve the Lord in God's Kingdom here on earth. Check the calendar for dates.

# Elder's Corner



## ” Big Reveal”

Everyone loves superheroes. While all superheroes are fascinating, not all of them are the same. Some are super because of wealth and technology, like Iron Man and Batman. Others are super because they were born on a different planet, like Superman in a mythical place on earth like Wonder Woman. But the ones that captured my attention are those who can transform.

Superheroes change from ordinary to extraordinary, this is a captivating gift. Their stories usually include a “big reveal” When they unveiled the truth of their powers to those who never expected who they were. Once the secret is out, those who know are never the same. They are forever marked with the awe of knowing and the responsibility of protecting the secret.

Perhaps this is what happened to Peter, James and John as they witnessed the transfiguration of Jesus. As they prayed Jesus's face was transformed before them and his clothes became a dazzling white. Moses and Elijah appeared, and a cloud of glory descended upon them. The voice of God affirmed Christ as the son and the disciples were terrified. After this “big reveal” they saw that it was Jesus, the same one they had known all along. Would our lives be different if we caught a glimpse of the glory of Christ? Would we recognize him as Lord, elevating him higher than our greatest heroes? Would we treat this revelation as comic entertainment, hardly affecting us as we live?

We will never experience the full glory of God's “big reveal” here on earth. Jesus still longs to reveal glimpses of his truth to the world. Our Savior was transfigured so that we may be transformed. As we move closer to the cross, may we lean into Christ's glory in ways that changes us for good.

Read: Luke 9: 28 to 36

---

## BIBLE STUDY

Don't miss this great opportunity! Have you ever wondered about Paul's missionary journeys? Paul wrote 1/2 of the New Testament and was a major part of the spread of the Gospel.

This winter during Bible study you will be able to both see pictures and learn about the places that the Apostle Paul traveled. During my recent trip to Greece and Ephesus (in Turkey) I traveled to some of the cities where Paul traveled and started churches. We will travel city by city each week. Each study will consist of pictures of the area and archaeological sites and an overview of what Paul wrote to the people in those churches. This is a wonderful chance to explore some of the world from the comfort of your home and gain a deeper understanding of Paul and his endeavors to bring the good news to the world. I hope you will join us on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7 PM. It would be helpful for background, to read Acts 13 – 20. Dr. Cindy McClung will lead this study. Invite your friends to join us as well.

**Upcoming Events - Save the Date**

Sunday, March 2 - Mardi Gras Lunch after Worship Service

Wednesday, March 5 - Ash Wednesday Worship Service at 7:00 pm

Thursday March 6 - Dining Disciples at Noon at Bravo

Monday, March 10 - Elder's Meeting at on Zoom at 7:00 pm

Monday March 17 - Trustees Meeting on Zoom at 7:00 pm

Tuesday, March 18 - Board meeting on Zoom at 7:00 pm

Thursday, March 21 - Dining Disciples (time and place to be determined)

Sunday March 23 - Discernment Congregation Meeting after Worship Service

.....

**Elders Monthly Meetings**

Reminder - the Elders monthly meetings will be held at 7:00 pm on Zoom on the second Monday of each month in 2025.

.....

**March Worship Leaders & Elders**

2 - Chuck Sargent 2 – Kathy Spray

9 - Verna McGinley 9 – Chuck Sargent

16 - Dan Wahl 16 – Chuck Sargent

23 - Jeff Hawn 23 – Jane McCarty

3 - Chuck Sargent 30 – Verna McGinley

**March Birthdays**

2<sup>nd</sup> – Clare Maree Newman

19<sup>th</sup> – Lee Scott

26<sup>th</sup> – Lisa Doyle

27<sup>th</sup> – Amy Angotti

28<sup>th</sup> – Janet Bowers

**March Anniversaries**

7<sup>th</sup> – Verna & Bernie McGinley

18<sup>th</sup> – Diane & Richard Ozanick

29<sup>th</sup> – Horst & Doris Riddler

		March 2025					
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1	
2 11:00 am Worship Service Lunch after Worship	3	4 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	5 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	6 Dining Disciples Noon Luncheon at Bravo	7	8	
9 9:30 am Daniel Plan 11:00 am Worship Service	10 7:00 Elders Meeting on Zoom	11 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	12 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom	13	14	15	
16 9:30 am Daniel Plan 11:00 am Worship Service	17 7:00 pm Trustees Meeting on Zoom St. Patrick's Day	18 7:00 pm Board Meeting on Zoom 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	19 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom	20 6:00 PM Tri-County Christian Men's Fellowship Dinner & Meeting	21 Dining Disciples (time and place to be determined)	22	
23 9:30 am Daniel Plan 11:00 am Worship Service followed by Meeting Discernment	24	25 7:00 pm Women's Prayer Group	26 7:00 pm Bible Study on Zoom	27	28	29	
30 9:30 am Daniel Plan 11:00 am Worship Service	31						

## Prayer List

Duane Ready  
 Carol Dubiel  
 Joanne Houston  
 Lois Lindemann  
 Family of Barb Scott - comfort and peace  
 Family of Ron Brown – comfort and peace  
 Those impacted by the California Wildfires  
 Joy Pajak  
 Jocelyn Wagner  
 Neal - friend of Anne Totin  
 Peace and civility in our nation  
 Horst & Doris Riddler  
 Ray Dubiel  
 Maggie Goodwin - healing  
 Sam Levine – 17-year-old - inoperable brain tumor  
 Giles McCarty – healing

Bill Samples  
 Bill Green  
 Ann Peden – friend of Rev. Cindy  
 Carla – health issues  
 Ron Abels – friend of Wahls  
 All those with Covid, RSV and the Flu  
 War in Ukraine  
 War in Israel  
 Individuals Impacted by Hurricanes  
 Helene & Milton  
 Travelers

THE  
**DANIEL**  
PLAN

Get Healthy-Stay Healthy  
Faith-Food-Fitness-Focus-Friends  
Small Group: Sundays 9:30 AM  
during Lent beginning March 9th

40 DAYS  
— to a —  
HEALTHIER  
LIFE

Join us as Mt. Lebanon Church engages together in The Daniel Plan. Developed by Pastor Rick Warren (The Purpose Driven Life), Dr. Daniel Amen, and Dr. Mark Hyman.

*The Daniel Plan* is framed around The Essentials: Faith, Food, Fitness, Focus and Friends – life areas that all work together to restore and sustain your long-term health. Faith is the foundation with God as the source of the power and the energy behind all transformational change. As you follow *The Daniel Plan*, you will discover that you have a part to play in getting healthier, but God will energize your efforts. The Daniel Plan offers practical solutions to improving your health physically, spiritually, relationally and emotionally. Integrating these Essentials can lead to a more vibrant life, ultimately preparing you to live out your calling. Books will be provided. Signup today!

~~~~~  
Tri-County Christian Men's Fellowship Dinner and Meeting

On Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>

Hosted by the Fairhill Manor Christian Church

351 Montgomery Ave, Washington, PA 15301

Registration begins at 5:30 pm

Opening begins at 6:00 pm

Menu and cost of the dinner will be forthcoming

## INTO THE BLACKTOP ABYSS

dan wahl

Tire (*WHOOMP-WHOOMP!*) hub-deep in the hole,  
Tsunami of slush up onto the curb;  
One jolt to kinetics and I've lost control!  
Bottoming out sure nettles the nerves.

Malevolent potholes left and right,  
Ruin a rim and then retreat;  
No hint of a hazard when driving at night;

**(WHOOMP-WHOOMP! WHOOMP-WHOOMP!)** Rattle. Repeat!



Dome light flickers, a hose is hissing,  
Shocks are shot, a tie rod's bent,  
Muffler's not muffling, may well have gone missing,  
Carbon Monoxide's invaded the vents,

Idiot lights, demanding to chat,  
"So that's why the engine keeps sputtering out!"  
That and the fact two tires are flat  
Means making it home is in serious doubt.

Under the grip of winter's wrath,  
Craters lay hidden 'neath snow and ice;  
No time to swerve or alter my path,  
Nor presence of mind; I've paid the price.

Autos and axels take quite the beating  
When a puddle of water is anything but;  
Patchers are nowhere, refilling is fleeting,  
Around every corner another pops up.

Freeze, thaw, freeze, thaw,  
Face down in the gutter a hubcap lays;  
Freeze, thaw, freeze, thaw,  
Time to have my damage appraised.

