



Newsletter
Presbyterian Disciples Church
February 2016



Church Chat—"Seasons Turning-Long Time Coming"--John Swisher, PDC Pastor

In the mystic magic of the calendar this year, we are already racing into the New Year, and shortly beyond it, the coming of Spring. Lent, which comes from the word "to lengthen" because of the lengthening of the days, begins on Ash Wednesday, the 10th of February this year, an early start, and Easter follows about six weeks later, on March 27.

Easter moves around in our calendar, and can be almost as early as the Spring Equinox, or as late as a month past it (the actual "formula" for Easter in western churches is the first Sunday after the first full moon, after the spring equinox, in case anybody is curious). This year Easter is early, so we get Groundhog Day February 2 and a week later, Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday), February 9, and Ash Wednesday, February 10, the following day.

For from long ago for Christians, the observance of Lent was a time of fasting and self-denial. Mardi Gras, the last day before Lent, was a big celebration of "fatness", or abundance, in which all the fat had to be found and used, so all kinds of feasting and self-indulgence were encouraged, but only before the start of Lent. For after Lent began, with imposition of ashes in the sign of the cross on the believers' foreheads, fasting was the order of the day/season, not feasting. If you want to see an entertaining version of Lenten calendar obsession set in 1960+ rural France, check out the movie "Chocolat" w/ Juliet Binoche and Johnny Depp.

But more than anything else, it seems to me, the preparations for Spring (and for the religious folks, preparations for Easter) are all about setting aside the old dead growth for the new growth, the new life, the glorious exploits of spring (and resurrection). For such a long time coming, and in the seasons' turning, we find hope and renewal after cold and hard days of winter.

We will have the imposition of ashes at Presbyterian Disciples Church again this year on Ash Wednesday, February 10, at 7:00 pm if you'd like to receive ashes, repent, and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

Church Trivia: As above, if Easter is calculated for Western Churches as the first Sunday after the full moon after the spring equinox, that implies that Easter may be different for Eastern or Orthodox Churches. So how do Eastern (Orthodox) Churches calculate it? The answer is based on the Julian calendar, which was in place before our current calendar, the Gregorian Calendar, was established in the middle ages to correct the problem that the Julian Calendar was actually a little too long compared to the Solar Year (the time it takes the earth to revolve around the Sun). I have heard it also explained that Orthodox Easter is basically all the above (as in Western churches) plus add after Passover to the equation. This gives a remarkable result for this year. Because Passover is pretty late in the Jewish Calendar (don't ask me how the date for Passover is calculated, that would be another column, on the synagogue page, not the church page), it actually begins at sundown on April 22, Eastern Orthodox Easter does not fall this year until May 1, more than a month after Western Easter.

Chapel Chuckle: I recently gave some updated information into the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s database on its ministers, their directory of clergy and when they told me they had received it, they said I was current. I told them I liked being current (amperage), because I had always been told I had a lot of potential (voltage) but wasn't living up to it, and that I hated to be told I was putting up resistance. I always chant "OM" (electrical resistance is measured in 'ohms'), but chanting never has done much for me.



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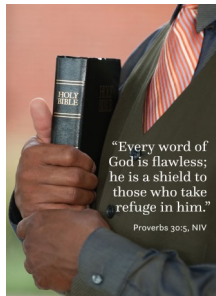


President's Day is intended to honor all the American presidents, but most significantly George Washington, our 1st President and Abraham Lincoln, our 16th President. Both Washington and Lincoln have birthdays in February and we celebrate those birthdays on Monday, February 15th this year.



Please bring canned soup on Sunday, February 7th for Souper Bowl of Caring. The soup that is received will be donated to the Food Pantry located inside our church building. We will also be participating in our monthly loose change offering which will also go to the Food Pantry. Thank you in advance for your donations and dedication this mission.

Lafayette County Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser breakfast Saturday, February 13th from 7-10am at \$5.00 per person held at Trinity United Church of Christ.



It 's that time of year again to start planning for Church Camp. The available camps can be found online at www.heartlandcenter.org. Please see the office if you have any questions or what information about volunteering.

It is time to start thinking about Community Vacation Bible School. The first VBS Planning Meeting will be held on Monday, February 22nd at 7pm at the United Methodist Church. Contact Candy Myers with any questions at 660-232-0303 or presdisciples@embarqmail.com.



Board will meet again on Sunday, February 14th and Sunday, March 13th following worship.



Upcoming Community Events

Dinner & Dance
02-06-2016

Location: Lexington Moose Lodge
Dinner 5:30 Dance 7-11pm

VFW Breakfast
02-13-2016

Location: Lexington VFW

Breakfast at Trinity UCC
02-13-2016

Location: Trinity UCC Church
Proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity. 7-10am

Elks Community Breakfast
02-27-2016

Location: Lexington Elks
7-10 AM

Dinner & Dance
03-05-2016

Location: Lexington Moose Lodge
Dinner 5:30 Dance 7-11pm

Live! in Lexington - "Hits & Grins"
03-08-2016

Location: Wentworth Military Academy
7:30 PM

St. Patrick's Parade 2016
03-12-2016

Location: Downtown Lexington
2:00 PM

Breakfast at Tinity UCC Church
03-12-2016

Location: Trinity UCC Church
Proceeds to benefit Habitat for Humanity. 7-10am

VFW Breakfast
03-19-2016

Location: Lexington VFW

Elks Community Breakfast
03-26-2016

Location: Elks Lodge 749
7-10 am



Lectionary Readings for February:

- 07- Exodus 34:29-35; Psalm 99; 2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2; Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)
- 10 — Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- 14 – Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13
- 21 – Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 ; Psalm 27; Phillipians 3:17—4:1; Luke 13:31-35
- 28 — Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

08 – Drake Oetting
 09 – Claudine Trent, Vanessa Summerlin
 10 – Brenda Meyer
 15 – Steve Saults
 17 – Tymme Johnson
 23 – Charles Rockhold
 25 – Jack Wrisinger
 26 – Bo Maze
 29 – Zenden Myers



Our Servicemen:

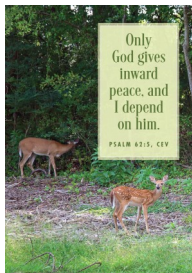
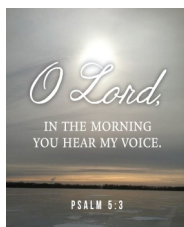
Nathan Wrisinger, Bobby Maze, Brittany Maze, Bo Maze, Derek Morgan, Eric Morgan, MJ Myers, Mark Brubeck, Aaron Bryant, Ryland Sims, Johnathan Lefholz, Jimmy Register

Al-Anon meetings are held at the United Methodist Church every Saturday at 10am .

February 05, 2016—National Wear Red Day - a day when many people wear red to show their support for the awareness of heart disease. It occurs in America on the first Friday in February each year, where people wear red. Designed to warn women of their number one health threat, "The Heart Truth" campaign created and introduced the Red Dress as the national symbol for women and heart disease awareness in 2002 to deliver an urgent wakeup call to American women.

Heart disease is a class of diseases that involve the heart, the blood vessels or both. The causes of heart disease are diverse but atherosclerosis or hypertension are the most common. Additionally, with aging come a number of physiological and morphological changes that alter cardiovascular function and lead to subsequently increased risk of cardiovascular disease, even in healthy asymptomatic individuals.

Heart disease is the leading cause of deaths worldwide, though since the 1970s, cardiovascular mortality rates have declined in many high-income countries. At the same time, cardiovascular deaths and disease have increased at a fast rate in low - and middle-income countries. Although heart disease usually affects older adults, the antecedents of cardiovascular disease begin in early life. There is therefore increased emphasis on preventing atherosclerosis by modifying risk factors, such as healthy eating, exercise, and avoidance of smoking tobacco. (With material from: Wikipedia)



We Pray for:

Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Alma Richter, Betty Swisher, Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris Bradley, Beryl Myatt, Irene Bunner, Paula Bunner, Jerry Westcott, Maria Lappert, Mary Ann & Ronnie Barker, Kathy Neil, Jake Means, Beth Maxwell Burk, Robert Smith, Ruth Cook, Getty Miller, Steve & Wilma Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Gladys Duffett, Rick Failing, Nancy Mabe, Roy Marchetti, Frank Ashinhurst, Peggy McGregor, John Summerville, Greg Major, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Janice Mayfield, Bonny Bunner, Beverly Menard, Disaster Victims, & Future of our church Families of Richard Williams, Bonnie Best, Anna Ruth Wooden

A big Thank you to our newest Board Members, Sherry Braden, Brenda Meyer and Candy Myers, who joined the Board in January. They join six other Board members Bob Mitchell, John Morgan, Joe Aull, Janice Peterson, Janice Mayfield, and Bonny Bunner. Thank you all for your service to our church and congregation.

Wednesday, February 10th is Ash Wednesday. We will have a short service of prayer, scripture and ashes at 7pm. Anyone is invited to attend.

Holy Week Services will be held at Trinity United Church of Christ. They will start on Monday, March 21st-25th, leading up to Easter. Breakfast will be at 6:30am and devotionals will be held at 7am.

We will join together for a fellowship meal on Sunday, February 7th. Please bring soup or sandwich to share with your church family.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 21st following worship.

To keep connected with the Northwest Area Disciples of Christ, please contact Rev. Bill Rose-Heim at br_h@nwareacc.org or (816) 632-2237.

To keep up to date on current events and to see what visitors are seeing when they check out our town on the internet, go to the following websites:
www.lexingtonmo.com
www.historiclexington.com
www.visitlexingtonmo.com
www.lafayettecountymmo.com

Love Notes

When it comes to relationships, kid quotes are priceless:

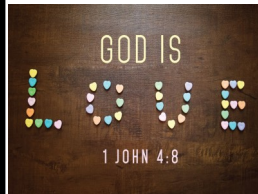
- “I love you so much that even God is amazed!”
- “Dear Mom, I love when you spend time with you.” (A mom can only dream!)
- “I’m sorry that I’ve been chasing you outside. If you start to like me, I will not chase you.”
- Responding to a note that asked, “Do you like me?” a child wrote, “I don’t know. I don’t know myself yet. Plus I’m under a lot of stress at home so, I can’t tell. P.S. You don’t know yourself until you’re 18.”

For God so lovEd the world
thAt he gave his
only begottEn
son,
thAt whoever
believEs
in him should not perish
but havE everlasting life.
(John 3:16, NKJV)

The Greatest Love of All
On Valentine’s Day, we remember that God is the source of all love in the world. His perfect love for us has made all human love possible.

What Defines Us

When their minivan was hit by a drunk driver, Gerald Sittser lost his mother, wife and daughter all at one time. Sittser, a religion professor, escaped without physical injury but was then forced to navigate his extreme loss. Eventually he concluded that “the experience of loss does not need to be the defining moment of our story” (quoted in AHA, by Kyle Idleman). Instead, “the defining moment can be our response to the loss,” Sittser says.



“In this world you will have trouble,” Jesus warns in John 16:33 (NIV) — no sugar-coating or pretending there. But then he says, “Take heart!” Jesus doesn’t want our troubles to define us; he wants to define us! The defining truth of our story is that Jesus has “overcome the world” — even at its worst. He’s stronger than our struggles and sorrows. And in him, so are we.
—Heidi Mann



Love All You Do

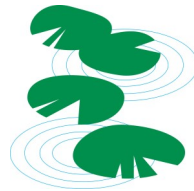
Blogger Rachel Macy Stafford gained a following by admitting she’d acquired the “disease of distraction.” Her children and family paid the price for her dependence on technology and a super-packed schedule.

In *Hands Free Mama* (Zondervan), Stafford describes how she made room to live, breathe and appreciate each day. One step involved changing the slogan on the front of her planner from “Do It All” to “Love All I Do.”

Now Stafford encourages others to take a Hands Free Pledge, “letting go of distraction, disconnection and perfection to live a life that simply, so very simply, consists of what really matters.”

Knowing God

God cares about how we live. And a relationship with God naturally will flow out in daily attitudes and actions. So if you look good, you are good, right? Well, maybe not.



Knowing God can lead to a positive lifestyle, but the reverse isn’t true. Our outward actions alone don’t prove that we enjoy an inward relationship with God. Just because we do good doesn’t mean we know the One who is good.

—Craig Groeschel, *The Christian Athiest: Believing in God But Living As If He Doesn’t Exist*

Leaps of Faith

My coming to faith did not start with a leap but rather a series of staggers from what seemed like one safe place to another. Like lily pads, round and green, these places summoned and then held me up while I grew. Each prepared me for the next leaf on which I would land, and in this way I moved across the swamp of doubt and fear ... to the verdant pad of faith on which I somehow stay afloat today.

—Anne Lamott, *Traveling Mercies*



+Christian Symbol+ Anchor

Because in ancient times an anchor represented safety, early Christians adopted it as a symbol of their hope in Christ. “We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure” (Hebrews 6:19, NIV). Word play may have been involved: ankura, Greek for “anchor,” sounds similar to en kurio, or “in the Lord.” As Latin became Christians’ primary language, however, the “anchor-Lord” connection would have faded.

An Early Start to Spring Cleaning

Although Lent starts early this year, before spring appears in many areas, it’s an appropriate time for spring cleaning. Indeed, Lent comes from old German and English words for “spring.” So, while it might be too soon to open windows or hang clothes on the line, now is ideal for some spiritual spring cleaning.



Lent calls us to examine our beliefs, confess and dispose of old grudges and selfish habits, dust off our Bibles for a new routine of study and prayer, air out our hearts and brighten up our attitudes. “Lent cleaning” lets the Holy Spirit freshen our faith — and it’s never too early for that.

Grateful for Grace

John Newton, a slave-ship captain who became a minister and abolitionist, had a special affinity for grace. In fact, he wrote the hymn “Amazing Grace” to celebrate the freedom that God gives to Christians.

“I am not what I ought to be,” Newton said. “I am not what I want to be. I am not what I hope to be. But still, I am not what I used to be. And by the grace of God, I am what I am.”

Our Servant King

Jesus began his ministry by being hungry,
yet he is the Bread of Life.

Jesus ended his earthly ministry by being thirsty,
yet he is the Living Water.

Jesus was weary,
yet he is our rest.

Jesus paid tribute,
yet he is the King.

Jesus was accused of having a demon,
yet he cast out demons.

Jesus wept,
yet he wipes away our tears.

Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver,
yet he redeemed the world.

Jesus was brought as a lamb to the slaughter,
yet he is the Good Shepherd.

Jesus died,
yet by his death he destroyed the power of death.

—Gregory of Nazianzus (fourth-century church father)

Light Among Darkness

Poet Martha Snell Nicholson (1886-1957) was bedridden by four incurable diseases, but decades of pain didn't dampen her faith. In fact, she wrote some of the most beloved lines of Christian verse during the darkest times — including the death of her husband.

Nicholson inspired millions of people, including World War II soldiers who received tracts with her writings. Her poem "The Other Side" shares the hope that believers in Jesus possess, no matter what we face here on earth:

This isn't death, it's glory! It isn't dark, it's light; it isn't stumbling, groping, or even faith — it's sight. This isn't grief, it's having my last tear wiped away. It's sunrise, it's the morning of my eternal day!

Not Coming Back

Several years ago, a story on the newswires told of a boomerang that returned to its owner after 25 years. Here's how: An American tourist stole a boomerang from Australia's Mount Isa museum and managed to get it out of the country. But a quarter of a century later, he sent it back, along with a full confession. Apparently, guilt had been eating away at the man; he hadn't known how his mischief would ... boomerang.

Sin has a way of returning in ways we didn't expect, bringing loads of shame along with it. During Lent, with its focus on confession and absolution, we remember that God tosses those "boomerangs" of wrongdoing as far "as the east is from the west" (Psalm 103:12). In other words, they'll never come back.

—Timothy Merrill

An Ash Wednesday Prayer

Dear righteous Lord, we enter the holy season of Lent confessing our many sins that separate us from you. We're sincerely sorry for offending you repeatedly through our thoughts, our words and our actions — and often through our inactions, too.

Forgive us, Lord, and show us your tender mercy. Restore and strengthen us to become your faithful and faith-filled servants. During our Lenten journey, remind us to show mercy to other people, just as you've shown mercy to us. In Jesus' name, amen.



Star Search

Don't look for the flaws as you go through life;
and even when you find them,
it is wise and kind to be somewhat blind
and look for the virtue behind them.

For the cloudiest night has a hint of light
somewhere in its shadows hiding;
it is better by far to hunt for a star,
than the spots on the sun abiding.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox





PUZZLE

True Friendship

What makes someone a good friend?
The Bible offers lots of advice about true friendship.

Directions: Starting at the *, connect the dots clockwise and complete the words using the word bank. Then fill in Proverbs 27:9, NIV.

WORD BANK:

heart prings ir verbs vice ness end

27:9, NIV pleasant _____

• PRO _____ * The _____ • OF _____

• ad _____ • a _____

_____ felt • • Fri _____

the _____ s _____

From •

27:9, NIV

Answer: The pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.

FRIENDSHIP CARDS



This month, don't just send valentines; be a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for your loved ones — all month long.



What you need:

- 29 index cards
- A small box or container
- Colored pens or glitter pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include "Give someone a hug," "Clean someone's room," "Read to someone" and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!



Bible Quiz

At a time of deep struggle in Elijah's life, God made his presence known to him. How?

- A. In a strong and destructive wind
- B. In an earthquake
- C. Through fire
- D. Through silence

Answer: See 1 Kings 19:9-12, NRSV

LENT *Lent* LENT *Lent*

February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Groundhog Day	3 7pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5 9-11 Food Pantry	6 10 Al-Anon Mtg UMC
7 10am Choir Rehearsal Souper Bowl Sunday Fellowship Meal (Soup & Sand-	8	9 Shrove Tuesday	10 Ash Wednesday	11	12 9-11 Food Pantry	13 10 Al-Anon Mtg UMC
14 12 Board Mtg	15	16	17 8:30-11:30 60+ Commodities 7pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19 1-3 Food Pantry	20 10 Al-Anon Mtg UMC
21 12 Annual Mtg	22	23	24 9am FP Home Delivery 7pm Choir Rehearsal	25 8:30-11:30 Commodities	26 9-11 Food Pantry 10:30 Baby Grace-UMC	27 10 Al-Anon Mtg UMC
28 10am Choir Rehearsal	29 Leap Day					



Presbyterian Disciples Church
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660-259-2102
presdisciples@embargmail.com
Rev. John Swisher

Worship Service 10:45am - 12:00pm
Childrens Church 11:00am-12:00pm
All Are Welcome



Minister- Rev. John Swisher
Organist- Matthew Neil
Secretary- Candy Myers/Matthew Neil
Treasurer-Janice Peterson/Candy Myers
Custodian- MJ Myers
Children's Church-Candy Myers