



Newsletter

Presbyterian Disciples Church

January 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 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 and the next week, Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) and Ash Wednesday, the following day.

For long ago Christians, the observance of Lent was a time of fasting and self-denial. Mardi Gras was a big celebration of "fatness", or abundance, in which all the fat had to be found and used before the start of Lent, 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.

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.

On a slightly different note, please join me at the Embracing Hope Christian Education Event, Saurday, February 6, at Southminister Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village, KS. Embracing Hope is glad to welcome Barbara Essex. She grew up in Chicago, IL, and has lived in a number of cities throughout the US.

Her interest in storytelling and the Bible has led to a study series focusing on biblical characters we love...and love to hate. Her third book, "Bad Boys of the Bible: Exploring Men of Questionable Virtue," won The Pilgrim Press Mayflower Award for Spirituality in 2003. Essex is a soughtafter speaker and is known for her wit and down-to-earth style. She connects the biblical story with contemporary life, drawing on her vast personal experiences. She currently lives in Cleveland, OH. Registration deadline is 1/15 and is \$35 but I believe the church has paid for registration for past participants. Lastly, everyone who has attended seemed to like it and felt it was well worthwhile.

Chapel Chuckle: I was stumped over what bad habits to give up during Lent. I needed to lose some weight, take up some exercise, and pay more attention to how I was spending my money. But then, it all became clear, I can now give up my New Year's Resolutions and call it giving up something for Lent.



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Happy New Year. Hope everyone has a wonderful and happy 2016!! Let God guide your steps and you will not fall!!



The Old Family Bible
A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he held in his hand was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

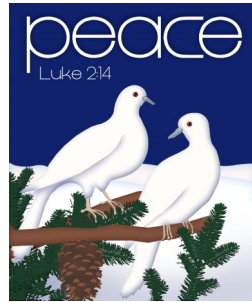
“Mama, look what I found!” the boy called out.

“What have you got there, dear?” asked his mother.

The young boy answered in a voice hushed with awe, “I think it’s Adam’s underwear.”

Peace & Justice

The Lexington Ministerial Alliance will host their annual Community Peace & Justice Service Sunday, January 17, 7:00 pm at the Presbyterian Disciples Church. All the Pastors associated with the Ministerial Alliance will share in this service. All are invited to attend.



A Hymn for the New Year
Washington Gladden, a prolific Congregationalist pastor during the early 20th century, became well-known for his stands on social issues.

His hymn “O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee,” partially quoted below, appeals to Christ for his companionship, guidance, inner peace and hope. It’s an ideal hymn for beginning a new year.

O Master, let me walk with thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me thy secret; help me bear,
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future’s broadening way,
In peace that only thou canst give,
With thee, O Master, let me live.

There will be a Congregational Meeting following worship on Sunday, January 17th to vote and approve new Board members for the Class of 2016. These Board Members will be installed during worship on Sunday, January 24th.



Board will meet again on Sunday, January 17th following the congregational meeting.



A Loose Change Special Offering is taken the First Sunday of Every Month to support local missions.



Wise Words
Want to provoke a warm response from others? Look in people’s eyes and smile sincerely.

Faith isn’t meant to be kept to oneself. It simply has to be shared in non-threatening ways and shown in loving actions.

Peace must begin within ourselves. Anger only provokes anger in others.

We cannot make enough of the virtue of trust. If we cannot be trusted, of what value are we?

Looking Ahead to February, plan to bring cans of soup for Souper Bowl of Sharing on Sunday, February 7th to be donated to the Food Pantry.



A Huge Thank You to everyone that brought food for the food pantry during the months of November and December. The Food Pantry was very appreciative of our generosity.

Lectionary Readings for January:

- 03– Jeremiah 31:7-14; Psalm 147:12-20; Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18
- 10 – Isaiah 43:1-7; Psalm 29; Acts 8:14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
- 17 – Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11
- 24 — Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31; Luke 4:14-21
- 31 — Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 – Shawn Spencer
- 05 – Stephanie Chapman
- 07 – Shelley Maze
- 08 – Tom Bell
- 12 – Greg Morgan
- 15 – Dustin Shaner
- 16 – Shawna Shovald
- 21 – Derek Osman, Ian Swisher
- 25 – Bill Blass
- 28 – Mary Williams
- 30 – Jim Mayfield

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 01 – Candy & MJ 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,
 Christopher Gerald

We Pray for:
 Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Alma Richter, Betty Swisher, Vonnie Farlow, Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris Bradley, Beryl Myatt, Irene Bunner, Paula Bunner, Jerry Westcott, Maria Lappert, Mary Ann & Ronnie Barker, Kathy & Larry Neil, Jake Means, Beth Maxwell Burk, Robert Smith, Ruth Cook, Getty Miller, Steve & Wilma Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Gladys Duffett, Janice Mayfield, Janice Peterson, Peggy McGregor, Rick Failing, Roy Marchetti, Greg Major, Bill Cross, Bonny Bunner, Disaster Victims, & Future of our church
 Families of Lois Wood, Debbie Morrison

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

THANKS
 for
 remembering



It's a Gift
 Those talents which God has bestowed upon us are not our own goods but the free gifts of God; and any persons who become proud of them show their ungratefulness.
 —John Calvin

Mark Your Calendars for Embracing Hope on Saturday February 6, 2016 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM Southminster Presbyterian Church 6306 Roe Avenue Prairie Village, Kansas —register by January 15

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. “ Jeremiah 29:11

Tentative Schedule

- 7:30 registration opens/continental breakfast
- 8:30 gathering
- 9:00 workshop 1
- 10:15 workshop 2
- 11:15 Lunch 1
- 11:45 Lunch 2
- 12:30 workshop 3
- 1:30 snack/dessert
- 1:45 keynote and worship
- 3:30 Take hope back to your church!

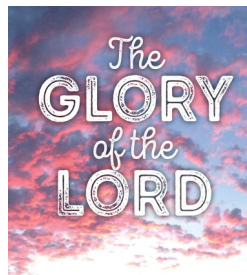
Participant costs are \$35 per person, but if your church registers five people by Thursday, January 15, a sixth person can attend free.

CMD will offer child care during the three workshops. You must, however, register the child(ren) by Wednesday, January 15. The cost will be \$15.

Register online at: <http://www.churchresourcecenter.org/embracinghope/>

Contact Malinda Spencer with questions 816.923.5486

Lexington R-V School District and Discovery Room Preschool will start back to school on Tuesday, January 5th.



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.



The Hand of God
 God's gentle Hand is guiding,
 But it doesn't push or shove,
 Instead it clasps our human hands
 And leads with Grace and Love.

We find within this Hand of God
 A heavenly Strength indeed,
 And as we follow, God provides
 For what we truly need.

—Peggy Ferrell,
 Prayers and Poems



Thank you to everyone who helped get the church ready for the 1st Annual Yuletide Festival and Church Tours= in December. It was wonderful weather and our church looked beautiful.



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.lafayettecountymo.com

"The Name Above Every Name"

O what is Jehovah El Shaddai to me?
 My Lord, God and Savior, Immanuel, He;
 My Prophet, Priest, Sacrifice, Altar and Lamb;
 Judge, Advocate, Surety and Witness, I AM;
 My Peace and my Life, my Truth and my Way;
 My Leader, my Teacher, my Hope and my Stay;
 Redeemer and Ransom, Atonement and Friend;
 He's Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End.
 —Rev. John H. Sammis



This day
 is holy.

Nehemiah 8:9

The Meaning of Epiphany

Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word epiphaneia, means "an appearance" or "a revealing." Centuries ago, the church set aside January 6, the 12th day after Christmas, to mark the revealing of Jesus as Christ to the wise men, who were Gentiles. Jesus' first followers were Jewish, so the revelation of the divine Christ to the non-Jewish magi reminds us that Jesus came to earth to save the whole world.

Symbols of Epiphany include light, a star, a crown (or three crowns) and a globe or stylized portrayal of the world. The color of Epiphany is green to symbolize life, growth, hope and eternity.

On the church calendar, the Epiphany season lasts until Ash Wednesday, which is determined by the date of Easter.

Always Doing a New Thing

In 2015, scientists discovered more than 18,000 new species — some ancient and extinct, others contemporary. They include a cartwheeling spider; fossils of a "feathered dinosaur"; a beautiful sea slug that photographs in brilliant blues, reds and golds; a Christmas-colored plant that grows in near isolation in Mexico; and a pufferfish whose males make intricate seafloor "crop circles" as spawning nests.

Such discoveries — regardless of how old or new the species are — demonstrate the ongoing creativity of God, who both does new things and gives people new abilities to discover them.

Recently, we began a new church year with Advent. At Christmas, God did a new thing by becoming human. Now we launch into a new calendar year, in which scientists will surely discover more new creatures. The newness all around us reminds us that God is always doing a new thing in our lives, too!



A Good Start

He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, he will be in the last place the remainder of the day.

—E.M. Bounds

Quiet my heart to receive your Word, O Lord.



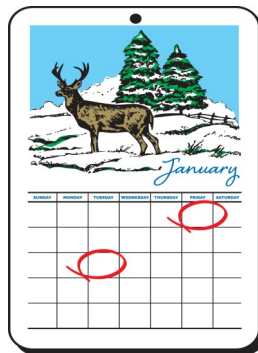
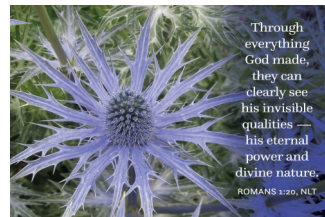
"Holiness is not something we do or attain; it is the communication of the divine life, the inbreathing of the divine nature, the power of the divine presence resting on us."
 —Andrew Murray

This is the Day

On your new calendar, be sure to mark important dates such as National Drinking Straw Day (January 3), National Artichoke Hearts Day (March 16) and National Crouton Day (May 13). Those pseudo-holidays are now catalogued as part of the National Day Calendar, a venture by a North Dakota businessman.

For a fee starting at \$1,500, anyone can register a national day or even give one as a gift. Special-interest groups are discovering that national days are great for marketing.

Throughout the Bible, God instructs people to set aside special days for rest and remembrance. Yet to him, every day is holy — even if it lacks a holiday, pseudo or otherwise. "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24).



Hate Vs. Love

Civil-rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. compared hate to "an unchecked cancer," saying it "corrodes the personality and eats away its vital unity." Unfortunately, the destructive force of hatred is often evident in nations, communities, families and even churches.

The obvious — though not always easy — antidote to hatred is love. As The Message translation of Proverbs 10:12 states, "Hatred starts fights, but love pulls a quilt over the bickering." The image of a comfy quilt symbolizes the soothing impact that loving words and actions can have on enemies as well as friends.

Plus, it's tough to share the gospel without showing love, which social reformer Elizabeth Cady Stanton called "the 'open sesame' to every soul."

Seeking the Best

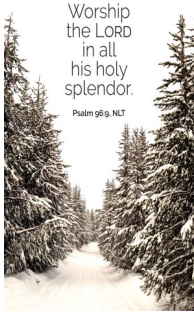
I believe that appreciation is a holy thing — that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred.

—Fred Rogers



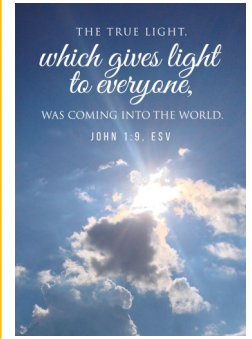
+Christian Symbol+
Shell

A scallop shell, pointing downward with three drops of water falling from it, is often used to symbolize baptism and the washing away of sin. The three water droplets stand for the Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit.



Kindness Counts

- Make blankets or scarves for homeless people.
- Send a care package to someone who's in college or the military.
- Collect coins for a charity or cause.
- When you can't attend an event, give the tickets to strangers.
- Provide tutoring or mentoring in your field of expertise.
- Offer to babysit or pet-sit for free.
- Send a note of appreciation to someone who's made a difference in your life.
- Share your gifts of music, reading or conversation at a nursing home.
- Donate old sports equipment to schools.
- Give someone the benefit of the doubt — maybe even a family member or yourself!



A Rib Tickler

After her husband was out late for a few nights, Eve was upset. "Are you out with other women?" she asked.

"Don't be unreasonable," replied Adam.

"You're the only woman on earth."

The quarrel ended when Adam fell asleep. When he awakened with pokes to the chest, he asked, "What are you doing?" "Counting your ribs!" Eve said.

A Great Heart

Great beauty, great strength and great riches are really and truly of no great use; a right heart exceeds all.

—Benjamin Franklin

A new day! A new year! Show me the steps you would have me take, O Lord.

Thank you for drawing me here today, God. You always know just what I need.

Ode to Sunday

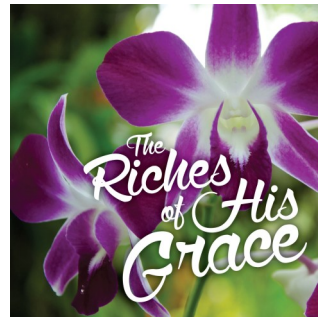
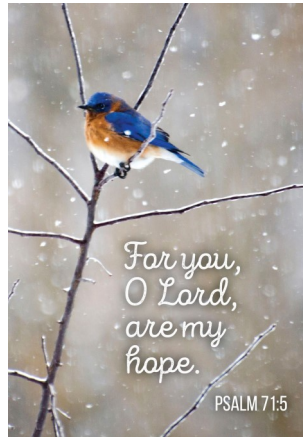
Of all the days that's in the week I dearly love but one day, And that's the day that comes betwixt A Saturday and Monday.

—Henry Carey

Before All Else Fails

In *Too Busy Not to Pray* (InterVarsity Press), Bill Hybels cites reasons that prayers may seem to go unanswered (unconfessed sin, selfishness and so on). The most common cause, though, is prayerlessness:

"People often tell me how they have attempted to address a pressing need," Hybels writes. "They have gone to counselors, read self-help books, claimed biblical promises, practiced self-discipline, confided in Christian friends, practiced assertiveness or submission or self-denial or positive thinking, even read books about prayer — and their need is still not met." But when asked if they've prayed "fervently and regularly" about the matter, the answer is usually no. James 4:2 says, "You do not have because you do not ask God." So instead of thinking "When all else fails, pray," try this: "Pray before all else fails."



A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.

Stand UP Stand UP FOR JESUS

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." —Martin Luther King Jr.

Resolve to Revitalize

Church revitalization is a hot topic, and ideas for congregations can bring fresh energy and meaning to personal and family life, too. Consider the following tips:

- Have a clear vision. It's easy to go along day to day without considering what you're moving toward. Beyond the everyday routine, what bigger vision does God have for you? This year, take specific steps toward living that out.
- Ask questions. What gets you excited — even passionate? What issues or situations break your heart? What are you good at? Resolve to use a talent or something you enjoy to help heal hurts.
- Balance history with innovation. Honor your past as God's gift that makes you who you are, but be open to change. Dare to step out in faith for the sake of your life's mission. Try something new in the spirit of the God who's always doing a new thing (Isaiah 43:19; Revelation 21:5). The best way to revitalize a church might be to revitalize the lives of its individual members!

Feed My Sheep

When Katie Davis traveled to Uganda in 2006 to do missions work during her senior year of high school, she didn't expect to fall in love with the people and culture. She also didn't expect to return after graduation — or to adopt 13 orphans within a few years.

Davis, who details her adventures in *Kisses From Katie* (Howard Books), helps bring food, medical care, education and Jesus' love to hundreds of children while raising her 13 daughters.

Yet she insists she's not particularly brave or strong. "I'm just doing what God called me to do as a follower of him," Davis says. "Feed his sheep, do unto the least of his people."

Although she's been exposed to diseases and deplorable conditions in Uganda, Davis willingly accepts the risks. "I'm much more terrified of living a comfortable life in a self-serving society and failing to follow Jesus than I am of any illness or tragedy," she writes. "I have yet to find where [Jesus] warned us to be safe."

As we settle back into non-holiday routines, Jesus, remind us that every day is holy when we live in you. Amen.

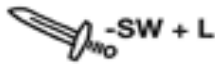
PUZZLE

LET THERE BE LIGHT

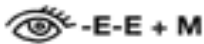
In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

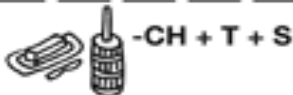
“ Y O U , _____ , A R E





_____ ; T H E



M Y



D +  +  - T + S

I N T O _____ .”



2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: “You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light.” 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV

GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.



What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell “God is light.”
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!



“You'll love the congregation. We're just chock-full of sermon material.”



Bible Quiz

According to the Gospel of John, which disciples led others to Jesus, and whom did they lead?

- A. Matthew led Judas.
- B. Andrew led Simon-Peter.
- C. James led John.
- D. Philip led Nathanael.
- E. All of the above.
- F. B and D.

Answer: See John 1:40-42, 45



January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year 2016	2
3	4	5 Back to School	6	7	8 9-11 Food Pantry	9 Go Chiefs!
10	11	12	13 7pm Choir Practice	14	15 1-3 Food Pantry	16
17 Congregational Mtg Board Mtg 7pm Peace & Justice Service	18 Observation of Martin Luther King, Jr's Bday	19	20 8:30-11:30 60+ Commodities 7pm Choir Practice	21	22 9-11 Food Pantry	23
24 10am Choir Practice Installation of Elders	25	26	27 9am Food Pantry Delivery	28 8:30-11:30 Commodities	29 9-11 Food Pantru	30
31						



Presbyterian Disciples Church
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Lexington, MO 64067
660-259-2102
presdisciples@embargmail.com
Rev. John Swisher

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



A winter welcome

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