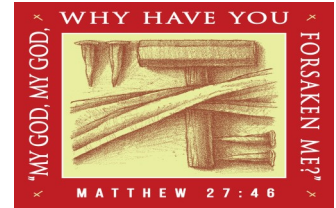




Newsletter Presbyterian Disciples Church March 2017



Pastor's Page—March, 2017—"Borrowed for Lent" Presbyterian Disciples Church, Lexington, MO

In an afterword following the book *Unbinding the Gospel* by Martha Grace Reese, another guy, Brian McLaren talks a little bit about evangelism as a reflection on his recent doctor's visit. While at his appointment, he says the doctor asked him a question, which wasn't quite a question, but started them off on a good conversation. He said his doctor told him that he was thinking more about his own life and its meaning, his mortality, his spirit, how he had lived his life, and God. But he said everytime he wanted to talk about this with someone else, he heard some wacko on TV talking about God, and he didn't want to get into that kind of a conversation so he never brought it up with anybody. He said he wanted to know about this because he knew Brian was a Christian and wondered what he thought.

So here are Brian McLaren's observations about his conversation which followed with his doctor:

"First, people like my doctor—intelligent people, thoughtful, honest people—really want to talk about God and the spiritual life...., everywhere I go I find people who are thinking about life and its meaning, their destiny, soul, and purpose, in other words God. And they want to talk. They need to talk. And they need a conversation partner.

Second, there are plenty of religious wacko's around who talk about God a lot. Whatever the religion, there are people who abuse it and say "absolutely outrageous" things "in the name of God or religion", as my doctor said.

And third, there are plenty of sincere and generous people of faith around too who would be great conversation partners for people like my doctor. But here's the problem: so many of them are so afraid of sounding like the wacko's that they keep their faith to themselves."

McLaren goes on to say "On my way home from the doctor's office, I turned on the radio and caught the news. More violence. More bad news about global warming. More political division and rancorous name-calling. More stories of people abusing other people sexually, kids with guns, crooked politicians, corrupt business executives.

I thought to myself 'What can change this vicious cycle of viciousness?' I switched the radio off as I drove long in silence I remembered the famous quote from the nineteenth century British statesman, Edmund Burke: 'All that the forces of evil need to win in this world is for enough good people to do nothing,' or something to that effect.

I thought, 'Somebody should start an organization that would mobilize people—recruit them, train, them, support them—so they could be good people who do something so that the forces of evil don't win in this world. 'This organization would need to accept people just they are, infuse them with hope, give them a vision of a better world, give them a vision for themselves becoming agents of making that better world a reality It would need to both practice and preach. Why hasn't somebody started an organization like that?'

And of course, about a quarter mile down the road I realized that somebody had done just that. In fact, it had cost him everything to do so."

As titled, I borrowed this for Lent. Hope you find it helpful. Blessings on your way, js

Church Chuckle: Answer on a Bible literacy exam: Epistle: the wife of an apostle!



John Swisher
1064 Redman, Marshall, Missouri
660-202-3318
john.swisher@mmuonline.com



The Sounds of the Heart ministry raises funds to purchase automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in public buildings and churches in Lexington. Thanks to all of you who support us in our mission to provide this life-saving equipment! The annual Sounds of the Heart Concert will take place on Saturday, April 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Lexington Middle School, featuring a wonderful mix of songs by Chicago-area duo, Diva and George, and the 50s rock-n-roll band, The Fabulous Torques



Discovery Room Preschool will participate in their 7th Annual Trike-a-Thon to benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Tuesday, **March 21st from 9-11:30am** at Wentworth Military Academy Field House. You can make a donation online at <http://trikeathon.stjude.org/zademyers> or contact **Candy Myers at 660-232-0303 or presdisciples@embarqmail.com**



The Cancer Assistance Relief ministry (CAR) provides transportation for cancer patients living in the 64067 zip code to their chemo or radiation treatments in Kansas City. Since 1987, CAR has helped more than 300 people and has traveled more than 650,000 miles! If you would like to be an important part of another person's healing and recovery, please call Betty Weddle at 660-909-2868. Volunteer CAR drivers transport patients living in the 64067 zip code and are reimbursed or mileage.



We will have our Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, March 5th following worship. During the meeting we will review the annual report and approve the new Board Members.



The prospective new board members will be ordained and installed on Sunday, March 12th during worship service and will preside at their first board meeting following worship.



It is time to start thinking about Community Vacation Bible School. VBS will be held at the Trinity United Church of Christ this year. The first VBS Planning Meeting will be held Monday, March 6th at 6:00pm at Trinity UCC Education Building. The committee all love the t-shirts we have gotten the kids the last couple of years and are going to be trying to fundraise to be able to purchase shirts again this year. Co-Leaders for this year's VBS will be Penny Smith and Patty Ellison. Please let me know if you will be able to assist with VBS this year. Contact Candy Myers with any questions at 660-232-0303 or presdisciples@embarqmail.com.



Upcoming Community Events

Lexington's History in Pictures
03-03-2017
Location: Margaret Gray Center
Fried chicken dinner available following the presentation.

Kids Closet Collection
03-07-2017 to 03-11-2017
Warrensburg Community Center

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
03-10-2017
03-17-2017
03-24-2017
03-31-2017
04-07-2017
4:30-6:30pm
\$8.00

St. Pat's Parade
03-11-2017
Location: Downtown Lexington
2:00pm

St. Pat's Bash
03-11-2017
Location: Lexington VFW
Doors open at 3:00pm Music from 4:00pm to Midnight. Featuring "Rampage" and more.

Snake Saturday Celebration
03-11-2017
Location: The Spotted Pig
Serving corn beef & cabbage. "Hammer Toe and the Fun Guys" on stage from 9:00pm - 1:00am.

Lexington Rotary Taco Dinner
03-16-2017
4:30-7:00pm
Lafayette Regional Health Center Cafeteria
\$6.00 per person
Dine In/Carry Out

Shamrock Shake
03-17-2017
Location: The Lex
7-10pm Family Entertainment includes Food, Drinks, Music, Prizes, Dancing, Kids Crafts and Photo Fun

Lectionary Readings for March:

- 05 – Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7; Psalm 32; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11
- 12 – Genesis 12:1-4; Psalm 121; Romans 4:1-5, 13-17; John 3:1-17
- 19 – Exodus 17:1-7 ; Psalm 95; Romans 5:1-11; John 4:5-42
- 26 — 1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

Don't Forget to Spring Your Clocks Forward for Daylight Savings Time on Sunday, March 12th.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 10 – Carli Wrisinger
- 14 – Carla Ashinhurst
- 19 – Harriet Cox, Mike Kramer
- 21 – Lois Coulter
- 24 – Susan Bryant, Doris Bradley
- 25 – Lenny Spencer
- 26 – Lela Bryant
- 27 – Cristhina Starke, Chris Christenson
- 30 – Evelyn Morgan

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 – John & Linda Marchetti
- 28 – Greg & Kelly Morgan



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

Our Servicemen:

Nathan Wrisinger, Bobby Maze, Bo Maze, Derek Morgan, Eric Morgan, MJ Myers, Mark Brubeck, Ryland Sims, Johnathan Lefholz, Brittany & Jimmy Register, Christopher Gerald, Phil Garrison

We Pray for:
 Mary Williams, Anne Brubeck, Betty Swisher, Linda & John Larry Marchetti, Lela Bryant, Doris Bradley, Kathy & Larry Neil, Robert Smith, Steve Sellers, Chris & Stephanie Christenson, Jake Means, Frayetta Street, Roy Marchetti, Greg Major, Bill & LaVeda Cross, Bonny Bunner, Lois Coulter, Kendra Redden, Lisa Vance, Tim Crosson, Philip Ralston, Our Country, Disaster Victims, & Future of our church
 Families of Lori Archer, Phyllis Davis, Juanita Davis, Betty Lee, Able Countess McGuire Haun, Mary Jane Lynn

Leslie Bell PTO is having their third annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, Thursday, March 31st from 5:30-7pm at the Lexington Middle School. The cost of the dinner is \$5.00 per person with children 2 and under free. Take out is available and tickets can be purchased at the door. Basket Raffles and a Silent Auction will also be available. Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00. Anyone and everyone is welcome to attend!

Come to the Church on Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00pm to receive ashes for Ash Wednesday with Pastor Swisher.

• A S H •
Wednesday



"Just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another."
 JOHN 13:34, ESV

World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 3rd.

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

Holy Week Services will be held at Second Baptist Church this year leading up to Easter Sunday. They will start on Monday, April 10th. Breakfast will be at 6:30am and devotionals will be held at 7am. Each morning a different Minister will deliver the Devotional.

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 want information about volunteering.



March Youth Event
 We are planning on taking the Youth Bowling at the Higginsville Lanes on Saturday, March 25th. We need to know who all will be going to this event so we know how many lanes we need to reserve at the bowling alley. Please let Candy know as soon as possible if you will be going or not. Come join the fun!!

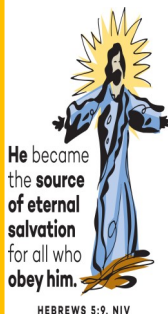
There are lots of committees that help the church run smoothly, please take some time to think about which committee you would like to be a part of. All of us have talents that can be used to better run our church. The Committees for the church are listed below. If you are interested in signing up for one of these committees, please contact a board member.

- Worship Committee
- Building and Grounds Committee
- Fellowship Committee
- Christian Education Committee
- Mission and Outreach Committee
- Stewardship Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Nominations Committee

Board Members for 2017 are:
 Joe Aull, Bob Mitchell, John Morgan, Janice Peterson, Janice Mayfield, Sherry Braden, Candy Myers, Beth McCrary, Jill Oetting



The Youth will start having fundraisers so we can continue to participate in fun activities and learning opportunities for our youth. Please watch the newsletters and bulletins as to when and what fundraisers we will be doing so we get lots of participation.



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

Puzzle!

Are you getting "antsy" for spring?
Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces to
complete these words that end in A-N-T.

		A	N	T				
			A	N	T			
				A	N	T		
					A	N	T	
						A	N	T

CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▼ An 8-foot man would be one
- ▼ To take back one's testimony
- ▼ Opposite of a master
- ▼ Pertaining to, germane
- ▼ A drug that heightens the senses

Answers: giant, recant, servant, relevant, stimulant



Having nothing, and yet possessing everything.
2 CORINTHIANS 6:10



Wonder of Wonders

The world is filled with wonders, writes Nathaniel Olson. Consider chemistry: Salt is formed by two poisonous substances (sodium and chlorine). The alnico magnet, the world's strongest, contains three nonmagnetic substances (aluminum, nickel and cobalt). And water consists of oxygen (which is flammable) and hydrogen (which burns easily); yet water puts out fires!

That pales in comparison to the wonder of salvation through Jesus. Every day, Olson writes, Jesus transforms filthy, hopeless sinners into new, forgiven creations. "On the skid rows of our cities, in wealthy and poor homes, in jungles ... whenever any soul wants Christ, the wonder of the new birth is taking place."

Our God is the true Wonder of wonders. "None can compare" (Psalm 40:5).

From Great to Good

Jim Collins' 2001 book *Good to Great* featured companies that had "made the leap" to greatness. Years later, many of them are no longer great; some aren't even around.

Should Christians seek greatness? After all, our attempts to be great — wealthy, powerful, successful, famous — often become the "enemies" of our doing the good God commands.

God's Word flips on its head the saying "good is the enemy of great." The meek, Jesus teaches, will inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5). "Whoever would be great among you," he says, "must be your servant" (Mark 10:43, ESV). One of Jesus' most famous parables is called the Good Samaritan, not the Great Samaritan. And goodness, not greatness, is a fruit of the Spirit.

Christians and churches are called not to greatness but to doing good for the sake of the world. Let's shift our focus "from great to good."

—Based on "From Great to Good," *Homiletics*, January-February 2017

Perfect Victory

Many people enjoy making basketball picks in March, though their brackets are soon "busted." Selecting every correct victor throughout the NCAA tournament would be quite a feat. According to *Mental Floss* magazine, if you flipped a coin for each game, the odds of achieving a perfect bracket would be one in 9.2 quintillion! By comparison, your odds of becoming president are one in 10 million, and your odds of bowling a perfect game are one in 11,500.

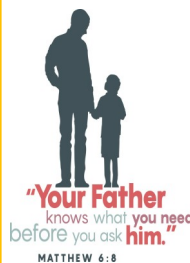
For odds that are less of a long shot, consider this: Your chance of living an imperfect life is one in one. Sin is the ultimate bracket-buster, and you'd be hopelessly lost without a Savior. "But thanks be to God, who gives [you] the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:57).

Entering Glory

Martyn Lloyd-Jones, who served as pastor of London's Westminster Chapel for almost 30 years, couldn't speak at the end of his life. Days before dying, he wrote, "Do not pray for my healing. Do not hold me back from the glory."

The Apostle Paul was torn between staying on earth and going to heaven: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ... I am hard pressed between the two" (Philippians 1:21, 23).

Neither of these men feared death; nor should any Christian. As Haddon Robinson said, "For those who trust Jesus Christ, death is not a sheriff dragging us off to court but a servant ushering us into the presence of a loving Lord."



God's Hands

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again — the short hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely, the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike. But over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixty-fold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial. And both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.
—Virginia Brandt Berg



Willing to Worship

Lamentation is a powerful, and meaningful, form of worship because it places our love for God above even the worst of circumstances in our life. ... God does not ask us to deny the existence of our suffering. He does want us to collect it, stand in those things and make him an offering.

The Holy Spirit, our Comforter, helps us to do this: He aligns himself with our will and says, "I will help you to will to worship God." The glory of the majesty of God is that he helps us will and do.
—Graham Cooke

Giving Up Guilt

Rev. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest who ministers to high-risk youth in Los Angeles, once quipped, "I ... don't do guilt. I gave it up for Lent years ago." Many Christians give up something for Lent but usually not guilt! Rather, Lent is seen as a time to somberly examine our sinful nature.

Having witnessed sin's tragic effects through addiction, violence and gang warfare, Father Boyle realizes that dwelling on guilt doesn't lead to hope or healing. Instead, he helps young people discover their God-given strengths and their ability to make life-affirming choices. His nonprofit Homeboy Industries provides positive alternatives for teenagers, who are reminded not of their guilt but of their identity as God's beloved children.

On Good Friday Jesus conquered sin and death so we don't have to wallow in guilt. Giving our lives to God frees us to live in the joy of forgiveness.



Relentless Prayers

Are you reluctant to bring the same prayers to your heavenly Father over and over? Maybe you don't want to trouble God; after all, he already knows what you're going to say. Plus, you're not worthy to ask for anything!

If those thoughts surround you, think about Patrick, Ireland's patron saint. At 16, he was dragged from his home to be a slave. Patrick tended sheep in the cold. Hungry and miserable, he begged God for mercy and deliverance.

In his Confessio, Patrick recalls praying "a hundred times in the day and almost as many at night." Without ceasing, he told God of his needs, wants, thanksgiving and confession. And God heard his prayers.

Pray relentlessly. God is always listening!
—MaryAnn Sundby

"A Different Beautiful"

Brenna Westlake, now 5, was born with a condition that makes her skin grow too fast, become thick and inflexible, and look red and scaly. While managing Brenna's complex care and helping her master developmental milestones, her parents have made new discoveries about beauty.

"Sometimes the most beautiful things ... come from the unexpected parts of life that encourage us to search a little harder to find where the beauty lies — to put aside preconceived notions about what beautiful is and what it isn't," writes Courtney Westlake in *A Different Beautiful* (Shiloh Run Press).

"There is a different beautiful than the perfection our culture often worships. That beautiful is found not when we open our eyes but rather when we open our hearts. That different beautiful is found in the uniqueness God has bestowed on every single one of us and the gifts he has placed within us to be shared with the world."



True Friendship

A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.

—William Arthur Ward

The Key of the Day

Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night.

—George Herbert

+Christian Symbol+ Hen

The hen represents Jesus' deep care and compassion even for those who killed prophets God had sent to them. "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem," mourned Jesus shortly before his death. "How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!" (Matthew 23:37, ESV).





PUZZLE

The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below. Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
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A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z	___
A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	___
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z	___

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.

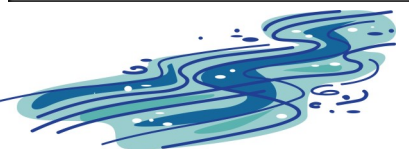


What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.

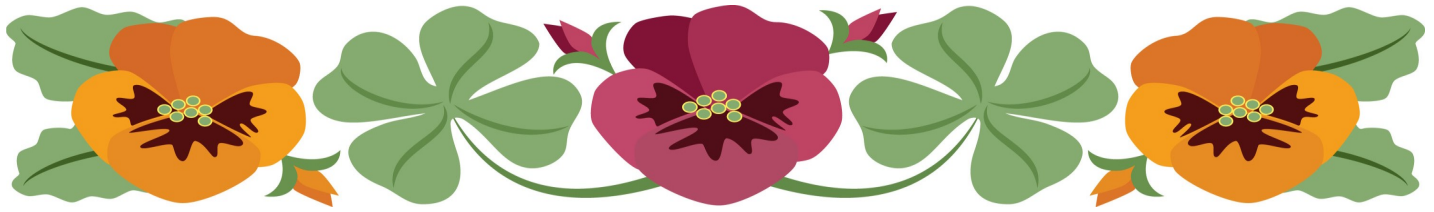


Bible Quiz

In John 4, Jesus talks with a woman about living water. Where does that conversation take place?

- A. Sychar
- B. Samaria
- C. Galilee
- D. Jacob's well

Answer: See John 4:4-7



March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7pm Ash Wednesday	2	3 9-11 Food Pantry ECC Walk-a-Thon	4
5 Annual Mtg 1st Sunday in Lent	6 6pm VBS Mtg- TUCC	7	8	9	10 9-11 Food Pantry Lexington NO School	11 2pm St. Patricks Day Parade
12 Daylight Savings Installation & Ordination of Elders Board Mtg 2nd Sunday in Lent	13 Lexington No School	14	15	16 4:30-7pm Rotary Taco Dinner-LRHC	17 1-3 Food Pantry 7-10pm Shamrock Shake-The LEX	18
19 3rd Sunday in Lent	20	21 9-11:30 DRP Trike-a-Thon	22	23 8:30-11:30 Commodities	24 9-11 Food Pantry	25 12-2pm ? Youth Bowling
26 4th Sunday in Lent	27	28	29 5:15pm Fair Board Mtg	30 9-1 DRP Field Trip 5-7pm LBS Spa- ghetti Dinner	31 9-11 Food Pantry	



Presbyterian Disciples Church
914 Franklin Ave., PO Box 28
Lexington, MO 64067
660-259-2102
presdisciples@embarqmail.com
Rev. John Swisher

Worship Service 10:45am - 12:00pm
Children's Church 11:00am-12:00pm
All Are Welcome



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