

II White Memorial Presbyterian Church

March 2018



Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ...so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11



a word from our pastor...

The Reverend Bob Phelps

Finding Peace

Finding Peace is the guiding principle of our Lenten journey this year. Each Sunday in worship, we're focusing on where we find peace as we grow as disciples. We began on Ash Wednesday with a call to be reconciled and be at peace. The first Sunday in Lent helped us try to make sense of suffering. Week two called us to remember that Christ calls us out in the open and reminds us to respond in the same way. This month, we'll begin with a reminder that God decides who is worthy of redemption, not us. That's a big load we don't have to carry. The fourth week in Lent will assure us that we are saved by grace through faith and not by works. The fifth week will confront us with Jesus' willing sacrifice on our behalf. That will bring us to Palm Sunday, a joyful celebration before we enter Holy Week with its somber reminders of the passion and death of Jesus. I hope you'll join us for worship each week as we seek God's peace together.

Peace! I hope that you are finding additional ways to experience peace during Lent this year. Like all things intended to help us grow in faith, we will benefit from our Lenten experience if we see it as helpful and not burdensome. Many

find Lenten sacrifice a helpful tool. Giving up something important to us helps us to think about the sacrifice Jesus made on our behalf.

Of course, doing without chocolate or soft drinks (or hard ones) for forty days pales in comparison to what Jesus endured, but anything that helps us think of Christ's love for us is good. Others have found that taking on some new discipline is more helpful. Spending more time in prayer, taking on some additional study of Scripture, doing acts of kindness or compassion for others--these and other efforts can help us to focus on our faith, too.

The goal of all this activity, during Lent or any other time, is to draw closer to Christ and to experience his love for us and its call to love one another. This year's Lenten Bible study on Sunday afternoons at 5 pm focuses on the Beatitudes. It's not too late to join that group and find peace in Jesus' teachings.

I look forward to seeking and finding peace with you in this season and in the joyous celebration of Easter that will follow it.

Grace and Peace,
Bob



Music Notes

from Deanna Phelps, Music Director

The choir is working hard to prepare for all the worship experiences we will have together during



Lent and Easter this year. We're still struggling with some pieces and are making good progress on others. I've thought some recently about how similar our work on music for worship is to our journey as disciples. As we learn music, we cover the same ground over and over, working on individual notes and parts and then combining them into a whole piece. Sometimes we feel that way about our Bible study and worship. We hear

the same stories over and over. Some of them we think we know, and some of them seem to have new things to teach us every time we encounter them. When we learn to put the individual stories of Scripture into a broader understanding of God's love for us, we begin to get the point. Working together is another important skill in music. We need good soloists once in a while, but there is little place for solo voices in a choir. When we learn to blend our voices together, we make beautiful music together. When individual voices dominate, we become something else. In a similar way, we can always accomplish more in the church together than any of us can accomplish alone. When we learn to identify and use the gifts of all, we accomplish great things for God's mission. And then of course, there is the matter of new things. Many of us love the old hymns and songs we have known all our life, but God calls us to sing a new song. We try to strike a balance in the choir between things you know and new things. So, in our faith, the way we have always done things is comfortable, but as the world changes around us, we find new ways to both hear and share the Good News.

As always, there is a place for new singers in the choir. We look forward to all the opportunities we will have to worship and grow together as Easter approaches.

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Schedule

Remember all the activities of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter:

- ❖ *Lenten Sunday Worship:* We'll continue to explore the theme of Finding Peace on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am.
- ❖ *Lenten Bible Study: The Beatitudes:* Sunday afternoons, March 11, 18, and 25 at 5 pm in the Covenant Life Classroom on the second floor.
- ❖ *Mid-Week Bible Study:* follows supper, around 6:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Holy Week

- ❖ *Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 25:* We'll begin worship on the sidewalk by Delaware Avenue (weather permitting) and process into worship together with palm branches and hosannas!
- ❖ *Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, March 26, 27, 28--*the Sanctuary will be open for prayer each day. We'll provide suggestions for prayer and Scripture reading for each day.
- ❖ *Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 29, 6:30 pm:* We'll gather to celebrate the Sacrament of Communion on the night when Jesus instituted this celebration. The Choir will guide us to the Table with several pieces designed to help us experience the depth of Christ's sacrifice.
- ❖ *Good Friday: Friday, March 30, 6:30 pm:* We'll gather for a service of solemn remembrance as we remember the day Jesus died for our sins. The Choir will sing, and we will hear the painful story of the crucifixion.

Easter Worship



- ❖ *Sunrise:* Sunrise comes at 6:49 am on Easter this year. We'll gather at that time of morning (location to be announced) for our first joyful celebration of Good News. Breakfast will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall. Plan to stay and enjoy food and fellowship together.
- ❖ *10:30 Worship:* We'll gather in the Sanctuary all decked out in lilies and white for a celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord.

Sunday School will not meet on Easter. Plan to bring visiting family and friends for our celebration.

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Mississippi will hold their *30th Annual PW Gathering* at Fondren Presbyterian in Jackson on Saturday, March 10. Several women from JJ White plan to attend the event of friendship and worship with women across the Presbytery. PDA "Gift of the Heart" kits from JJ White will be delivered to the pastor of Fondren to be taken from there to the receiving facility in Arkansas - postage free!



This gathering in Jackson will take the place of the usual PW of JJ White meeting for March. The next regularly scheduled meeting PW of JJ White will be on Tuesday, April 10, at 11:30 in the Fellowship Hall.



All women are invited and encouraged to join this group for mission, Bible study, and friendship - plus a light lunch.

Gift of the Heart Kits



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

We have been assembling Gift of the Heart Kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) since before Christmas. Our Presbyterian Women's group, some Sunday School groups, and some individuals have assembled clean up buckets, personal hygiene kits, and school supply kits for a couple of months. We have been joined in our efforts by area Realtors who have made personal hygiene kits one of their service projects this year. Our Debbie Stovall has spearheaded this effort. The Pike County Quilters' Guild, who meet in our building once a month, have also contributed kits. We are grateful for all who have helped with this important ministry. As spring storm season approaches, our efforts will help keep PDA supplied.

Members of our Presbyterian Women group will be delivering these kits when they travel to Jackson on March 10 to participate in the annual spring PW gathering at the Fondren Church there. Rob Lowry, the pastor at Fondren, has ties to Arkansas and has offered to deliver these kits for us. We are grateful for his help.

There is still time if you would like to participate in this mission project. Lists of what goes in each kit are available at all the sanctuary entrances. Kits must be here by Wednesday, March 7, and, at this point, we are accepting only complete kits. Please see Suzi Drummond for more information. Thanks to all who have helped with this effort.

Daylight Saving Time Begins on March 11

Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour before retiring on Saturday, March 10. Daylight Saving Time will begin early in the morning on Sunday, March 11. You'll want to be on time for Sunday School and worship that day.

March Schedules

Flowers

4 Communion
11 Ralph Brock
18 Martha and Thad Simmons
25 Linda and J.C. Johnson

Children's Church

4 Lee Williams
11 Melisa DeCoux
18 Carol Rawlings
25 Sara Beth Williams

Sunday Morning Breakfast

4 Sharon White
11 Lee Williams
18 Mary Ann Ratcliff
25 Bill Mitchell

Ushers/Greeters

Tommy Ratcliff, Captain
Robbie DeCoux
John Drummond
Stacey Moak
Johnny Nance

Men's Interdenominational Breakfast

7 Dale, Whit
14 Kennon, Joseph
21 Renan, Buddy
28 Rick, Jim

Elder of the Month

Suzi Drummond

March

4 Judy Deer
6 Natalie Simo
8 Jim McElwee
11 Charles Ray
12 Dolores Duczer
15 Angie Simmons
Randy White
18 Alan Howell
19 Taylor Gatlin
23 Betty Penick
25 Dixie Fouche
Kirk Gibbes
29 Karen Sanders

April


1 Dominic Cotton
Meredith Singley
3 Sue White
16 Kay Robinson
17 Tommy Catchings
18 Bill Catchings
19 Lee Williams
20 Kennon Singley
21 Kathy Harbour
23 Nicky Barr
27 Tom Warren Wild



Happy Birthday!



March 2018

				1 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	2	3
4 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	5	6	7 7:15 a.m Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	8 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	9	10 PW's Annual Spring Gathering Fondren Presby. Jackson
11 Daylight Saving Time Begins 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship 5:00 Lenten Bible Study 6:00 Session Meets	12	13	14 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15	15 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	16	17
18 9:00 light breakfast 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Morning Worship 5:00 Lenten Bible Study	19	20 First Day of Spring 	21 7:15 am Men's Breakfast Wednesday Night Fellowship supper at 5:15 followed by activities for adult and children	22 Bible Study with Rev. Phelps 10:30 am Knutty Knitters 7:00 PM	23	24
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