



Grace Notes

Community of Grace UMC

March 2018

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Lent FAQ

We now stand in the midst of Lent. I thought you might like answers to some frequently asked questions:

- **Question:** What is Lent and why does it last forty days?
- **Answer:** Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or volunteering and giving of themselves for others. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" celebration of the Jesus' victory over sin and death.
- **Question:** What is Maundy Thursday?
- **Answer:** Maundy Thursday, also called Holy Thursday, is a service to commemorate Jesus' Last Supper and the beginning of our sacrament, the Lord's Supper. The word Maundy comes from the Latin mandatum, which means "commandment." At the Last Supper, Jesus gave the disciples a new commandment to love one another as he had loved them (John 13:34). Prior to breaking the bread with the disciples, Jesus washed their feet. Maundy Thursday worship services include Holy Communion and sometimes foot washing as well.
- **Question:** Where did Good Friday get its name?
- **Answer:** The source of our term for the Friday before Easter, "Good Friday," is not clear. It may be a corruption of the English phrase "God's Friday," according to Professor Laurence Hull Stookey in [*Calendar: Christ's Time for the Church*](#) (p. 96). It is a day that proclaims God's purpose of loving and redeeming the world through the cross of our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a day that is good because God was drawing the world to God's self in Christ. As seen in John's gospel, particularly, God was in control. God was not making the best of a bad situation, but was working out God's intention for the world — winning salvation for all people. We call it "good" because we look backward at the crucifixion through the lens of Easter!
- **Question:** Why is Easter on a different day each year?
- **Answer:** In 325 AD, the Council of Nicea set the date for the celebration of Easter as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the spring equinox, March 21. For this reason, the date will change each year and can fall anywhere from March 22 to April 25.

During this Lenten season, take time to repent and reflect as we prepare our hearts to receive the risen Christ on Easter Sunday.

Striving to be Faithful,

Pastor Donna

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

IN YOUR HEART

Birthdays:

John Templeton Mar. 1
 Sharon Leap Mar. 1
 Jean Backus Mar. 2
 Brenda Johnson Mar. 3

Ann Johnson Mar. 5
 Rob Preece Mar. 10
 Hunter Clark Mar. 13
 Barbara Dunn Mar. 15
 Lassa Hughes Mar. 16
 Samantha Thomas Mar. 16
 Connie Williams Mar. 19
 Ann Johnson Mar. 5
 Rob Preece Mar. 10
 Hunter Clark Mar. 13
 Barbara Dunn Mar. 15
 Lassa Hughes Mar. 16
 Samantha Thomas Mar. 16
 Connie Williams Mar. 19
 Jackie Nelson Mar. 23
 Denis Chapman Mar. 24
 Ronald Jones Mar. 24
 Pam Taylor Mar. 27
 Goldie Ross Mar. 28
 Becki Davis Mar. 29
 Phillip (Butch) Williams Mar. 29

If there is peace in your heart,
 you will find it impossible to hate.
 If there is honesty in your heart,
 you will find it impossible to judge another.
 If there is love in your heart
 then that is all there is.
 Fear is gone, as is judgement,
 and the desire for violence.

Kim Hauenstein

Untitled

I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining.
 I believe in love, even when I do not feel it.
 I believe in God, even when He is silent.

Written on a prison cell wall in a major
 prison camp. Author Unknown

ANNIVERSARIES:

Debby & Ed Webb Mar. 22

Upcoming Events:

Sun. March 11 Daylight Saving Time begins—set your clock **ahead** one hour.
 Sun. March 18 After 10am worship services **A Baby Shower for Charity Ritchie**
 Sat. March 24 Children’s Easter Egg Hunt 11am-1pm.
 Sun. April 1 Easter Sunrise Services followed by breakfast.
 8:15am worship service cancelled
 Sunday School @ 9am
 Easter worship services 10am
 Sun. April 8 Choir Contata “This Is God” during 10am worship services.