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From the Pastor's Desk

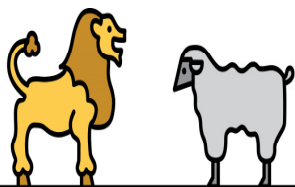


Greetings to you and peace from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Are you enjoying the warmer days like I am? And, I especially appreciated the snow we had the morning of February 13th. The grass was white. The trees were snow covered...even looking like oversized cotton plants. It was beautiful. BUT...the best part of that snowfall was the fact that the roads and the sidewalks were clear! The surfaces were warm from the higher temps and the snow melted!!! I LOVE that kind of snow!

That was not the main event for our faith family on that day though. Unfortunately, we had to cancel worship that Sunday morning because all of the toilets were backed up. We had a major clog in the pipes leading out from the building so, needless to say, the women's room turned into an indoor pond and the men's room and nursery room almost overflowed but we were fortunate they didn't! We could not have people come to church and possibly need to use the unusable rest rooms, so we had to cancel the service and Sunday School. A plumber did come in Monday and take care of the problem so now.... All is GO!!!

The observance of Ash Wednesday varies year to year and the earliest date it ever was is February 7. The latest it ever will be is March 10th and that will be in 2038. The date for Ash Wednesday is always 46 days prior to Easter Sunday. Of course, we all know the date of Easter changes from year to year. Many people ask why the date for Easter changes. It is because Easter was set for the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring Equinox (the first day of Spring.) Now, that date is always March 21. The changing factor is the full moon. That is what varies from year to year and thus, our date for Easter changes every year. This time frame was set up by the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. We do know that Jesus entered Jerusalem in order to celebrate the Feast of Passover with his disciples. And on Thursday evening he shared that meal with his disciples. Now, we could look back to whatever year it was that Jesus was arrested and crucified in order to determine the exact date that Jesus died and as we well know, He rose from the dead on the third day. Then, we could offer the celebration of Easter on the same day every year. But, the Passover varies from year to year. It begins the 15th day of the Hebrew month of Nissan which coincides with our March or April. Passover is observed from Saturday to Saturday.



MARCH

(If you are interested, this is year AM 5782 and it began on September 6, 2021 and will end on September 25, 2022. For details on the Hebrew calendar and years, see Wikipedia....it is too much detail to include here.) The main thing to keep in mind is that Christians observe Holy Week as near to the Jewish Passover as possible (with the directives of how to determine the date of Easter) because it was the Passover meal when Jesus blessed the bread and the cup and said.. "This is my body...This is my blood." It probably would be much easier if Easter would have a fixed date like Christmas does, but then the context of the events of the last days of Jesus' earthly life would be out of sync. So, we thank those who have done the calculations of the date of Easter for many years to come. Just for our information, the earliest date we would celebrate Easter is March 22 and the latest date would be April 25.

No matter what date we celebrate Easter, we always praise God that after Jesus died on the cross and was buried, the story did not end there. We were given a new chapter.... a new beginning. We know that our Savior lives and we live life in preparation for His return sometime. We celebrate the love of God for each and every one of us as we observe the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, the burial and the empty tomb! Our journey to Easter for 2022 begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2. Together, let us strive to make this the most spiritual journey ever!

With love,

Pastor Lou Ann



SPECIAL SERVICES in MARCH

March 2- Ash Wednesday

Gospel: Matthew 6:16-21

Sermon: "Don't Put on a Show"

March 6- Lent 1

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: "Led by the Spirit; Tempted by Satan"

March 13 - Lent 2

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: "Jesus Gives a Warning"

March 20 - Lent 3

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Sermon: "Stuff Happens"

March 27- Lent 4

Gospel: Luke 15:11b-32

Sermon: "Embracing Love"



If you don't want to be late for church on Sunday, March 13, remember to turn your clocks ahead by one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 12. Daylight saving time begins at 2:00 AM that Sunday.

MARCH
BIRTHDAYS



2. Sarah Smith
Lexus Luckenbaugh
9. Madison Nugent
10. Patrick Michaels
12. Joel Frey
16. Lillie Eberly
19. Nicki Barley
20. Erin Michaels
22. Joyce Raver
24. David Morton
Jamison Rost
28. Maya Ness
Peter Busch
29. Wayne Althoff
31. Marshall Geesey

May God Bless You
On Your
Birthday

CELEBRATING MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 29 - Terry and Frances Doll - 58 years

FINANCIAL REPORT

Undesignated General Fund

Red Brick Chapel

Cemetery

Month-2022	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
January	\$9,995.00	\$10,580.71	\$0.46	\$254.37	\$915.03	\$0.00
February						
March						
April						
May						
June						
July						
August						
September						
October						
November						
December						
Total	\$9,995.00	\$10,580.71	\$0.46	\$254.37	\$915.03	\$0.00

Balance of Undesignated General Fund @ February 1, 2022

\$2,172.36

Balance of Red Brick Chapel Fund @ February 1, 2022
(Includes \$66,150.42 Endowment)

\$84,078.06

Balance of Cemetery Fund @ February 1, 2022
(Includes \$919,005.78 CD's, Trusts, UCC Foundation)

\$927,798.21

Financial Assistance Given through Hand of Hope Fund - 2022

	#	Total	Monthly	Available
	Families	\$\$\$	Donations	Balance
Beginning				\$ 162.74
January			\$ 80.00	\$ 242.74
February				
March				
April				
May				
June				
July				
August				
September				
October				
November				
December				
Total			\$ 80.00	

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS and those in need of PRAYER

Peggy Luckenbaugh
Room 704B
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403

Linda Trone
Room 604
Colonial Manor Nursing Home
970 Colonial Avenue
York, PA 17403



Carolyn Innerst
Room 123
Senior Commons@Powder
Mill
1775 Powder Mill Road
York, PA 17403

Keeping in our prayers
Dolores Barley
Jeanette Black
Maddie Heindel
Cindie McKinsey
Todd & Melody Myers
Ginny Weber
Friends battling cancer
Covid 19 patients



Remember
and pray for
Our Members
in the
Military

A1C Ness, Brandon
6907 S. Camino de la Humanidad
Tucson, AZ 85756



CRAFTERNOONERS

Our next "Crafternooners" meeting will be held on Sunday, March 27, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Bring any craft project that you would like to work on, or if you are not crafty, bring games to share with others for an afternoon of fellowship and fun. Please join us and bring a friend if you like.



CARD and GAME CLUB



We have started a group to play card and board games here at the church. Everyone is welcome, and if you don't know how to play certain games, there will be someone who can teach you. You can bring lunch or we can order in.

We will meet the second Wednesday of each month starting at 11:00 AM and playing until people are ready to stop. Our next meeting will be on March 9. If you have any questions, please call Janie Montgomery or Diana Myers.



MEN'S GROUP



We invite you to join the men of Blymire on Tuesday, March 8, at 7:00 PM at the church to meet Ken Frazier, our special mystery guest. Those in attendance will have to guess Ken's occupation by asking "yes" or "no" questions. Afterwards Ken will go into more detail about his occupation and take questions. Bring a friend to the meeting. REMEMBER ALL MEN ARE WELCOME.

Our Women's Book Club gives women a chance share the book they're reading and to receive needed support from friends. Come join us. We meet every second and fourth Tuesday at 11:00AM at Lion's Pride Restaurant.



CHICKEN CORN SOUP SALE



As a fundraiser, the FUN Team will be selling homemade chicken corn soup for \$8.50 a quart. Deadline for orders is Sunday, March 6, and pickup will be Saturday, March 26, from 10:00 AM-noon. There is an order form on the table in the Gathering Room or you may call the church office at (717) 244-0655 to place your order.

EMMANUEL'S CLOSET

March 2022



Easter Project

For Easter we are planning to give out grocery gift cards for our families to use to purchase meat and other perishable items for their holiday dinner. The cards will be given out on April 2 and April 9. The Closet will be closed on April 16 in observance of Easter.

Below is a list of items that we are especially in need of right now:

Beverages (all types)

Manwich

Tuna Helper

Chicken Helper

Cereal

Icing

Cake Mix

Brownie Mix

Pancake Syrup



E.C. Continuing Needs

Juice

Cereal/Oatmeal

Peanut Butter/Jelly

Pancake Mix

Spaghetti Sauce

Boxed Dry Pastas

Helper Meals

Dessert Items

Condiment Items

Canned Tuna/Meats

Canned Fruit/Vegetables

Soap

Shampoo

Toilet Paper

Paper Towels

Dish Washing Liquid

Laundry Detergent

All-Purpose Cleaners

Please, NO Expired Food Items

Our clothing and household room will remain closed through 2022. Please do not put any of those items in the bin or bring them to Emmanuel's Closet. We hope to reopen in 2023.

***THANKS FOR
CARING!***



March
2022



Raise your words, not your voice.
It is rain that grows flowers,
Not thunder.

Rumi

BUT... I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY!

INSTEAD OF...

Keep a stiff upper lip.
It's for the best.
I know how you feel.
God doesn't give you
more than you can handle.

It's God's will.
You should do _____

You'll get over this in no time.

You'll be fine.

SAY...

I can see you're hurting
Wow, that's really hard.
How are you really feeling?
Can I pray for you?

I'm so sorry that happened.

I don't know what to say.
How can I help?

Give yourself plenty of time
to heal.

I'm here for you.

You're
only as
pretty
as you
treat
people.

March 4th,
the only
date that
is a
sentence!

IF LOVE ISN'T THE DEFINING CHARACTERISTIC OF OUR FAITH, WE'RE DOING SOMETHING WRONG!

One time Jesus and his disciples wanted to go to a village in Samaria.

Here was the problem: the people in the village weren't having it.
Apparently, they had an issue with people from Jerusalem. The disciples
heard the outcry from the village and do you know what they said?
"Jesus, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to destroy them?"

Yikes. It seems a little harsh, yet at the same time not unfamiliar.

We're a lot like the disciples sometimes, wanting to tap into nuclear
weapons when people say something we don't agree with or rub us the
wrong way. At some point, we started to believe that our doctrine is
the defining characteristic of our faith. We got it into our heads that
knowing the truth and telling others about it was our greater purpose
here on earth than simply loving the people God made.

The gospel isn't a set of doctrines we agree with, though. It's actually
Jesus. He said He was the way, the truth, the life. Don't add to it.
It's possible to have great doctrine and lousy theology. Loving people
the way Jesus did is great theology. The Bible helps us to understand
how God wants us to live, but never let anything block your view of
the fact that He's the one who holds all things together. He's the one who
rescued us and still rescues us when we slip up and need some grace.

There will be times you're not welcomed. There will be times you're
misunderstood. There are times you'll be angry about it. We don't need
God to rain down fire on people who have been difficult. Just keep moving
forward, eyes fixed on Jesus and off of everyone else.

Bob Goff



Me yelling at squirrels in the street to move so they don't die
is probably the same feeling God has watching me live
my life most days.

Shelby Gettys



MADE FOR JOY

I sometimes forget
that I was created for Joy.

My mind is too busy.
My heart is too heavy
for me to remember
that I have been
called to dance
the Sacred dance of life.

I was created to smile
To Love
To be lifted up
And to lift others up.

O' Sacred One
Untangle my feet
from all that ensnares.
Free my soul.
That we might
Dance
and that our dancing
might be contagious.

Hafiz



"Then God said, 'I have some good news
and some bad news. The good news is,
the apple had zero cholesterol.'"

Start
where
you are.
Use
what you
have.

Do
what
you can.

Arthur Ashe



Warning: may involve
shenanigans, hooliganism
and malarkey!



I love speaking and have had the privilege of sharing the stage with many outstanding people. Usually we speakers are so busy that we

don't have time to get to know each other. I'm always overjoyed when I have a chance to "talk shop" with someone who shares the same type of ministry. So when a platform personality came to me after I spoke at a large event and wanted to chat, I was pleased.

She was warm and affirming and asked if she could recommend me to groups as she traveled. I was complimented and grateful. We chatted nonstop, then hugged and agreed to meet the following day.

When I met her the next day, there seemed to be a problem. By her actions, I could tell I was it. She went from cool to cold to curt. I went from confused to hurt to ticked. I tried to figure out how I had fallen from her favor. Later, I learned an acquaintance had spent some time with this speaker discussing me.

The more I thought about it the angrier I became. The incident stirred up memories of every unfair situation I'd ever experienced. I brooded. I boiled and occasionally blew up as I told and retold the story to my husband. Then I set the incident on the back burner of my emotions and let it simmer. Once in awhile, I'd lift the lid and stir the soup.

One day, while having lunch with close friends, the topic of unfair situations came up. I ran for the stove to check my pot, and sure enough, it was still hot. As I spewed my injustice all over them, they were taken aback by my intensity. Finally, one friend asked, "when did this happen?" I had to stop and think for a moment and then I realized it had been three years! My friends were surprised I still carried such intense animosity.

After lunch, I thought through what my friends had said. I began to see that keeping this issue hot within me had left me with a pressure-cooker personality. Instead of letting my rage diminish, I seemed to have used time to refine and renew it.

Something about injustice convinces us of our right to hold onto our anger and even to embrace it. I'm learning anger is not necessarily a wrong response until I choose to harbor and nurture it. When I unfold my anger, it drains my energy and takes up valuable inner space. Brewing anger taxes my physical, mental, and emotional well-being. It also hampers my close relationship with others and with God.

Some of us don't have a handle on living skills that equip us to deal with our emotions appropriately. We tend to deny that we are angry or defend our right to be so, leaving us frustrated, misunderstood and stuck in our own muck of emotions.

I understand now that the woman's rejection of me was not as damaging as my long-term choice to harbor rage. When I think of people I have formed opinions of, or changed my opinions about because of what someone else has said, I'm aware of what a human response it is ___ often not fair or loving, but human.

When that individual and I had our puzzling encounter years ago, I felt hurt by her change of heart, which is an appropriate feeling when you're rejected. But I quickly put the lid over my hurt and turned up the burner of my anger. I must have stood too close to my own heat, because my emotions felt scorching. I'm slowly learning to take my hurts to the Healer before I hide them under my our unrighteous indignation.

Patsy Clairmont



"I wanted a perfect ending. Now I've learned, the hard way, that some poems don't rhyme, and some stories don't have a clear beginning, middle, and end. Life is about not knowing, having to change, taking the moment and making the best of it, without knowing what's going to happen next. Delicious Ambiguity."

Gilda Radner

WELCOME MARCH!



March roars in like a lion with a bluster and a slam! And tiptoes out gently like a quiet little lamb.



Revelations for MARCH from “Bly Mire” Mouse

I am so thankful to hear and be able to share that the COVID positive numbers are down! I certainly hope that they continue to go down and that they DO NOT go back up. I think they may stay down because with warmer weather, we are able to be outdoors more and not in close quarters like offices or homes.

(“Smokin’ in the boys room,”.....) Oh, sorry, my mind flashed back to some of the music TIMELESS played for our Valentine Party! WOW!!!

What a great time we all had. It took a while for people to get up to dance, but by the last half hour, a number of people were dancing. Even Mire and I were dancing just inside our mouse house. We did have trouble getting the littlest ones to sleep because they were having fun taking a video of us dancing. They threatened to post it on Facebook, but I told them if they do, they would lose their phone privileges for a week! I thought that would solve the posting, but then some of their friends came over Sunday and commented about us dancing! They saw it on Instagram. KIDS!!!! Oh well, we all had fun.

Have you seen the bulletin boards in the hallway recently? We have had some pretty neat messages on them. I know Pastor Lou Ann had done a few of them, but MARTI LEADER did the neat Valentine Party posting and now has a St. Patty’s Day message.... I will not tell you what it is. You have to come to church and read it!!! (Joel will appreciate if the attendance increases with all of you coming to read the message!.... You’re welcome Joel! LOL) And, I saw NANCY TAYLOR helping again with the third bulletin board. That one too has a neat message to it! We certainly hope you are curious enough to come to church and make sure you check out the boards!

I also will share that a process is beginning, but I know many of us would prefer that it wouldn’t. Our C.M.T. is meeting by zoom with someone from Penn Central Conference. This will begin the process of hiring an Interim Minister who will begin serving after Pastor Lou Ann retires. I have heard so many people telling Pastor Lou Ann that she can’t retire yet, but, the end of May is just around the corner!!! WOAHH! I know Mire and I are already praying for Blymire’s as we transition to an Interim Minister and hopefully soon, a called Pastor to serve as our shepherd! It is a kinda bitter-sweet experience! We know that God will be with us and guide us through this transition!

Well, March offers one holiday that is acknowledged throughout our country (maybe even world wide.... I am not sure). We know that March 17th is St. Patrick’s Day and at least for that day, we all become Irish! But, did you know there is another holiday in March? It is MILITARY DAY! Yes! On MARCH 4th, we celebrate Military Day because they MARCH FORTH! Hee-hee! Love you!

March humor:

Q: What do you call a fake diamond in Ireland?

A: A sham-rock.

Knock, knock.

Who’s there?

Irish.

Irish who?

Irish you a Happy Saint Patrick’s Day.

God Bless! Bly and Mire



Washed clean

Make customized jelly
soaps to banish dirt
and grime.



What you need:

- 1 package unflavored gelatin
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup very warm water
- 1 tsp salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup gel body wash
- Food coloring
- Rubbing alcohol in spray bottle
- Silicone baking molds

What you do:

1. In a bowl, stir gelatin and warm water until dissolved.
2. Add salt, body wash and a few drops of food coloring. Stir.
3. Spray molds with rubbing alcohol (to prevent bubbles). Place molds on a tray.
4. Pour mixture into the molds. Refrigerate until set, about two hours.
5. Pop soap out of molds and store in an airtight container.

PUZZLE



A wondrous washing

David's prayer of repentance reveals a desire to be cleansed of his sin.

Directions: Unscramble the words on the left. Then match them with the correct phrases from Psalm 51 (NIV) on the right.

ETRCAE _ _ _ _ _	_____ out my transgressions (v. 1)
HS AW _ _ _ _	_____ away all my iniquity (v. 2)
RSEEROT _ _ _ _ _	_____ me with hyssop, and I will be clean (v. 7)
WNERE _ _ _ _ _	_____ me, and I will be whiter than snow (v. 7)
TLBO _ _ _ _	_____ your face from my sins (v. 9)
DIHE _ _ _ _	_____ out all my iniquity (v. 9)
NATRG _ _ _ _ _	_____ in me a pure heart (v. 10)
LNSECAE _ _ _ _ _	_____ a steadfast spirit within me (v. 10)
LBTO _ _ _ _	_____ to me the joy of your salvation (v. 12)
W HSA _ _ _ _	_____ me a willing spirit, to sustain me (v. 12)

Answer: blot, wash, cleanse, wash, hide, blot, create, renew, restore, grant