



# The Covenanter

FEBRUARY 2021



Winter Park  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



*Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.*

Psalm 51:10 NIV

As we enter the season of Lent, the above verse quickly comes to mind as it also did for our ancestors. Lent in the life of the early church was a time of preparation. Those who were seeking to be baptized into the life of the church, used the forty days prior to Easter continuing to study, fast, pray, discern, reflect and repent as they journeyed towards baptism on Easter Sunday. These forty days marked the culmination of a three-year journey to become a member of the church and be baptized. As time has moved on, Lent has become more about giving something up, making a sacrifice, doing without something we really enjoy for forty days, but then what?

I gave up bread one year during Lent. After Easter, for the rest of the year, I ate twice as much bread, more than making up the difference. Did I sacrifice anything? Not really, only the buttons on my pants seemed to truly give up something, as months later, in response to my over active bread consumption, they would ricochet off light fixtures and force the rest of the family to duck and cover.

So, I searched. I began to look at Lent in a more historical context; to reexamine this ancient practice, that I somehow sensed had very contemporary implications in my life and in the lives of those I serve. I discovered there was more. Fasting, doing without something, is part of Lent, but examining my life, studying the Bible, praying, discerning, reflecting and turning to God daily, proved far more edifying for my life. In a sense, every day, and also the days of Lent, are an opportunity to respond to God's gift of grace with what I have - my heart, my time, my energy and my efforts. Lent's emphasis should be just as much about these things as it is fasting.

As God's children, during these next days, we find ourselves passing a shadow. It's a dark shadow in the shape of a cross, that on it hangs the corpse of God's Son - Jesus. We will get to Easter, that glorious day when we can celebrate that He is alive. But we must, and should pause in this shadow, because it is here, first in darkness, that we behold the costly nature of God's affection for us. In the light of the empty tomb, God's love, grace, mercy and forgiveness, are clearly visible, but their intensity begins in shadow.

In response, I believe Lent should be more than a season on the church calendar or a few days of fasting. Lent should be part of our lives year-round, each day, moment by moment. Turning towards God, repenting, self-examination, Scriptural study, prayer and preparation—each must be at our center, if we are to be honest and authentic about God, us, and our need for Jesus Christ. Thus daily, maybe even several times a day, we should remember the Lenten journey of preparation that we are on, and sing with the psalmist as did our ancestors, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."

Until the whole world hears,

Pastor Darren



**God  
is love,**

**AND WHOEVER  
ABIDES IN LOVE  
ABIDES IN GOD,  
AND GOD  
ABIDES IN HIM.**

**1 JOHN 4:16, ESV**




**DEACON'S DEN**  
**DENNIS SCHMALSTIG, WPPC DEACON**

Winter seasons have often tempted me to long for things I didn't have. A cold, northerly breeze made me yearn for summer (or a thicker coat). A dateless Valentine's Day inspired hunger for companionship and tenderness. Dim light and bare trees made me long for color.

Times of scarcity, no matter what form the deprivation takes, can make me forget to savor the gifts that remain. I focus so much on what's gone missing that I become blind to subtle joys. Anyone who has recovered from a long illness can attest to the unexpected thrill of being able to take a walk, to cook a meal and do the laundry without assistance. A period where something basic is denied makes the simplest blessings stand out in sharp relief.

I know that life would be easier if I could skip past the harsh lessons that eventually teach me gratitude. A more proactive approach would be to nurture thankfulness in all circumstances. Then the inevitable misfortunes, the heavy tolls we pay as we journey through life, would probably sting a bit less.

I doubt that I'll ever succeed in turning into a Pollyanna always looking on the bright side. And I wouldn't advocate that everyone, especially those who naturally follow the Path of Eeyore, should force themselves into becoming cheery backslappers. I believe, however, that taking time during a crisis to find brief nurturing moments can be an act of mercy. Mercy to ourselves and others. When a load of pressure builds up on my shoulders, when I start snapping at the least irritation, I know that I need a gratitude break. And if nothing in my immediate surroundings inspires thankfulness, then I must make a blessing of my own. Stopping to pray, taking a nature walk, listening to beautiful music, sipping a good cup of coffee aren't indulgences during hard times.

And if these remedies fail to bring relief, then it helps to recall that I am a child of God. I may feel stranded in misery, but I'm not an orphan lost in a storm...I once described a visit to a dying man to a friend of mine. I marveled that a person suffering from a terminal disease could smile, tell jokes and swap stories. My friend answered, "He knew where he was going." Home.



**WELCOME,  
NEW MEMBERS!**

**Porter & Deanna Spangler**

**We're glad you're here!**




**LIBRARY NEWS**  
**DORIS ANGUISH, WPPC LIBRARIAN**

Stores are full of Valentine cards in February expressing love for another person. We appreciate this sentiment. God tells us of a love that comes from Him alone and is eternal. This is a love that is always with us. In a wounded world, forgiveness is the name of love. What Christ did on the cross for us makes it possible for us to extend forgiveness to others.

Love makes our friends a little dearer. Joy makes our hearts a little lighter. Faith makes our paths a little clearer. Hope makes our lives a little brighter. Peace brings us all a little nearer.

I found a prayer I'd like to share with you.

*I said a prayer for you today  
And know God must have heard.  
I felt the answer in my heart,  
Although He spoke no word.*

*I didn't ask for wealth or fame  
I knew you wouldn't mind.  
I asked Him to send treasures  
Of a far more lasting kind.*

*I asked that He be near you  
At the start of each new day  
To grant you health and blessings  
And friends to share your way.*

*I asked for happiness for you  
in all things great and small,  
But it was for His loving care  
I prayed the most of all.*



*Thank  
You!*



The Edwards Family greatly appreciates all the cards, calls and prayers concerning the untimely death of Melissa, our daughter in law. It eases the pain to feel the love of our church family.

~Wade and Barbara



## CENTRAL FLORIDA COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS DONATIONS FROM WPPC

The Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless was delighted to receive donations from Winter Park Presbyterian Church which were delivered on Thursday, January 21 by Mike and Nancy Galyean. Included in the delivery were five HUGE garbage bags of rolled and folded new white socks (395 pair) with cards of scripture from WPPC inserted with each pair and eight grocery bags of magazines, books, calendars and puzzles which will be offered to guests throughout the campus (men, women, children). Normally (try to remember what was normal before the Pandemic), socks are collected between Thanksgiving and Christmas and delivered to the men at the evening meal where WPPC members prepare and serve the food. Sue Rudolph has spearheaded this project for many years.

There are many missions we have been unable to support at this time, but this is an example what we can still do to help others. The Compassion Committee appreciates the many individuals and families that took the time to shop for socks and bring them to the church; we thank the Hannah Sisters that removed the socks from wrapping, rolled, folded, inserted scripture and counted/placed socks in large bags; and thanks to Kenny for helping to load socks and reading materials for delivery. Please know that your efforts and generosity are noticed and greatly appreciated by folks that are having a difficult time.





## SUMMER CAMP IS BACK!

We are excited to be offering summer camp again this year! Six individual sessions for children 15 months through rising Kindergarten age groups will be offered:

June 14-18 Under the Sea

June 21-25 Making Music

June 28-July 2 Digging Dinosaurs

**July 5-9 Closed/No Camp This Week**

July 12-16 Nature Exploration

July 19-23 Animal Planet

July 26-30 Blast Off to Outer Space





We have planned many exciting adventures for our campers this summer. Each week, along with the variety of themes offered, our focus is for the children to enjoy the outdoors and explore the wonders of nature including sand, dirt, bubbles, chalk, paint, water activities, and other sensory experiences. Each age group will also be provided daily opportunities for music and movement, creating art masterpieces, playground experiences and outdoor games.

Summer camp hours are 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. with an option for extended day until 3:30 p.m. for those attending 5 days. Children ages 15 months to rising Kindergarten students will be accepted on a first come first served basis. Space is extremely limited. Sign up early to secure your child's spot.

Registration is now open for the 2021-2022 school year. Summer camp registration will open February 22. Call us at (407) 629-0727 or visit our website [winppc.org/preschool](http://winppc.org/preschool) for more information.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<u>1</u> <i>Eileen Silvers</i>	<u>2</u> <i>Peighton Mahoney</i>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> <i>Beth Danley Ivan Smith</i>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u> <i>Cathy House Jayne Watkins</i>	<u>8</u> <i>Betty Gow Jim McKinney Jeanne Vinci</i>	<u>9</u> <i>Jan Hall Mike Yost</i>	<u>10</u> <i>Sara Van Arsdel</i>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> <i>Mark Beaty Ben Blood</i>
<u>14</u> <i>Gregory Hornbeck Sally Naylor</i>	<u>15</u> <i>Aidan Smith Jack Watkins</i>	<u>16</u> <i>Ed Matrick Judy Schmalstig</i>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> <i>Jyme Smith</i>	<u>20</u> <i>Lenore Dillard Jane Munns</i>
<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> <i>Christopher Baldwin</i>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> <i>Barbara Edwards Craig Uttley</i>	 FEBRUARY					
<u>29</u> <i>Denise Riccio</i>						

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<u>1</u> <i>Curtis Koon Steve Walker</i>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> <i>John Dreasher</i>	<u>5</u> <i>Nancy Galyean</i>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> <i>Bill Cuthill Fran Morrissey Nancy Schieber</i>	<u>9</u> <i>Kathy Anderson</i>	<u>10</u> <i>Willard McCurdy</i>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> <i>Travis Smith</i>	<u>15</u> <i>Gregory Seel</i>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> <i>Phillip Anderson Meg Ball Thomas</i>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> <i>Carol Hunt Stephanie Nants</i>	<u>20</u> <i>Robin Danley Fred Kittinger</i>
<u>21</u> <i>Shelby Reaves Mary Van Hook</i>	<u>22</u> <i>Wendy Ethridge Ethan Thomas</i>	<u>23</u> <i>Marilyn Bryant Sara Ann Hiatt</i>	<u>24</u> <i>Nolan Seel</i>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> <i>Spencer Bartholomew Solange Yost</i>	<u>27</u> <i>Yvonne Cobb Carla Gehrig Michael Goodson</i>
<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> <i>Charlie Anderson Debby Tallungan</i>	<u>31</u>	 MARCH Birthdays		





The Rev. Dr. W. Darren Bess, Senior Pastor  
 The Rev. Emily Wasser, Associate Pastor  
 Carolyn Achenbach, Director of Operations/Accountant  
 Cindy Mitchum, Executive Assistant  
 Barbara Hordern, Administrative Assistant  
 Justin Chase, Director of Music  
 Penny Walsh, Organist  
 Susan Davis, Director of Handbells & Children's Music  
 Tricia Wilson, Director of Preschool Programs  
 Kenny Lovelace, Sexton

## SESSION

### 2021

Phillip Anderson  
 Lisa Dreasher  
 Jayne Leach  
 Shaheed Mohammed  
 Peter Rice  
 Bob White

### 2022

Theresa Coker  
 Bonnie Gaughan  
 Fran Morrissey  
 Michelle Trahan  
 Jay Van Hook

### 2023

Syd Davis  
 Fred Kitinger  
 Malcolm MacDiarmid  
 Jim McKinney  
 Dawn Sumrall

## DIACONATE

### 2021

Mike Galyean  
 Reta Jackson  
 Julie Kent  
 Curtis Koon  
 Sara Van Arsdel  
 Jeanne Vinci

### 2022

Susan Davis  
 Jane Munns  
 Rachel Myers  
 Christine Rich  
 Dennis Schmalstig  
 Meg Ball Thomas

### 2023

Ron Ellman  
 Betty Johnston  
 Sevilla Morse  
 Cynthia Nants  
 Jyme Smith

## MISSIONARIES

Rev. Gordon and Dorothy Gartrell - Brazil  
 Jenny Bent - Dominican Republic  
 Mark Hare - Haiti  
 Dr. Dan & Elizabeth Turk - Madagascar

For Covenanter or Sunday bulletin submissions, please fill out a publicity request online at <http://winppc.org/publicity-request/> or contact Cindy Mitchum at [cindym@winppc.org](mailto:cindym@winppc.org) or 407-647-1467.