



The Covenanter

MARCH 2021



Winter Park
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

With all the turmoil and amid the ugliness of life, it is important to pause and reflect on things of beauty. Of course, this is an idea articulated by Paul in his farewell address to the church at Philippi. He writes, "Finally, friends, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—*think about such things.*"

This list has always been a good litmus test for me. If what I'm hearing or watching or thinking about is not true or noble or right or pure or lovely or admirable or excellent or praiseworthy - it's not worth a resource as valuable as time.

Spring is something worth reflecting upon or thinking about. It's a hopeful time; a time for renewal and new life. Although Winter is the time plants and trees put their roots deeper in the ground, Spring is the time when leaves and flowers bloom, producing an array of dazzling colors and fragrant smells. I think the following is true and noble and right and pure and lovely and admirable and praiseworthy. I pray we can still think about such things:

The Blessings of Spring


By Deborah Ann

*There are many blessings, that each new Spring brings
you can see it bloom about and hear the song it sings.
With winters bleakness over, and brighter days ahead
comes promises of new life Springtime loves to spread.
As God unfolds the flowers, and their buds begin to show
He gives to us the assurance grace in our hearts will grow.
He sends us the robin's song, with the promise to provide
a shelter under His mighty wing where in His love we can abide.
He melts the snowy covers, and sends the refreshing rain
sprinkling us with His mercies to heal winter's ache and pain.
God's given to all His Son, to shed upon us a new light
and the real blessing of Spring . . . is keeping Jesus in our sight!*

As March is upon us, I pray for hope and new life for each of us. I pray that amid all the noise and clutter our thoughts would be on - whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, excellent and praiseworthy.

Grace, Mercy and Peace,

Pastor Darren



God is our
refuge and
strength,

a very present
help in trouble.

Psalm 46:1, ESV



DEACON'S DEN

DENNIS SCHMALSTIG, WPPC DEACON

An altercation disrupted our lunch today. As our neighbors, their son, and the son's dog approached their driveway, a car pulled up. The passengers began to scream abuse at the dog walkers. A canine deposit had been left on the car owner's yard, so the driver and company decided to track down the culprits. The back and forth lasted about a minute before the van drove on, but the violent language far outstripped the significance of the offence. The participants appeared to have collectively reached their last straw.

I suspect that our abraded nerves no longer tolerate normal irritants. Offhand, innocent remarks can spark arguments and virulent debate. The personality quirks and odd habits of the near and dear acquire greater potential to annoy than they would have a year ago. Self-confidence and esteem may have faltered after a period of prolonged stress. I, for one, have realized that my emotional stamina is not what it used to be.

And some of us have suffered losses and near misses. Jobs and financial security have been imperiled. Cracks appear in the foundations of our future. Our faith may have shrunk.

Reflection, reconsideration, and repentance mark Lent. When my vision darkens and I'm tempted to hunt down and scream at miscreants, it helps to take three steps back. The first step is to look at my current state, to notice, for example, that I'm getting red-faced about a minor slight. The second is to offer a frank confession, the here-I-am prayer. "Here I am, Lord, getting angry about nothing...again." The third step is an act of surrender, an acknowledgment that I'm going nowhere on my own.

Each step brings a different benefit. Self-examination allows for a temporary cease fire from warring emotions. Confession gives the confessor a chance to drop the burden of making up justifications. Surrender offers an opportunity to receive healing grace and redirection from the Source, and to feel that a loving Father shares in our struggles.



*Christian Sympathy is extended
to the family and friends of
Lou Hazzard who passed
February 12th.*





ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

In our nation and around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. This past year the devastation wrought by the Covid-19 pandemic has ravaged many countries and reminds us our help is needed more than ever—today and every day.

Since 1949, One Great Hour of Sharing has been an ecumenical effort. While each denomination allocates its gifts differently, all use their funds for ministries of disaster relief, refugee assistance, and development aid. Today, projects supported by OGHS are underway in more than 100 countries, including the United States and Canada.

This offering is always received on Easter Sunday, which is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world—sharing God’s love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural and human-made disasters, support for refugees, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

When you give to OGHS, you are assisting in the empowerment of others as they move past emotions, physical and spiritual misfortune. You offer them a chance to be resilient. The programs that benefit from your gifts to OGHS partner with others to show that through Christ’s love all things are possible (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: restoring hope-32%, Presbyterian Hunger Program: reducing hunger-36%, and Self-Development of People: partnering in progress-32%.

Please prayerfully consider your gift for this special offering to be collected on Easter Sunday, April 4.



LIBRARY NEWS DORIS ANGUISH, LIBRARIAN

Lent began on Ash Wednesday, February 17, and ends on Holy Saturday, April 3. It is a season of 40 days which represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness enduring the temptations of Satan and preparing to begin His ministry.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the 40 days because each Sunday represents a mini-Easter. At Easter we celebrate Christ’s death to mean we are being made new by God’s love and saving grace.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a period of self-examination and reflection.

Several books on Lent and Easter have come into the library. They are located in section 394.26 and a few are on the table in the Narthex. “God for Us” is a book rediscovering the meaning of Lent and Easter. It is a daily account from Psalms and other readings in the Bible. “John The Gospel of Light and Life” is written by Adam Hamilton and he writes of the miraculous signs of Jesus.

Norman Vincent Peale said and believed that things go better when you pray. Let’s make every day a good day!



WPPC MISSION TO “FEED THE HOMELESS” RESUMES

The Compassion Committee is delighted to announce that the WPPC mission of “Feeding the Homeless” at the Central Florida Coalition for the Homeless will resume in-person serving on Friday, April 9, 2021. Although the Covid-19 crisis will have kept us away for 13 months, we have continued to support our friends at the Coalition by donating the cost of the food we would have brought so the kitchen staff could purchase and serve the meal themselves.

We requested the Coalition change the date we serve to the 2nd Friday of each month. For many years we had served on the 4th Friday of each month but found regular difficulties preparing and serving the meals in November and December.

Until things are back to normal at the Coalition, we will have some adjustments in our preparations and serving. Currently, meals for guests are served during staggered times to allow for as much social distancing as possible. All meals are served from the Men’s Service Center dining room. The dining room in the Center for Women & Families has been converted into an isolation area for anyone experiencing symptoms and will remain closed indefinitely. Community (guests living outside the Coalition) meals are still served nightly—however, they are served “to-go” from the front entrance of the property in order to limit the traffic onsite. The food we prepare will be served in the Men’s Service Center to women and children first, then to men living there. The Coalition staff is preparing the food served to the Community guests.

WPPC normally has 6 teams of volunteers that work each month to prepare for the evening meal. Those teams are:

- ◆ Meal prep (meat/pasta or 7-layer salad)
- ◆ Make brownies
- ◆ Cut and bag brownies
- ◆ Travel to Coalition and serve meal.

Because we will not be serving the Community (those not living on-site) in April, we will not use the following teams at this time:

- ◆ Make and bag PB&J sandwiches
- ◆ Sort and bag toiletries

Traveling to the Coalition and serving meals requires some major changes:

- ◆ Normally we leave WPPC at 5:30 PM; now we must pull out at 4 PM in order to arrive by 4:30 PM and begin serving at 5 PM.
- ◆ To ensure social distancing, we are limited to 10 total servers; since we share our “Feeding the Homeless” mission with St. Richard’s Episcopal Church, that means each church can bring only 5 people.

Team leaders will be contacting team members from 13 months ago to find out if they will still be able to participate. We will undoubtedly need additional volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Galyean by phone 407.929.0903 or email nangalyean@gmail.com.



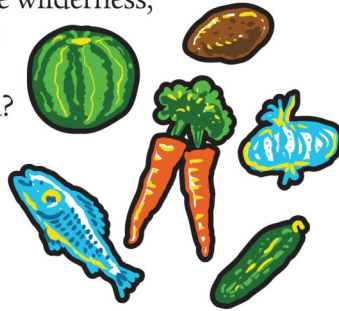
Our WPPC Sanctuary will once again be decorated with beautiful lilies. The cost for each plant is \$15.

If you would like to purchase a plant in honor, in memory, or in appreciation of a loved one, please fill out a form and return it with your check to the church office by March 25th.

Forms are available in the front office, in the narthex, and on the last page of this newsletter.

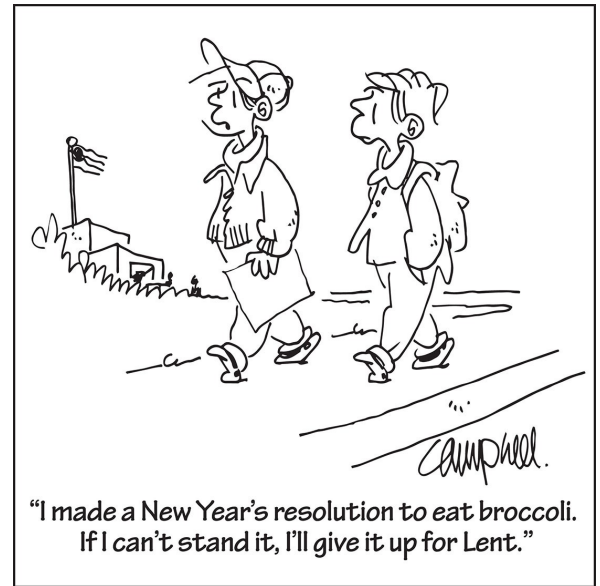
Bible Quiz

As the Israelites wandered in the wilderness, they longingly remembered some of the foods they'd had in Egypt. Which foods were not mentioned?



- A. carrots and potatoes
- B. onions and garlic
- C. fish and leeks
- D. melons and cucumbers

Answer: A (See Numbers 11:4-6.)



PUZZLE

BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.

VIDEO	_____ (Genesis 8:8)
LWO	_____ (Psalm 102:6)
GEELA	_____ (Isaiah 40:31)
TOKRS	_____ (Jeremiah 8:7)
APROSWRS	_____

“Are not five _____ sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. ... Don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many _____.”

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:

A	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
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14												

1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10'

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5


8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10' 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10


5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11'

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<u>1</u> Sara Spivey	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Doug Reece Porter Spangler Ryan Wilson
<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> Thomas Skelton	<u>6</u> Ryleigh Ranson	<u>7</u> Shay Ranson	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> Matt Groeteke Betty Johnston Tatiana Lampe	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Harry Oldford	<u>16</u> Ayden Blood	<u>17</u> Lisa Dreasher
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Brad Erb Tom Thompson	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Maurice Pulliam Nelson Roe	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Jackie Groeteke Cameron White	<u>24</u> Allie Evans Lynn Youtz
<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Anne Murray	<u>28</u> Ardyth Austin Phyllis Woods	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Caroline James Touckay McCurdy	

By this time in the school year we typically would have held several large events on campus combining family fun and fundraising. Our preschool family really misses these opportunities to gather together and socialize. The WPPP Parent Advisory Committee got creative and invented new ways to share good times, stay safe and raise much needed funds.

Scholastic Book Fairs are online only this year. The book fair that runs from March 1st through March 14th is a Dr. Seuss' birthday themed event. We will be reading Dr. Seuss books in class and wearing green for *Green Eggs and Ham Day*, sporting silly socks for *Fox in Socks Day*, and showing off our favorite animal outfit or shirt for *If I Ran the Zoo Day*. Book Fair purchases help us earn funds that can be used to purchase exciting new books and other classroom materials.

Our families have also supported us through their businesses. *Kelly's Homemade Ice Cream* has held drive through events after school. *Farris and Foster's Chocolate Factory* is offering Easter chocolate packages for sale. The preschool receives a portion of the sales and we are very grateful for these delicious partnerships!

WPPP's amazing parents also volunteer on campus during our semi-annual clean up days. Spring Clean Up is scheduled for Saturday, March 6. High school students that need volunteer hours and Church members are invited to participate. Please sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4FAAAE28A7FF2-spring1. If you are unable to attend the Clean Up day and would still like to show your support, we would love for you to donate supplies through the SignUp-Genius link.

Registration for children one year of age through VPK classes for the 2021/2022 school year and 2021 summer camp is now open. Information and forms are available on our website at winppc.org/preschool-registration.



Winter Park Presbyterian Preschool parents and friends will be volunteering at the Spring Clean Up day on Saturday, March 6.



Scholastic Book Fair runs from March 1-14. Purchases help us earn funds that can be used to purchase exciting new books and other classroom materials.



Kelly's Homemade Ice Cream has been coming to the preschool for drive through fundraiser events.



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
 Nelson Roe

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 or 407-647-1467.

If you would like to purchase a lily in honor/memory of someone, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office. The cost for each lily is \$15.



I would like to purchase _____ lily(s)
(Qty)

Attached is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Donated by

In Loving Memory of

In Honor of

In Appreciation of
