



GOOD NEWS FROM YOUR CHURCH

The Newsletter of The Presbyterian Church at Woodbury

February 7, 2018
Volume 55, Issue 3

SUNDAY

February 11, 2018

9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

11:00 A.M.

Church School for all Ages

1st SUNDAY in Lent

February 18, 2018

9:30 A.M.

WORSHIP SERVICE

No Church School

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The Annual Women's Retreat will be held at our church on April 6-7. More details to follow.

THE CROSS IN MY POCKET:

Wooden tokens with the cross on them were handed out at the Annual Meeting. They can be kept in your pocket or purse as a reminder that we take up our cross and follow wherever our Savior leads us. If you did not get one, they are available on a table in the chapel.



From the Pastor...

In Matthew 6:16-18 Jesus says, "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting... But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret."

The church universal has a tradition of fasting during the 40 days of Lent in preparation for Easter. A tradition that came out of people preparing to be baptized and make their profession of faith. I'm not a huge fan of giving something up for Lent. I have often encouraged people *not* to give something up, but instead, to take on something new for this season. Most years, I actively dodge questions about what I was going to give up and kept wondering what a good spiritual practice for the season would be. In the nick of time, I came across a blog post that discussed getting back to the basics of Lent. The author said those basics were simple: prayer, fasting and giving alms. Fasting is an ancient practice, but it's one that Christians have long regarded as important and useful to their relationship with God, but I want us to consider fasting from how we live our daily lives and re-focus upon our relationship with Christ. I would like us as a congregation to consider fasting, but fasting as Pope Francis suggests:

Fast This Lent?

In the words of Pope Francis

<i>Fast from hurting words</i>	<i>...and say kind words</i>
<i>Fast from sadness</i>	<i>...and be filled with gratitude</i>
<i>Fast from anger</i>	<i>...and be filled with patience</i>
<i>Fast from pessimism</i>	<i>...and be filled with hope</i>
<i>Fast from worries</i>	<i>...and have trust in God</i>
<i>Fast from complaints</i>	<i>...and contemplate simplicity</i>
<i>Fast from pressures</i>	<i>...and be prayerful</i>
<i>Fast from bitterness</i>	<i>...and fill your heart with joy</i>
<i>Fast from selfishness</i>	<i>...and be compassionate to others</i>
<i>Fast from grudges</i>	<i>...and be reconciled</i>
<i>Fast from words</i>	<i>...and be silent so you can listen</i>

I hope that fasting from these worldly struggles might bring you closer in your walk with our Savior, Jesus Christ. I also hope that you will join us for our Lenten Bible Study on Sunday mornings and our Lenten Worship Services:

Ash Wednesday on February 14 – 7pm
Palm Sunday on March 25 – 9:30am
Maundy Thursday on March 29 – 7pm
Good Friday on March 30 – 7pm
Easter on April 1- 9:30am

In Christ,
Phil Oehler

THANK YOU! for your generous donations last Sunday. Over \$640 was raised and will be donated to the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries Food Bank.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to provide snacks for Theo's café during the year. Homemade or store bought is fine. Contact the church office if you are available and for more information.



**ASH
WEDNESDAY
SERVICE**

February 14, 2018
7:00 PM
The Presbyterian Church
At Woodbury

IT'S NOT TOO LATE! You can still send in your per capita apportionment. This offering of \$37.00 per person (\$74.00 per couple) helps offset the Per Capita Apportionment. If each member donates their share, over \$12,000 would be freed up for church programs and Mission use.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS:

WINTER BLOCK

Encouraging Others

Strengthening the Art of Caring

January 21 – February 11

Build Others Up! Final class for this Block is this Sunday, February 11. Led by Sue Beane and Stacey Oehler.

ADULT CLASS with Dave Platt will be continuing a series entitled, *Praying the Names of Jesus*.

THE 60+ SMALL GROUP Bible Study led by Milt Fredericks is held on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm.

LENTEN BLOCK

He Chose the Nails



In *He Chose the Nails*, a five-session video Bible study, Max continues by examining the gifts that Christ gave at his crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross, but also the gift of the thorns, the nails, and the empty tomb. The cross is rich with God's gifts of grace, and as we unwrap them, we will hear him whisper, "I did it just for you."



FUN AND FIREWORKS!! Need to think warm thoughts during these cold winter months? Think about the Phillies and Fireworks! Our annual outing is planned for Friday, June 29 vs. The Washington Nationals. Tickets are an economical \$16 each. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Chapel. Call Dean Sommers (468-7511) for more info.

YOUTH NEWS:

Johnsonburg Youth Retreat – February 9 – 10.

30-Hour Famine – February 23-24 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Cherry Hill.

Club J Activity – February 25 from 12-2 pm.

LENTEN DEVOTIONALS are available in the chapel and narthex. There are several to choose from. Pick one up to use during the Lenten season.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Genie McGovern, Harriet Crockett, Florence Meyer, Fred Davis, Emma Mustard, Brian Praetzel, Dorothy VanHorn, Megan Lolly, Wayne Dahmer, and Amelia Exley. A reminder to keep our military personnel in your prayers, including Jonathan Gabler, Nathan Wadding, Cameron Wadding, Jarrod Fetty, and Wesley Tatham.

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: FEBRUARY 11 - 17, 2018

Sunday:	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Children's Choir
	11:00 AM	Church School for all ages
Monday:	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	7:00 PM	Trustees
Tuesday:	1:00 PM	60+ Small Group Bible Study
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
Wednesday:	7:00 PM	ASH WEDNESDAY Service
Thursday:	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK: FEBRUARY 18-25, 2018

Sunday:	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Children's Choir
	11:00 AM	Church School for all ages
	7:00 PM	Pack Meeting
Monday:		Church Office Closed
	6:30 PM	Girl Scouts
	6:30 PM	Session
Tuesday:	10:00 AM	Women's Association Workshop
	1:00 PM	60+ Small Group Bible Study
	6:30 PM	Cub Scouts
Wednesday:	8:30 AM	Men's Breakfast
Thursday:	6:30 PM	Boy Scouts
Friday:		30 Hour-Famine
Saturday:		30 Hour- Famine
Sunday:	8:45 AM	Choir Rehearsal
	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	10:45 AM	Children's Choir
	12-2 PM	Youth Club J Activity

4th Year Anniversary!
COMMUNITY DINNER
Thursday, February 8
5:30 P.M.



Join the church and community for a time of delicious food and fellowship!

SAVE THE DATE: The Annual Church Picnic will be held on June 3rd at the Red Bank Battlefield Park.

