

# NEW HOPE PRESS

MARCH 2016

## LENT

Lent is the period of 40 days prior to Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Easter Vigil.

The word "lent" comes from the Latin word for "lengthen," because the days of Lent occur during the springtime of the year, when the daylight hours increase. The period consists of 40 days because the number 40 has special biblical significance: Moses and the people of Israel were in the wilderness for 40 years; Jesus was tempted in the desert for 40 days.

Since the days of the early church, in the decades and centuries after the death and Resurrection of Christ, Christians have regarded the period of Lent as a time for repentance and reflection. It is invariably marked by fasting (going without food and/or water for a period of time), by giving up something during Lent (sweets; the sports page), and by taking on such habits that will increase one's devotion to Christ.



Palm Sunday: March 20th - Word and Sacrament at 8:45 am and 11:00 am

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 24th - Word and Sacrament at 7:00 pm

Good Friday: Friday, March 25 - Service of the Word at 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil: Saturday, March 26 - Service of Light, Word, Baptism and Eucharist at 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday: Sunday, March 27 - Word and Sacrament at 8:45 and 11:00 am

## *Adult Mission Trip Trivia Night*

The Adult Mission Trip group is holding a Trivia Night on Saturday, March 5 at the Lions' Club located on Central School Road. Doors open at 6 pm, and trivia starts at 7 pm. Participants must be 21 or older. The cost is \$160 per table, with a maximum of 8 people per table. Games between rounds include a 50-50 drawing, Scavenger Hunt, and Heads or Tails. Prizes include \$160 for First Place, \$80 for Second Place, and \$40 for Third Place. The Adult Mission Trip group will depart for Pensacola on June 4. We will be working with Habitat for Humanity. Flyers with more information are available on the Information Table. You may also contact Jennifer Everly or visit the Trivia Night's Facebook page for more information!



We need donations for the basket raffle that will be part of the Mission Trip Trivia Night on March 5. If you would like to make a donation of items or money to buy items, please contact Jane Cox (636-244-3183) as soon as possible.

## *Holy Week for New Hope*

**Over the past few years at New Hope Presbyterian Church** we have been expanding the vocabulary of our faith to include the word Triduum (pronounced *TRIH-doo-um*) after the Latin, “Three Days.” This single word draws together the inseparable relationship between Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday (with the Easter Vigil) and Easter morning which are celebrated as one extended liturgy. Though we come and go between our homes and church during this stretch of days, you might notice that the Triduum’s liturgies have no benediction until the end of the Easter Vigil.

### **What does it mean?**

Each of our worship services during the Triduum (and the whole of Holy Week) give us all a pretty good spiritual “work out.” During these three days, we experience the climax of the church year. Not only do we come together *a lot*, there is a lot we *do together* in worship besides listening. The richness of meaning calls us to do a lot of praying, singing, moving, and processing, as we gather, pour water, tell again the story of our faith, and share bread and wine. The Triduum invites us to discover how each day is significant to the other. Each day of the Triduum—Thursday to Friday, Friday to Saturday, and Saturday to Sunday—brings something indispensable to the meaning of the whole event.

### **Remembering by Doing**

One of the distinguishing features of Christianity is that it is an historical religion. The liturgical year that shapes our worship reflects God’s acting in history, especially Jesus’ arrest, betrayal, trial, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection. Together, this concentration of events creates an intensity of liturgical experience over a very short span of time. It is the very intensity of this experience, in fact, that has formed and renewed God’s people over hundreds of years. We remember what God has done for us in Jesus Christ by enacting it in our worship, locating ourselves within the larger story of God’s people, and living out God’s Word at the Font and at the Table. It is a very active sort of remembering. In giving our lives over to this week, we taste new life of the crucified and risen Lord.



This day in Holy Week is traditionally referred to as “Holy Thursday” or “Maundy Thursday.” The word “maundy” is derived from the Latin “mandatum” which means “command” and refers to the new commandment to love one another which Jesus gave to the disciples at the Last Supper, the night before his death (John 13:34). The congregation gathers this evening to remember that night so long ago when our Lord broke the bread and gave the cup and so instituted this holy supper which has been for more than 1900 years, the Church’s holiest occasion of communion and celebration. The mood of the service is not triumphant but somber and reflective as we recall the eve of Jesus’ passion and death. At the same time, there is also unmistakably present the note of faith and hope, even as there was on that first Maundy Thursday. So do we as the Church once more gather with our Lord to prepare for his suffering and death but also to anticipate the glory

of his resurrection which we will celebrate on Easter.

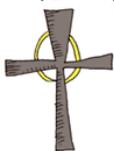
Once again this year, we will observe the Liturgy of Footwashing as a part of our worship on this night. Just as ashes are a central symbol of the meaning of Ash Wednesday, so the act of footwashing is a central symbol of the meaning of Maundy Thursday. Footwashing is a powerfully symbolic response to Jesus’ own example and his command that his disciples love one another as he loves us.

Following the homily, worshipers will be invited to proceed to one of two stations to have their feet washed. Once a person’s feet are washed, he or she will turn and wash the next person’s feet. This is an intimate experience of servanthood that Jesus demonstrates for us. Many may choose not to participate because it asks us to be vulnerable. We don’t like to expose our feet in public. We hide them, cover them and dress them. But to have one’s feet washed, and to wash others, is to cross boundaries of intimacy. By doing so, however, we ritually embody the sort of servanthood Jesus asks us to show toward one another.

As in years past, this will be completely voluntary. No one will be compelled to participate. Like the whole of our liturgy, no one is ever forced to engage in particular acts of worship. Rather, the footwashing is

a both a gift and a challenge that is meant to pull us out of our comfort zones. You may choose to participate or not. During the footwashing, the congregation will sing the song, *Live in Charity*, a prayerful, meditative song based on the ancient Latin hymn, *Ubi Caritas*. Other hymns to be included are *This Is the Night* and *Sharing Paschal Bread and Wine*, which are meant for singing only on Maundy Thursday.

GOOD  
FRIDAY



“On Thursday, we dispersed in silence—no sending song, no blessing or dismissal, only the rustle of jackets, the sound of feet, freshly washed and covered again, moving into the night. Now, as if awaiting our return, the silence receives us and invites us more deeply into the empty room, the unfolding story, the widening hour, the mystery of faith.

“With boldness, we approach the throne of grace, the cross upon which Christ is lifted, to pray not only for the church and those preparing for baptism, but also for those of other faiths, those who do not believe in God, and everyone, everywhere, in any kind of need. As he promised, Jesus draws them—all people, named and unnamed, all things, seen and unseen—to himself and to the heart of God. There we rest, like grains of wheat buried in the earth awaiting the joyful harvest.”\*

The Good Friday service is a penitential service that allows for much contemplation and for the power of silence to speak for itself. The passion narrative from John’s Gospel will be read. This day’s worship invites the congregation into intercessory prayer that is as wide as the embrace of the cross. There may be no other worship in the church’s year in which the prayers extend so intentionally and fully to all of humanity and all of creation.



HOLY  
SATURDAY

The Great Vigil of Easter is “the brightest jewel of Christian liturgy.” It is one of the most ancient and revered celebrations of the church. In the ancient church, the Easter Vigil marked the time when the catechumens (pronounced *KAT-ě-coo-mens*)—those who had studied and prepared through all of Lent—were baptized just before dawn and then shared the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time with the gathered community.

Of all the services of worship throughout the year, the Easter Vigil is the one that tells the story of salvation history from creation through Christ’s resurrection. In retelling the stories, we locate ourselves amongst God’s people within the story.

The Great Vigil of Easter is a service of worship unlike any other throughout the year. The service begins outside around a fire, which represents the light of the risen Christ shining amidst the darkness of death. From there the service moves inside for retelling the story of salvation. This service serves as one of the “threshold” ritual experiences for Travelers along *The Journey*. After telling the story of salvation, we will gather with our Travelers at the waters of the font to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism and to renew the promises of our baptismal covenant. Then, we will gather at the Lord’s Table to give thanks (eucharist) and share the meal of our faith. Easter officially begins at sundown on Easter Eve. Therefore, the Great Vigil of Easter serves as the first service of the season of Easter!

easter  
SUNDAY



On this holy day of days, we join together for the Festival of the Resurrection, Easter Day, at two services of worship, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Through word and sacrament, praise, prayer and joyful song, we will wonder anew at the new life made available to us in the resurrection of Christ. All are invited to bring fresh flowers to adorn the “living cross” as a sign of the glory of the risen Christ in our midst.

Through our Holy Week and Easter worship, may the Holy Spirit draw us all closer to the very heart and love of God made known in Christ.

\* *Worship Guidebook for Lent and the Three Days* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2009), 117.

## *Presbyterian Women*

### March PW Gathering – “Many Hands Workshop”

Sunday, March 13 at 12:00, PW will host Many Hands Workshop. After a light lunch, we will assemble 100 hygiene kits for homeless men who receive help from Peter and Paul Community Services, and we will stuff Easter eggs for New Hope’s annual egg hunt. Many hands will be needed to complete these projects, so plan to join us. Child care may be requested. Contact Mary Powers 314-277-5440 or [marystahr@charter.net](mailto:marystahr@charter.net).

We still need donated items to put in the hygiene kits. A list of items may be found on the information table. Please deliver donations to the church by the morning of March 13.

The Peter & Paul Community Services Emergency Shelter provides case management, access to health care, substance abuse counseling and food for approximately 500 men annually. This program serves up to 60 men nightly, 365 days per year. The basic needs of shelter, food, showers, lockers and staff support are available nightly. Most importantly, the shelter provides a warm, safe, caring alternative to living on the street. The shelter is located in the Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis.



**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

## *One Great Hour of Sharing*



Faith Endures: “Hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts.” (Romans 5:5). Give to One Great Hour of Sharing to support these Presbyterian Mission Agency ministries as they strive to help all of God’s people find resilience, hope, and faith in the face of challenging circumstances. Please give generously.

## *Female Connection*

### Leaping Leprechauns during Lent

The Female Connection is going to play "Bunco" for a celebration of St. Patrick’s Day and the beginning of Spring on Thursday, March 17 at 7 PM in the Narthex at the Church. Please join us for an evening of fun & fellowship. All women are invited to attend; no sign-up is necessary and we’ll show you how to play (it’s extremely easy). Following Bunco tradition, please bring a gift in the range of \$7-10 to exchange at the end of play; an Easter or spring item would be appropriate. Wear your green!! Also, please bring a snack to share; drinks will be provided. For more information or questions, please contact Deb Mackin. We hope to see you there!



## *Easter Lilies*



You may order a “live” lily to adorn our sanctuary on Easter Sunday and take it home with you after the 11:00 am service that day. You may also purchase a “virtual” lily, the cost of which will go to the Deacon’s Benevolence Fund. Whichever you choose, you may still dedicate your gift in memory, honor or gratitude to someone. The list will appear in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

Please use the envelope provided on the Information Table for your order. The cost of either the live or “virtual” lily is \$10.00 each. Checks can be written to NHPC. Orders must be received by March 20th.

## *Church Wide Fellowship*

On Saturday, April 2nd, the Fellowship Committee is planning a field trip to Purina Farms. We’ll be taking a bus to the farm where they’ll be tours, a petting area, wagon rides, canine performances and more! Watch the News & Opportunities for more information coming soon!



## *Youth Group Lock-In*



Save the Date! The youth group will have a lock-in on Saturday, March 12th. There will be food, fun and fellowship—plus we’ll be making cinnamon rolls for the sale the next day. Watch the News & Opportunities for more information, but plan on bringing a sleeping bag, pillow and clothes for church the next day!

## *Youth Fundraiser—Homemade Cinnamon Rolls*

The Senior High Mission Trip participants are selling Homemade Cinnamon Rolls as a fundraiser. These rolls are similar to “Cinnabons” and are sold in 8X8 pans for \$10.00 if your order before March 6th. The Cinnamon rolls will be available for pick-up during both services on March 13th. Order forms are available on the welcome table. We will also be selling the 8X8 pans on March 13th for \$12.00 if you didn’t place a preorder. Please call the church office if you have any questions.



## *Resources for Lenten Spiritual Practices*

Resources for Lenten Spiritual Practices (for individuals and for families):

Check out the links below for 2016 Lenten calendars and more ideas for spiritual practices for Lent.

*Lent 2016 Daily Calendar from Environmental Ministries and Enough for Everyone Programs*

[http://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/environment/2016\\_lentfinal.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/environment/2016_lentfinal.pdf)

*A Daily Calendar of Lenten Spiritual Practices*

<https://tracismith.wordpress.com/2016/01/26/its-here-its-here-2016-family-practices-calendar/>

Spiritual Practices for Lent: Repentance, Penance, and Healing

[http://www.pcusa.org/site\\_media/media/uploads/curriculum/pdf/ideas/spiritualpractices.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/curriculum/pdf/ideas/spiritualpractices.pdf)

*Lenten Practices 101*

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/curriculum/lenten-practices-101/>

## *Going Flowerless for Lent: Reflections on the Season*



LENT

The Worship, Music & the Arts Committee has been exploring ways to help our worship lift up the meanings of Lent as a season of the liturgical year. The season of Lent is 40 days, a significant number in the Bible and in our liturgy. It rained for 40 days and nights while Noah was on the ark and God was wiping all wickedness from the face of the earth; the children of Israel wandered for 40 years in the wilderness on their way from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the land of Canaan; the Israelites were under the oppression of the Philistines for 40 years before Samson was born; Elijah prepared for ministry for 40 days and nights; Jonah warned the people of Nineveh that they had 40 days in which to repent; Jesus fasted and was tempted for 40 days before he began his public ministry; there are 40 days from Jesus' Resurrection to his Ascension.

Not only does the number 40 have biblical and liturgical significance, but it has biological significance, as well. In weeks, 40 is the length of human fetal development from conception to birth. So, this number is a part of the development of human life.

At Easter, we celebrate the ultimate triumph of life. During Lent, we prepare for that and strive to empty ourselves of everything that gets in the way of living truly as God would have us live. The undeniable Christian confession is that there is no resurrection without death. Lent is the time to come face to face with the fact of our mortality. Penitence and repentance are "churchy" words often associated with Lent. Like Jesus in the wilderness, Lent is a time for us to travel the dry, dusty road to Jerusalem and experience the barrenness of our own particular wilderness that we might, too, know the joy of resurrection life at Easter.

To that end, we will do without our customary flowers in worship during the season of Lent that we might be all the more enlivened by their return on Easter morning. Rather, our Worship, Music & the Arts Committee has other adornments planned to help us observe Lent as a season of walking with Jesus through the wilderness to Jerusalem, the cross and beyond.

## *Recommended Lenten Readings*

**Learning to Walk in the Dark** by Barbara Brown Taylor (New York: HarperCollins, 2014)  
*By venturing into caves, underground night clubs, subterranean chapels, and unlit cabins in the woods on nights with no moons, Taylor leads us on a journey of how to find God, or rather how to let God find us, even when it is dark. She leads us to learn how the darkness can allow us to learn much about God, as well as ourselves.*

**The Rebirthing of God** by John Philip Newell (Woodstock: Skylight Paths Publishing, 2014)  
*As a scholar, peacemaker and spiritual leader, John Philip Newell invites us to be a part of a new holy birth of sacred living, exploring eight major features of a new birthing of Christianity for the 21st Century.*

**Hoping for More: Having Cancer, Talking Faith and Accepting Grace** by Deanna A. Thompson (Eugene: Cascade Books, 2012)  
*A story about one women's journey with breast cancer, from diagnosis through the fight, to emerging on the other side.*

**The Christian Life: A Geography of God** by Michael L. Lindvall (Louisville: Gene Press, 2001)  
*Part of the Foundations of Christian Faith series, this volume explores the Christian life as a journey of discovery.*

**This We Believe: Eight Truths Presbyterian Affirm** by Stephen W. Plunkett (Louisville: Geneva Press, 2002)  
*An introduction to the Christian faith that helps grapple with what it means to be a Christian in a world of conflicting ideologies and competing claims.*

**40 Days and 40 Nights** by Gail Ramshaw (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2006)  
*An insightful devotional booklet for each day of the Lenten season.*

**Called to Be Human: Letters to My Children on Living a Christian Life** by Michael Jenkins (Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 2009)  
*A wonderful compilation of letters written by a Presbyterian seminary professor to his grown children to address some of the "big questions" young adults are asking about life, love and vocation.*

**An Altar in the World** by Barbara Brown Taylor (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2009)  
*A series of rich reflections on ways to discover the sacred in the ordinariness of our everyday lives.*

**Tokens of Trust: An Introduction to Christian Belief** by Rowan Williams (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2007)  
*An exploration of the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds that guides readers through the central elements of the Christian faith.*

**The Worshiping Life** by Lisa Nichols Hickman (Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005)  
*A series of short essays on the order of worship which offer insight and reflection on what exactly we Christians do when we gather on the Lord's Day.*

**Speaking of Sin: The Lost Language of Salvation** by Barbara Brown Taylor (Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 2000)  
*A good look at some of the most basic words of our faith—sin, repentance, forgiveness, salvation—and how they still have real meaning for us today.*



## *Church Work Day*

The Administration & Support Committee is planning a spring work day on Saturday, March 19th, after the Men's Fellowship Breakfast. Our plans are to tackle special projects and to "spruce up" the church, inside and out, in preparation for the Easter holiday and the spring season. Everyone is invited to help! There will be projects for all types—big and small! Please plan on joining us on March 19th!



### *March Birthdays*

Ben Kuehne	03/01	Andrew Hardee	03/20
Sally Pires	03/02	Peggy Black	03/21
Sara Martin	03/03	Lynn Harmon	03/22
Linda Grissette	03/04	Sue Dittmar	03/23
Kathy Freeman	03/05	Mike Dame	03/24
Kurt Romkey	03/07	Jane Dame	03/25
Jeanna Groat	03/12	Daniel Salter	03/27
Bob Mudrovic	03/12	Kim Mocca	03/28
Margaret Lippert	03/15	Bryan Eikmann	03/31
Barbara Lynn	03/16		



### *March Anniversaries*

Bryan and Laura Eikmann	03/11/1989
Chris and Laurie Meinert	03/13/2015
Pat and Robin Murphy	03/25/1973
Mark and Cindy Martin	03/26/1988

## MARCH 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 9:30am PW Coordinating Team 7:00pm A.A.	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir	<b>3</b> 1:00pm Agape Circle 7:00pm Joy Circle	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Adult Mission Trip Trivia Night
<b>6</b> 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:20pm The Journey	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Deacons' Meeting	<b>8</b> 7:00pm A.A.	<b>9</b> 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:00pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:45am OASIS Food Pantry Youth Group Lock-In
<b>13 Daylight Savings Time</b> 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:20pm The Journey 12:30pm PW Many Hands Workshop	<b>14</b> 6:00pm Fellowship Committee 6:00pm MME Committee 7:00pm Session Meeting	<b>15</b> 5:00am Elections Board 7:00pm A.A.	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:15pm Choir	<b>17</b> 5:50pm Employment Ministry Committee 7:00pm Female Connection 7:00pm Employment Ministry	<b>18</b> 4:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	<b>19</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast 10:00am Work Day 4:00pm Wedding
<b>20 Palm Sunday</b> 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship 12:20pm The Journey 12:30pm Easter Egg Hunt	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00pm A.A.	<b>23</b> 7:15 Choir	<b>24 Maundy Thursday</b> 7:00pm Worship 7:00pm Boy Scouts	<b>25 Good Friday</b> 7:00pm Worship	<b>26 Easter Vigil</b> 7:30 pm Worship
<b>27 Easter Sunday</b> 8:45am Worship 9:45am Christian Ed 11:00am Worship	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Formation for Discipleship Committee	<b>29</b> 7:00pm A.A.	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Girl Scouts 7:00pm Choir Practice	<b>31</b>		

### *FINANCIAL CORNER*

**CONTRIBUTIONS**  
Budget  
To-date Actual

**February 2016**  
**35,614.00**  
**32,759.00**

**Year To Date 2016**  
**71,228.00**  
**71,661.00**

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