

“The Grapevine”

March 2020

Flower Calendar

March 1
Mary J. Pribyl

March 8
Andre & Sandra deVos

March 15
Roy & Marie Patterson

March 22
George & Kathleen Buffleben

March 29
Bill & Daisy Hamilton

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**DEACONS BARREL ITEM:**

**“Pastas, Rice, &  
Pinto Beans”**

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Daylight saving time begins March 8th.

Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour ahead
the night before.

Events

Inquirer's Class
Sunday, March 1 & March 8 @ 1145am

Feeding the Hungry
Tuesday, March 3 @ 515pm

Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Wednesday's @ 10am (Lea Lounge)

Pastor's Lenten Study
Wednesday's @ 2pm (Lea Lounge)

Pastor's Evening Study (Abel Residence)
Wednesday's @ 630pm Gather, 7pm Study

Newsletter Deadline – March 15

Spring Tea
Sunday, March 15 @ 2-4pm (Lea Lounge)

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, March 21 @ 8am

Newsletter Folding Crew
Wednesday, March 25 @ 845am

Session / Deacons Retreat @ McCormick's
Saturday, March 28 @ 930am – 3pm

5th Sunday – Mission Giving
Sunday, March 29

2020

March

2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10am Worship/ Sunday School 1145am Inquirer's Class 5pm IC			10am Bible Study 2pm Pastor's Lenten Study 630pm Pastor's Evening Study			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10am Worship/ Sunday School 1145am Inquirer's Class (last one) 5pm IC			10am Bible Study 2pm Lenten Study 530pm Finance 630pm PD's Evening Study			8am – 1pm Church Kitchen in use
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10am Worship/ Sunday School 2pm Spring Tea 5pm IC	Newsletter Deadline	St. Patrick's Day	10am Bible Study 2pm Lenten Study 630pm PD's Evening Study			8am Men's Breakfast
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10am Worship/ Sunday School 5pm IC			845am GV Folding 10am Bible Study 2pm Lenten Study 630pm PD's Evening Study			930am Session/ Deacons Retreat @ The McCormick's
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10am Worship/ Sunday School 5pm IC						
29	30	31				
10am Worship/ Sunday School 5 th Sun. Mission Offering 5pm IC						

“PD’s Pickings”

By the time this finds its way to you, we will have just entered into the season of Lent. This is best known for being a season where we’re supposed to give up something, such as our favorite indulgences, or a bad habit. Perhaps lesser known is the option to *add* something: a spiritual practice perhaps, or a commitment to be a blessing to your nemeses at work each day, or to thank and praise God every day no matter what.

Either way, the choice you enact serves the purpose of “self-denial:” hearkening back to Jesus’ call to “deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Me.” In self-denial, several things happen:

- 1) We are reminded of the sufferings Christ endured for our sake, so that we could be freed from sin and death and called children of God. Remembering is one of the most important tasks of the walk of faith, and something the scriptures call us too often, and Lenten practices serve as reminders to remember. We should never be comfortable with the suffering Christ endured for our sakes. It should unsettle us, provoke appreciation in us.
- 2) We are reminded that we are mere mortals: small, finite, and limited in every way. Even without the problem of sin and death, this would still be true. We are creatures, not Creator, and always will be, whether in this life or the next. As Psalm 103:14 reminds us, “For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.” This is the reminder with which we begin the season of Lent when we receive ashes on our foreheads or hands on Ash Wednesday and hear the words “dust you are, and to dust you shall return.”
- 3) We are invited to look inward. This is not for feeding self-obsession, but to cultivate its opposite: humility. As C.S. Lewis famously taught, “humility is not thinking less of yourself, it is thinking of yourself less.” When we are honest with ourselves—really honest, not just naming the “acceptable sins”—we appreciate God’s grace more, and are focused on self-less. We remember in such reflection Who is God (God!), and who is *not* (me!!).

None of this is to be morbid. But solemn, honest, and reflective, yes—and hopefully life-giving too, as the Holy Spirit speaks to us through scripture and each other and helps us let go of the many things in our lives we hold on to, even as they eat away at us like acid.

Our faith contains a great deal of mystery. One of those mysteries is that true joy comes through self-denial, true security from letting go, true life through death to self. When we remember and identify with Christ and his sufferings in these ways, we open the door to greater healing and inner transformation by the Holy Spirit. And to the degree our hearts are made whole inside us, life springs from them to heal others too.

As we prepare once again for the climactic events of Holy Week, let us receive the gift God wants to give us in this season: the gift of Godself in Jesus Christ, a gift of healing obtained through suffering, victory through surrender, life through death. In dying to self we are raised to new life with Christ... blessed beyond comprehension, that we may *be* a blessing.

Shalom,

Pastor Doug



Attention Parents Summer Camp in July @ Calvin Crest

Last year, we sponsored four children to camp. All had a good time, grew spiritually and are eager to return back in 2020. So, we urge all parents to take advantage of this opportunity and send your 3rd grade to High School students to Calvin Crest this summer.

Located north of Fresno and not far from Yosemite National Park, groups of children and students gather to rest, worship and connect with God in the majesty of his creation. Camp groups are organized by school grade as follows:

Sherwood Forest Camp (3rd – 5th grade children).

- **Camp Dates:** July 5 -10 or July 12 - 17
 - Sherwood Forest campers will discover they have a special place in God's story. They will learn from the Bible, enjoy skits, sing silly songs, go on hikes, play games, and so much more.

Middle School Camp (6th – 8th grade children).

- **Camp Dates:** July 5 -10 or July 12 - 17
 - Middle School campers will discover important truths about God, community and self. They start with morning breakouts and small group interactive learning. Every night they will sing and praise our Creator. The gospel will be presented in an understandable way.

High School Camp (9th – 12th grade students).

- **Camp Date:** July 19 -24
 - High School campers are invited to spend a week going deeper in faith – whether gaining better understanding of love or choosing to obey God in specific ways. Growth will happen through small-group devotions, physical activities, and nightly campfires where they will sing, worship and engage with the Bible.

About 70% of the Summer Camp costs will be covered by the generosity of the Deacons and the Julia Sturtevant Memorial Fund. Parents – please don't pass up this opportunity to make an impact in the spiritual growth of your children.

To start, please ask Jill in the Church Office during the workweek or Alex Pineda after Sunday services, for a 2020 Summer Registration form. Drop off the completed form to the Church Office or in the Church Office box in the Fellowship Hall, along with a non-refundable deposit of \$125, payable to Calvin Crest, by March 25, 2020. Specific details are provided in the application/registration form.

Fellowship Time following Worship Service

Four groups have been created, designated by alphabetical order according to your last name:

1. Last names beginning with **A, B** and **C** – please bring a contribution on the **First Sunday**
2. Last names beginning with **D, E, F, G, H, I** and **J** – please bring a contribution on the **Second Sunday**
3. Last names beginning with **K, L, M, N, O** and **P** – please bring a contribution on the **Third Sunday**
4. Last names beginning with **Q, R, S, T, U, V, W, X, Y** and **Z** – please bring a contribution on the **Fourth Sunday**
5. Those on the **Fellowship Committee** will supply goodies when there is a **Fifth Sunday of the month**.

To inspire your contribution, here is a list of some possibilities:

Sandwiches, Roll-Ups, Cold Cuts, Chicken, Bread, Rolls, Cheese Platter, Quiche, Casseroles, Breakfast Burritos, Pizza, Crackers, Chips, Dips, Fruit, Vegetables, Nuts.

Salads: Tossed Green, Potato, Macaroni, Three Bean, Jell-O, Coleslaw.

Sweets: Cakes, Cookies, Cupcakes, Muffins, Pies, Cheesecake, Brownies, Candies, Danish, Donuts.

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## Budget Report

| General Fund:            | <u>MONTHLY</u> | <u>TO DATE</u>      | <u>BALANCE</u> |
|--------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Balance Forward          |                | \$ 36,028.17        |                |
| Monthly Income           | \$ 9,518.00    | \$ 9,518.00         |                |
| Monthly Expenditures     | \$ 15,015.88   | <u>\$ 15,015.88</u> |                |
| Balance:                 |                |                     | \$ 30,530.29   |
| Special Fund Balance:    |                |                     | \$ 26,361.66   |
| In-and-Out Fund Balance: |                |                     | \$ 5,221.34    |
| Memorial Fund:           |                |                     |                |
| Undesignated:            |                | \$ 5,350.00         |                |
| Designated:              |                | <u>\$ 11,843.55</u> |                |
| Balance:                 |                |                     | \$ 17,193.56   |
| New Site Fund:           |                |                     |                |
| Balance:                 |                |                     | \$ 4,903.00    |
| Synod Savings Account    |                |                     |                |
| Youth Reserve            |                | \$ 1,073.43         |                |
| Manse Fund               |                | \$ 61.72            |                |
| Julia Sturtevant Fund    |                | <u>\$ 26,751.50</u> |                |
| Balance:                 |                |                     | \$ 27,886.65   |

## Happy Birthday:

- 1- ONALEE KOSTER
- 2- DAVID EDWARDS
- 6- LYNDA MENDOZA  
DAISY HAMILTON
- 7- SUZANNE SKAGGS
- 16- ROBERT OPIE  
CHERI HARRIES
- 18- RICK HANSON  
ANDREW BRANDES
- 21- TRICIA WINKLER
- 23- SHIRLEY GAHM
- 28- STEVEN PAYNE
- 30- CHAR BISBEE  
JUSTIN PATTERSON

## Happy Anniversary:

- 9- ANDRE & SANDRA DEVOS

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2020 "Per Capita"

Each year, members of the Presbyterian Church are asked to contribute an amount over their pledge or other giving to support the connections we have to each other. That gift is called the per capita. It provides the resources to fund meetings and committees or commissions of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly. This year the per capita is **\$25.00**. Please mark your check or envelope "per capita". Thank you.

TRADITIONAL IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm on your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, May God
hold you in the palm of His hand.

May God be with you and bless you,
May you see your children's children.
May you be poor misfortune,
Rich in blessings,
May you know nothing but happiness
from this day forward.

May the road rise to meet you
May the wind always be at your back,
May the warm rays of sun fall upon
your home,
And may the hand of a friend always
be near.

May green be the grass you walk on,
May blue be the sky above you,
May pure be the joys that surround
you,
May true be the hearts that love you.

