



Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

SEASON OF LENT 2017

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of the Christian Year where Christians focus on simple living, prayer, and fasting in order to grow closer to God.

WHEN IS LENT?

It's the forty days before Easter. Lent excludes Sundays because every Sunday is like a little Easter. Basically, it's about one-tenth of a year (a tith of time). Mardi Gras is the day before Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday. This year it's from March 1 (Ash Wednesday) to April 16 (Easter), 2017.

Breaking News! New Associate Pastor Hired!



We are excited to share that on Sunday, February 12th, the congregation voted to call the Rev. Dawn Haeger as our new Associate Pastor!

After a nation-wide search, the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee found the perfect candidate right here in our own backyard! Dawn, and her husband Jim and son James, had moved to St. Petersburg in the Fall of 2016 for Jim's work. Since that time Dawn had been working as a Chaplain at Tampa General Hospital.

Pastor Dawn grew up in Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. She attended Northern Illinois University, and graduated with a major in Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education, and later a master's degree in Education. Dawn had a 13-year teaching career in special education.

Dawn actually grew up with a Catholic background, but marrying a cradle Presbyterian, she and her husband Jim began attending the First Presbyterian Church of

Libertyville, and it was there that Dawn began to discern her call into ministry. She attended McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, where she received her Master of Divinity degree, and where she is currently enrolled in their Doctorate of Ministry program, studying Pastoral and Spiritual Care.

Prior to coming here, Dawn served two congregations in the Chicago Presbytery as an Associate Pastor. The Haeger family moved to this area where she served as a Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Dunedin, and a chaplain at Tampa General. Afterwards, she and her family moved to the Washington, D.C. area where she served as the Pastor/Chaplain of a Presbyterian Retirement Community.

Dawn is excited to be here, and raring to go, and has already jumped in with both feet! Dawn was drawn to Peace because we are a people who yearn to draw closer to God, and live out our faith in ways that create the kingdom of God here in Clearwater. Dawn enjoys cooking, travelling, spending time with family and friends, biking with her husband, and all things chocolate! *Please make sure you introduce yourself to Dawn, and extend a warm Peace welcome to her and to her family!*

OUR MISSION

Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church is a worshipping community that, through the love of God in Jesus Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, uncovers the spiritual gifts of believers, equipping and sending them into the world to share God's love.

Based on the four New Testament Marks of the Church, we are guided to:
Worship, Connect, Grow & Serve

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For more information

on the ministries of Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, or to find out how you can serve, please visit our website, contact the church office or scan the QR code with your smart phone.

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Presbyterian Church
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Clearwater, Florida 33756



Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church Newsletter

I am the Resurrection and the Life

Easter
at
Peace Memorial
Presbyterian Church
Sunday, April 16
8:00 & 10:30 am

from the pastor's desk

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE: LENT AS PHYSICAL THERAPY



“Congratulations, Rev. Scott – you have a moderate-to-severe case of Spinal Stenosis!” That’s what the orthopedic specialist said to me as we looked at my MRI results. I learned that spinal stenosis is a constricting or narrowing of the spinal column which leads to a lot of arthritic pain.

“Well what do I do about it?” I asked. I was so hoping he wasn’t going to say lose 40 pounds. *“I recommend starting with physical therapy...and losing some weight wouldn’t hurt you either.”* Darn!

So for the last three months I’ve been going to Physical Therapy. I asked Bonnie, my therapist, if these sessions would “fix” the problem. *“Unfortunately, no.”* She said. *“But we can alleviate a lot of the pain you’re experiencing by lengthening your ligaments, strengthening your core muscles, and opening up space in your lower back that has become compressed over time.”*

Now, all of this has got me thinking ... about **Lent**. (*I know, weird right?!*) The Season of Lent is that 40 day period in the Church (excluding Sundays) that leads up to – and is designed to prepare us for – the celebration of Easter. The season of Lent is a time for us to re-dedicate ourselves to our “walk of faith” with Christ, even as he walks to the Cross for us.

But here’s how all this ties back to Physical Therapy: the word **“Lent”** actually comes from an old English word, which means **“to lengthen.”** The word originally referred to the lengthening of the days during Spring...it wasn’t a religious word at all...but perhaps there is a spiritual truth for us here to consider:

So often, when we think about Lent, the first thing that comes to mind is about “constricting” – i.e., *“Giving something up for Lent!”* And, certainly, there can be great value in cutting out, or fasting from, certain foods, attitudes, or behaviors that are unhealthy. But let me suggest to you that Lent is also about **“taking up”** certain spiritual practices like worship, prayer, scripture, service, and giving – spiritual “exercises, if you will – that are designed to **“lengthen”** and **“strengthen”** our spiritual life. You see, the wisdom of the Church is that by diligently practicing such “exercises” we open up space in our souls that has become narrowed and hardened over time by the pressures and weight of the world.

So let me invite you to consider making space this Lenten Season to engage in some “Physical Therapy for the Soul!” Join us for our series of special worship services; use the enclosed daily devotional; take part in a book or Bible study; get involved with one of the ministry opportunities here at Peace...you can read about opportunities to do all these, and more, in the page of this newsletter. And by doing so may we all stand a little straighter, and move a little freer, in our relationship with God!

*Peace in deed,
- Pastor Bob*

CUBA MISSION TRIP

We have twelve members of our church who are returning to Sancti Spiritus, Cuba for a mission trip! They will be working and worshipping with the good folks of the Sancti Spiritus Presbyterian Church (this was the church our own Silvia Rodriguez grew up in). The members of this mission trip will be commissioned during the worship service on March 12th, and will be in Cuba from March 17th-25th. Please keep our missionaries in your prayers!

YOUR DEACONS

The ministry of the deacons is one of compassion and service. Our deacons are responsible for congregational care and serve as the mission committee of the church. If you have a need contact one the following:

Class of 2017

Jan Armentrout
Nancy Meyer
Sue Phillips
Diane Spohn

Class of 2018

Linda Duff
Rebecca Futral-Anderson
Sarah Lynn Markham
Linley Scott

Class of 2019

Judy Hecker
Colleen Mounsey
Carlos Rodriguez
Brooks Workman

OFFICERS AND COUNCILS

If you want to make a difference in the church, then get involved with one of the councils of the church!

Personnel Council:

Elders - Mary Williams and Gary Duff
Meets on the first Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m.

Worship Council:

Elders - Len Horst and Dorris Folwell,
Meets on the second Monday of the month at 6:00 pm.

Finance Council:

Elders - Dave Bostick and Patrick Griffith
Meets on the Third Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Grow Council:

Elders - Robin Pitchford and Martha Espey
Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Connect Council:

Elders - Jewell Coleman and Emily Lewis
Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Property Council:

Elders - Ford Reagan and Don Gollither
Meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

The Session meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

The Deacons meet on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. (every other month)

We are committed to helping the vulnerable and the stranger in need by showing compassion as Jesus commands us to serve the ‘least of these’.

Truly I tell you,
whatever you
did for one of
The Least
of These
brothers and
sisters of mine,
you did for me.
Matthew 25:40



The Bible is God's living word to us. God's messages to us through the Word are constantly changing as we live our lives. Join us to nourish yourself with God's word and grow in the greater body of Christ.

BAKE SALE



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BAKE SALE

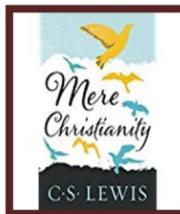
Sunday, April 2—Tasty cakes, pies, cookies and more need a good home!

NEW STUDY: MERE CHRISTIANITY

Pastor Bob has a new "Good Book" Study

scheduled for the Lenten

Season; beginning Sunday morning March 1st (from 9:15-10:00 a.m.) we will begin a study of the Christian classic "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis. In this book, Lewis - a former atheist -- seeks to make a rational case for the Christian faith. So compelling is his case that Mere Christianity is now considered to be one of the most influential books on the Christian faith ever written. Copies of the book will be available for \$10. So join us on Sunday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in Roebing Hall.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT PROGRAM: "DINNER, DISCUSSION AND DEVOTIONS"

Guy Fieri isn't the only one to have a program called "Triple D!" This Lenten Season we are scheduling a series of Wednesday Night **"Dinner, Discussion, and Devotions!"** Here's the plan: At 6:00 p.m. we will join the Youth Group for a simple dinner in Roebing Hall (cost \$5/person). This will be followed by a short topical study or discussion of a current event; then at 7:00 p.m. we will conclude our time together with an evening Vespers Service, consisting of scripture, singing, and evening prayer. "Dinner, Discussion and Devotions" will meet for four consecutive Wednesdays nights during the month of March - March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. *All are invited!*

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday Morning Bible Study and Book Study - 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday Morning "Early Bird" Bible Study - 8:00 a.m.

Presbyterian Women Circles -

Sisters Circle - Sunday, March 12 following worship.

Martha Circle - Tuesday, March 14 at 10:00 a.m.

Catherine Circle - Tuesday, March 14 at 7:00 p.m.

Men's Bible Study - Saturday mornings at Peace Café - 8:30 a.m.

HEALING SERVICE

"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14). On Wednesday, April 5th we will hold a Lenten Healing Service for 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary Chapel. This is an intimate service where we gather to pray *with* one another, and to pray *for* one another. A Healing Service is not necessarily a service of curing, but rather affirms God as the source of *all* healing - physical, emotional, spiritual, and relational - and provides an opportunity to ask for such healing and wholeness, and find one's faith strengthened and renewed.

Associate pastor's corner

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Peace community for all the wonderful ways you have welcomed me and my family. It's only been a couple of weeks and we are excited about joining you on the journey of faith as we all seek ways to grow in our faith and serve God.

As we move into Lent, I invite you to lean into this special time in the church calendar. Lent offers us a gift, the occasion to slow down, take a deep breath, consider what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and contemplate his deep love for us and the sacrifice he offered on our behalf.

For many people, this becomes a season of sacrifice, of "giving something up." If that is how you observe Lent, I urge you to consider what in your daily life does not bring you joy and satisfaction and give that up. Perhaps people at work or school are negative and hurt your spirit. Maybe you are very self-critical or short-tempered with someone in your family.

Perhaps you are interested in exploring a new practice that would draw you closer to God and neighbor. I urge you to give the printed or visual devotionals included in this packet a try. A simple, but powerful way to include children in this liturgical season is to let them create a "giving box." Find a sturdy box, have the children decorate it and then each day in Lent choose an item from your pantry, offer a prayer for the person receiving the food and then place the item in the box. On Easter Sunday bring the box to church for our local food pantry.

As we move through this sacred time in the liturgical calendar, I pray that you encounter God's Spirit in a powerful and transformative way. It is also my hope that our Peace community experiences the richness of God's presence in such a way that we continue to bring light and life into our little corner of God's realm. May we continue to be a beacon of peace so that all of God's children might know their belovedness and seek to become God's faithful disciples.

*Blessings,
Pastor Dawn*



We gather to listen anew to Christ's call in our lives and to thankfully offer ourselves in response to hearing God's Word.



LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Throughout the Season of Lent we will be exploring the unique **"I AM" Sayings of Jesus**, found only in the Gospel of John: "I Am the Bread of Life; I Am the Light of the World; I am the Door; I am the Good Shepherd; I am the True Vine; I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; and I Am the Resurrection and the Life." What do each of these statements reveal about Jesus? And what do they have to say about us? Join us each Sunday during the Season of Lent, culminating on Easter morning, to find out!



GOOD FRIDAY

On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus willingly suffered and died by crucifixion as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. We will observe this solemn occasion with a noon-time prayer service on April 14th in the Sanctuary Chapel.



EASTER DAY

"Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!" Join us Sunday, April 16th as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord! The festivities begin with an outdoor *"Garden Service"* at 8:00 a.m., followed by a Continental Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15 a.m.)! The climax of our Easter activities is our 10:30 a.m. classic service, featuring special music!



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

You are invited to our annual Maundy Thursday Dinner Service, on April 13th. It was on the night we call "Maundy Thursday" that Jesus celebrated a Last Supper with his disciples, and gave them a new commandment to *"Love one another as I have loved you."* Our service will begin with dinner together at 6:00 p.m., with a communion service to follow. This is one of the most beautiful, and meaningful services of the year, so make plans to attend!



BRIGHT SUNDAY

Join us on Sunday, April 23rd for one of the happiest traditions here at Peace Memorial! We celebrate the Sunday after Easter as "Bright Sunday." On that day we conclude our worship service with a butterfly release ceremony in Dunseith Garden, in celebration of the resurrection and the promise of eternal life.

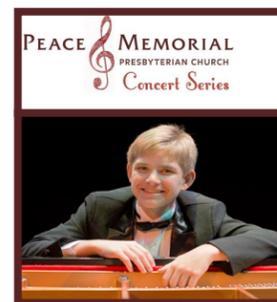


PEACE PALS

Will travel to the Ellie Schiller Homosassa Springs State Park—March 21. The 210-acre park is home to native wildlife and one of the only places you can see a West Indian manatee up close 365 days a year. We will take a pontoon boat ride along Pepper Creek to the West entrance of the park. Then, we will spend 1.1/2 hours on our own to explore the 1.1 miles of paved trails and boardwalks, viewing birds, bears, panthers, cougars, bobcats, reptiles, otters, deer, alligator, manatees and the garden of the Springs. At noon, we will board the bus for a very scenic "Old Florida" ride to "Peck's Old Port Cove" restaurant. This unique restaurant will serve us Dutch Treat lunch. Price; \$10.00 per person. Bus depart from the church parking lot at 8.00am.

PEACE LUNCH BUNCH

Thursday, March 23, 12:00 noon. Everyone is welcome! Enjoy a "Dutch Treat" with your friends at Asian Pearl—2551 Drew St. (south side of Drew St. across from Bright House Stadium). Contact Merry June Burwell for more information. Sign-up in Roebing Hall.



CONCERT

Sunday, March 12 at 3:00 pm

"Young Genius of the Piano." Just in time to brighten our Spring, award winning teenage concert pianist Noah Waddell will bring us classical masterworks from Beethoven, Chopin, Rachmaninoff, Liszt and more. Noah hails from Ft. Myers and has been wowing audiences since he started performing concerts at the tender age of ten. Among the thrilling selections you will hear is Beethoven's Sonata No.23 in F Minor, Op.57 "Appassionata".

YOUTH NEWS

Our middle school and high school program continues to meet every Wednesday from 6 to 8. The group has grown to an average of 25 students and has become one big family. They enjoy their time here at Peace, and take what they learn into their lives outside of the church. We center our hearts to practice following Jesus by "Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly." We are also in the midst of preparing for our summer programs, raising money for Montreat and Cedarkirk! There is a lot going on and help is always welcome. If you would like to see how your spiritual gifts can contribute to this growing ministry, contact Rosalie Bradford, Director of Youth Ministry

Opportunities for fellowship and fun to interact with your church family. There are groups for women, men, young families and retired.



"Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly."