

The Buckingham Gram

FEBRUARY

Buckingham Presbyterian Church



February 2023

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Pastor's Notes

February 2023: The Gift of Getting Ready... Again

I have a confession to make to you all – we've just put away our Christmas decorations. (Well, actually... there are still a few boxes that need to go out to the shed, but I'm waiting for the weather to warm up a bit!) What can I say? Getting "ready" for Christmas took so much time and preparation – it's hard now to make time to put Christmas "away."

So here we are, boxing up the last reminders of Christmastime – just in time for Lent which begins with Ash Wednesday on Feb 22. Phew! That's a quick turnaround and it's hard to get into the spirit of the Lenten season when one is still spinning from Christmas.

But, as we know – the Christmas decorations and lights are not all there is; the spiritual, heart-work of Advent and Christmas is what's really important – and not something to be stuck in a box. The light of Christ is to be always visible and always present in our lives. As Linus says in that famous scene from a Charlie Brown Christmas: *"That's what Christmas is all about."*

The journey of Lent, then, is a perfect continuation of what Christmas is all about; Lent leads us to the moment of why Jesus came in the first place – to the moment when God Incarnate was crucified, died... and then rose again on Easter. This is what the world had waited for – and this is the hope onto which we as Christians stake our faith.

But Lent takes hard work and commitment, too. We know it leads to Easter but we must not rush through Lent. Just as we may still be "cleaning house" of Christmas reminders, I want to encourage us to think of Lent as a time to clear out our spiritual houses. Lent is a time to ask ourselves – What is worth holding onto? What's weighing us down? And what's getting in the way of our relationship with God? What in our lives, frankly, needs to die to make room for the new life of Christ's resurrection?

That is the intention of the Lenten season for us: to face the stuff around us that we don't need – all the stuff we think has value – all the stuff we think may be worth keeping around or close by - stuff like:

- destructive behaviors and destructive indulgences
- patterns of negative thoughts – toward others and yourself
- resentments and harsh feeling toward self and neighbor
- other "stuff" between you and God...

Lent calls us to a time of true discernment –and courage - to put the damaging stuff away for good and make room for the light of Christ's resurrection to come again and lift us up to new life with Him.

And so – let us receive Lent 2023 as an early Easter gift – and let us be open for true growth in Christ as we adorn the world with Easter's hope and joy fully on display in our lives.

Peace,
Pastor Mark

An Ash Wednesday service will be offered on Feb 22, time TBA. Check weekly bulletins, emails, website and Facebook. Also that day, anyone wishing to just stop in and receive ashes is welcome. I will keep extra office hours in order to meet and greet, pray and mark you with the ashes of repentance.



Sewing Seeds of Love

**A Youth Initiative for Building Skills and Hearts for Service
Sundays at 10 AM beginning Feb. 19th**

Youth "clubhouse" (upstairs room in Taylor Hall)

Our Christian Education ministry invites youth of any age to join in learning the valuable skill of sewing.



As they learn to sew, they will be making blanket: homeless shelters, AGH and the Cricket Centre and beds for the animals at the Worcester County Humane Society.



While everyone will learn together, smaller groups will be formed to work on projects.

Field trips to the places we are serving are also in the works.

To help get us started, we need spare sewing machines, and various sewing supplies. A list of these supplies will be available Sunday. We will be needing help on Sundays teaching the kids as well as during the week prepping fabric.

Although geared toward youth, we see this as an opportunity for the whole church to have a chance to serve together.

Sew, start inviting any and all to join us - family members, friends, neighbors, school buddies - all are invited!

Please let Debbie Frene or Arline Curtis know of your interest and if you'd like to contribute in any way.



This is going to be SEW AWESOME!!!



2023 Annual Meeting



We had a wonderful turn out for our combined Worship Service/ Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2023. The Congregational Life Committee began the morning by treating us to a delicious breakfast of plain and blueberry pancakes, sausage and ham, fresh fruits and other treats. Pastor Mark skillfully blended the Worship Service with the business needs of the Congregation and Corporation while Greg, Steve and the choir provided a beautiful assortment of hymns and spirituals for all to sing. Pastor Mark reminded us that We Are the Church and we need to continue Joyfully praising our God in Word and Deed. Join one of the many Buckingham ministries, the choir or other volunteer opportunities! (Ministry descriptions may be found in weekly bulletins, on our website and on the bulletin boards.)



IT'S TIME FOR SUPER BOWL SUBS!



MEAL FOR OUR MISSION

Two Ways to Give Back!

Pick Up Your Meal

Drop Off Non-Perishable Items to Stock Our Blessing Box!
(2 items = 1 snack size bag of chips with your order)

Menu Includes Subs and Pints of Chicken Salad:

\$6 for one 6 inch, made to order sub

\$11 for one 12 inch, made to order sub

\$12 for one pint of Chicken Salad

Sub options include:

Turkey, Chicken Salad or American Cold Cut

Cheese, Lettuce, Tomato, Mayo and Mustard optional

Orders due by Tues. Feb. 7th.

Subs will be available for pickup by Feb 12th 10:30am-1pm

To place your order call 908-619-2475 or

email bpcyouthsubsale@gmail.com

<https://bpcyouthsubsale.wixsite.com/superbowlsubs>

**Proceeds from the sale will support HALO
(Hope and Life Outreach) & the Worcester County
Humane Society in conjunction with the youth
"Sewing Seeds of Love" ministry.**



The kids have had a great month of learning. One of the lessons from January was about choices. They read about Adam and Eve and discussed how God gives us

choices everyday, some are easy to make while others are more difficult. We gave our friend a choice between A (candy) and B (a chunk of wood). We tried to convince him what choice he should make. Of course he chose the candy but what he didn't know, wrapped under the choice B was a \$10 bill. Sometimes we don't understand why we are led to make a choice that looks like a piece of wood, but when unwrapped we discover there's a bigger picture hidden beneath. The kids started prayer journals to track lessons for the year and tore a piece of the heart for each bad choice we made. We know God wants our hearts to be whole, with forgiveness from his son, Jesus. We tried our best to tape the pieces back together and wrote Proverbs 3:5

"Trust God with all your heart". Each kid was given a choose your own ending book, "Each Day is a Day of |Decisions", as a take home gift for reflection. Thank you for your prayers and love the youth of our Church Body. We pray each day they make decisions for Christ.



Feb 01 Evelyn Warren

Feb 06 Jacob Cook

Feb 07 Lindsay Ashton

Feb 10 George David

Feb 12 Dorothy Timpkin

Feb 12 Thomas Truitt

Feb 14 Rowan Cook

Feb 16 Cathey Leyden

Feb 19 Michael Leyden

Feb 20 Ethan Cook

Feb 27 Steve Frene

Feb 27 Cade Harsh



Feb 09 Charles & Joan Townsend

Feb 14 Tony & Karla Davis

Feb 27 Gregory & Leslie Fraser





The Way of Love

(1 Corinthians 13: 1-10,
The Message)

If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, "Jump," and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up.
Love cares more for others than for self.
Love doesn't want what it doesn't have.
Love doesn't strut,
Doesn't have a swelled head,
Doesn't force itself on others,
Isn't always "me first,"
Doesn't fly off the handle,
Doesn't keep score of the sins of others,
Doesn't revel when others grovel,
Takes pleasure in the flowering of truth,
Puts up with anything,
Trusts God always,
Always looks for the best,
Never looks back,
But keeps going to the end.

Love never dies.



FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	2 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	3 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	4
5 COMMUNION 9am Contemporary 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	6 Share & Care 6:30pm	7 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Sub Orders Due	8 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm Session 6:30pm	9 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	10 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	11
12 9am Contemporary 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional SUPER BOWL SUB SALE	13 Share & Care 6:30pm	14 Men's Breakfast 8:30am Rayne's Reef Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm 	15 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm	16 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	17 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	18
19 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds of Love with guest from Cricket Center 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional	20 Share & Care 6:30pm Sewing Seeds of Love Field Trip to HALO	21 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm	22 Pastor's Hrs. 1-3pm  Ash Wednesday	23 Bible Study 6pm Choir 7:30	24 Pastor's Hrs. 10am-12pm	25
26 1st Sunday of Lent 9am Contemporary 10am Sewing Seeds of Love 10:15-10:45— Friendship Time 11am Traditional 5	27 Share & Care 6:30pm	28 Pastor's Hrs. 3-5pm Deacon's Meeting 4pm	<p align="center"><u>Regularly Scheduled Meetings *</u></p> <p>Session: 1st Tuesday of every month 6:30pm Deacons: Last Tuesday of every month 4pm Trustees: Last Wednesday of every other month 4:30pm</p> <p><small>*schedule may be changed based on schedule/availability. Change will be noted in bulletins.</small></p>			



BUCKINGHAM GRAM

VISION STATEMENT

***We are a community of disciples,
Who honor all people,
Care for those in need,
Share the hope we receive from Jesus Christ.***