



March 2024



Dear Friends,

“Easter is so early this year!” is a refrain I’ve both heard and repeated many times in the past month. But do you know how the date of Easter is determined?

Holidays in the Christian year are traditionally referred to as “feasts,” and there are fixed feasts (occurring on the exact same date every year, like Christmas) and moveable feasts (occurring on different dates each year, like Easter and Pentecost). Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox. That means Easter can fall anywhere from March 22—April 25 in a given year.

Why? Time for a fun church history lesson!

The earliest Christians computed the date of Easter according to the Jewish religious calendar, setting it three days after the beginning of Passover. This made sense in the early years when Christianity was considered a minor sect of Judaism. However, as Christianity grew into the larger Roman Empire, it needed ways to come up with dates that made sense to a more diverse crowd. In 325AD, the Roman Emperor Constantine, a Christian convert, called Christian leaders together in the Council of Nicaea, the first of many efforts to attain consensus in the church through an assembly representing all Christendom. One of the many, many issues they tackled was the calculation of Easter. They chose a dating system that would both honor the lunar roots of the Jewish calendar but be more consistent with the Gregorian calendar used by the majority of the Roman Empire. Hence, our current system. (This only took place in the western church—our siblings in the eastern part of the globe have a totally different system.)

It is this pastor’s humble opinion that this is an excellent example of a committee attempting to make something less complicated and succeeding in making it quite a bit more complicated. The good news is that’s been happening since well before 325AD and will happen for many generations to come!

What’s important is that the hope of Easter remains true, and we will celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord this year on March 31. I look forward to seeing you all then!

Peace, Pastor Elizabeth

STEEPLE TALK

SESSION

The beginning of Spring is upon us. I see Spring as the season of renewal. I look forward to Pastor Elizabeth leading us in “Love Lent: Returning Our Hearts to God” which I hope will help strength my relationship with God and open my heart more fully to being able to love. Her message on the first Sunday of Lent hit home with me as February was a challenging month for me personally and I know I put up walls to protect my heart from hurt. February brought the loss of my aunt and a horrific end to a day that was supposed to be a celebration. Although I am thankful my aunt is reunited with her sisters, including my mom, and parents



and that no one I know was injured at the parade, I still feel sad and hurt. May we each strive to give our hearts back to God during this Lenten season.

Your Session members love each of you and are blessed to be able to serve you and the church and the one who created the church. Session met in February. During our meeting we handled the normal business of reviewing financials and reports from the various committees and began our new book study on “Your Leadership Edge”. We approved welcoming three new members and a baptism for one of those new

members. We also spent time discussing a letter from Heartland Presbytery regarding the formation of a task force to address gun violence. This is a matter that unfortunately affects more and more people every day. Session is going to study the “Gun Violence Prevention” report passed by the 221st General Assembly and try to discern our path forward. Please feel free to reach out to a Session member if you have any questions.

"I offer my life to you, Lord. My God, I trust you." Psalm 25: 1-2a. May the Peace of Christ be with you today and every day of your life!

Kim Scheerer

RAYTOWN CANDY DONATIONS

The 13th Annual City of Raytown Egg-Stravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, March 30. If you would like to donate candy for the city egg hunt, BRPC is ready to take your donations—just drop them off in the blue box at church. If you would like to attend or advertise the event, flyers are posted on the Mission bulletin board in the narthex.

MUSIC NEWS

“What Wondrous Love Is This” or “Wondrous Love” is a folk hymn with origins in the American South that we often sing during Lent. With many early hymns, words were added to popular tunes of the day that people already knew. This hymn’s tune is believed to have come from the British Isles, a ballad sung as early as the late 1700’s, although no one really knows for sure! Many early American hymns were collected by singing teachers for their singing school students, and this one was first published in 1811. It became widely known and is published in many denominational hymn books. The melody line is in a haunting minor mode; the words express awe at Christ’s great love for us and are repeated within each verse for emphasis. During Lent I will be playing various arrangements of this beautiful hymn and showing one of the verses on screen. “What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to lay aside his crown for my soul?”

Linda Mann

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

NO Sunday School March 24th or March 31st.

Adult Class – March 3rd – March 17th Pastor Elizabeth will continue the book study of “Love is the Way: Holding onto Hope in Troubling Times” by Bishop Michael Curry. In this book Bishop Curry makes the case for “a revival of love as a way to a liberating and life-giving relationship with God, with others, with all God’s creation on this planet we call earth.” Come join us and learn how to put faith and love into action.

Easter Egg Hunt – all children are invited to participate in BRPC’s annual Easter Egg Hunt that will be held Easter Sunday on **March 31st** immediately following Easter service. Baskets will be available, but you are welcome to bring you own special Easter Basket to collect the eggs you find.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Judy Allison
Kay Countryman
Marsha Elbasani
Don Young
Mike Lockwood
Sherry Lockwood
Bobby Neal

Charles Ramirez
Robert Paradise
Kim Scheerer
Stacy Schumacher
Lee Starcke
Matthew Urriola

OWLS



On February 8th, 32 folks enjoyed pizza, salad and a chocolate fountain. And, then everyone sat back , relaxed, and enjoyed as Kellie Wentz shared pictures and stories of her pilgrimage this past summer. It was excellent!!

Sign up in the narthex to join OWLS on **March 14, 2024**. Come early to stuff Easter eggs at 11:30am! Then at noon, we will have a **special Irish-themed meal** followed by a performance by the **New Harmony Handful under the direction of our very own, Jim Bagby**. This group sings four-



part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style. You won't want to miss this toe-tapping good time!

DEACONS

WHO CARES?

The BRPC returning and new Deacons are looking forward to serving our church and “caring” for their flocks in 2024. Each Deacon is a “shepherd” who will keep a flock of individuals and/or families from the congregation in their thoughts and prayers throughout the year. God loves and cares for us, and we hope you will take comfort in knowing that your Deacon cares for you too. Take a deep breath in, let it out slowly, then enjoy reading this poem by Helen Steiner Rice.

“Somebody Cares”

Somebody cares and always will,
The world forgets but God loves you still,
You cannot go beyond His Love
No matter what you're guilty of –
For God forgives until the end,
He is your faithful, loyal friend,
And though you try to hide your face
There is no shelter any place
That can escape His watchful eye,
For on the earth and in the sky
He's ever present and always there
To take you in His tender care
And bind the wounds and mend the breaks
When all the world around forsakes...
Somebody cares and loves you still
And God is the Someone who always will.

Looking forward to Spring,
Karen Clevenger, for the Deacons

COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE



Please Join us for Coffee Fellowship to be held the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Please watch for your time. Please see March volunteers below:

MARCH 10—Chartrand, Chi, Clevenger, Countryman, Oliver

Contact: Karen Clevenger 816-353-6184

MARCH 24—Cox, Cox-Johnson, Elbasani, Ham

Contact: Larry Ham 816-356-3722

RECIPE

We had many wonderful soups at our Ash Wednesday Dinner. Kim Scheerer was kind enough to provide the following recipe for her delicious red pepper soup!

SMOKED GOUDA, ROASTED RED PEPPER TOMATO BISQUE

INGREDIENTS

- 2 - 14.5 ounce cans fire roasted tomatoes
- 12 ounce jar roasted red peppers
- 3 cups chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1 1/2 teaspoons sea salt
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 3 large cloves garlic, minced
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 8 ounces smoked gouda cheese, shredded
- 1/2 cup heavy cream

INSTRUCTIONS

Heat the slow cooker on the low setting. To the slow cooker, add the tomatoes, roasted red peppers, chicken stock, tomato paste, basil, sea salt, oregano, and black pepper.

In a medium sauté pan, over medium heat, sauté the onion and garlic in butter until soft and translucent, about 10 minutes.

Add the sautéed onions to the slow cooker, cover and cook on low for 4 hours.

After 4 hours, transfer the soup to a high-powered blender and puree until smooth. This can also be done using an immersion blender.

Pour the pureed soup back into the slow cooker. Stir in the heavy cream and Gouda cheese. Cover and cook for 1 additional hour.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

The Mission and Outreach committee is pleased to welcome two new members, Carol Ramirez and Martha Wallsmith, and Shelley Melewski as the new moderator.

We heard from Carla Weisz that the Souper Bowl drive collected \$65, 244 cans, 25 dry soup mixes, comprising 1200 meals. All this has been delivered to REAP.



Along with the Worship committee, we sorted the Reverse Advent calendar items, and they are being distributed to Micah, REAP and Blue Ridge elementary school, along with the warm clothing the congregation donated for the elementary students.

We continue to support REAP, NOROC, PEB, Micah, Shepherd Center, and others. We are considering presenting a mission fair during a coffee fellowship after Easter, to help the congregation get a feel for the organizations we support.

We voted to change the meeting time to 12:30 as more convenient. We meet the second Tuesday of the month, and we always encourage others to join us in our work.

SAVE THE DATE

The Heart of America Barbershop Chorus' Annual Spring Show is *April 6th at 2:00pm at The City House* in Independence MO. **Tickets are \$15 each** (group discounted). See Mike Schumacher if you are interested in going. The Chorus' featured quartet is FLEET STREET, 2023 International Semi-Finalist. In addition, we will have 4's Company, Home and our fun chapter quartets. I know you will love the fun, talent and harmonies these groups bring to the stage. Do you remember J Walter Beethoven from the 1960s WHB radio days? He will be emceeing our first half. It really will be a wonderful show! Hope you can attend. - Mike Schumacher

An advertisement for Heartland Camps. At the top, a dark blue banner contains the text "HEARTLAND CAMPS" in white, with a small white tree icon to the left and a white heart icon to the right. Below the banner, the background is a collage of photos. The top photo shows a woman in a yellow shirt smiling at a young girl wearing a white helmet. The bottom photo shows a woman and two children swimming in a pool. Overlaid on the photos is a yellow sunburst graphic containing a list of activities: HORSEBACK RIDING, SWIMMING, ARCHERY, ROCK WALL & ZIP LINE, and WORSHIP. Text boxes provide details for two camps: "GRANDPARENT CAMP" with dates June 8-9, ages 4 & up, and a price of \$100 per person; and "FAMILY CAMP" with dates June 21-23, ages all are welcome, a price of \$130 per person, and a note that children 3 and under are free. The text "FAMILY CAMP" is written in large blue letters at the bottom of the advertisement.

PROPERTY

PROJECTS

Our Property Committee is currently working on replacement of the missing railing at the south entrance steps. Other projects include: adding gravel to the enclosed area around the AC units on the west; removing the former trash enclosure; getting the steeple base siding repaired; improving the front lawn; having the main floor men's restroom and kitchenette drain lines snaked; gathering more information on pew repairs; processing building use requests as they come in; overseeing maintenance and repairs; etc. If you see a problem or have a concern, please let a Property Committee member know or place a note in Bobby Neal's mailbox. Thank you.

GARBAGE DISPOSAL

Please help us keep the kitchenette's garbage disposal working at its optimum. Since it is only a residential unit, it cannot take the volume of debris that a commercial unit might address. Please consider what you are putting down the disposal. Be sure to run water until the unit is clear each time it is used. Additionally, we are asking that everyone try to run hot water and some Dawn dishwashing liquid down the drain regularly to help ensure optimal efficiency. Thank you!

ELEVATOR ROOM REMINDER

BRPC recently had our annual state elevator inspection and passed. Additionally, besides any needed maintenance (such as what we experienced in January), we have bimonthly inspections and routine maintenance

as per our elevator maintenance program with MEI. We need everyone's help, however, in ensuring that nothing is placed in the elevator room. It is against fire code and state regulations. Prior to our inspection, we had to remove a great deal of items that are not elevator-related and do not belong in the elevator room. Thank you in advance for helping BRPC to remain up to code.

THANK YOUR FOR CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

If church should need to close for a Sunday worship service or other event because of inclement weather or icy conditions, the pastor and Worship and Property Committee moderators will make that decision. The information will then be posted on **KMBC 9 and KCTV 5**.

THE EXTRA SECOND

Thank you for always taking that extra second to check (when exiting and entering the building) that the exterior door has closed completely behind you. Please do not leave any exterior church door unlocked if someone is not present at that location to ensure safety. Thank you!

BUILDING USE PROCESS

Please submit a building use request form (by the intercom in the outer office) for any extra activity and submit to Bobby or Christi Neal, Moderators of Property Committee. Please check the online calendar first when considering a date. Thank you.

Christi Neal

WORSHIP

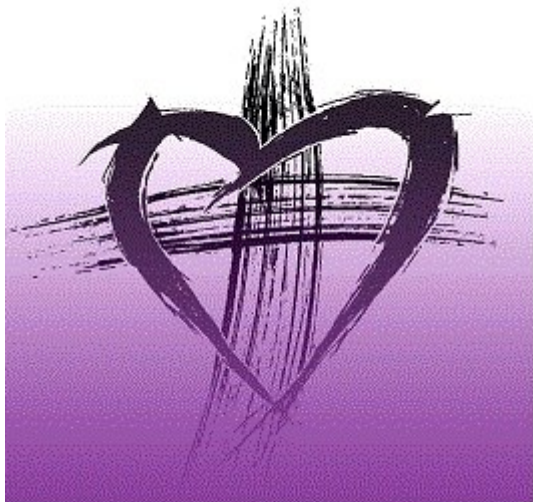
UPCOMING WORSHIP EVENTS

- Mar. 1—Lent continues**
Mar. 3—3rd Sunday of Lent, Communion
Mar. 10—4th Sunday of Lent
Mar. 17—5th Sunday of Lent
Mar. 24—Palm/Passion Sunday Cantata
Mar. 28—Maundy Thursday -
 6 PM Baked potato supper,
 7 PM Interactive Service
Mar. 31—Easter Sunday, children's egg
 hunt
April 14—Rev. Carla Gentry in pulpit
May 19—Pentecost Sunday

"LOVE LENT:

RETURNING OUR HEARTS TO GOD"

Our Lenten theme for worship this year is "Love Lent: Returning Our Hearts to God." May we continue to draw closer to Christ as we prayerfully reflect upon His love and sacrifice for each one of us and open our hearts and lives to His example of love and service to others.



THE SANCTUARY FOR LENT

If you have not received or picked up your family's copy of our Lenten devotional, The Sanctuary for Lent by Abigail Browka, please find yours on the table in the narthex. If you are unable to pick up your Lenten devotional, please let Mike Schumacher or any Deacon know that you would like one delivered. These devotionals are available to all members and visitors.

EASTER LILIES

Thank you to everyone who ordered Easter lilies. They may be picked up after Easter Sunday worship, March 31.

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS?

Linda Mann will continue to play various arrangements of "What Wondrous Love Is This?" throughout Lent. What a beautiful way to experience more deeply Christ's love for us!

ASH WEDNESDAY BLESSINGS

Our church family enjoyed a wonderful soup supper together on February 14, with a poignant service following that included the imposition of ashes. BRPC was adorned with purple hearts and fabric, crosses, and ribbons to help us experience our Lenten theme. Everyone had the opportunity to help create the beautiful paraments now displayed in the sanctuary by helping to cut and prepare fabric hearts for the banners. Special thanks to Grace Cox-Johnson for finishing the paraments and displaying them. They also coordinate with Pastor Elizabeth's new stole.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

I'm sure you have heard these phrases before "Fast and Furious"- "Slow but Sure"- "Time is of the Essence" and let's not forget "It Will Take Time to do it Right." Actually, while you're reading this I'm sure your mind is racing through several others you know.

Your "Capital Campaign" committee has dealt with all of these and several others while we are proceeding with the various changes and improvements we have been charged with completing. With that said, there have been several projects already completed and several more in the planning and organizing stages.

Completed or scheduled for completion are the outside signs (land scaping and lighting still in progress), steeple painting, second floor doors to help save heating and cooling costs, parking lot repairs and patching.

As you know there are more projects to complete and the list includes several of the larger ones like tuckpointing, kitchens, bathrooms, and more. All these projects are in various stages of completion. Most of the larger ones are in the early and time-consuming stages of design, total cost and scheduling. A few smaller ones are being completed as time permits.

Your Capital Campaign committee will be having a joint meeting with Session soon to

increase our communication. Let me assure you that every member of this committee is dedicated to the responsibility of simply getting things done. And we know that we have been a little slow on our communication. So, this is the first of many articles that will keep you up to date with everything. In the meantime, if you have something you would like to have considered and put on the list of repairs or improvements, please give Don Young or Kellie Wentz (co-chairpersons of the committee) a written request rather than a conversation during church. That way we don't have to remember what you told us (Kellie can remember things just fine, but Don not so much).

We promise to keep you aware of the process of all future projects.

from Don Young





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 The Second Sunday in Lent 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Coffee Fellowship	26	27	28 1:00pm Book Club 5:30pm 5x5 Bells Practice 6:00pm Chancel Chimes Practice 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	29 11:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Raytown Community Choir Rehearsals	1 BRPC Business Office Closed	2
3 Communion Sunday The Third Sunday in Lent 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship	4 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting	5	6 5:30pm 5x5 Bells Practice 6:00pm Chancel Chimes Practice 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	7 11:00am Prayer Group 1:00pm Christian Education Cmtee Mtg 6:00pm - 9:00pm BSA District Roundtable 7:00pm - 8:30pm Raytown Community Choir Rehearsals	8 BRPC Business Office Closed	9
10 The Fourth Sunday in Lent 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Coffee Fellowship 12:30pm Finance Committee Meeting	11	12 6:00pm Property Meeting	13 5:30pm 5x5 Bells Practice 6:00pm Chancel Chimes Practice 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	14 11:00am Prayer Group 12:00pm - 2:00pm OWLS 4:00pm Capital Campaign Meeting 7:00pm - 8:30pm Raytown Community Choir Rehearsals	15 BRPC Business Office Closed 1:00pm Quiddler (Parlor)	16
17 The Fifth Sunday in Lent 9:30am Sunday School 10:45am Worship 12:00pm - 12:30pm Deacons' Meeting	18 6:30pm - 10:00pm New Harmony Handful Rehearsal	19 12:30pm Missions & Outreach Cmte Mtg.	20 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 5:30pm 5x5 Bells Practice 6:00pm Chancel Chimes Practice 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	21 11:00am Prayer Group 7:00pm - 8:30pm Raytown Community Choir Rehearsals 7:00pm Session Meeting	22 BRPC Business Office Closed	23
24 Palm Sunday 10:45am Worship with Cantata 12:00pm Coffee Fellowship	25	26	27 1:00pm Book Club 5:30pm 5x5 Bells Practice 6:00pm Chancel Chimes Practice 7:00pm Chancel Choir Practice	28 11:00am Prayer Group 6:00pm Maundy Thursday Dinner 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm - 8:30pm Raytown Community Choir Rehearsals	29 BRPC Business Office Closed	30
31 Easter Sunday 10:45am Worship 12:00pm Egg Hunt	1 BRPC OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm Worship Committee Meeting	2	3	4 11:00am Prayer Group 1:00pm Christian Education Cmtee Mtg 6:00pm - 9:00pm BSA District Roundtable 7:00pm - 8:30pm Raytown Community Choir Rehearsals	5 BRPC Business Office Closed	6

MARCH WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Liturgists</u>	<u>Youth Message</u>	<u>Tech Ministry</u> Slides, Audio, Camera	<u>Coffee Fellowship</u>
3	Andrew Scott	Pastor Elizabeth	S Bobby Neal A Bobby Neal C Don Young E Bill Mewlewski	
10	Carla Weisz	Carla Weisz	S Jana Henderson A Karen Clevenger C Bobby Neal E Kellie Wentz	COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
17	Don Young	Barbara Ham	S Mary Ziegenhorn A Craig Ziegenhorn C John Starcke E Mary Ziebenhorn	
24	Jim Bagby	Christi Neal	S Jo Riggs A Don Young C Bobby Neal E Kellie Wentz	COFFEE FELLOWSHIP
28			S Mary Ziegenhorn A Jim Bagby C Bobby Neal E Jo Riggs	
31	Karen Clevenger	Karen Clevenger	S Linda Schumacher A Mary Ziegenhorn C Bill Melewski E Bill Melewski	



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In God We Trust

MARCH

2024



BRPC Staff

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Office Manager: Susan Dykmann
email: office@brpcraytown.org

Director of Music: Grace Cox-Johnson
email: fuscias567@gmail.com

Organist: Linda Mann
email: themanns@manneco.com

The Mission of BRPC is to

- V Proclaim** the Good News of Jesus Christ;
- V Worship God** with reverence, warmth and joy;
- V Nourish faith and discipleship** through prayer, fellowship, giving, study and service;
- V Work** for justice and peace; and

