

Covenant Church Newsletter
408 N Sacaton St, Suite K
Casa Grande, AZ 85122-4437
520-876-2888

www.covenantprescg.org email: office@covenantprescg.org

A Christ centered covenant community;

Loving God,
Loving People,
Making Disciples

March 2021

Pastor's Ponderings

The month of March will find us well into the heart of Lent. Lent is the forty-day season of penance observed by Christians around the world that begins with Ash Wednesday, and ends with Easter Sunday. Interesting fact: there are actually 46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter. The extra six days are the Sundays, which in traditional Christian observance are excluded from Lent. The idea here is that each week's celebration of the resurrection would not count as part of the otherwise somber observance of Lent. Another interesting fact: because Easter is a lunar holiday, celebrated on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the solar equinox, the dates for both Easter and Lent (including Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday) change from year to year.

As to the purpose of Lent itself, it may seem counter-intuitive, but preparation for Good News largely means becoming keenly aware of the bad news—the bad news that we are sinners in need of forgiveness. The right focus of Lent, then, is confession and repentance. Over time this right focus has shifted away from confession and toward doing some kind of penance for our sins. Hence in many traditions people “give up” something for Lent.

I'm all for giving things up for Lent as a way of increasing our focus on Christ: I'm less a fan of giving things up as penance. Christ is the one who pays for our sins, so giving up chocolate, or television, or Facebook isn't going to get us any more forgiven. That being said, some type of fast during Lent as a way to remember to focus on confession, isn't going to hurt. Even more worthwhile might be a commitment to *add* something to your life: a daily devotion, an extra ten minutes of prayer, or an increase in deeds that show forth the love of Jesus Christ.

Whatever you are doing personally, we will as a congregation be looking at various “Stories of Life” from the Bible during the season of Lent, drawing out lessons having to do with the amazing resurrection hope that is ours. Then, we are *hopeful* there will be a Maundy Thursday service on April 1st (no fooling!), and finally, of course, we look so forward to being together on Easter Sunday (after missing out on that glorious opportunity last year)!!

In Christ,

Brant

FROM THE CLERK

Session has reelected Mary Moore as our Stated Clerk of Session and Derek Moore as the Treasurer. Both consider it a privilege to be entrusted with those positions.

As always, our Mission Team has been pretty busy. Our little congregation was able to send \$3375 to Habitat for Humanity from our Mission 5th Sunday offering in January. We also hope you and your family are enjoying putting your daily change in a paper house or bag according to the suggestions of Habitat’s Lenten calendar. We can bring those offerings to the church on Easter to forward to Habitat.

Rex Little will be continuing his monthly presentations after worship. Don’t miss out on these very informative lessons.

Men’s Bible Study

The Men of the church meet each Thursday at 11:30am, all men are welcome, and you can bring a sack lunch if you like. Wearing a mask is optional. If you would like to be part of the Bible study, please call Brant for more information (520-876- 2888 or 480-458-7628).

Neighborhood Help Team

The Neighborhood Help Team is continuing a service for those who could use a little bit of help. We would like to help you in replacing A/C filters or with some landscape trimming on the 4th Saturday of each month. Contact Nelson Moore in person or call him @ 520-483-0461.

March Calendar

- 7 Communion
- 10 Prayers at the Flagpole at McCartney Ranch Elementary, Wed. March 10, 9:00am.
- 10 Prayer Night, Wednesday, March 10, 6:30pm.
- 11 Worship Team meeting, Thurs. March 11 at 1:00pm.
- 18 Session meeting, Thursday, March 18 at 6:00pm.
- 24 Prayer Night, Wednesday, March 24, 6:30pm.

March Birthdays

- 1 Gladys Perry
- 3 Len Johnson
- 4 Phil Perry
- 7 Cathy Taylor
- 20 Luke Little

March Anniversaries

- 20 Anthony & Crystalle Kirkbride