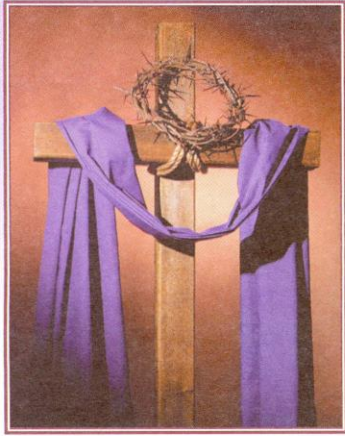


March Link



Greetings & Peace;

By His Wounds We Are Healed

MAR. 1, 2017

From Ashes to Fire: Lent and Easter/Pentecost

Here we are at the opening of a new time ... Also facing the event of Spring. We have promises of a nice green one and flowers are waiting to bloom. It is also our church season's entry into Lent.

Lent reminds us that at the heart of the Christian faith, is our participation in the life, suffering, death, resurrection, and the ascension of Jesus Christ as Lord. Not so long ago in John 1: 14 we proclaimed that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus Christ was born into human history in the fullness of time for our salvation. In time he lived and taught, suffered and was put to death; but God "raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand ... and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all" (Eph.1 :20,22-23). Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are delivered from sin and death, and by the Holy Spirit we are born into eternal life with God. These things we confess; and these things we must renew continually in our worship and in our lives.

We can begin to ask ourselves "What is this Paschal Mystery?" that is at the very heart of the Christian gospel and of all our life of worship? Passover - is a bit more of our familiar wording... Passover is the celebration of the ancient Hebrew agricultural spring feast of the saving rescue and deliverance of the Israelites from bondage in Egypt which occurred during that time of year. The paschal lamb, which was sacrificed to God in memory of that night of deliverance from death, became a central symbol of redemption. This symbol appears in the New Testament, especially in John's Gospel and in the writings of Paul. "Christ, our paschal lamb, has been sacrificed. Let us, therefore, celebrate the festival" (I Corinthians 5:7-8).

When we speak of the Paschal Mystery, then, we refer to the whole range of meanings associated with the saving work of Christ and the church's participation therein. It may refer specifically to those days in which we celebrate the narrative of the passion-death-resurrection; it may be used to speak of the reality and power of Christ in the sacraments and his living Word; but it also refers to our continuing experience of living with the Lord. It is a rich, powerful concept as well as an image. In this light we may claim that a genuine recovery of the wholeness of the Paschal Mystery in our worship will bring a deeper personal commitment to the lordship of Christ in our common life and a deeper sense of what it is to be the church, the people of God. In remembering the mystery of our redemption in Christ through the seasons of Lent and Easter, we are formed in the pattern of his death and resurrection and his life-giving Spirit.

So let us then celebrate this season - the Paschal Mystery. Open ourselves to walk the way to the cross and to experience the victory on the day of His resurrection - for it is also ours.

Praise God! Shalom - Pastor Trudy

1) Celebrate Shrove Tuesday at the Annual Pancake Supper;

- Who: All are welcome.
- What: All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Supper hosted by the men of PVUMC. Menu includes regular, multi-grain, and potato pancakes with real maple syrup and sausages.
- Where: PVUMC Fellowship Hall
- When: February 28, 2017 (Fat Tuesday) Serving supper at 6:00 PM
- Why: Because everyone likes pancakes and fellowship, of course.
- A free-will offering will be accepted; proceeds to benefit church missions.

Why do we eat pancakes on Shrove Tuesday? **Pancakes** are a traditional food on **Shrove Tuesday**, which is also known as **Pancake Tuesday**. **Pancakes** can be made with ingredients that were traditionally forbidden during Lent, including fat, sugar and eggs

2) The Bean Hole Bean Supper Committee met after coffee hour on Sunday, February 5, 2016. We set the following tentative dates for the 2017 suppers; April 29, September 23 and October 21.

3) Firewood reserves for the Bean Hole Bean Supper are getting low. We burn a cord or more of firewood each supper. We need to stockpile at least four cords of firewood for 2017. Ideally we will have the wood on site, split and stacked before winter sets in. If you have wood available, know of a source of wood, or would be willing to help cut and split wood, please call John Baum at 860-379-9398.



4) Keep Pastor Trudy in your prayers at the passing of her husband Bob. Arrangements are being made in New York.



March Schedule

March 5 March 12 March 19 March 26	<u>Nursery Care</u> Hurley & Laurie Fenner Shirley Green & Pat Allen Caprice Shaw & Dietz Hurley & Laurie Fenner	<u>Cleaners</u> J. Lee J. Lee M. Fenn M. Fenn	<u>Ushers</u> Barney Connors & Shirley Green Shelly & Evan Bailey Barb & Steve Bailey Karen & Rui Carvalho
March 5 March 12 March 19 March 26	<u>Counters</u> Chip Simons & Steve Bailey John Baum & Mary Lou Centofanti Gail Klein & Richard Lavieri Steve Bailey & Emil Klein	<u>Greeters</u> Lucas Family Pat Allen Joann Little Renfrew Family	<u>Coffee Hour</u> Beth Lambert & Tami Beaulieu Tish Tubman & Sandy Slemmer Suzanne Gerber-Hurley & Betty Vasco Angela Root & Pat Allen
March 5 March 12 March 19 March 26	<u>Lectionary Readers</u> John Baum Suzanne Gerber-Hurley Ann Kramer Steve Bailey		
March 5 March 12 March 19 March 26	<u>Lectionary Readings</u> Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7, Psalm 32 (UMH 766), Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11 Genesis 12:1-4a, Psalm 121 (UMH 844), Romans 4:1-5, 13-17, John 3:1-17 Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 85 (UMH 814), Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23 (UMH 754 or 137), Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41		