

# March Link

## What are you giving up?

It's the biggest question of the Easter season. People always ask me "So Pastor Mike, what are you giving up for lent this year?" and every year I have the same answer . . . "Ummm. . . I don't know. . . maybe chocolate? Perhaps candy. . . ummmm... I don't know" . . . and by the way, the answer is, and never will be coffee. . . but now as I say that, I'm thinking maybe that's an idol and perhaps I should give up coffee. . . . nah.

This year, perhaps we could all be enticed to give up something you've never thought about giving up. Perhaps when I say this, you'll have a profoundly confused look on your face, throw up your hands and yell "that's it, he's crazy. . . he's nuts, he's gone off the deep end again, he's a wack-a-doo!"

This year, I'd like you to consider giving up love. Yes, that's right, you read it correct. . . Give. Up. Love.

No, I'm not asking you to stop loving, actually I'm asking you to do just the opposite, when I say give up, this year I'd like you to not consider the phrase "give up" as in quit doing something. One of the synonyms of the word give, is to offer. And when you swap out "give" with "offer", you get "Offer up" . . . see where I'm going with this?

This year, may I suggest you "offer up" love. . . for 40 days, offer up the love of Jesus, the unconditional, undeserved, unending love of Jesus to someone, or several someone's that you've never offered love to in the past. When I say offer the love of Jesus, I don't mean tell them about Jesus, though that's never a bad thing, I don't mean thump the bible and tell them to "go repent the end is nigh!!!" Maybe don't even mention Jesus, just love on them, show them the love that Jesus showed you on the cross, the love that we'll be celebrating on Easter Sunday, April 12 this year (join us for an ecumenical sunrise service in the Memorial Garden @6am and then worship with us in our sanctuary @10AM). Spread a little more love around during this Lenten period than you normally do, and perhaps, just perhaps, it'll stick with you for the rest of your life. . .and beyond!

I pray for nothing but the best this Easter season, that God will fill you with Grace, Mercy and Love abundantly, in the glorious name of Jesus Christ the King and Savior. Amen.

Blessings always  
Pastor Mike and Karen Antici

**Do you remember life  
before the computer?**

**Back when...**

- \* **Memory was something that  
you lost with age.**
- \* **An application was for employment.**
- \* **A program was a TV show.**
- \* **A cursor used profanity.**
- \* **A keyboard was a piano.**
- \* **A web was a spider's home.**
- \* **A virus was the flu.**
- \* **A CD was a bank account.**
- \* **A hard drive was a  
long trip on the road.**
- \* **A mouse pad was where  
a mouse lived.**

**Do you remember?**

*The HORSE Mafia®*

## Scriptures for March

March 1: Guest Speaker Michael Butler

March 8: Guest Speaker Pastor John Esposito

March 15: "Demons and Gluttons": Matthew 11:11-19; Luke 7:28-35

March 22: "Eating with Dirty Hands": Matthew 15:3-20; Mark 7:8-22


March 29: "The Three Seashells": Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36

## March Schedule

	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Ushers</u>
March 1 March 8 March 15 March 22 March 29	Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	Fenn Fenn Volunteer Needed Steve Bailey Steve Bailey	Barb & Steve Bailey Dawn & Wayne Renfrew Nick & Jenny Peck Sandy Slemmer & Dennis Delaney Shelley & Evan Bailey
	<u>Counters</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Coffee Hour</u>
March 1 March 8 March 15 March 22 March 29	Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed Volunteers Needed	Pudge & Ted Millahn Terri Collins Tom Bailey Family Riches Family Volunteers Needed	Roberts Bertha Weih & Bonnie Slater Gerber-Hurley Cathy Baum Riches
	<u>Lectors</u>	<u>Children's Message</u>	
March 1 March 8 March 15 March 22 March 29	Suzanne Hurley-Gerber Shelley Bailey Karen Antici Volunteer Needed John Baum	Cathy Baum Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed	
	<u>Lector Readings</u>		
March 1 March 8 March 15 March 22 March 29	Guest Speaker Michael Butler Guest Speaker Pastor John Esposito Matthew 11:11-19; Luke 7:28-35 Matthew 15:3-20; Mark 7:8-22 Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36		



# March

<u>SUN.</u>	<u>MON.</u>	<u>TUES.</u>	<u>WED.</u>	<u>THUS.</u>	<u>FRI.</u>	<u>SAT.</u>
1 10:00AM Worship Service	2 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	3 10:00AM Bible Study 7:00PM Trustees Meeting 8:00PM AA	4	5 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	6	7
8 10:00AM Worship Service with Holy Communion  UMW Meeting after Church	9	10 10:00AM Bible Study 7:00PM Admin./Finance Meeting 8:00PM AA	11	12 6:45PM AA	13	14
15 10:00AM Worship Service	16 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	17 10:00AM Bible Study 8:00PM AA 	18	19 2:00 – 4:00PM Food Bank 6:45PM AA	20	21
22 10:00AM Worship Service	23	24 10:00AM Bible Study 8:00PM AA	25	26 6:45PM AA	27	28
29 10:00AM Worship Service	30 6:00 – 8:00PM Food Bank	31 10:00AM Bible Study 8:00PM AA				



## Church Humor:



St. Patrick driving the snakes out of Ireland.

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A minister decided that a visual demonstration would add emphasis to his Sunday sermon.

Four worms were placed into four separate jars.

1. The first worm was put into a container of alcohol.
2. The second worm was put into a container of cigarette smoke.
3. The third worm was put into a container of chocolate syrup.
4. The fourth worm was put into a container of good clean soil.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Minister reported the following results:

1. The first worm in alcohol - *Dead*
2. The second worm in cigarette smoke - *Dead*
3. Third worm in chocolate syrup - *Dead*
4. Fourth worm in good clean soil - *Alive!*

So the Minister asked the congregation -

What can you learn from this demonstration?

Little Nancy, sitting in the back, quickly raised her hand and said,

*'As long as you drink, smoke and eat chocolate, you won't have worms!'*

That pretty much ended the service ...

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An old Italian man lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was very hard.

His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent,

I am feeling pretty sad because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over.

I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days.

Love,

*Papa*

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Papa,

Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried.

Love,

*Vinnie*

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Papa,

Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances.

Love you,

*Vinnie*

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An older, tired-looking dog wandered into my yard.

I could tell from his collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of.

He calmly came over to me, I gave him a few pats on his head; he then followed me into my house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later, he went to the door, and I let him out.

The next day he was back, greeted me in my yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour.

This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious, I pinned a note to his collar: 'I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap.'

The next day he arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar: 'He lives in a home with 6 children, 2 under the age of 3 - he's trying to catch up on his sleep..

Can I come with him tomorrow?'

## **March Announcements**

Pastor Mike and Karen will be on vacation from February 29<sup>th</sup> until March 14<sup>th</sup>. In Pastor Mike's absence Pastor Ximena from the Torrington United Methodist Church will be filling in for him. Her cell phone number is 203-278-1568.

### **It's Community Garden Signup Time**

If you are interested in applying for a garden plot in the Barkhamsted community garden this year, contact Dave Lewis at [lewisd1691@gmail.com](mailto:lewisd1691@gmail.com).

Church office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:00AM to Noon.

Pastor Mike has office hours on Sunday from 12:30PM to 3:30PM or by appointment.

### **Church contact info:**

Visit us online at: [pleasantvalleyumc.com](http://pleasantvalleyumc.com)

Church Office: 860-379-2157

Church Kitchen and Food Bank: 860-379-0346

Church email address: [pvumc181@gmail.com](mailto:pvumc181@gmail.com)

Pastor Mike's email: [mike@antici.com](mailto:mike@antici.com)

Pastor Mike's phone number: 203-997-5069

