

McAllister Messenger

February 21, 2021

A Word From Your Pastor The Season Of Lent

By Reverend Jim Moss

Lent is the time of year on the Christian calendar that we prepare ourselves for the celebrations of Holy Week. Literally meaning “spring,” the word Lent reminds us that we begin the season on Ash Wednesday in wintertime, and end the season on Easter when the world is bursting forth in new life and growth.

Lent is a time of year that is supposed to feel different than other seasons. It is a time when we rededicate ourselves to spiritual disciplines such as prayer, fasting, and meditation. The purpose of these disciplines is to raise our awareness of our need for Christ. Lent is a time for us to realize that we cannot make it without Christ – that our very lives are dependent on his death on the cross and resurrection from the dead.

One of the more common spiritual disciplines that modern Christians practice is the giving up of something. We might give up dessert, or sodas, or something else that has become commonplace in our lives. This giving up of something is based on Jesus’ time of being tempted in the wilderness by the devil. Jesus was tempted for 40 days, which also happens to be the number of days in the Lenten season.

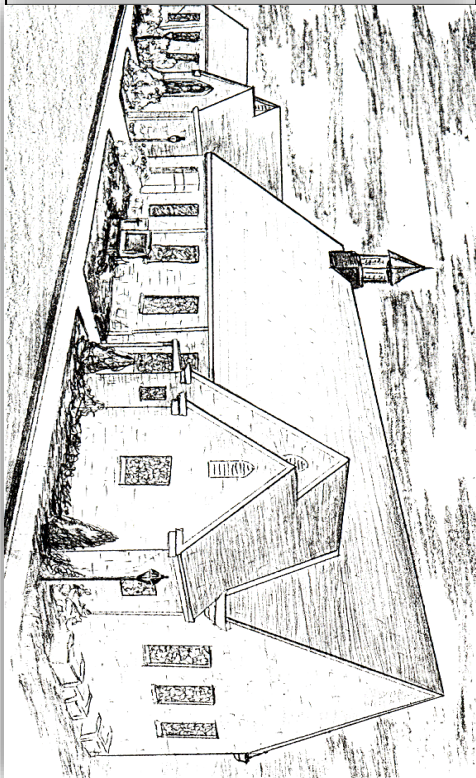
In more recent times, it has become commonplace for Christians to “take on” something rather than “give something up.” For example, one might volunteer at a charity, or make a commitment to do one act of random kindness each day. This might be more difficult to do during this time of pandemic, but if we are creative, we can come up with things to take on that are safe and healthy.

So how are you going to celebrate Lent this year? Are you going to “give up” something? Or take something on? Or perhaps make a renewed commitment to pray and read Scripture every day? How are you going to make this a different sort of season when we turn to Christ and confess our reliance on his love and grace?

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The Season of Lent

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Notice: Service Information

At it's conference call on February 7, the Session decided to extend the suspension of in-person worship through the month of February. The Session will meet again on February 21 to decide what we will do going forward. Please remember the following Facebook Live broadcasts that we are doing:

Sunday school – Sundays at 9:45 am
Worship – Sundays at 11:00 am (pre-service music starts at 10:45)
Youth Bible Lesson – posted on Sunday afternoon
Five-Minute Bible Study – Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

Lenten Math

Have you ever wondered why Easter is on a different date each year? The timing of Easter can range from late March to late April. This is because its timing is determined by the cycle of the moon.

Easter is held on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. The spring equinox is the day when daytime and nighttime are the same length. It occurs on March 19, 20, or 21 each year.

Take this year, for example. The Spring Equinox is March 20. The next full moon after that date is March 28. And the next Sunday after that date is April 4. So Easter is on April 4.

Once Easter is determined, all of the other days of Lent and Holy Week fall into place. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are the Thursday and Friday before Easter (this year on April 1 and 2). Palm Sunday is a week before Easter (this year on March 28). And Ash Wednesday, which begins Lent is 40 days (not counting Sundays) before Easter (this year on February 17.)

Isn't it easier to think about the timing of Christmas (which is always December 25) and Advent (which are the four Sundays before Christmas)?

Prayer Concerns:

Tillie Agnor Mildred Akers Jan Armentrout Sherry Ayers Erskine Back Miki Ballengee Bob & Leta Bartley Chuck & Jean Bartley Richard Bates Steve Bennett Linda Bogar Anita Boone Doris Burley Emily Byer Lee Cabaniss Elwood Cadd Jean & Harry Casey Betsy Caul Junior Clark Minnie Clark Sandra Clemmons Kenzie Cline Ricky Cooke Steven Craft Burnette Crawford Luke Crawford Monty Crawford Chris Crutchfield Clair Seckner Dilley Randell Dilley Joy Dodson Corky & Janice Downer	Leslie Downer Priscilla Downer Kaylee Elmore Joyce Emerson Lee & Lelia Fadley Jim & Barbara Flint Marshall & Donna Fox Nadine Fullen Betty Gibson Eddie Gibson Robert & Gail Gibson Eugene Gilbert Carol Grady Evan Groves Don Hampton Richard & Cora Hastings Danny & Rhoda Hill Sandra Hill Connie Holloway James Hoover Neil Horn Shana Hotzapolous Una Humphries Lori Wolfe Isaacs Charlie Jeffries Wendell & Judy Jones Susan Kennedy Pam Key Richard Law Debi Leitch George Leitch Susan Lindstrom	Frankie Marshall Charlie Masters Calvin McClinton Pearl Miller Sonya Milton Doris Mottern Patty Nicely Travis O'Rourke Denise Pillow Billy Powell Teresa Powell Paula Pruitt Betty Ray Frank & April Reynolds Jim Reynolds B. R. Rupert Libby Simpson Pat Smith Monzell Sovereign Angie Sponaugle Matt Sponaugle Natalie Sponaugle Sally Steele Ellis Stull Ruby Stull Susan Terrell Bill Thompson Ethan Thompson Marcy Thompson Adena Tingler Rosetta Tinsley Carolyn Tolley	Darrell & Donna Tucker Pete Turner Buddy Vass Danny Warlitter Dennis Whitehead Pat & Larry Whitmer Christy Wiley Martha Wilhelm Angie Wilkerson Donna Wilson Joe & Dot Wimer Joey Wimer Linda Payton Wolfe Buddy Young
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Our Nation
Caregivers
Covid—19 Patients
Elected Officials
Essential Workers
Non Believers
President Biden
Prisoners
U.S. Troops
Students
Teachers
WRE



BRIAN CENTER—Andy Howell, Bill Lockhart, Ruby Stull

VIRGINIA VETERANS CARE CENTER—Roy Lee Reynolds

SCOTT HILL—David and Phyllis Lynn, Sara Mays, Mary Whitehead

SHUT-IN—Joyce Bartley, Jean Broughman, Hallie Dressler, Shirley Ferris, Etha Hayslett, Bonnie Patterson, Shelby Rock

DEATHS

Walter (Doc) Altizer William David Carter Paul Crizer, Jr. Ronald Haydon Ronald Husey, Jr. John Hudson Rick Terrell Guy "Doug" Slayton	Hubert Johnson Sadie Landis Patty Lipes Lewis McAllister Austin Peery Ray Snedegar Robert Stinespring Gay Lynn Twitty Louise Whitehead David Wickline Eddie Williams
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MILITARY

Kristen Bennett
 Richard Bray
 Kristopher Hoffman
 Ryan Pritts
 Chris Whitehead

MISSIONARIES

Tom & Judy Harvey
 Esslinger/Lee

Newsletter Information

Please submit newsletter information and prayer request by email, post mail, or by phone.

*(Deadline for next newsletter is
 Monday ~ March 1 @ 4 p.m.)*

The Church Office is open, but we encourage people to refrain from stopping by if a phone call or email will suffice. The office contact information is located on the back page.

February BIRTHDAYS



- 21 Tonya Jones
- 22 Dorothy Thompson
- 23 Craig Poague
Brittany Young-Baker
- 27 Sandy Persinger



Scholarship Applications

Scott Scholarship Applications are now available in the church office.

Any member of McAllister Church attending college may apply.

Cooking Terms

Recipe: A series of step-by-step instructions for preparing ingredients you forgot to buy, in utensils you don't own, to make a dish the dog won't eat.

Tongue: A variety of meat, rarely served because it clearly crosses the line between a cut of beef and a piece of dead cow.

Yogurt: Semi-solid dairy product made from partially evaporated and fermented milk. Yogurt is one of only three foods that taste exactly the same as they sound. The other two are goulash and squid.

Porridge: Thick oatmeal rarely found on American tables since children were granted the right to sue their parents. The name is an amalgamation of the words "Putrid," "hORRId," and "sluDGE."

Preheat: To turn on the heat in an oven for a period of time before cooking a dish, so that the fingers may be burned not only when the food is removed, but when it is put in the oven.

Oven: Compact home incinerator used for disposing of bulky pieces of meat and poultry.

Microwave Oven: Space-age kitchen appliance that uses the principle of radar to locate and immediately destroy any food placed within the cooking compartment.

Calorie: Basic measure of the amount of rationalization offered by the average individual prior to taking a second helping of a particular food.

[Author Unknown -- from Tim Davis]

March Birthdays

- 1 Robbie Wood
- 3 Pam Poague
Howard Thompson
- 4 April Reys
Jerry Taylor
- 5 Pearl Miller
Richard Downer, Sr.
- 6 Marshall Fox
Kelsey Young
- 9 Brielle Smith
- 12 Jason Hill
- 13 Matthew Sponaugle
- 14 Megan Boone
- 16 Jan Armentrout
- 17 Gene Wood
Casey Hicks
- 18 Donna Fox
- 19 Jennifer Hannah
- 20 Cindee Stinnett
- 21 Norma Curtin
- 23 Tiana Warlitner Hodge
- 24 Kathy Crutchfield
- 26 Mike Fleenor
Logan Hill
- 27 Chloe Reid
Kaitlyn Potter
Israel Boone
Tara Uzzell
- 28 Etha Hayslett
Travis O'Rourke
- 29 Lynn Whitehead
- 30 Maryemma Shifflett
- 31 Jeremy Bartley
Brandi Carper Barr

Anniversaries

- 6 Bert & Betsy Caul
- 10 Jim & Margaret Moss
- 21 Robbie & Jeff Horn
- 29 Bucky & Doris Mottern

McAllister Church extends sympathy and prayer to the family & friends of:

Richard Terrell ~ *uncle of Debbie Rodgers & Linda Bogar*

Paul Crizer, Jr. ~ *member (inactive)*

Guy "Doug" Slayton ~ *brother of Linda Slayton Caldwell*

Walter B. (Doc) Altizer, Jr. ~ *brother & brother-in-law of Garland & Ruth Altizer*

Memorials and Gifts

In memory of Berkley Key by

Robert & Melinda Coleman

Greg and Lisa Dickson

Travis, Jeri, Larry, Josephine O'Rourke

Butch and Norma Curtin

Lee Ann Poague

Kathleen Laughorne Loan

In memory of Louise Whitehead by

Joe and Dot Wimer

Joseph and Pat Martin

Travis, Jeri, Larry, Josephine O'Rourke

Rick and June Cooke

Kathleen Laughorne Loan

Danny and Rhoda Hill

Lee Ann Poague

Randal Whitehead

Chuck and Jean Bartley

Mrs. Jennifer Dennis Family

In memory of Gary Wayne Whitehead

Travis, Jeri, Larry, Josephine O'Rourke

Lee Ann Poague

In memory of Roy E. "Eddie" Williams, Sr.

Joseph and Pat Martin

Joe and Dot Wimer

Bob and Leta Bartley

Chuck and Jean Bartley

In memory of Eddie & Maxine Williams by:

Danny and Rhoda Hill

Lee Ann Poague

In memory of Sadie Sovereign Landis by

Joseph and Pat Martin

Jim, Marlene and Byron Faidley

Danny and Rhoda Hill

Kathleen Laughorne Loan

Edward W. Gibson, Jr.

Chuck and Jean Bartley

Joe and Dot Wimer

In memory of Paul Crizer, Jr. by

Danny and Rhoda Hill

In memory of those who have passed in the last year by

Richard and Priscilla Downer

ADDRESSES:

Boyd Williams
42506 DeSoto Ter
Brambleton, VA 20148

Luke Crawford #1663392
Greensville Correctional
901 Correction Way
Jarratt, VA 23870

Musical Minute:



When Nick and I were little, mom often sang the following to us:

*“I see the moon, the moon sees me,
Under the shade of the old oak tree.
Please let the light that shines on me
Shine on the one I love.”*

*Over the mountains, over the sea,
Back where my heart is longing to be,
Please let the light that shines on me
Shine on the one I love.”*

Based on an old rhyme from Great Britain, there is another version that reads,

*“I see the moon and the moon sees me,
The moon sees the one I long to see.
God bless the moon and God bless me;
And God bless the one I love.”*

Mom used to blend the two versions, depending on the occasion, and I can't tell you how many times during my adult life, I arrived home to find it on my answering machine. When we lived overseas and there was a 6-hour time difference, I would often come home midday and see the blinking light on the machine. I knew even before I listened to the message that mom had phoned during the wee hours of her morning, perhaps while gazing out the window at a crescent or full moon that Andy and I had seen in our night sky just hours earlier. There is something comforting about the benevolent presence of the moon and the constancy of the changing nighttime sky and I've found myself humming or singing this tune many times during the last year during which we've had to remain distanced from family and other loved ones.

Since we begin the season of Lent this week, let me share another way in which our celestial neighbor influences our lives by determining a significant date in the Christian calendar. (Many of you may already know this, but I find it fascinating enough to warrant a mention.) The celebration of Christ's resurrection occurs on April 4 this year. In 2020 the date was April 12 (Papa's birthday back in 1936 was also April 12 and Easter Sunday. I was told it snowed!). Some years we even celebrate Easter in the month of March. What exactly determines when Christians begin the observance of Lent and when we celebrate Easter? You guessed it—the moon (and the arrival of the spring equinox).

Pope Gregory XIII codified the rules for Easter in the 1500s: Easter would be observed on the first Sunday following the full moon (officially called the paschal full moon due to its proximity to Passover and Easter) that lands on or just after the spring equinox, the day that there is an equal balance between daylight and darkness. The date of Easter is set first and then the days are counted back to determine the start of Lent.

This year the vernal equinox occurs on Saturday, March 20. The first full moon following the equinox occurs on Sunday, March 28, 2021. That puts Easter on the following Sunday, April 4. When you count back 40 days on the calendar (not counting Sundays) that puts Ash Wednesday and the start of Lent this week on February 17, 2021. What a fun puzzle! (Occasionally there are exceptions to these rules when astronomical events don't line up exactly with the ecclesiastical calendar, but, no worries, there are established practices regarding these exceptions. Apparently these rules were called into play in 2019 and most of us were unaware. Based on what I read on the internet, we won't need to worry again until 2038!) If you are interested there is a wealth of information on this subject to be found online. It might be a fun way to while away a gray, wintry day, dreaming of the coming spring and the approaching Easter celebration. And in the meantime, I'll think of all of you as I hum, “God bless the moon and God bless me; And God bless the ones I love.”

Take good care.

Beth

The Clothesline Said So Much

A clothesline was a news forecast
To neighbors passing by.
There were no secrets you could keep
When clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link
For neighbors always knew
If company had stopped on by
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the fancy sheets
And towels on the line;
You'd see the company table clothes
With intricate design.

The line announced a baby's birth
To folks who lived inside
As brand new infant clothes were hung
So carefully with pride.

The ages of the children could
So readily be known
By watching how the sizes changed
You'd know how much they'd grown.

It also told when illness struck,
As extra sheets were hung;
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too,
Haphazardly were strung.

It said, "Gone on vacation now"
When lines hung limp and bare.
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged
With not an inch to spare.

New folks in town were scorned upon
If wash was dingy gray,
As neighbors raised their brows,
And looked disgustedly away.

But clotheslines now are of the past
For dryers make work less.
Now what goes on inside a home
Is anybody's guess.

I really miss that way of life.
It was a friendly sign
When neighbors knew each other best
By what hung on the line!

[Author Unknown -- from 'Colorado Comments']