



Words from Woodforest

March 2022 Newsletter

A Word From the Pastor

As I turn my calendar to March, I can't believe that it is Lent already. In the forty days of Lent we reflect on our lives, our sins, and what separates us from God. We think about why Jesus had to suffer and die for our salvation. Many people look at it as a depressing time, but I think that it can be an opportunity for us to grow closer to God as we walk toward the cross with Jesus.

Some people see Lent as a time to give up things and to deprive yourself of candy or caffeine. It is based on the concept of fasting. That can be worthwhile if you use it as a time to give up things that are keeping you from Jesus. It is not just randomly doing things that will make you suffer. Years when I choose to fast for Lent it usually involves giving up my time. I will take half an hour that I would spend playing games on-line and read a Lenten Devotion. You could take a chunk of time that you spend on yourself and spend it on others. Visit a shut-in, volunteer at the animal shelter, or offer to help out at a local school. Make the goal of your fast coming closer to Jesus.

I can't think of Lent without thinking of the little fish banks that we made in Sunday School to collect our pennies for the One Great Hour of Sharing. I think it is one of my favorite offerings of the year, and not just from fond memories of filling my little bank to bring to church Easter Sunday. It goes to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and the Self Development of People. Having lived here and in Orlando where Hurricanes can cause horrible suffering I have seen how we as a denomination work together to help disaster victims. Often the PDA is already in contact with the affected Presbyteries before the storm even clears. It even beats the Red Cross at getting help where it is needed as soon as possible. So, perhaps a good fast would be to take the money that you would spend on a cup of coffee, or candy bar, or bag of chips each day and set it aside for the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

I look forward to journeying with you together toward the cross this Lent and I pray that we will all grow a little closer to Jesus and each other.

Presbyterian Women's Study

In March, as the Presbyterian Women study the women in Jesus' genealogy we finally get to Mary! We will meet at **10:30 a.m. on March 23rd** for our study followed by a **pot luck lunch at noon**. You can participate either in person or join us on the livestream on our Facebook page, facebook.com/Woodforestpc. **Please note that in March we are meeting on the 4th Wednesday.**

Worship

Special Lent and Easter Services

Ash Wednesday is March 2. Pastor Karen will be offering “Ashes to Go” from 3:30 – 5:30 p.m. in front of the church. We need helpers to hold and wave the “Got Ashes” signs. This is a great outreach opportunity. Come help our neighborhood begin the Lenten journey with us!

Easter Choir Practice: COVID willing we will resume choir practice on Sunday, April 3 to get ready to sing on Palm Sunday and Easter. Come join us at 9:00 am!

Palm Sunday is Sunday April 10th.

Maundy Thursday is April 14th. Come join us for a Soup supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by worship and communion around the table like they did at the Last Supper.

Good Friday is April 15th. We will have a Tenebrae Service (Service of Shadows) at 7:00 p.m. to remember Jesus’ suffering and death on the cross. This service helps prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter morning.

Easter Sunday is April 17th. Come celebrate the joy of Jesus’ resurrection and God’s great love for us. Add flowers to the flowering cross and join us for worship and communion at 10:00 a.m.



Easter Lilies

If you would like to donate an Easter Lily for Resurrection Sunday the cost is \$10. There are forms at the church or you can mail a check in with a note that it is for an Easter Lily

Congregational Life .

With Covid rates dropping, we were able to resume Coffee time after church on Sunday February 27. If all goes well, we will resume Pot Luck lunch on Sunday March 27.

Christian Education

Conclaves were held February 18-20 at Camp Cho-yeh. Participants were:

Joseph Mendoza (PYCC) 12th grade
Colt Lyles (Youth) 6th grade
Chris Shockey, Jr. (Youth) 8th grade
Kaylee Shockey (Youth) 9th grade
Ann Martin (Adult)

Adult Sunday School Class will begin a two week study of the names of God on March 6th. We are in the process of choosing the next study.



2022 Conclaves Mission project. The kids made first aid kits for those experiencing homelessness.



**Vacation Bible School
Food Truck Party
Date to be announced.**

Souper Bowl of Caring

Thank You to all who contributed to the "Souperbowl" of Caring. We took four boxes of non-perishable groceries to the food pantry at San Jacinto College North campus. This will be available to students in need. We also received cash donations that will be distributed locally. Again, thank you for your generosity.

As the Season of Lent begins let us think of our Special Offering for this time. One Great Hour of Sharing addresses many of the needs of the world in our troubled days. It goes to help those suffering from natural disasters, from hunger, and communities trying to cure social ills. This offering will be received on Easter Sunday.

Every year Presbyterian Churches are required to review their member rolls to keep them accurate. If an active member has had no contact with the Church for a year, and the pastor is unable to contact the member, the session will consider moving the active member to the inactive rolls. Note that should an inactive member return, moving back to the active roll is an easy process. The member needs only to make the request to the pastor. This year we moved 5 members to the inactive rolls, so our total active membership has changed from 73 to 68.

Susan

Updating the Photo Directory

Our photo directory is a wonderful way for us to stay connected. Both the phone app and our printed copies are a great way to keep in touch. But have you noticed that some of the pictures are ten years old or older. It can make it harder for new members to learn names and faces.

So, Easter Sunday we will be taking new directory photos! We will all be in our Easter best and what better back drop than the flowering cross! So, make sure to take a moment to get a new family photo made for the directory.

If you are unable to come to in person worship this Easter, you can submit a recent photo by emailing it to info@woodforestpc.org or mailing it to the church office. Or hey, give Pastor Karen a call and she will come take a photo of you at home!



Keep in Prayer

Healing and comfort for Sandra Horton, Darlennie Powell, Shar Baker, Krista Bartel, Billie Vickery Kathleen Watson, JoAnn Nichols, Johnny Powell, Alice Drennon, the Mendosa family, Anna Marshall and Alice Morgan.

Last Word

Those who walk with God always reach their destination.



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Lectionary Readings for March

March 6

Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 19-16; Romans 10: 8b-13; Luke 4:1-13

March 13

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18, Psalm 27, Philippians 3:17- 4:1, Luke 13:1-9

March 20

Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63: 1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9

March 27

Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32:2; 2Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32