March 2019

Pitsburg CoB
Pastor: Ken Oren email: pitsburgcob@yahoo.com
Web: www.pitsburgcob.org

March 6 begins the season of Lent. It is often said that Jesus took time to pray, that he spent time with God. Likely this time was for support, encouragement and direction, but it most likely strengthened the bond—the two were one (John 17:11). That is not to say that Jesus was not tempted. He faced the same temptations we face, but his bond with God was so strong that those temptations meant nothing. Jesus’ desire was that we his disciples would do the same. That only comes when we commit ourselves, when we spend the time seeking to know God and his will, and then put feet on our prayers. May that be our direction as we enter this Lenten season.

Pastor Ken

Matthew 3:16–4:2 (NRSV)
16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”
1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

From the Pastor
March 6 begins the season of Lent. It is often said that Jesus took time to pray, that he spent time with God. Likely this time was for support, encouragement and direction, but it most likely strengthen the bond—that the two were one (John 17:11). That is not to say that Jesus was not tempted. He faced the same temptations we face, but his bond with God was so strong that those temptations meant nothing. Jesus’ desire was that we his disciples would do the same. That only comes when we commit ourselves, when we spend the time seeking to know God and his will, and then put feet on our prayers. May that be our direction as we enter this Lenten season.
Pastor Ken

If you have interest in going to prison in April with Kairos and Pastor Ken, the four Saturday’s training starts March 16th. It is an opportunity to help others know God and his will. For more info, contact Pastor.

Note:
If we have not listed your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Pastor so we can correct the list.

- - - CALENDAR OF EVENTS - - -

Feb 27 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Bible Study

Mar 6 Ash Wednesday - beginning of Lent
7:00 pm Bible Study

Mar 10 Daylight savings time begins
Set clock forward 1 hour

Mar 13 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Bible Study

Mar 20 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Board meeting
No Bible Study

Mar 27 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Bible Study

Apr 3 Wednesday 7:00 pm
Bible Study

Apr 14 Palm Sunday

Apr 18 Maundy Thursday

Apr 21 Easter

Apr 24 Wednesday 6 pm - cookies due for Kairos

Apr 25-28 Kairos Prison Ministry

Jun 16 Sunday 2:30 pm
Sunday afternoon service at BRC

MARCH
BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES
5 Madison Kerg
8 Larry & Jerryln Hart
10 Sharon Fetter
11 Jim Fetter
11 Coletin Williams
15 Ryan Marker
19 Ron Goubeaux
21 Sue Strawser
22 Diane Jay
28 Andy Strawser
30 John K. Strawser
30 Kaylie Strawser

Castrine Area Food Bank
March food item is Spaghettti Sauce
What is Lent and why does it last forty days?
Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.
Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection. http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-is-lent-and-why-does-it-last-forty-days

One of Noah’s guitar strings broke before the service began. We praised God that the timing allowed him to repair it in time.

Death
What a Wonderful Way to Explain It

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don’t know..."
"You don’t know? You’re a Christian Man, and don’t know what’s on the other side?"
The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.
Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He’s never been in this room before. He didn’t know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough.”

Submitted by Kim Kessler

27 “But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you.

I have asked myself this week, "Who are my enemies, and who do I feel justified in putting outside my circle of concern?" I have found the words of Thomas Merton most helpful:

"Do not be too quick," he wrote, "to assume that your enemy is a savage just because he is your enemy. Perhaps he is your enemy because he thinks you are a savage. Or perhaps he is afraid of you because he feels you are afraid of him. And perhaps if he believed you were capable of loving him he would no longer be your enemy.

"Do not be too quick to assume that your enemy is an enemy of God just because he is your enemy. Perhaps he is your enemy precisely because he can find nothing in you that gives glory to God. Perhaps he fears you because he can find nothing in you of God's love and God's kindness and God's patience and mercy and understanding of the weakness of men.

"Do not be too quick to condemn the man who no longer believes in God. For it is perhaps your own coldness and avarice and mediocrity and materialism and sensuality and selfishness that have killed his faith."

In other words, who I label as enemy may say more about me than about them.

Phil Thrailkill, Loving Like God Loves from Sermons.com
If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact the Pastor at pitsburgcob@yahoo.com