



## MARCH SCRIPTURES

**March 5**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**  
**Communion Sunday, Choir**

Scripture: Psalm 32  
Message: Breathe

**March 12**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Scripture: John 3:1-17  
Message: Salvation

**March 19**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Lent**  
**Communion Sunday, Choir**

Scripture: John 4:5-26  
Message: Drink of the Living Water

**March 26**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Scripture: I Samuel 16:1-13  
Message: Unlikely King



### Jeremiah 29:11

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



### SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>

We normally have our "Special Music Sunday" on the fifth Sunday of the month, but we will be having it in April on the first Sunday in the month as that works best for **Spiritual Messenger**. So come and enjoy the music of **Spiritual Messengers** on Sunday, April 2 at 9am.

Issue 123—March, 2017

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Love, Hope, a place to Belong

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PIUMC

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# Pine Chips

LOVE, HOPE, A PLACE TO BELONG

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## Pastor Carolyn's Conundrums:

Did you know that just like there are seasons in our calendar year, there are seasons in the church year? There are 6 seasons of the church, in primarily 2 cycles. Each cycle contains a season of preparation (Advent or Lent), a season of celebrating a high holy day (Christmas or Easter), and a season of growth (known as ordinary time).

The first cycle begins our Christian year in late November or early December, four Sundays before Christmas. Advent is a time of preparing ourselves to encounter The gift of Jesus through Christmas. We have Celebrate the birth of Jesus through Epiphany. The Sundays following Epiphany are a time of growth, a time to put into practice the lessons of Christ.

The second cycle begins on Ash Wednesday and goes through Holy Week. Lent is a time of preparation to encounter Jesus not only as the great sacrifice, but as the risen Lord on Easter Sunday. Lent is 40 days long. If it seems longer to you, it is. However, we do not count the Sundays as part of Lent, because Sundays are always to be considered mini-Easters. We celebrate Easter until the Sunday of Pentecost. Then we enter another time of growth focus on moving forward in our faith journey.

We are about to enter the season of Lent. Lent is a time of self-denial, penitence, and facing our mortality. A time to focus on the fact that we can't save ourselves; we are wholly dependent on the love and grace of Christ.

Many people celebrate Lent by giving up something like chocolate, caffeine, or any number of things. If Lent is a time for repentance then I think it should be so much more. Repentance means to turn around. You are literally turning around and heading to something else. When we repent, we turn from those things/actions that lead us away from God, and turn toward God, in order to grow closer to God. So if you would like to give up chocolate, caffeine or anything else, great, but what are you going to do to grow closer to God? I believe this is an important step and one we often miss.

Therefore this Lent, I challenge you to truly use it as a time of preparation. A time of putting our focus back on God and concentrating how we might not only turn away from those things that hinder or prevent a relationship with God but how you might grow closer to God. One opportunity will be to join the Lenten service series, The Way – Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus. We will meet in the Sanctuary for a time of prayer, music, and discussion at 7pm on the Wednesdays of Lent. See the schedule further on in the newsletter for more details.

May we, as individuals and a community of faith, turn from those things that bind us and keep us from encountering God. May we turn around and follow the footsteps to the cross and beyond, that we may live as true disciples who not only talk the talk, but walk the walk. Amen!

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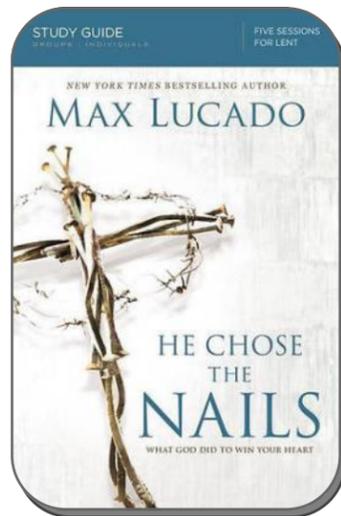
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*The editor reserves the right to edit any or all articles for content and/or spacing.*



## LENTEN STUDY: He Chose The Nails



Every gift from God reveals his love, but no gift reveals his love more than the gifts of the cross. These gifts came not wrapped in paper but in passion. They were not placed around a tree but around a cross. They were not covered with ribbons but sprinkled with the blood that Christ shed on our behalf.

In this five-session video Bible study, Max Lucado explores the many gifts that Christ provided to us at his crucifixion. These include not only the gift of the cross, but also the gift of the thorns that pierced his brow. The nails that tore his flesh. The seamless robe that he removed for us. The empty tomb where he forever defeated sin and death.

The hill of the cross is rich with the gifts of God's grace. These were gifts he didn't have to give. The only required act for our salvation was the shedding of blood, yet God did so much more. So, as we unwrap these gifts, we need to pause and listen for his voice. As we do, perhaps we will hear him whisper, "I did it just for you."



## MISSIONS

"Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it." *Ezra 10:4*



**Mission Box for March** is for the Pine Island Sharing Shelves. They provide non-perishable food, refrigerated items, and personal items for those in need of temporary assistance. They serve anyone in the area, and there are no income guidelines.



There is still time to sign up for the Red Bird Mission Trip. Trip dates are July 22<sup>nd</sup> - July 30<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up sheet is located in the back of the church. For more information, please contact Pastor Carolyn or Dawn Rohl.



## LENTEN STUDY SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 1	7pm	Ash Wednesday Service
Wednesday, March 8	7pm	He Chose the Nails Lenten Study: He Chose to Be One of Us
Wednesday, March 15	7pm	He Chose the Nails Lenten Study: He Chose to Forgive Us
Wednesday, March 22	7pm	He Chose the Nails Lenten Study: He Chose to Invite Us into His Presence
Wednesday, March 29	7pm	He Chose the Nails Lenten Study: He Chose to Love Us Forever
Wednesday, April 5	7pm	He Chose the Nails Lenten Study: He Chose to Give Us Victory
Friday, April 14	12pm	Ecumenical Good Friday Service
	7pm	Good Friday: Tenebrae Service



## EASTER FLOWER ORDER

Please Print All Names

Thank You



ALL FLOWER ORDERS & CHECKS

MUST BE IN THE OFFICE BY

Flowers	Quantity	Total \$ amount
LILIES: \$13		
BEGONIAS: \$17		
CYCLAMEN: \$17		
TULIPS \$15		
AZALEAS: \$25		
HYDRANGEAS: \$28		

Your Name:

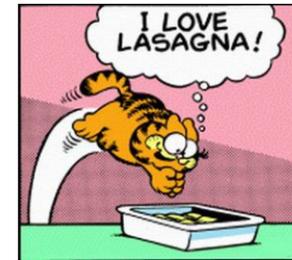
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In Honor Of

In Memory Of

DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE WHO THEY ARE FOR

If you have any questions, please call Cathy at 356-4553



## free LASAGNA DINNER

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a FREE Lasagna dinner on Saturday, March 4th from 5pm to 7pm.

Donations of cookies, bars and/or monetary donations are welcome. Invite your friends and neighbors for fun, good food and great fellowship.



Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead by one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 11 for Daylight Savings Time.



## APPORTIONMENTS ARE PAID

100% of Apportionments once again are paid.

Thank You to everyone for making this happen.

## WAB NEWS

We will be having a WAB meeting following service on Sunday, March 19.



## PINE ISLAND SHARING SHELF

March is Shampoo month.



## JANUARY FINANCE

Monthly income: \$26,966, Monthly Expenses: \$37,832

Attendance is up and giving is up.