

Bath Church Mouse

Bath Presbyterian Church
4624 Bath Road, Dayton, Ohio 45424
937.233.6925 BathChurch.org
News Input to: Janetoptimist@aol.com

March 2018

From the Pastor's Desk

Joyous Lenten season to Bath friends and family!

The church season of Lent is marked by the bookends of Ash Wednesday on one side and Easter on the other. Lent gives Christians the opportunity to prepare for the gifts and glory of Easter by reflecting on our need for God's salvation and restoration. As humans created by God, we are finite and fallible; yet God loves, saves, and restores us. Recognizing the limitations of human existence alongside the amazing grace of God in Jesus Christ enhances the meaning and significance of Easter as the day we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

We begin this time of reflection by observing Ash Wednesday, which focuses on human mortality and sin and acknowledges our need for God's overwhelming grace. As we begin our journey to the cross of Good Friday, the empty grave, and the gift of new life on Easter morning, Ash Wednesday sets the tone for the spiritual challenges and practices of Lent. Traditionally, the three disciplines of Lent are prayer, fasting, and alms-giving. Some modern reformations of these traditions are adding a step to your prayer practices of journaling, meditating or incorporating a body prayer; giving up a food or relationship with food for Lent that is a stumbling block for you in your relationship with God; and choosing one of your vices that you spend a small amount on each week and giving the money to a charity of your choice instead. The main idea is to examine what in your life, right now, takes precedence over your relationship

INSIDE:

From the Pastor's Desk p. 1
Serving in & Through Bath p.2-5
Women's Gathering p.4
Scripture Focus p. 4
Calendar p. 6

with God and prayerfully making alterations to your daily habits for the 40 days of Lent in the hope that it will increase your spiritual awareness and intimacy with God and may even result in healthier life habits after the joy of Easter resurrection as well.

What God can do with Dust - by Jan Richardson

Did you not know what the Holy One can do with dust? We are entering the season that begins with a smudge. That smudge is a testimony to what survives. It is a witness to what abides when everything seems lost. It is a sign that what we know and love may, for a time, be reduced to dust, but it does not disappear. We belong to the God who well knows what to do with dust, who sees the dust as a place to dream anew, who creates from it again and again.

Life will continually lay us bare, sometimes with astonishing severity. In the midst of this, the season of Lent invites us to see what is most elemental in us, what endures: the love that creates and animates, the love that cannot be destroyed, the love that is most basic to who we are. This season inspires us to ask where this love will lead us, what it will create in and through us, what God will do with it in both our brokenness and our joy. Amen.

I pray you all will have a blessed Lenten season,

Pastor Emily

Serving the Lord in & Through Bath Church

•Clerk's Corner•Property •Worship •Fellowship •Christian Ed • Mission and Outreach•Media

Clerk's Corner

Here are some of the highlights of the last session meeting. If you want more detailed information session has decided to return to posting the minutes from session and the financial reports. They will be posted on the computer room bulletin board.

Pam Byrd was elected as the new Financial Secretary. Sharon Cottrill will help train Pam in the work of the position. Gidget Collins was elected to serve as Clerk of Session and Hazel Pomfret was elected to serve as Treasurer until a new person is found.

The Lenten Study continues on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm during Lent at Faith Presbyterian Church. The evening begins with dinner, the study, and then ends with Communion.

Pastor Emily will postpone Bible study for the time being and instead will do a Lenten study, Advent study and another Bible study at a different time during the year.

Pastor Emily led the Presbytery sexual misconduct training following the February Presbytery meeting. Bath clerk Gidget Collins attended the two hour training (as Moderator of Presbytery) and has a certificate from the training.

Sunday March 11th we return to Daylight Savings Time. Be sure to set your clocks so you don't miss church.

I am long distance friends with the current clerk of session serving in the Presbyterian Church near Borthwick Castle. June has looked at our church website and also the presbytery website.

She likes the Scripture Focus we have done as a presbytery this past year. She sent me the monthly Prayer Diary they do in their area. June's words to me are: "these monthly diaries are compiled by volunteers from the congregations and grew out of the work of our Prayer Circle, which meets fortnightly for a period of silent contemplative prayer followed by a time of general prayer followed by fellowship over tea and cake." I love their language, and that following prayer they enjoy fellowship over tea and cake. When you look at our website www.Bathchurch.org know that there are others from the "mothership" in Scotland interested in our work as well.

Gidget Collins
Clerk of Session



Maundy Thursday March 29
7:00 pm

Easter Sunday April 1
Breakfast 9:00 am
Service 10:45 am

Worship

The Maundy Thursday communion service on 29th March will take place in the Fellowship Hall after a light meal starting at 7:00pm.

There will be no sunrise service on Easter Sunday so join us to celebrate Easter with communion on Sunday 1st April, at 10:45am, after a special Easter breakfast.

We are in need of greeters each Sunday. If you can help out, there is a signup sheet on the table in the narthex so please choose a week or two and become the friendly face of Bath Church.

There is also a signup sheet for flowers, so add your name and the special person or occasion you wish to honor.

Hazel Pomfret
Worship Session Elder

Fellowship



March is here and there are two dates to take note of- Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, the 11th, and the first day of Spring on the 20th-yay!

Holy Week is the last week of the month. Maundy Thursday is on March 29, and we will have a light meal in the Friendship Hall at 7pm before we observe the Lord's Supper. A sign-up sheet will be out on March 11 for food items.

On April 1, join us for **Easter Breakfast**, which will be served from 9-10am. Gift bags will be handed out to the kids after worship.

Dayton Dragons Game Anyone?



May 18 7pm Game

Something to look forward to is an outing on May 18 to a Dayton Dragons' game when they play the Great Lakes Loons. The cost is \$16 and includes a stadium seat, Dragons hat, and a \$6 food voucher. See Janet or me if you would like to get tickets. Janet does need to know who wants to go before March 18 to make a definite reservation payment.

Susan Lockwood
Fellowship Session Elder

Mission

Thanks to all who brought food into F.I.S.H. We had a total of 266 items brought in.

Kairos is March 15-18. The Women's Gathering will be helping me by baking cookies on March 12th. I am also in need of prayers to cover the weekend.

One Great Hour of Sharing will be collected through March 25th.

Verna Drake
Mission Session Elder



Women's Gathering

Monday March 5th – Meeting, 10am-3pm

We will enjoy a potluck lunch and work on crafts. At 2pm we will study Lesson #6 of our Bible study.

Monday March 12th- Cookie baking, 10am-3pm

We will bake cookies for the Kairos prison ministry.

Sunday March 11th + 18th - Spring Bazaar

All sales proceeds will be donated to The *Heifer Project* to provide flocks of chickens. A flock of chickens is \$20.00. Cards will be provided if you wish to make a donation to honor someone and/or your *Secret Sister in Christ*.



Scripture Focus

March 2018
Lent

I am the Good Shepherd
John 10:14-16

I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

1. The good shepherd knows his sheep. How are you known by Jesus?
2. Jesus the good shepherd calls us to be one flock? How will we live that out today?



Called Presbytery Meeting

There was a called presbytery meeting on Saturday, February 10, at Memorial United PC, Xenia at 9:00am. A quorum was present throughout the meeting. Prayer by the moderator opened the meeting. The meeting summary may be found on the Presbytery of the Miami Valley web page under Documents → Presbytery Meeting Summaries.

Representatives and guests of the various churches filled the sanctuary with energy and love. Hearing the different reports was quite heartening and encouraging. Of particular interest, Teaching Elder Ken Locke recognized Bath for our over and above Connectional Support. If you recall, at the January Congregational Meeting, Gidget mentioned that Bath Church pays 216.99% of our requested Connectional Support. I and, perhaps, others of you might have wondered what Congregational Support does.

As Mr. Fred Rogers said, "If you could only sense how important you are to the lives of those you meet; how important you can be to the people you may never even dream of. There is something of yourself that you leave at every meeting with another person." This, in many ways, is what Connectional Support does.

From Connectional Support, our various Presbytery committees receive a small amount of money for the jobs they must do throughout the year. Also, the Network Support and Grants Committee receives \$30,000 that is given to the

many Networks to help them do work for the betterment of others, some who may not have a relationship with any church. The outreaching connection through the Networks is seen around the world! Additionally, our contribution helps to support guest speakers and training events that the presbytery sponsors or helps to sponsor. Furthermore, each year the clerks meet for "Records Review" which now also includes some training events partially supported by Connectional Support.

These may not be all the ways the Presbytery uses Connectional Support but at least I and maybe you now have an understanding of the importance of the contributions and why the

Presbytery highly regards Bath for our generous support.

Janet Miller
Commissioner

When Does the Mouse Get Published?

I publish the Mouse after the monthly Session meeting. The specific day depends on whether any important events will occur that week and my schedule. I aim to have the electronic copy sent after JO proofreads and the hardcopy Mouse out by the first Sunday of the month or the last Sunday of the prior month. - Janet

Congratulations, John and Carol!



John and Carol Brackney are involved in the Rescue Me mission for animals. Rescue Me, Inc is a non-profit, NO KILL, all-animal rescue run strictly by unpaid volunteers and funded by donations and based in New Carlisle. They received this certificate for their hard work and dedication.

BATH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Worship Committee meeting 5:00 Barbara S.	2	3 Records Review at Presbytery
4 Session Prayer Time Coffee and donuts	5	6	7 Sweet Communion Book Club Lenten Study at Faith	8	9	10
11 Holy Communion Youth Group	12	13	14 Sweet Communion Book Club Lenten Study at Faith	15	16 Val Quinn using F.H.	17 Val Quinn using F.H. all day for My Brother's Keeper mission group.
18	19 Pam Byrd craft group 6 – 9 pm	20	21 Sweet Communion Book Club Lenten Study at Faith	22	23	24 Roberta and Bob P.
25 Palm Sunday Session Meeting	26	27	28 Sweet Communion Book Club Lenten Study at Faith	29 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm	30 Pam Bowen	31