

## **Palm Sunday**

*After throwing their robes on the donkey, they helped Jesus get on it. As He was going along, they were spreading their robes on the road. Now He came near the path down the Mount of Olives, and the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles they had seen. ~~ Luke 19:35-37*

Palm Sunday is March 20<sup>th</sup>. This is one of my favorite days of worship. I love victory celebrations, and there isn't a greater victory won than that of Christ Jesus and His defeating death and sin. On the first Palm Sunday, Jesus entered Jerusalem. Crowds cheered joyfully, waving palm branches as they followed Him into the city.

We know the story. These same people who were shouting "Hosannas" to the King ... five days later they would condemn Him. Within a week, Jesus would be dead and his close followers would be confused and scattered. They knew nothing of Easter. They had yet to experience joy of the resurrection.

Aren't you glad we can experience the joy of Easter? But first, we must move behind the joyful celebration of Palm Sunday that will lead us through the shadows of Good Friday and take us to an empty tomb and a risen Savior. I love Palm Sunday celebrations because I know where the journey ends!

A Palm Sunday Prayer: I worship you, Lord! You did not enter your holy city Jerusalem on the back of a war horse, but humbly and on a donkey. You knew that you were surrounded by murderers, yet you came in peace, and by your sacrifice you would conquer death. You, oh Lord, are blessed and worthy of my praise. You have saved your people. You are my King and I long to live in the city where you sit on the throne. I will sing your praises until your Kingdom comes and is established. Amen.



Pastor Bill

## Messages from the Diaconate

### Easter Flowers

It's that time to order your Easter flowers. These spring flowers are a wonderful way to honor or remember loved ones in your life and also help beautify the church for Easter morning. You can also plant them and enjoy them again next spring! The cost is \$7.00 each and you have a choice of tulips, lilies, hyacinths and daffodils. Sign-up sheets are in the Mayflower Room and Sanctuary where you can indicate which flowers you would like and who you want them dedicated to. The deadline for placing your order is Sunday, March 13.

### One Great Hour of Sharing

Collection for this important cause ends Sunday, March 6. If you haven't done so already, please consider making a contribution to help individuals and communities facing severe hardship around the world.

### Palm Crosses – March 18

Come and join us on Friday, March 18 at 7:00pm as we get together to make crosses for Palm Sunday. No experience is necessary, we'll show you how easy they are to make. Plan to be here for an evening of fun and fellowship.

### Palm Sunday – March 20

Our Lenten journey continues as we celebrate this special Sunday service with palms, special music from Jay and Ray Carter, worship, and a delicious brunch immediately following. What a special day indeed! What a perfect time to invite family and friends.

### Maundy Thursday Supper & Service – March 24

We hope you plan on sharing this important and meaningful evening with your church family. Holy Week starts with waving palms and ends with an open tomb and the resurrection of our Lord, but there was much more that happened between those two days. To experience the excitement and joy of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday, we need to journey through the week and understand the sorrow and pain of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Plan to join us for this moving worship service. Our

traditional Middle Eastern dinner will be at 6:00pm followed by worship and communion at 7:00pm. Sign-up sheets are available to let us know how many will be attending the supper and also if you are willing to be one of the 12 readers needed for the service.

### Easter Sunday – March 27

Christ is Risen! Come and celebrate our Risen Lord on Easter morning!

### Member Directory Updates by March 31

We're updating the Member Directory. Please check the printout that is in the Mayflower Room by March 31<sup>st</sup> to make sure your name, address, telephone number and email address are up-to-date. We plan to print it and have it available for everyone in April.

### Volunteers for Sunday

It's not too late! We still have openings for ushers, liturgists, and fellowship hosts for Sundays in March. Please see Cheryl Brown to let her know when you can help, or even better, just add your name to the sign-up sheet in the Mayflower Room. It's really easy to do. Thank you for your support! Your Diaconate appreciates it.



### Treasurer's Report for January 2016

Income- \$2,972.66  
Expenses- \$8,630.17

Capital Improvement Fund - \$12,749.45  
Investments with UBS valued at \$188,307.98

Matthew Haling, Treasurer



## OUR CHURCH AT WORK In March

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### Helpers for Sunday Services

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#### Greeters:

March 6 – Ian Haas  
March 13 – Ian Haas  
March 20 – Ian Haas  
March 27 – Ian Haas

#### Ushers:

March 6 – Tom Brown & Jay Carter  
March 13 – Available  
March 20 – Available  
March 27 – Available

#### Liturgists:

March 6 – Polly Fitzpatrick  
March 13 – Available  
March 20 – Available  
March 27 – Available

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### PRAYER LIST

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Bernice Hartling	Medical Concerns
Shirley Fedraw	Medical Concerns
Geri Sampson	Medical Concerns
Suzanne Van Ranst	Medical Concerns
Dotty Klein	Medical Concerns
R. Ferguson Family	Healing, spiritual guidance
Gordon Grozdanoff	Medical Concerns
Arline Prois	Medical Concerns
Pauline Gourlay	Medical Concerns
Barbara Allen	Medical Concerns
Colleen Grozdanoff	Medical Concerns
Annika Koch	Medical Concerns
John Langley	Medical Concerns

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## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2 John Proctor  
4 Michelle Fitzpatrick  
Fred Bachert  
7 Melissa Schilbe  
10 Elizabeth Paul  
Betty Radatz  
14 Phyllis Preston  
16 Polly Fitzpatrick  
22 Grant MacKenzie  
23 Zoe Martin  
Marge Manspeaker  
27 Michelle Martin  
30 Michael Haling  
31 Linda Meadows

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### Dedication of Flowers - March

March 6 – Available  
March 13 – Polly Fitzpatrick  
March 20 – Teresa Curless  
March 27 – Tammy Jabtecki

### Fellowship Hour – March

March 6 – Available  
March 13 – Available  
March 20 – Available  
March 27 – Available

#### **Dates to Remember:**

March 4 Fish Dinner at St. Paul's 5:30pm  
March 7 Book Club 7pm  
March 9 Trustees Meeting 7pm  
March 10 Diaconate Meeting 7pm  
March 20 Palm Sunday Brunch 11am  
Maundy Thursday Supper 6pm  
Service 7pm  
March 27 Easter Service

## I'M JUST SAYIN' ...

...with Pat Stacho

CAUTION! PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE CONTINUING.

1. Read one word at a time
2. Pause at appropriate punctuation marks
3. Writer is not responsible for any conclusions drawn, any emotions evoked, or other reactions.

Isn't that the silliest thing I've ever written?! Instructions are everywhere. I realize it is to prevent frivolous, yet profitable lawsuits, but really...come on!

Did you know that once you lather with any shampoo, you must rinse? And then you are to repeat. It doesn't clearly state, but I'm assuming it's the entire process...lather, rinse. Of course, that way you use more shampoo, hence you will need to buy more, sooner. But do we really need to be told to rinse?

If you have children, grandchildren or even overly curious spouses, proceed with caution to the laundry room. Detergent, fabric softener, bleach, spot removing sprays, none of these are edible, not one. There are instructions, read them.

Instructions on anything going in the microwave will caution you that contents will be hot after cooking . Well yeah...if I wanted something cold, I would've used the refrigerator! (Now where are those instructions?)

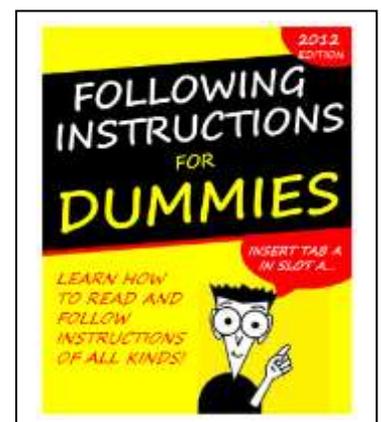
Virtually everything with a plug attached, will come with instructions. You must plug it in to use, but use with caution. This

seems condescending, but for the Honey Boo-Boos in the world, it may be necessary.

And when I want instructions, they are usually useless. Who can understand the long and confusing instructions included with any electronic products? Really?

Good thing I have a brilliant son in ITT. He doesn't even need the instructions! (Just bragging a bit.) And when we really need them, there are none. For instance, wouldn't it be great if children came with instructions? Not a warranty, that wouldn't be practical; nice, but not practical. Who'd take them after we turned them in? (He is cute, but what's his problem?) But instructions would be awesome. "Here you go Mrs Stacho. You have a beautiful little boy. Here are your instructions for the next 20 years. Of course, you do realize that there is no guarantee with this child, right?" And HUSBANDS! Lol. Need I say more?

So the next time you buy something, anything, check the instructions. I promise you a good laugh. Sad that what once was obvious is now fuel for lawsuits, making millionaires out of people who forget to rinse before munching on Tide! I'm just sayin'...



## Fish Dinner at St. Paul UCC -Taylor -March 4:

We invite you to meet your fellow church members at St. Paul UCC in Taylor for their 'famous' fish dinner on Friday, March 4 at 5:30 pm. Pastor Kren swears it's the best Lenten dinner anywhere and it's hard to argue with him. Last year, those that went really enjoyed the food! St. Paul is located on the north side of Goddard Rd. just west of Telegraph (if coming southbound on Telegraph, just make a right, then another right into the church). There's plenty of parking available. Enter through the sanctuary doors in front and be seated in the pews until everyone gets there. Try to arrive by 5:30. We will enter the dining room as a group for a cafeteria-style meal. Cost of the dinner is \$10.00. Hope to see you there!

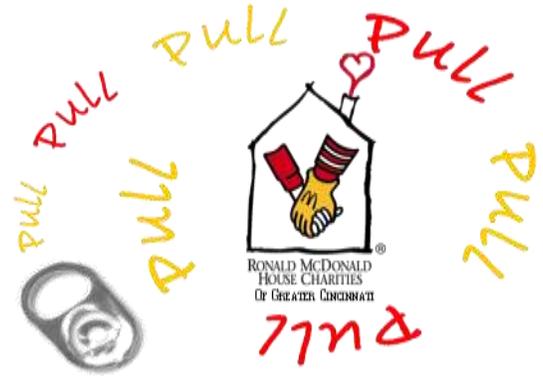


## Book Club – March 7 at 7:00pm

Currently reading *Annie's Ghost* by Steve Luxenberg. Books are available in the church office.



## MINI MISSIONS



**We continue to collect pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities. Please bring them in whenever you collect them. A plastic bin is just inside the tower door.**

## Food

**We continue to collect non-perishable food items to donate to Gleaner's Food Bank. Please**



**drop these items in the basket at the back of the sanctuary.**

**Volunteers are needed to deliver our mini-mission collections: pop-tabs, and food bank items, etc. We also need people to help out in various ways around the church, including decorating and organizing. If you have an hour or two a week to spare, see if you could come over and spend it with us!**

## The Real Meaning of Easter

By Beth Patch

The best way to understand the real meaning of Easter would be from Jesus. As is recorded in the 12th chapter of John, Jesus was welcomed to Jerusalem by a large crowd singing praises to Him, carrying palm branches and hailing Him as the King of Israel - the Messiah. They were gathering to celebrate Passover and such an outpouring of adoration made the Pharisees seeth with anger and disgust. They did not believe Jesus was their long-awaited King.

Jesus replied,

"Now the time has come for the Son of Man to enter into his glory. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone. But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives. Those who love their life in this world will lose it. Those who care nothing for their life in this world will keep it for eternity. Anyone who wants to be my disciple must follow me, because my servants must be where I am. And the Father will honor anyone who serves me." **John 12:23-26**

Probably a puzzling speech at the time, but clearly another moment when Jesus used a timeless parable to tell His message. Grains of wheat haven't changed and never will - a kernel must be planted in the soil and die to produce a harvest of wheat. Jesus had to die and be "planted" in a tomb to rise up and produce a harvest of life everlasting to those who believed in Him. (After His resurrection, the parable's meaning could be fully understood.)

Jesus knew that He was going to be killed and how He was going to be killed; and He knew the time was approaching. He told his disciples how he'd like his death on the cross to be remembered. His request is found in Luke 22:

When the time came, Jesus and the apostles sat down together at the table. Jesus said, "I have been very eager to eat this Passover meal with you before my suffering begins. For I tell you now that I won't eat this meal again until its meaning is fulfilled in the Kingdom of God." Then he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it. Then he said, "Take this and share it among yourselves. For I will not drink wine again until the Kingdom of God has come." He took some bread and

gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." After supper he took another cup of wine and said, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood, which is poured out as a sacrifice for you." **Luke 22:14-20**

Without a doubt, Jesus wants us to remember his great love and sacrifice for us by taking communion. He was getting ready to be betrayed by one of the disciples, publicly humiliated and mocked, beaten beyond recognition, and hung on a cross to die, when he made his special request for us to remember that He gave his body for us and poured out his blood as a sacrifice for us. The heart of Easter lies in his words, **"the new covenant between God and his people."**

What is the real meaning of Easter? Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we have been given victory over death and eternal separation from God, a covenant promise of forgiveness and grace:

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" **1 Corinthians 15:3**

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." **Romans 10:9**

When we eat the bread and drink the wine of communion, we need to search our hearts. Are we remembering the suffering that Jesus' body went through for us? Are we remembering how His blood was shed so our souls could be spared? Let's thank Jesus this Easter for giving us life and for giving us the Holy Spirit as our comforter before He ascended back to Heaven.

