



THE CALVARY CRIER

MARCH 2023

Calvary Presbyterian Church



Words of Wisdom from Reverend Cheryl Kincaid

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'" Then they remembered his words.

Luke 24:5-8

What a pointed question the angel asks those young women on their way to tend to Jesus' body that first Easter Morning. If the scripture would have recorded their answer, they probably would have stammered out, "We are here because we are supposed to be here". Women are supposed to take care of the body of a loved one when they die. We wash the body and preserve what can with herbs and spices. We may take a small memento of hair or a piece of clothing as we tenderly prepare the body for burial and then we say good bye."

We still do save momentos from people when they pass away today. We tenderly try to preserve their keepsakes and the memory that endeared us to them. We want to keep them alive in small ways, even as their living presence is being replaced by our memories of them. We do this to celebrate God's gift of their life just as those women were trying to do two thousand years ago on that first Easter morning.

But Christianity is not built on the memory of Jesus but on the reality of His presence in our midst today. On Easter morning, we will not be memorializing a dead Jesus but celebrating the Risen, Living Jesus!! We will Worship the Jesus who is in our lives today, not the one who died two thousand years ago.

The angel at the empty tomb immediately redirects the women from thinking about the memorial of His body to remembering the living words of His ministry. *'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, be crucified.'* Jesus' death was a part of God's plan. Those words must have stung in the ears of those women when remembering the crucifixion, but then the angels spoke these healing words of *"on the third day be raised again!"* Resurrection was God's ultimate plan.

It's painful reality of this life that we must first pass-through doubt of Gethsemane and experience the agony of Calvary before we can be refreshed by joy of the resurrection. But it is a needed journey we must all make. There are questions we must process at Gethsemane and things that must die at Calvary, so when we come to the empty tomb, we come with empty hands to receive something new, instead of hand full home medicines trying to revive or preserve something that already passed.

The women at the tomb that morning had to let go of the idea of a martyred messiah who tried to change their political world to receive a risen messiah that could reign in the hearts of people.

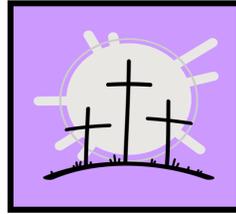
What are the ideas or life events that you need to surrender at the cross this Easter?

We no longer look for Christ among the dead. For He is risen, HE IS RISEN INDEED!!

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"

Luke 24:5

A WORD FROM OUR PARISH ASSOCIATE
DONNA YANOSY



Prayerful Practices for People of the Presence

Good Friday “Meditations on the Cross”

As we move through the season of Lent our focus during these weeks is one of repentance and reflection. Many of us have adopted a particular practice such as attending the midweek Lenten soup supper and service or reading a portion of a gospel each day. Some folks decide to abstain from a favorite food or indulgence as a way of showing gratitude for Christ’s sacrifice for us. It all seems to be about observing a Holy Lent, of seeing this season as calling us to the Lord in a particular way.

On Good Friday, April 7, Calvary will have the opportunity to visit Prayer Stations from noon to 3 p.m. around the theme of “Meditations on the Cross”. Each station will give an opportunity to reflect upon these truths:

Christ Died for Me

Christ Died for Those I Love

Christ Died for My Enemies

Christ Died for the World

Christ You Are to Me...

As you move through these stations, each one invites you to a particular prayer and action. You will have an opportunity to light a candle, write a prayer, pray for the nations, and spend time reading the Passion Narrative. You may move through these stations at your own pace.

This event is also open to the public. If you know someone who might like to participate in this spiritual experience, please extend an invitation. As we move through this season, why not consider setting aside time on Good Friday as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of the Jesus Christ on Easter?

Rev. Donna Yanosy

Book Review by Robert Thoelen

During my commute to work, I have been listening to audiobooks. The journey is about 45 minutes each way, so I use audiobooks to “redeem the time.” Recently, I discovered a book published in 2021 called “Restless Devices”, by Dr. Felicia Wu Song. Dr. Song who is a cultural sociologist and a practicing Christian. This book is available through Intervarsity Press if you are interested in reading it.

The book identifies areas where media and technology companies are looking to gain our attention. It is especially concerning how much social media companies use behavioral techniques to keep us spending time viewing their products. Dr Song mentions that she thought at first that if she understood the workings of technology, it would be easy to control. In her studies, she proposes a different way of thinking by considering what it means to be human, made in the image of God. Towards the end of the book, she offers practical ideas on changing our habits to retrain ourselves, using the work of Christian scholar Dr. James K.A. Smith and his concept of “counter liturgies.” In short, counter liturgies apply our Christian faith to form our lives by replacing old habits with new ones. The analogy from Scripture is Ephesians 4:22-24, which encourages replacing former ways of life with the practices of our new life in Christ.

Leading up to Lent, this was a great book to read, as it challenged me to not “give up” devices and social media, but to change how I use them. I’d be glad to share some of the new habits I’m working on. I pray for God’s blessing and leading as we contemplate how our devices and media affect us, and how we can use them with greater purpose and meaning in our lives.

Music News



The Choir is rehearsing music for Lent and Easter and invites you to join in singing then spirational music of this special season!

We will sing on March 5 and 19, Palm Sunday, April 2, Maundy Thursday, April 6, and Easter, April 9.

Additional singers are welcome to join the Choir for the season. Choir rehearsals will be on March 12 and 26.

The Eternal Flame still burns bright! The City Singers of Hartford will present Celtic Fire on Sunday, March 12 at 4:00 at the West Hartford United Methodist Church, 1358 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford. The choral ensemble and instrumentalists will perform sacred and secular Celtic music spanning several centuries. There is ample free parking. Donations will

benefit the Friendship Center of New Britain. Additional information may be found at www.citysingers.org

I hope to see you in the audience!

Lori Bourret



Up-Coming Easter Services here at Calvary

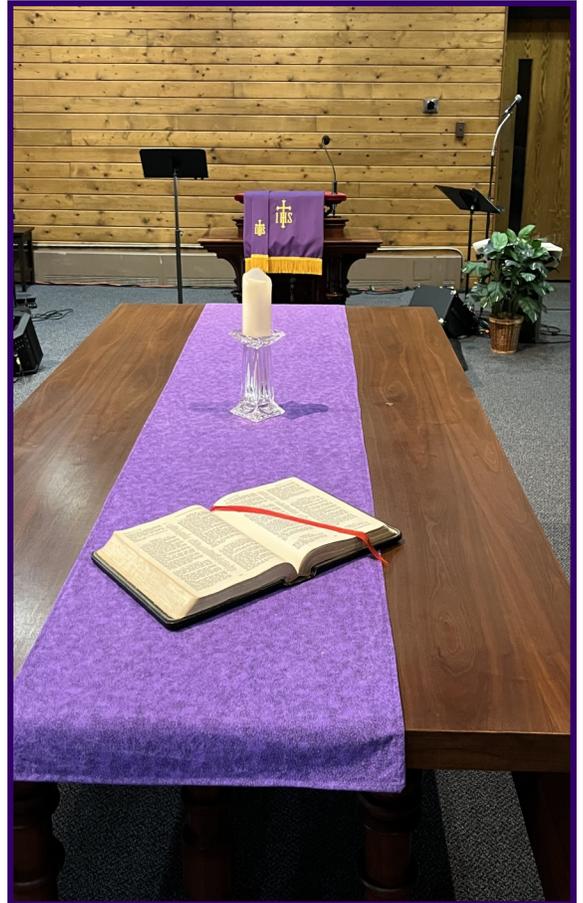
*Lenten Service— Wednesday 6:00 PM
March 1,8,15,22 &29*

Palm Sunday Service—April 2 at 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Service—April 6 at 7:00 PM

Good Friday Prayer Stations—April 7, 12—3 PM

*Sunrise Service in Fellowship Mall at 6:00 AM
Easter Service—10:00 AM*



MARCH
BIRTHDAY'S AND ANNIVERSARIES



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Darren Burn
- 14 Emily Clark
- 15 Ann dePlessis
Ted Perrill
- 18 Bob Bourret
- 24 Vangie Gallacher
Irene King
- 28 Gail Clark

(No March Anniversaries)





**Collected: February for
Springfield Rescue Mission
2023**

**** 17 bags donated on March 1, 2023 at
10 Mill Street, Springfield, MA**

Item	Quantity		Item	Quantity
Comforter	4		Blanket	1
Women's sweater	15		Men's sweaters	15
Men's long under-wear	2		Men's jackets	2
Socks	12		Men's underwear	5
Ski pants	2		Women's jacket	9
Hankies	8		Men's shirts	15
Women's shirt	1		Men's pants	2
Men's sweatshirt	6		Women's jersey	27
Women's sweat-pants	1		Women's slacks	3
Women's pajamas	2		Pillowcases	10
Scarves	13		Women's dress	1
Women's shoes	3		Men's shoes	1

*Thank You to all those who Donated items for the
Springfield Rescue Mission.*