

Lent is to Holy Week as Advent is to Christmas. Advent is a time to prepare for God's gift to mankind, the birth of Jesus. Lent is a time to prepare for God's sacrifice of that gift to free His people from sin. Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, a day of remembrance of Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. Palm Sunday is on March 20, and the Children's Sunday School will be joining the Chancel Choir to sing "Hosanna to the King."

Thursday is Maundy Thursday, the night of the Passover meal, the night that Jesus broke bread with his disciples and tried to prepare them for the event that was to happen the next day, his capture, imprisonment and eventual crucifixion. Next year Passover and Holy Week will overlap. This year Passover begins April 22. FUMC will celebrate Maundy

Holy Week

Thursday, March 24, with a traditional Seder meal, just as we did last year, including lamb and bitter herbs with a Christian emphasis (and additional western foods). This is an interesting and powerful experience. Be sure to plan to attend. It begins at 5:00 pm in the Ken Miller Room.

Good Friday, commemorating Jesus' crucifixion, can be remembered by attending the Community Good Friday Service at the historical Congregational Church, Friday, March 25, corner of 4th and Mill streets. This service is prepared by PAMA, Porterville Area Ministerial Association, and is non-denominational, with various area pastors participating. It lasts an hour beginning at 12 Noon.

Easter will be celebrated on March 27, quite early, but not the earliest

it has been celebrated. The earliest Easter ever recorded in the Gregorian calendar from 1753 onwards was on March 22, both in 1761 and 1818. The next time Easter occurs

on March 23 will not be until 2160, and a March 22 Easter will not happen until the year 2285. The Easter date is set around the time of the vernal, or spring, equinox, when the length of day and night is nearly equal in every part of the world. In 325 CE the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. (Timeanddate.com)

Easter lilies will decorate the sanctuary and the service will be joyous. Baptisms and new members will be welcomed into the church on that day. If you have been considering joining the church, please contact Pastor James (784-4232).

After the service, the children will participate in an Easter Egg Hunt.

(Holy Week continued on page 2)



Palm Sunday 2015

Mark Your Calendar

March

- Mar 5 - Breakfast/Workday**
- Mar 10 - UMW meeting**
- Mar 17 - Community Food Bank**
- Mar 20 - Palm Sunday**
- Mar 24- Maundy Service Clothing Closet**
- Mar 25 - Good Friday Service**
- Mar 27 - Easter**



Pastor's Corner

The time that leads up to Easter is called the Lenten season. In accordance with church tradition, last month I challenged everyone to give up something or add a new thing such as morning devotions, or reading through the Bible in a year. I hope you chose something, and I pray you are doing well.

Easter has a season, too. Easter is March 27 this year. But the next Sunday is called the 2nd Sunday of Easter on my calendar, the next the 3rd Sunday of Easter, and so on. Easter Season begins on Easter Day and lasts 50 days, ending on Pentecost. Thus this year it begins on March 27 and ends on May 15.

For the Easter season, decorations are white. White represents purity, righteousness, and the angels who announced the resurrection. In contrast, we see the world celebrate it as a colorful holiday, with

beautifully-colored eggs, and pastel flowers, and all this brings smiles. In fact, I look forward to boiling eggs and coloring them with my grandchildren. I also encourage the church to continue having an Easter egg hunt every year after the Easter morning service because it is great fun for the children, and we should live our lives with joy. But we must teach our children about the true meaning of Easter, because they won't learn it from their friends or at school. I didn't. I did not know the meaning of Easter until I was saved while in the military and started to go to church.

Therefore the best symbol and standard of Easter is the open tomb. It's theme is Christ's resurrection. It is his afterwards being seen by over 500 witnesses (see 1 Corinthians 15:6) that give proof that Jesus was, and still is, who he proclaimed himself to be, the Son of God. Yes, Christ arose, and the power of his resurrection is felt wherever he is known and loved and followed. Easter ought to leave in every Christian heart new inspirations, a new uplift, new revealing of hope. It ought to be easier for us to live honorably, faithfully, and victoriously after we have enjoyed another Easter with its great lessons.

So Easter is a day. Easter is also a season. And the neat thing is that for the Christian, every day is an Easter. Each morning we can give thanks for the truth of the gospel and for the reality of Christ's victory over death. And we should rise to newness of life every day, letting go of the sins which entangle us, and each day seeing ourselves as a new creation in Christ. We look forward to a bright future — not of returning to dust and that being the end of it, but of living eternally with our God, praising Him forever.

That's why every year at Easter-time — in fact, every day of the year — we have reason to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior. *"I will extol the LORD at all times; His praise will always be on my lips"* (Ps. 34:1 NIV).

Happy Easter!

Pastor James S. Woffinden



(Holy Week continued)

It is always fun to see these little ones dashing for the colorful eggs strewn across the lawn.

It is a busy time in the life of the church, but the resurrection is the foundation of Christianity. Plan to participate in as many of these events as you can.

Keep in touch

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Go to our Website to see if anything new has been added
www.portervillefirstunitedmethodistchurch.com

"The mission of the church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the Porterville area, even the world."

Pastor - James S. Woffinden 784-4232
Christian Messenger Editor - Paulette McFarlin

Wednesday night Bible study schedule for March

Mar. 2 - Marilyn Schaffer

Mar. 9 - Wayne & Ann White

Mar. 16 - Dave & Gayle
Hammelmann

Mar. 23 - No Bible Study

Mar. 30 - Joe & Tamara Mitchell



Lenten Breakfast/Workday

On Saturday, March 5, 8:30 am, a great breakfast will be served: pancakes, egg casserole (Ann White specialty,) sausages, fruit, coffee and tea. Makes you hungry just reading this. After devotions, the group will choose different tasks to work on for general clean up, indoors and outdoors. There is sure to be a task just right for you, as you choose what you are capable of doing. The breakfast is free and the workday is concluded at 11am.



Spring can't arrive without a lovely spring luncheon put on by the UMW. It will happen Saturday, April 9, lunch at 12:00 pm and viewwing starting at 11:30 am. If you would like to decorate a table, or just be a diner, please leave your name in the office. Tickets are only \$5, such a bargain. Treat a friend and invite her to lunch and some fun time with friends.

The Church in action

Ongoing weekly activities

Sunday

9:30 am - Adult Bible Study

11:00 am - Sunday Worship

11:15 am - Children's Sun. Sch.

Tuesday

10:00 am - Morning Watch

7:00 pm - Pickle Ball

Wednesday

6:00 pm - Handbell Choir

7:00 pm - Chancel Choir

7:30 pm - Bible Study

UM Women

At the last meeting, 14 women of the church met to 'rethink' UMW. Lots of new ideas, reworking of old plans and continuance of traditional events were discussed. The biggest innovation is that there will be NO president or chairwoman. The group will share leadership for different events, with perhaps only a facilitator to guide meetings.

Some possibilities for the future: something for fun, maybe a field trip; a trip to Calico Mermaid quilt shop for a demonstration class; someone from Michaels, JoAnns or Calico Mermaid to come give a demonstration at the church. It was decided to continue with the Spring Luncheon, which will be held on Saturday, April 9. Pam Loverin volunteered to cook the dinner and a bargain price of \$5 a meal was instituted in order that the emphasis would be on fellowship, and not finances. The Christmas Bazaar will be renamed "Christmas Marketplace." More on this idea in the future. The next meeting will be Thursday, March 10, at noon. Bring a sack lunch and join us.

Trustees experimenting with light

When one of the light fixtures in the library (now the Laotian church) was arcing and sparking we knew it needed to be fixed. There were four fixtures in the library and all four had problems. It was going to require one or two ballasts for each fixture. We decided to try putting in LED lights instead of replacing the ballasts. We have done that in the library. The four fixtures will be using 18 watts per fixture instead of 64 watts per fixture. The saving in our electric bill will pay for the cost of the LED lights, probably by the end of the year. We have already changed one fixture in the work room next to the office.

We are also in the process of changing all the outside security lights. There are 64 (60 watt) lights outside. The LED light will be 9.5 watts instead of 60 watts per light. The lights were on sale at Home Depot for \$1.35 per light. We will save back the \$1.35 in just a few months.

There are 35 fixtures in the office, 40 in the sanctuary and about 40 in the Ken Miller. To do all of these would be about \$3000 but the wattage would go from 7680 watts to 2160 watts. The nice thing is we can do one or all of these 119 or anywhere in between. The office lights are used the most, so it would make sense to do those first. (*The editor adds "more power to them (the trustees.)"*) Deanne Rhoadarmer, Trustee Chair





Church Humor

The preacher was wired for sound with a lapel mike and as he preached, he moved briskly about the platform jerking the mike cord as he went. Then he moved to one side, getting wound up in the cord and nearly tripping before jerking it again. After several circles and jerks, a little girl in the third pew leaned toward her mother and whispered, "If he gets loose, will he hurt us?"

Sign up for Easter lilies for Easter Sunday. This Sunday, March 6, you may sign up to purchase them. The price is \$9 each. You may either honor someone or name someone in memoriam.

Did you know.....

...that Dean Rhoadarmer has video copies of Dean Semple's Celebration of Life as well as Paul Young's cello concert? If you would like a copy, check with him.

...the Burkhardt kids performed for the Valentine's Dinner/Party? Song and Dance man Garrick did "Cococabana," Ethan sang "Tomorrow," Emma read a poem and four year old Wyatt stunned the crowd with his vocal rendition that was right on pitch. Talented kids.

... there is a free breakfast on Saturday, March 5, 8:30 am, at the church? Come on down, don't dress up.

eNewsletter

Please forward this eNewsletter to anyone that you think might like to receive it, or call the church office and add an email address to our eNewsletter list. If you have an address of someone who used to attend our church, and think they would like a copy, call the church office and supply the address.

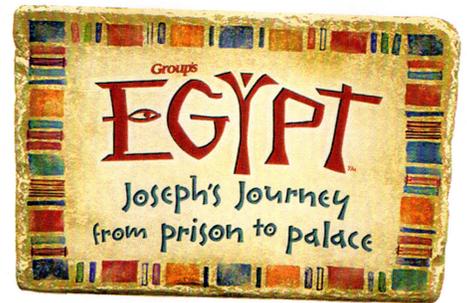
This eNewsletter is published the last week of each month. Please send any items you would like to be included for the next issue to: Paulette McFarlin (pmcfarlin@ocsnet.net) or drop off the written information at the church office by the 15th of each month.

March Birthdays

- 4 - Michael Martin
- 11 - Paul Klippenstein
- 18 - Luella Chase

Vacation Bible School

VBS is slated for June 27 to July 2. Please make an effort to plan your vacations for before or after these dates so you can either bring your children or the neighbor's children or help with this special week. The exciting program will be *EGYPT, Joseph's Journey from prison to palace*. The times will be Monday through Friday, 4 pm - 7 pm. On Saturday, July 2, all the children will go to the Municipal swimming pool for a swim party, 9:30 am - 11:30 am, thanks to Bill White. Invite anyone with children to come and participate.



Workers of the month: Marilyn Schaffer, Sharon Fisk, Susan Mankins and Debbie Hutchinson at the Clothes Closet and four men on a hot slate roof, Robert Keck, Jim McFarlin, Wayne White and Dean Rhoadarmer (not pictured).

March Daily Scriptures

March 1

Leviticus 24:1-25:46
Mark 10:13-31
Psalm 44:9-26
Proverbs 10:20-21

March 2

Leviticus 25:47-27:13
Mark 10:32-52
Psalm 45:1-17
Proverbs 10:22

March 3

Leviticus 27:14-
Numbers 1:54
Mark 11:1-26
Psalm 46:1-11
Proverbs 10:23

March 4

Numbers 2:1-3:51
Mark 11:27-12:17
Psalm 47:1-9
Proverbs 10:24-25

March 5

Numbers 4:1-5:31
Mark 12:18-37
Psalm 48:1-14
Proverbs 10:26

March 6

Numbers 6:1-7:89
Mark 12:38-13:13
Psalm 49:1-20
Proverbs 10:27-28

March 7

Numbers 8:1-9:23
Mark 13:14-37
Psalm 50:1-23
Proverbs 10:29-30

March 8

Numbers 10:1-11:23
Mark 14:1-21
Psalm 51:1-19
Proverbs 10:31-32

March 9

Numbers 11:24-13:33
Mark 14:22-52
Psalm 52:1-9
Proverbs 11:1-3

March 10

Numbers 14:1-15:16
Mark 14:53-72
Psalm 53:1-6
Proverbs 11:4

March 11

Numbers 15:17-16:40
Mark 15:1-47
Psalm 54:1-7
Proverbs 11:5-6

March 12

Numbers 16:41-18:32
Mark 16:1-20
Psalm 55:1-23
Proverbs 11:7

March 13

Numbers 19:1-20:29
Luke 1:1-25
Psalm 56:1-13
Proverbs 11:8

March 14

Numbers 21:1-22:20
Luke 1:26-56
Psalm 57:1-11
Proverbs 11:9-11

March 15

Numbers 22:21-23:30
Luke 1:57-80
Psalm 58:1-11
Proverbs 11:12-13

March 16

Numbers 24:1-25:18
Luke 2:1-35
Psalm 59:1-17
Proverbs 11:14

March 17

Numbers 26:1-51
Luke 2:36-52
Psalm 60:1-12
Proverbs 11:15

March 18

Numbers 26:52-28:15
Luke 3:1-22
Psalm 61:1-8
Proverbs 11:16-17

March 19

Numbers 28:16-29:40
Luke 3:23-38
Psalm 62:1-12
Proverbs 11:18-19

March 20

Numbers 30:1-31:54
Luke 4:1-30
Psalm 63:1-11
Proverbs 11:20-21

March 21

Numbers 32:1-33:39
Luke 4:31-5:11
Psalm 64:1-10
Proverbs 11:22

March 22

Numbers 33:40-35:34
Luke 5:12-28
Psalm 65:1-13
Proverbs 11:23

March 23

Numbers 36:1-Deut. 1:46
Luke 5:29-6:11
Psalm 66:1-20
Proverbs 11:24-26

March 24

Deuteronomy 2:1-3:29
Luke 6:12-38
Psalm 67:1-7
Proverbs 11:27

March 25

Deuteronomy 4:1-49
Luke 6:39-7:10
Psalm 68:1-18
Proverbs 11:28

March 26

Deuteronomy 5:1-6:25
Luke 7:11-35
Psalm 68:19-35
Proverbs 11:29-31

March 27

Deuteronomy 7:1-8:20
Luke 7:36-8:3
Psalm 69:1-18
Proverbs 12:1

March 28

Deuteronomy 9:1-10:22
Luke 8:4-21
Psalm 69:19-36
Proverbs 12:2-3

March 29

Deuteronomy 11:1-12:32
Luke 8:22-39
Psalm 70:1-5
Proverbs 12:4

March 30

Deuteronomy 13:1-15:23
Luke 8:40-9:6
Psalm 71:1-24
Proverbs 12:5-7

March 31

Deuteronomy 16:1-17:20
Luke 9:7-27
Psalm 72:1-20
Proverbs 12:8-9

April 1

Deuteronomy 18:1-20:20
Luke 9:28-50
Psalm 71:1-24
Proverbs 12:5-7

April 2

Deuteronomy 21:1-22:30
Luke 9:51-10:12
Psalm 74:1-23
Proverbs 12:11

April 3

Deuteronomy 23:1-25:19
Luke 10:38-11:13
Psalm 76:1-12
Proverbs 12:15-17