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MARCH 2019

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11: 28-30

Last month we devoted a Sunday's worship service to celebrate the faith of the disciples. The idea for the service came from long-time member Dick Law, who also gave an interesting and inspiring message about the example they set. As Dick noted, the Twelve were ordinary men who did extraordinary things. Women, also followed Jesus even to the foot of the cross. (Thanks Dick, not only for the worship idea, but also for all your hard work and research! Thanks also to Paul Spero for giving the children's message and to the ushers who dressed in disciple's robes made by Roxanne Rossi.)



*Thanks to our "disciples"
(left to right):*

*Paul Spero-children's message,
Anne Coughenour, usher
Dick Law-preaching,
Chuck Provo-usher
Tom Sweeney-usher*

Upon hearing Jesus' call, the first disciples ("students") immediately left everything behind to follow and to learn from him.

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ And he said

to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."

²⁰ *Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.*

²² *Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.* Matthew 4: 18-22

Later, when Jesus sent them out two by two on their first missionary journey, they became apostles ("those who are sent") as they went to various towns and villages to share the message that Jesus' taught about God's kingdom. (Mark 6) Then, after his resurrection, they spread the good news of salvation far and wide. Each of the disciples were so sure of what they believed that they died for their faith, with the exception of John, who was exiled on the Isle of Patmos.

Just as Jesus first called disciples to learn from him, and then sent his apostles into the world to share the good news of God's kingdom, Jesus calls each of us as well. He also sends us into the world to share our faith and show his love. As we enter the season of Lent, I hope you will be inspired by their example of faith and courage. Then spend some extra time in prayer and Bible study as you continue your own journey of spiritual growth and learn from our Lord Jesus. Finally, share the good news and invite others to join us to worship our wonderful Lord and Savior.

Blessings and peace,

—Rev. DeB

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Disclaimer: The following article is from Christianity.com.

Please note, much of the information below comes from stories passed down through the years, legend, and other (mostly reliable) sources outside of the Bible.

Although some of the information is Biblical, many of the details are not necessarily found in Scripture. This doesn't mean the stories are inaccurate or mythological, nor are they a certainty.

Please keep this in mind as you read.

How Did the Apostles Die?

Reports and legends abound and they are not always reliable, but it is safe to say that the apostles went far and wide as heralds of the message of the risen Christ.

An early legend says they cast lots and divided up the world to determine who would go where, so all could hear about Jesus.

They suffered greatly for their faith and in most cases met violent deaths on account of their bold witness.

The New Testament tells of the fate of only two of the apostles:

Judas,

who betrayed Jesus and then went out and hanged himself, and

James

the son of Zebedee, who was executed by Herod about 44 AD (Acts 12:2).

Peter and Paul

Both martyred in Rome about 66 AD, during the persecution under Emperor Nero. Paul was beheaded. Peter was crucified, upside down at his request, since he did not feel he was worthy to die in the same manner as his Lord.

Andrew

went to the "land of the man-eaters," in what is now the Soviet Union. Christians there claim him as the first to bring the gospel to their land. He also preached in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey, and in Greece, where he is said to have been crucified.

Thomas

was probably most active in the area east of Syria. Tradition has him preaching as far east as India, where the ancient Marthoma Christians revere him as their founder. They claim that he died there when pierced through with the spears of four soldiers.

Philip

possibly had a powerful ministry in Carthage in North Africa and then in Asia Minor, where he converted the wife of a Roman proconsul. In retaliation the proconsul had Philip arrested and cruelly put to death.

Matthew

the tax collector and writer of a Gospel, ministered in Persia and Ethiopia. Some of the oldest reports say he was not martyred, while others say he was stabbed to death in Ethiopia.

Bartholomew

had widespread missionary travels attributed to him by tradition: to India with Thomas, back to Armenia, and also to Ethiopia and Southern Arabia. There are various accounts of how he met his death as a martyr for the gospel.

James

the son of Alphaeus, is one of at least three James referred to in the New Testament. There is some confusion as to which is which, but this James is reckoned to have ministered in Syria. The Jewish historian Josephus reported that he was stoned and then clubbed to death.

Simon the Zealot

so the story goes, ministered in Persia and was killed after refusing to sacrifice to the sun god.

Matthias

was the apostle chosen to replace Judas. Tradition sends him to Syria with Andrew and to death by burning.

John

is the only one of the company generally thought to have died a natural death from old age. He was the leader of the church in the Ephesus area and is said to have taken care of Mary the mother of Jesus in his home. During Domitian's persecution in the middle 90's, he was exiled to the island of Patmos. There he is credited with writing the last book of the New Testament--the Revelation. An early Latin tradition has him escaping unhurt after being cast into boiling oil at Rome.



March

5. Nicole Cooter, Robin Law Post
8. Angela Rossi
15. Dane Hamilton Greabell
16. Bill Capsello
20. Nathaniel Yakubu
22. Nikole Lynn Metz,
Benjamin William Clappin
23. Susan Holburn
29. Charlene Esslingen



The weather forecaster intones: 'Today will be cold with intermittent snow showers and there is the possibility of a major storm moving in... more at 11!' I guess I was confused but I could have sworn that I heard that Punxatawney Phil had not seen his shadow and that spring was near at hand. The recent weather and the next week's predictions seem to belie that psychic rodent.

I have to confess that I am less than enchanted with our recent spate of cold, snow, wind and ice. I'm beginning to understand the snowbirds! I find myself waiting, too impatiently, for the clearer skies, the warming trend, the budding flowers of springtime. The key question for me becomes, what do I do during that time before the spring is sprung? I wonder if our faith is that way.

What I mean is – do we wait, perhaps too impatiently, for the return of our Savior; the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We all have, or hopefully will develop, the confidence in our God, that we can believe beyond a *shadow* of a doubt that Jesus will return in glory. This is a shadow that I trust in completely. Nevertheless, the issue for me and for many of us then becomes: do we sit and wait for this 'spring'? Do we become morose and miserable as the seemingly never ending winter drags on? Psychologists warn that the early days of spring are often the most dangerous days for people who are depressed and get tired of waiting.

The truth is: we know not when our Savior is coming. The 25th chapter of Matthew, verses 1-13, depicts the story of the 10 virgins waiting for the bridegroom. Only 5 had their oil ready for their lamps and were prepared for the auspicious occasion. Where will we be? Do we sit idly by or do we get involved in spreading the good news as we approach Easter? Do we join in activities and try to help others or complain about our aches and troubles? Do we study and pray and search the word of God as it applies to our personal lives or...? I - we - do not know what time we have left; for winter, for the onset of spring, or for any other events that may impact our lives. But why would we miss the chance to try and do something wonderful and beneficial?

I heard hell described once not as a place of fire and brimstone, but a cold, very cold, place of being away from our Maker. If that is true and I am not a real fan of these winters, maybe I should get myself up and going. Spring is coming. Believe and live for the glorious hope that we can choose to hold dear. Don't wait!

—Dale H. Greabell, Christian Education Department

MARCH meanderings

- 3 - communion
- 6 - Ash Wednesday
- 10 - presentation decision; camp collection
- 17 - St Patrick's 'wearing of the green'
- 24 - donation decision
- 31 - NO classes



You are invited to join the group that is making prayer shawls.

When completed, they are blessed and made available to those who would benefit by having a comforting shawl to surround them during a time of illness, stress or loss, etc.

For more information, contact Norine Stephan at 315-437-8581.



Prayer Shawls were Blessed during Worship on February 10th



Prayer and Personal Concerns



The Parish Council met on February 19, 2019 opening with prayer.

Anne C. explained the finance report to new and old PC members giving clarification of the fund balances as reported.

Pro-Maintenance Service will be stripping and refinishing the floors in the Fellowship hall, kitchen, bathrooms and hallways beginning February 21st with completion by the weekend (?)

Judy Walters took the collected mittens, gloves and scarves to the students at Woodland elementary school. She will be purchasing some socks and underwear also.

The Corned beef and Cabbage dinner is scheduled for March 16 from 4-7 for \$10, children under 5 free. The Ladies Tea is scheduled for Saturday June 11 from 12:30 – 4 pm.

Worship committee reports Ash Wednesday 3/6/19 will be a soup and bread meal from 5:30 – 6:15 with services starting at 6:30. Maundy Thursday services will be held at Collamer Church on 4/18/19. Good Friday hours 12-3 pm with service in the evening. Beginning 3/31/19 Easter flowers (various types) maybe ordered. On Saturday 4/27/19 there will be a Presbytery event held at our church regarding website setup. Communion guidelines were reviewed and approved.

The next Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday March 12th, at 6:30 pm.

Faithfully Suzanne Green



A Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

will be held on Saturday,
March 16th from 4-7pm.

Tickets are \$10.

There are sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex if you are available to help.

Take-outs will be available.

In Hospitals, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living

Nancy Bregard – Morning Star Care Center - Oswego

Juanita Coleman – Elderwood – Diane Shafer's mother

At Home

Chuck Baker

Daniel Camp – friend of Christy Knowlton

Shayna Fielding – Bev & Earl Lowe's granddaughter

Jean Troy & Debbie Kelly – Shancy Gorman's cousins

Betty Hickox – Lynn Jacques' mother

Chuck & Madeline Kieb – Horton family friends

Tim Krezmien – Nancy Miller's grandson

Eugene Lansing

Terri Lavergne

Mary Pat Lavigne – Chuck & Marsha Provo's daughter

Barbara Manley

Heather Miles – friend of the Provos

Patty Miller – friend of the Provos

Mary Mol – Horton family friend

Christine Opera – Shancy Gorman's niece

John Novak

Mark Radley

Bob Stanton – Terri LaVergne's uncle

Judy Walters

Serving in the Armed Forces:

Tina Bearup - US Navy -Joan O'Donnell's niece

Bret Gratien - US Air Force – Dover AFB

- grandson of Peggy & Ray Haynes

Jamie Jarmacz - US Air Force - Dick & Diana Law's son-in-law

Andrew Metz – California

Austin Miller – US Navy – Linda Graves grandson

Beth and Nate Roczen – US Army - Horton family friends

Eric Spero – US Navy

*Ryan Fox – studying in the Czech Republic

*Please notify the office of any changes so this list
may be kept current.*

Please Note!

Rev. Thomas' email address is now

revrndeb@gmail.com.

The firstucpastor email address is **no longer valid**.

Drive by the church at night and you'll see our witness to the passersby.



Communications

If you would like to receive e-mail updates from the church, place your e-mail address on the Friendship pad or leave in the office

Special dates

- World Day of Prayer, March 1, 2019
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, March 3, 2019
- Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019
- First Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2019
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 10, 2019
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2019
- First day of spring, March 20, 2019
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 24, 2019
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 31, 2019

Coins for Camp

will be collected the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

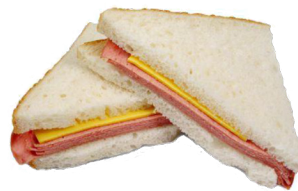
The second Sunday of the month it will be a separate offering collected following the Children's sermon.

On the fourth Sunday there will be a basket on the table in the narthex for donations.

UPPER ROOM and OUR DAILY BREAD

for the next season are available in the narthex.

Donations are appreciated to help cover costs.



Sandwiches for the Samaritan Center

are made on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

If you can help please come to the kitchen immediately following the worship service.

Living sacrifices

To search our souls, to meditate,
will not suffice for Lent.

To share the cross, to sacrifice;
these are the things God meant.

—*Jane McKay Lanning*

Thoughts on prayer

"You don't know how to pray? Put yourself in the presence of God, and as soon as you have said, 'Lord, I don't know how to pray!' you can be sure you have already begun."

—*St. Josemaría Escrivá*

"Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won't always find answers, but you will always find Jesus."

—*Father Mike Schmitz*

"If the lungs of prayer and the Word of God do not nourish the breath of spiritual life, we risk suffocating in the midst of a thousand daily cares. Prayer is the breath of the soul and of life."

—*Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI* **Newsletter**

March 2019

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

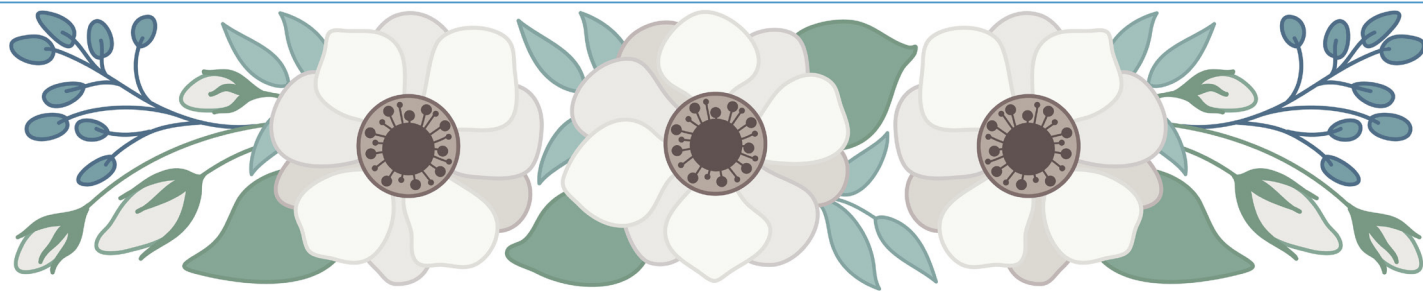
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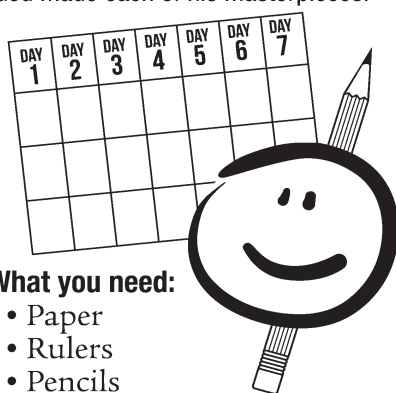
					1 3:00 PM Rehearsal	2 3:00 PM Wedding
3 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed.	4	5 1:00 PM Red Cross Blood Drive (FH 'til 6)	6	7 6:30 PM Finance Comm. Mtg. (Lounge)	8	9 9:00 AM PEO Mtg. in FH 'til noon) 1:00 PM Baby Shower (FH 'til 4pm)
10 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed.	11 7:00 PM Girl Scout Service Unit (Lounge)	12 6:30 PM Parish Council (Lounge)	13	14	15	16 4:00 PM Corned Beef Dinner (FH 'til 7pm)
17 St. Patrick's 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed. 11:15 AM Sandwich Making 3:00 PM Mission Comm. @ The Crossings	18	19	20 Spring begins	21	22	23
24 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed.	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:00 AM Worship & Christian Ed.						

First United Church of East Syracuse Events



DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1–2:3 for reference)

What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.



Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1–2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.

Day 1 (light) ____ Day 2 (waters) ____ Day 3 (land and plants) ____ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) ____

Day 5 (birds and water animals) ____ Day 6 (land animals and people) ____ Day 7 (God rested) ____

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2

First United Church of East Syracuse
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Tossed salad

On the “Three Sides” podcast (ELCA, Sept. 6, 2018), Wendy Davidson, a leader at the Kellogg Company, shares how her Christianity informs her work. Because her adult faith emerged from several denominational influences, she considers variety to be a strength, not only spiritually but throughout life.

Davidson encourages her co-workers to bring their unique personalities and ideas to the table to create a metaphorical salad. “It doesn’t mean that the salad now becomes one homogenous blob; it is still distinctly the flavors of the salad ingredients,” she says. “But they’ve all found a way to come together to make something that much more flavorful than they could have been all on their own.”

Viewing church and our communities this way could be transformative. What if we welcome different people, invite ideas and resist melding everything into one giant blob? Then we can savor each “ingredient” and the resulting gourmet dish. Delicious!

How peace bears witness

Christians ought not to be smothered in fear. There is a spiritual readiness, where we return to having the peace of God stand guard over our hearts and minds.

What an incredible witness it is to a lost and fearful society when the Christian acts like a child of God, living under the loving sovereignty of the heavenly Father. The Christian needs to walk in peace, so no matter what happens they will be able to bear witness to a watching world.

—Henry Blackaby