

Grace notes

The Newsletter of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church
March 2013 | Volume 3, Issue 2

About Lent...

Reading from MARK 11:27-33

Lent is the season leading up to Easter. It is a time of preparation and repentance in which we remember Jesus' suffering and anticipate his resurrection.

The question you often hear is, "What did you give up for Lent?" Throughout history, Christians have observed Lent by fasting or other acts of self-denial. The danger with tradition, of course, is that it can become mere ritual, or even a source of pride. We want to recapture a spirit of faith in this season.

Unlike repentance and humility, which happen in and through us, suffering and persecution simply happen to us. The former is a response of faith to the grace of God at work. The latter requires a response of faith in the goodness and wisdom of God, even when it seems he is not at work.

The subject raises a difficult question: Why does God allow us to

suffer? We are always searching for answers to this question, for ourselves and for our world. Not knowing "why" is part of the suffering.

One day when Jesus and his disciples were walking, they passed by a man blind from birth. "And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?'" (John 9:2). They were looking for answers.

Based upon God's covenant promises with Israel, Jews were inclined to expect God to invariably bless them materially in response to pious living. Conversely, they expected that those who did evil were to experience divine discipline in various forms. In short, they expected God to bless them for doing good, and to punish others for their sin.

We see this mindset revealed by Job's friends in the book of Job.

Church Events

- Mar 2: Roast Beef Dinner
- Mar 3: Family Game Night, Ugly Sweater Contest, Park Manor
- Mar 10: Blanket Sunday, Daylight Savings Time—Spring Ahead!
- Mar 16: Coffee House
- Mar 17: Hot Breakfast Sandwich Sunday, Baked Potato Lunch
- Mar 24: Palm Sunday
- Mar 25: Christian Seder Meal @ Holy Name
- Mar 28: Maundy Thursday
- Mar 29: Good Friday
- Mar 31: Easter Sunday

(Continued from page 1)

In truth, Job was being tested with adversity because of his piety, and not because of sin (Job 1:1-12). Job's friends persisted in trying to force him to confess that his suffering was the result of some sin he had committed. If he but forsook his sin, they insisted, then God would again bless him.

Perhaps Asaph had the same assumptions about prosperity and poverty. He was frustrated and angry with God because the wicked appeared to prosper while the pious did not (Psalm 73:1-14).

This is why the disciples framed the question the way they did. Their explanation for suffering was that someone was being punished for sin. But Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him" (John 9:3).

Jesus was not offering a trite explanation of all suffering, but rather pointing to his own suffering that would explain the love of God. Jesus voluntarily and unjustly endured suffering, even unto death. Not because he sinned, but because "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23). He did this so that the works of God might be displayed in him, "whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (3:25-26).

We do not have all the answers about why we suffer, but we do know what the answer cannot be. It cannot be that God doesn't see or care, for he sent his own Son to enter into our suffering. And it cannot be a hopeless situation, for he conquered sin and death by raising his Son from the dead.

~~ REFLECTION ~~

1. How does the reality of suffering challenge your faith?
2. Have you tried to explain suffering in ways that might be unbiblical?
3. How does Jesus' death and resurrection give you strength and hope?

~~ PRAYER ~~

Heavenly Father,
Help me to be resolute and Christ-contained. Never let me wander from the path of obedience to thy will. Strengthen me for the battles ahead. Give me courage for all the trials, and grace for all the joys. Help me to be a holy, happy person, free from every wrong desire, from everything contrary to thy mind. Grant me more and more of the resurrection life: may it rule me, may I walk in its power, and be strengthened through its influence.
- Amen

Ugly Sweater Contest:

Sunday, March 3rd at 12:15 PM

Start looking for that ugly sweater, or don't return that Christmas present...it may win! Prizes will go to the top three ugly sweaters.



Family Game Night and Pot Luck

Sunday, March 3rd at 5 PM

Join us for a night of board games, fellowship and a pot luck dinner.



3rd Annual



An-Girls

Leadership Conference

Sunday, March 17 at 10:30 AM

This event focuses on our high school aged girls. The next meeting will be at the church in the High School Sunday School room. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to attend. The conference will be held in May. Speak to Kelly Dolson for more information.



New Members Class

There will be a New Member's Class on Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00pm. Please RSVP Wendy at 386-3851 or Jeff@otisvillepres.org.



Praise & Worship in Otisville

Coffee House

Spring Coffee Houses: A time to Relax - Unwind - Enjoy great music (many styles) and Tasty Treats

Save the 3rd Saturdays of March, April, and June for the OMHPC Coffee House!

- no admission (freewill offering available)
- complimentary homemade desserts / coffees / teas / cold drinks
- starts at 7:30 pm
- casual attire

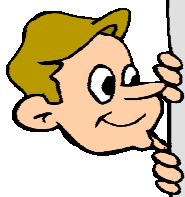


****March 16****

“Open Mic” and the annual Chocolate Extravaganza!”

Musicians - see Sue Conklin (386-8114) | Bakers - see Ginny Grebeldinger or Sue C.
Come try Sue's new favorite dessert this year: *“Chocolate Espresso Cupcakes with a Kick!”*

Music Notes: *Hymn sing at Elant @ Goshen - April 2013 - date TBA*



NEW—Full Armor CD
 Full Armor is having a CD Release Concert at SUNY Orange on Saturday, March 2 at 7pm at the Orange Hall Theatre!

Save the Dates:
Spring Dinner Theater
 Friday, May 17
 Saturday, May 18
 More information to follow in next month's newsletter.

Wondering what happened to your Jan/Feb issue of Grace Notes?
 So are we! Unfortunately, our first issue of 2013 was lost in the mail. It made it to the Post Office, but no one knows what happened after that. We apologize for any inconvenience this lack of information may have caused. If you would like a copy, you can download and print a copy by going to our website: www.otisvillepres.org and clicking on the Newsletter link.
Thanks



Women's Auxiliary

The Auxiliary is planning for their Annual Roast Beef Dinner which will be held on March 2nd at 5:30pm. The dinner includes Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetable, Nappa Cabbage Salad, Rolls and assorted Cake for dessert. This dinner is very popular and tickets go quickly. The tickets will be available mid-February. Call Gerda (386-1866) or see Anita or Candy for tickets. Tickets are \$10 and \$5 for children under 12.



The Women's Auxiliary meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10am. We appreciate all who help out at our functions and would love to have more participation at our meetings.

Youth Group

The Youth group continues to meet Sunday nights at 5:00pm and is for youth in 6th grade and above. The group does various group activities, such as games, movies, local mission work, and group discussions. Feel free to join in at any meeting and speak to Edgar Hayes if you have any questions.

Stephen Ministry

Are you in the middle of a challenging time in your life? Do you need someone other than family to talk to? Are you feeling lonely, tired, scared, anxious? A care-receiver can be anyone who needs high quality confidential one-to-one ministry. Contact a Stephen Leader: Jeff Farley, Gerda Kroglund, or Deanna Prisco and a Stephen Ministry interview will be arranged.

Yarn Works

Yarn Works continues to meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 6:30pm. New members are always welcome. No experience necessary, there is usually someone there who will be able to teach you how to crochet. So far, we have donated over 412 shawls, blankets, or lap-gghans. Our scarves are once again available for a donation of \$10. They will help remember to pray for all those prayer shawl recipients, past, present, and future.

Jewelry Making

The Jewelry making group will not meet in March due to spring break, but will meet on April 2nd and April 23rd at 6:30pm next. Join us and learn to make your own beaded jewelry. I have supplies if you want to just come and give it a try. Speak to Wendy Fisher if you have any questions.



Scrapbooking

Will continue to meet the 1st Friday of every month at 7:00 PM. Bring photos and supplies and we will share ideas and snacks and some crazy photos. We will be open 7:00 PM to 11:00pm. Come for as long as you want! No experience needed. First meeting will be Friday, February 1st.



Celebrating this Month

March Birthdays:

John Goldsmith
Nicole Komoncz
Edgar Hayes

Brittany Petak
Kristy Ketcham
Ashlee Wilbur
Grace Carmody

Wesley Hunter
Lindsey Ennis
Melissa Jones
Bettsey Hunter

From the Session



Building Fund

We are beginning the process to raise \$50,000 in order to do some important maintenance projects around the church including fixing our leaky front porch and replacing the manse boiler. The list for specific projects is not complete, nor are the estimates we will need in order to complete the projects. To help us in these efforts, we will be recruiting church groups to do small fund-raisers for the Building Fund as well as inviting individuals to consider a gift or a pledge to the fund. If you would like to help with project estimates or help with fund-raising and a pledge campaign, please see any Session member: Mike, Frank, Gerda, Bob, Joan, John, Brenda, Sheila, and Roger! And if you would like to make a large gift, or include the church in your will, please see Church Treasurer - Chuck Kroglund. Thank you!

The **Worship Committee** of the Session is in the process of updating its Operations Manual for several groups of our church. Please check below if you would be willing to help with any of the following jobs. **Please put this form in the collection plate or return to the church secretary.** Thank you. - Gerda Kroglund

I, _____, would be willing to be a:

Greeter at:	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:30 AM	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:30 AM	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 AM
Reader at:	<input type="checkbox"/> 8:30 AM	<input type="checkbox"/> 9:30 AM	<input type="checkbox"/> 11:00 AM
Care Bears:	I would help make meals for someone because of illness, illness of family member, birth of child or death of a family member _____		

Bereavement Committee: Helps with Receptions after a funeral. I would:

<input type="checkbox"/> Help set up/take down tables and chairs downstairs.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hand out bulletins upstairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Usher upstairs
<input type="checkbox"/> Make food for the reception.	<input type="checkbox"/> List what you would like to make:	

Help set up/take down tables and chairs downstairs.

Gifts, Tithes & Offerings

Your support means the world to us as we do the work of the Kingdom of God in this part of the world. Though January's giving was down, we are hoping for a very healthy Lent and Easter!

Thank you for your support, for your giving, for your prayers and for being a member of our family.

~ Deuteronomy 16:17 ~
Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessing of the LORD your God which He has given you.



Worship Schedule:
8:30 | 9:30 | 11:00 AM
Sunday School—9:30 AM

Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
9 AM to 3 PM

*To submit information, articles or stories, contact us via email:
Newsletter@otisvillepres.org*

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Sisters of Faith Tea

Ladies of all ages of the Otisville-Mt. Hope Presbyterian Church – The Women’s Auxiliary would like to invite you to attend the Sisters of Faith Tea on April 14th at 12:30PM. The tablecloths are coming out of the closet along with colorful cloth napkins, delicate china cups, unique teapots and beautiful centerpieces. We are planning a light lunch with salad, tea sandwiches, and cookie specialties for dessert and, of course, tea and other beverages. There will be entertainment and a fun program. Tickets will be available mid-March. This is a great opportunity to see friends and make some new ones. So, grandmothers, mothers, and daughters (we are all someone’s daughter) put a circle around April 14th on your calendar and make plans to attend. We look forward to a fun afternoon with all of our fellow sisters of this fabulous church.