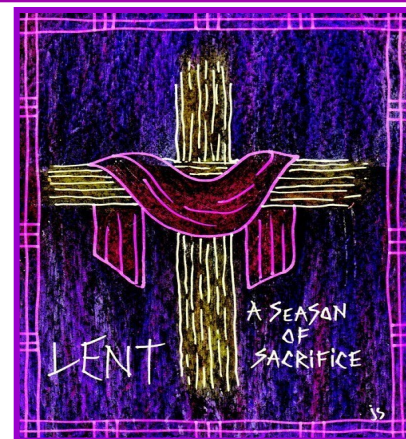


WEST HENRIETTA BAPTIST CHURCH

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PASTOR: REV. DR. PETER E. GRINION; TEL: (585) 278-8520



MARCH 2021



HOW TO OBSERVE LENT IN A DIFFERENT WAY THIS YEAR

4 ways to shift the focus of your prayers and spiritual practices

Post by Bob Hostetler in How to Pray

One of the features of my childhood was a cardboard box on our kitchen table during the Lenten season, to collect all of the loose change in the household. On Good Friday, we took it to church and donated it to a “self-denial” fund that benefited missions. Others in my school and neighborhood fasted or abstained from red meat on Fridays during Lent or gave up sweets or television.

Those are fairly common practices, as they help followers of Jesus to observe a season of reflection and repentance for the 40 days leading up to Good Friday and Easter. But this year? Sure, reflection and repentance are always a good idea, but many of us have sacrificed more than usual since last Easter. We’ve laid aside plans, trips, family gatherings and more.

So maybe this year, we can observe Lent in a different—but still meaningful and helpful—way. Maybe this year, instead of giving up something for Lent, we can flip the focus of our prayers and spiritual practices and appreciate what we might *gain* during this season. *Such as what?* you ask. Here are four possibilities:

1) Steep Yourself in Quiet

Do you feel as though you’re surrounded by turmoil and assaulted with bad news? Lent can be a season of turning off the tumult and finding ways to meditate on and experience the shepherd’s Psalm:

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters,
He refreshes my soul (Psalm 23:1-2, NIV)

So turn off the newscast. Skip listening to the radio in the car. Maybe sit in a park or city church at midday and listen...to the quiet.

2) Look for a Fresh Perspective

Remember Elijah after his showdown with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18)? He was exhausted. He felt isolated, alone, the last sane voice in the entire nation. But he wasn’t. God spoke and informed Elijah that there were still thousands of faithful souls who could be counted alongside him (see 1 Kings 19:18). This man of God gained a new outlook.

A change in routine—even an unwelcome disruption—can provide a fresh perspective, if we talk it through with God. He will often (as He did Elijah) restore us and point us in a new direction, if we’re listening. So don’t just spend these days leading up to Easter waiting and wailing. Keep asking, seeking and knocking (see Matthew 7:7). As you pray, look for God to give you a fresh point of view.

3) Pursue Some Peace

The prophet Isaiah prayed, “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in You, all whose thoughts are fixed on You!” (Isaiah 26:3, NLT). What would happen if you made that your daily prayer during Lent? If you fixed your thoughts on God, could you let go of a longstanding grudge? With His help, could you forgive a long-ago hurt? Could you trust Him enough and make that long-overdue phone call?

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

When Jesus wept over Jerusalem, He said, "If you had only known today what would bring you peace!" (Luke 19:42, GWT). Do you know what will bring you peace? Why not make the choices that would bring you inner calm this Lenten season?

4) Don't Give Up on Healing

Could Lent be a time of healing for you? Would it be a physical healing? A financial breakthrough? A fractured relationship mended?

Sure, it may be a sacrifice to give up salt or red meat during Lent, but wouldn't that improve your cholesterol? You may find it hard to pray for a neighbor who irritates you, but what if it lowered your blood pressure? You might have given up praying for an outcome, but then you'd surely miss the one prayer that might lead to healing.

When Jesus asked the man at the Pool of Bethesda, "Do you want to get well?" the man replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me" (John 5:7, NIV). He felt friendless and frustrated. And that had been going on for years. But on this particular day, Jesus met him and said, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk" (John 5:8, NIV). And the man picked up his mat and walked.

Have you stopped praying and hoping? Why not take prayerful healing steps this Lenten season to change that?

Maybe this year, however else you might observe Lent, try shifting your focus and looking for what you might gain.



PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING FOR ALL THESE PEOPLE!!

Praise to God—Joyce Shutts is home and doing better. We continue to pray for her complete recovery.

Thanks to God, Joyce is very thankful and happy that Rick received his lung transplant and is doing very well.

Linda Becker's husband Jack is scheduled to come home on March 3rd. We continue to pray for her great-grandson David.

The Allen Steadman Family ~ Allen and Jackie Steadman attended WHBC with their children for many years before moving out of state.

Katy, a friend of Laurie Wenthe, fell and broke her shoulder, had surgery, developed a blood clot and infection.

Nada, a friend of Loretta Hirschman and Connie Necaster, passed away.

Sandra Loucks, a friend of Mike Shirley, passed away.

Ruth Letson, a former member and friend of WHBC, had a stroke and is quarantined at the Avon nursing home

Kathy Gosnell's sister, Beverly, has a very bad toothache and has to wait until March 4th for a root canal.

Connie Necaster wants to praise God for answers to prayers for everyone who has been prayed for lately. Connie is waiting for hip surgery.

Jackie Taylor is back in the hospital and we pray for her recovery.

Judy May, a friend of Evie Scott has had kidney surgery and is recovering.

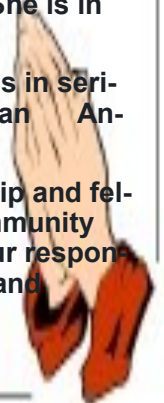
Josina McCarroll has a lot of arthritic pain.

Lonnie Schultz has a lot of pain in her back.

Della Van Doran fell and hit her head. She is in Highland Hospital.

Leanna Shirley's friend, James Strong is in serious condition and being transferred to an Annapolis, MD nursing home for rehab.

West Henrietta Baptist Church – Worship and fellowship together soon, be a loving community sharing God's love; not neglectful of our responsibilities; care for our Church building and fundraising for major projects.



POSITIVE PLANNING

By, Evelyn M. Shoots

*Determine to try
Living with a loving eye
As each day goes by.*

*Just something about
a positive point of view
Which carries you through!*

*What can you expect
If you really reject
The bright way to see?*

*Press on with purpose
Let nothing destroy those
dreams
Which you hold so close.*

*Carry those smiles
Along your lifetime miles
And not far apart!*

*Linking your smiles
Can stretch far into life's miles
And brighten our world!*

A New Trustee

The Trustees welcomes Annette Eney to their Board. Annette received an unanimous vote conducted via email..

Congratulations Annette!

March 14, 2021 we turn our clocks forward!
SPRING IS COMING! ~~ Are you ready??



MARCH Calendar

Worshiping by Video in Sanctuary on Sunday has been **CANCELLED**.

(Video is posted on WHBC website, YouTube, Facebook, and emailed.)

Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10:00 AM

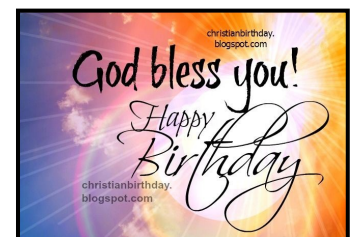
Prayer Group
Saturdays at 9:00 AM

For the above, **EVERYONE** will socially distance and attendees must wear masks. Gloves, masks and sanitizer are available. The area will be sanitized before each event.

SPRING FORWARD!!
Daylight Savings begins
Sunday, March 14, 2021

PALM SUNDAY
March 28, 2021

LINK articles for April due to Sharon Scurlock Mar. 18



Mar. 7 ~ Connie Necaster
Mar. 14 ~ Dan Gress
Mar. 13 ~ Brayden Morse
Mar. 17 ~ David Chase
Mar. 20 ~ Mark Heintz Sr.
Mar. 21 ~ Rebecca Hirschman
Mar. 21 ~ Ryan Hirschman
Mar. 23 ~ Dorothy Greer
Mar. 25 ~ Dylan Pires
Mar. 26 ~ Sharon Gress
Mar. 31 ~ Alberta Greer

MISSIONS COMMITTEE'S NEWS

The scripture of focus is Ephesian 4:11-13(NIV). So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and the teachers to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built until we all reach unity in faith and in the knowledge of the son of God and become mature, attaining the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

The America for Christ Offering, which is sponsored by the The American Baptist HOME Mission Societies, seeks to raise the sum of one million dollars to support missions across the United States and Puerto Rico. The theme this year is to empower the disciples and equip leaders. Last year our offerings supported communities distressed by the COVID-19 devastation that swept our country and Puerto Rico. Thanks to our contributions, we were able to help families who lost their homes to floods, wildfires, and storms along with children living on the edges because of poverty. Of course our seminarians devoted their lives to sharing the good news.

The world's needs today are as great today as they were in 1832. We continue to award grants to our mission partners who continue to nurture and heal broken families and communities with the healing powers of God's love. Please know that when you make your generous donations, you continue the precious work of God. In the last few weeks, many people have faced an additional burden in our country. Please know that additional needs are mounting as we consider our 2021 offering.

Please give generously. This is the first of our Four Main Offerings. This offering is collected during the month of March. Please make your checks out to West Henrietta Baptist Church and write on left hand corner America for Christ Offering. Please send your generous donations to Laurel Heisig, 4 Chapman Road, Rush, NY, 14543.

As always, Thank you for your continued support!!!!!!

All information taken from America for Christ website

Sincerely submitted
Patricia A Floyd

Editor: Sharon Scurlock

News from David and Michelle Heed

Esther's Story:



Imagine the tension as Esther went to look at her final scores to see if she passed High School. The majority of students do not. As her heart was pounding, she was trying to see her name on the list as many others blocked her sight from the posted paper to the wall of the school building. Some of her classmates walked

away crestfallen, a few others were relieved. But what about her? Was her name high enough on the list to pass? This paper would determine if she could have a future with a career or be subjected to another generation on the farm. As it was her turn to look, she squinted through fearful eyes at the names at the top of the list. She kept scanning further and further down until she saw her name among the many who failed. She went home, head sunk below her shoulders.

That is not the end of the story. We believe in Esther. We think that if given the right opportunity she could not only pass but excel. We tried to convince her to repeat and try again. Defeated, she politely refused. After further encouragement, she reluctantly submitted to our request.

We just found out her results from her second time around. She is the valedictorian! She is number one in her class. If at first, you don't succeed... Good job Esther. She has a bright future ahead of her. God's grace took her from failure to valedictorian.

(Continued on page 5)



(Heed's News Continued from page 4)

Mika's Story:



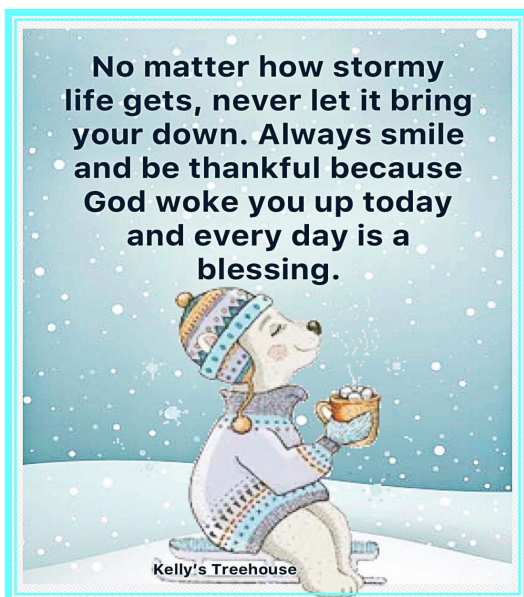
With eyebrows raised, Mika nervously scanned the names of those who passed high school, hoping to have the same results as Esther had. Unfortunately, like most students, he did not pass. With slunk shoulders he walked away, kicking a stone ahead of him down the path.

Last week we shared about Esther's flying-colors-success after she failed the first time around. Mika is now in the position she was in the first time around. It was not the end of her story, and it does not have to be the end of his story either. Like Esther, we believe in Mika. We see that he has tremendous potential if given the right environment at a private school. We also want to help him because we believe he is essential for our future leadership team.

I have a limited window to get Mika back into school this month. If anyone is interested in helping Mika, please give to:

<https://elimfellowship.denarionline.com/Missionaries/Detail/?missionary=4100-HEEDC>

(Please type a note that the donation is designated for Mika.)



Editor: Sharon Scurlock

WINTER WONDER

By Evelyn M. Shoots

On a sled gliding
Over a snowy white hill
Seems time stands still!

Sledding down park hills
Voices sing in symphony
Very happily!

Such festivity!
United in enjoyment
Companionally!

At this time of year
Sunlight sparkles misty cold
Beauty often told!

Thinking of return
To our homes and firesides
We may pop some corn

Cups of hot cocoa
May gently steam our faces
Filling us with cheer!

As we join in praise
We remember other days
And blessings phrase.

We pray for more times
When we may all meet again
Testimonially then!

Praise Our Lord!

From Rev. Deborah Grohman
Administrative Coordinator
Greater Rochester Community of Churches
Faith in Action Network

Friends,

We hope that you will join us for "The Language of Praise and Grief" on Monday, March 8 from 7-8:30 pm over Zoom. A flyer is attached.

For our annual meeting, we are taking a look at racism and unconscious bias and how they impact mental health and medical treatment.

- Dr. David Paul, a cousin of Daniel Prude, will be in conversation with Rev. Marilyn Cunningham, pastor of Graves Memorial Church. Rev. Dr. William Wilkinson, pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Medina, will moderate.
- Rev. Dr. Sandra Hasenauer, Executive Minister of the Rochester Genesee Region of the American Baptist Church, will be featured in a conversation about the biblical story of Simeon encountering the child Jesus and the recent treatment by police of the 9-year-old girl in our city.
- Through words of praise and grief inspired by Walter Brueggemann and music that evokes both inside us, we will worship and pray, praise and grieve, together as a community of faith.

We look forward to seeing you for this important conversation! Please share this information, the attached flyer, and the Zoom link below to all in your networks!

You are invited to a Zoom meeting.
When: Mar 8, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Register in advance for this meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZwpf-murT8jGNH0ZpiZnD1G5VCon-utgew2>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Blessings,

Debbie

grccnetwork1@gmail.com
585-254-2570
2 Riverside St., Rochester, NY 14613



The Language of Praise and Grief

GRCC VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING 2021: Monday, March 8, 7:00 pm

Featuring: Dr. David Paul in conversation with Rev. Marilyn Cunningham moderated by Rev. Dr. William Wilkinson

"Race & Unconscious Bias and how they impact Mental Health and Medical Treatment in Healthcare"

Dr. David Paul is currently a resident in neurosurgery at the University of Rochester Medical Center. A cousin of Daniel Prude, Dr. Paul wrote an article in the December 10, 2020 issue of the New England Journal of Medicine. In this essay, Dr. Paul touched on the lack of representation of African Americans in the Mental Healthcare arena and how this can impact the care minorities receive. He also discussed issues of police brutality against minorities, and how better collaboration is needed between healthcare officials and police officers.



Also featuring Rev. Dr. Sandra Hasenauer in conversation on the story of Simeon holding the child Jesus and the recent treatment by police of the 9-year-old Rochester girl.



**Hate has 4 letters, so does Love.
Enemies has 7 letters, so does
Friends. Lying has 5 letters,
so does Truth. Negative has 8,
so does Positive. Under has 5,
so does above. Cry has 3 letters,
so does Joy. Anger has 5 letters,
so does Happy. Right has 5
letters, so does wrong. Hurt has
4 letters, so does Heal. It means
life is like double edged sword...
so transform every negative
side into an aura of positivity...
We should choose the better
side of the life.**

Lessons Taught
By LIFE

THE GIFT

Here is a true story about a nine year old boy who lived in a rural town in Tennessee.

His house was in a poor area of the community. A church had a bus ministry that came knocking on his door one Saturday afternoon. The kid came to answer the door and greeted the bus pastor. The bus pastor asked if his parents were home, and the small boy told him that his parents take off every weekend and leave him at home to take care of his little brother. The bus pastor couldn't believe what the kid said and asked him to repeat it. The youngster gave the same answer, and the bus pastor asked to come in and talk with him. They went into the living room and sat down on an old couch with the foam and springs exposed. The bus pastor asked the kid, "Where do you go to church?" The young boy surprised the visitor by replying, "I've never been to church in my whole life." The bus pastor thought to himself about the fact that his church was less than three miles from the child's house. "Are you sure you have never been to church?" he asked again. "I sure haven't," came the answer. Then the bus pastor said, "Well, son, more important than going to church, have you ever heard the greatest love story ever told?", then proceeded to share the Gospel with this little nine year old boy. The young lad's heart began to be tenderized, and at the end of the bus pastor's story, the bus pastor asked if the boy wanted to receive this free gift from God. The youngster exclaimed, "You bet!" The kid and the bus pastor got on their knees and the lad invited Jesus into his little heart and received the free gift of salvation. They both stood up and the bus pastor asked if he could pick the kid up for church the next morning. "Sure," the nine year old replied.

The bus pastor got to the house early the next morning and found the lights off. He let himself in, snaked his way through the house, and found the little boy asleep in his bed. He woke up the little boy and his brother and helped get them dressed. They got on the bus and ate a donut for breakfast on their way to church. Keep in mind that this boy had never been to church before. The church was a real big one. The little kid just sat there, clueless of what was going on.

A few minutes into the service, these tall unhappy guys walked down to the front and picked up some wooden plates. One of the men prayed and the kid, with utter fascination, watched them walk up and down the aisles. He still didn't know what was going on. All of a sudden, like a bolt of lightning, it hit the kid what was taking place. These people must be giving money to Jesus. He then reflected on the free gift of life he had received just twenty-four hours earlier. He immediately searched his pockets, front and back, and couldn't find a thing to give Jesus. By this time the offering plate was being passed down his aisle and, with a broken heart, he just grabbed the plate and held on to it. He finally let go and watched it pass on down the aisle. He turned around to see it passed down the aisle behind him. And then his eyes remained glued on the plate as it was passed back and forth, all the way to the rear of the sanctuary.

Then he had an idea. This little nine year old boy, in front of God and everybody, got up out of his seat. He walked about eight rows back, grabbed the usher by the coat and asked to hold the plate one more time. Then he did the most astounding thing I have ever heard of. He took the plate, sat it on the carpeted church floor and stepped into the center of it. As he stood there, he lifted his little head up and said, "Jesus, I don't have anything to give you today, but just me. I give you me!"

~ Author Unknown ~
God's Little Acre

"Faith is not belief without proof, but trust without reservations."

Elton Trueblood
The Treasure Chest

Flower City Habitat for Humanity and Thrivent/Harvest Home Coalition Dedicates Newest Home Saturday, March 13th at 1:00pm 395 Campbell Street



The event will be live-streamed. You are welcome to hang out outside the home until the event is over but they cannot promise good weather. **Please note:** they have a capacity limit of 10 people inside the home for the tour, so only those with speaking roles will be permitted to enter.

The new owner is Patrese Thomas. Patrese grew up in a home on Wellington Avenue on the Southeast side of Rochester, and now rents an apartment down the street from her childhood home. She has lived in her current apartment for ten years, but unfortunately, the neighborhood isn't what it was when she was a child and she no longer feels it is a good place for her and her family.



Most recently, her downstairs neighbors have made living conditions difficult and unsafe for herself, her son Quinten, and her five year old granddaughter Ley'Onni. Her granddaughter is not allowed to play outside, ever.

The neighbors party almost every night and there are constantly police knocking. Patrese is excited to have a safe home where she does not feel worried 24/7 for the safety of her granddaughter.

Patrese had originally selected a three-bedroom, two story home on Jay Street in the JOSANA Neighborhood that was scheduled to be built in the second half of 2021. When another homebuyer changed their mind about a very similar, and nearly completed home, just three blocks away on Campbell Street, Patrese was given the opportunity to look at it.

"The Lord heard me" she said, as she broke into tears upon seeing the nearly complete home.

She toured the home and video-called her sister to show her as well. They were both very excited, but still made sure to take a day to think it over and let reality set in before deciding.

The next day, she reached back out to our staff to officially select the Campbell Street home as her new choice, saying "Thank you with all of my heart. God is so good to have blessed me with you all. Words cannot express the joy I feel in my soul. You could never imagine what I've encountered in my current apartment. My kids and I will finally be able to sleep peacefully without fear that something could happen to us. THANK YOU, better days are coming."

Patrese is looking forward to introducing herself to the rest of the Habitat staff, and the sponsors who helped make the home possible at a dedication ceremony on March 13th at 1:00pm and is on track to move in on April 1st.

View our Sunday AM Service

Website: whbaptist.org
 FB: West Henrietta Baptist
 YouTube: West Henrietta Baptist
 YouTube Channel/App:
 West Henrietta Baptist

OUTSTANDING !!!!!

Many **THANK YOU'S** goes to Ginny Chase and Mike Shirley for the beautiful and informative banner on the corners of West Henrietta and Erie Station Roads.