



FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, March 1

ASH WEDNESDAY

7 pm. Service at South Side Christian Church

Sunday, March 5

9:30 am. Christian Ed. classes

10:30 am. Worship

Thursday, March 9

7 pm. Girl Scouts

Saturday, March 11

9 am. - 3 pm.

Threadbare Ladies

Sunday, March 12

9:30 am. Christian Ed. classes

10:30 am. Worship

Laurie Camper will be providing a moment of mission about her mission trip.

Monday, March 13

10 am. Monthly Bible

Study at church

Tuesday, March 14

4 pm. Council Meeting

MARCH, 2017

Love God. Love Neighbor.

In Mark 12: 28b-34, a teacher of the law asked Jesus, What is the greatest commandment? The commandment is all about LOVE. First, to love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength and second, to love your neighbor as yourself. These two commandments are the greatest and are inseparable.

Why are they inseparable you ask? Well, can you truly love God when you don't love others? Followers of Christ (Christians) follow the way of God, the path towards Jesus and that path is ONLY through love.

Our love of God is expressed in our care & concern for those people in need (those that are hungry, thirsty, poor, homeless, those who have lost their way ...) - Our Neighbors.

But you ask, Do we have to love ALL our neighbors? What about those that drive us crazy? What about those that don't look like us or worship differently than us or those that come from other countries, those with different beliefs, the murderers, the thieves... Well, YES. But that doesn't mean you have to love everything they do.

Friday, March 17

Movie Night - 6 pm. or
7:15 pm. Beauty and
the Beast

Sunday, March 19

9:30 am. Christian Ed.
classes

10:30 am. Worship

Saturday, March 25

9 am. - 3 pm.

Threadbare Ladies

Sunday, March 26

9:30 am. Christian Ed.
classes

10:30 am. Worship

Receive OGHS

offering

Monday, March 27

10 am. Mission

Committee meeting

PULPIT SUPPLY

March 5,12,19 - Rev.

Dottie Kaiser

March 26 - Tenna

Rhonemus

**COMMUNITY
LENTEN SERIES**

All services are at
7 pm.

3/1 Ash Wednesday

South Side Christian

Doug Price, preaching

3/5 Immanuel UMC

Dave Balicki,

preaching

3/12 First E and R

Steve Brown,

preaching

Who IS my neighbor then? Jesus kind of didn't answer that. He told the lawyer how to BE a neighbor. Yet in a deeper sense he answered very precisely.

He said the neighbor is "the one who had mercy." In the broader sense, the neighbor is everything "good" in the people around us, and in ourselves as well. That's because goodness and mercy comes from God and God is our neighbor in the highest sense. So does that mean we have to find goodness in those that don't look like us, worship differently from us, those from other countries etc..." Well, YES and yes, that is a real struggle, isn't it?

The heart is where God lives in us; where love comes from and where we recognize God in others. If God loves every one of us and we know that God is good, then there is goodness in every one of us and *that* is what we have to find in EVERY ONE in order to honestly love our neighbor.

But, you don't have to love the bad things people do. I guess we need to think that God must have some reason for people who do bad things to be on this earth and maybe we need to figure out what that is. There is always hope that as long as they are on this earth that they may see the errors of their ways; that they might become reformed - maybe we can be an example to them of what they could be doing with their lives instead of harming people and society.

It's very difficult to love those that do horrible things. *But in regards to wrongdoing, Revelation 3:19 says "Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline."* Therefore, punishment and chastisement, are in themselves an act of love for those behaviors that hurt. God doesn't say that we let the bad behavior slide. We can only hope and pray that they will see the light and make a choice to change. God still wants us to love them though because we want them to be happy and live a good life. Maybe we can only love them because they don't see what we see in following Christ, because they are lost and have chosen to follow a wrong path. We remember that the devil is actively at work but so are we and possibly our love can overcome the hate and anger that some of our "neighbors" are participating in. Can we at least be one that shows mercy? Can we say to ourselves and to others, "I just pray and hope that they see that what they are doing or what they've done is so wrong?"

3/19 Market St.

Presbyterian

Norman Witthuhn,
preaching

When we love our neighbor, we bring out the best in them and in ourselves. Everything we DO that is of some benefit to someone else or that makes someone happy is loving our neighbor.

3/26 Gomer

Congregational

Mark Rich, preaching

Love isn't just a feeling, but love is an action. Doing something in love and service is what knits us together in community with one another.

4/2 Central Christian

Bruce Tumblin,
preaching

So, as the Lenten season approaches, it is a good time to assess ourselves and ask honestly if we have really loved God, ourselves and our neighbor. Loving our neighbor means looking for the good in them and loving *that* about them. It also means wanting the best for others, providing for their needs; an active love for the "good" of our neighbor.

4/14 Good Friday

First Baptist

*Please check your
bulletins each Sunday
for the locations of the
churches.*

Questions to ask ourselves:

"Do I see God in my neighbors (in others)?"

Do I love God totally and entirely as I am? With all my heart, soul, mind and strength?

Do I love God and neighbor or do I only choose whom I love?

How do I realize my care and concerns for others?

Do I offer to God and share with my neighbor "only my extra" or really what I have or part of what I have?

How do I show my love to God in my own family, community, country and the world? Do I see the goodness in everyone?"

**ADULT BIBLE
CLASS
9:30 AM.
Sunday mornings**

**Start your Lenten
season off in the
right way!**

Beginning Sunday,
March 5, the Adult
Bible Study class will
be beginning a 6
week Lenten Study
on the Qualities of
Discipleship. ALL
are welcome to
attend!!

Am I the one who has mercy?

MONTHLY BIBLE STUDY

**MONDAY,
MARCH 13
10:00 a.m.
At the church**

We will be studying Lesson 5. Thora Davis will be leading the lesson and Carol Wright will be providing the refreshments.



MOVIE NIGHT - Friday, March 17, 2017 "Beauty and the Beast"

Regular movie @ 6 pm.,
3-D @ 7:15 pm.
Your choice.

Because this is opening weekend, you may want to purchase your tickets in advance.

Get your ticket, grab yourself a tub of popcorn and enjoy a movie with your friends and fellow church goers. Feel free to invite as many people as you want.

FOOD PANTRY LENTEN CHALLENGE

Instead of "giving up" something for Lent, how about "adding to" - in this case - adding to the food collection.

We are asking members of the congregation to make daily donations of one item per day to the Food Pantry. At the end of each week, bring your items in on Sunday morning to add to the food collection.

Let's see how much we can collect during this season of selflessness.

One Great Hour of Sharing - Received March 26

Lent is a time when Christians pay attention to spiritual disciplines that deepen our understanding of what God is doing in our lives and in the world. As a church, we spend time hearing about and praying about the ministries of compassion and justice done through our support of One Great Hour of Sharing.

Jesus preached to those who were most vulnerable about the Good News. One Great Hour of Sharing helps us share the good news to those same vulnerable people - those who are hungry, who are suffering from disaster, who are dealing with oppression in society.

Every gift made to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will meet the needs of people. In the coming weeks you will hear about a few of these individuals in bulletin inserts and minutes for mission. These stories help us to see the face of those whose lives have been changed by our gifts.

SUMMER CAMPS

Registration for summer camps for both denominations are open. **For Kirkmont go to: kirkmontcenter.com/camp-registration**

For Pilgrim Hills go to: journeythehills.org. On a sad note, the UCC Pilgrim Hills camp will be sold after this summer season so this will be a last opportunity to go to camp there. The conference will still retain Tempel Hills camp and begin renovation for the next camp season.

While we trust our One Great Hour of Sharing programs to respond to the needs of our poorest and hungriest neighbors, those programs can only do so to the extent of our generosity. Challenge yourself to give generously this year to this important offering. You will see how giving opens your heart to God's work in your own life.

Calendars and banks will be given out on March 5. Our collection date is Sunday, March 26.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4	Lori Prorok	27	Irene Cooper
9	Kay Wellman	28	Alyssa Doute
16	Mara Ryan	29	Keaton Cooper
17	Marcie Cooper	30	Ruth Graessle
17	Sarah Steiner		
27	Caroline Urish		

Easter Flower orders will begin Sunday, March 26 - Sunday, April 9. Order forms will be in your Sunday bulletins.



Our Scrabble team raising money for the Literacy Council.

Who says church people don't have fun? Enjoying Valentine Game Night



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