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St. Mark Connection

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PASTOR'S CORNER

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CALENDAR REMINDERS

**March 14th –
Daylight Saving Time Begins**

March 28th – Palm Sunday
1st Sunday to Re-gather for
Worship at 10:30

April 4th – Easter Sunday
Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Before March of 2020, people visiting St. Mark, especially those not coming from a Presbyterian background, would comment on the amount of time devoted to prayer during worship. Presbyterian liturgy has a rich tradition of prayer and Word as being central to our gathering on The Lord's Day. Visitors obviously notice.

Some time ago I wrote about American Lutheran theologian Reinhold Niebuhr's famous "Serenity Prayer" and how it has been adapted for use as a meeting opener by various 12 step recovery groups. Most of these recovery groups also use "The Lord's Prayer" to close their meetings, something that often surprises visitors. This prayer has deep roots. Depending on traditions, may be known as "The Our Father," "The Disciple's Prayer," or "The Model Prayer."

I've observed when visiting people who appear nonverbal and unresponsive that they often open their eyes and move their lips as I hold their hands and begin to pray "The Lord's Prayer." Deep roots, indeed.

So how do I respond to comments like, "This church sure prays a lot"? My replies are informed by the question-and-answer section on "The Lord's Prayer" in *The Study Catechism.' Full Version*, published by Geneva Press in 1998.

For example, Question 120-"What is prayer? Prayer means calling upon God whose Spirit is always present with us. In prayer we approach God with reverence, confidence, and humility. Prayer involves both addressing God in praise, confession, thanksgiving, and supplication, and listening for God's word in our hearts...."

Or Question 121-"What is the purpose of prayer? Prayer brings us into communion with God. The more our lives are rooted in prayer, the more we sense how wonderful God is in grace, purity, majesty, and love..."

Obviously "The Lord's Prayer" holds a position of importance in both our private and corporate lives. The Lenten Journey series encourages us to experiment and practice different kinds of prayer. I hope you are taking advantage of the weekly Lenten activities.

Blessings, *Pastor Rick*



Upcoming Events

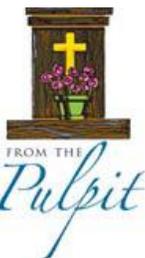
Sunday Sermons, Scriptures and Events

March 7 –
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; John 2:13-22
 Celebration of The Lord's Supper
 3rd Sunday in Lent

March 14 –
 1 Ephesians 2:1-10; John 3:14-21
 4th Sunday in Lent

March 21 -
 Re-Gathering for Worship
 Hebrews 5:5-10; John 12:20-33
 5th Sunday in Lent

March 28 –
 Philippians 2:5-11; Mark 4:1-15:47
 Mark 15:1-39
 Palm Sunday



Time Change Reminder Sunday, March 14th

Set your clocks forward one hour before going to bed on Saturday night, March 13th.

Re-Gathering Update

At the session meeting on February 22nd the Session approved the following motion: Motion to resume in person worship services at St. Mark starting March 21, 2021, contingent on the Dallas area (TSA E) remaining off the Governor's Order (GA-32) High Hospitalization list.



The Task Force and Session will continue to monitor the criteria set forth in the motion passed by the Session on February 22nd.

More re-gathering information will be published the week of March 15th. Please remain patient and flexible as we determine how to best serve our St. Mark family. Let us rejoice at the hearing of the Word of God whether in-person or online.

God Bless You on Your Birthday

March 5
 Jacie Minick

March 8
 Jacob Curry
 Shea Curry

March 10
 Kat Hutchings

March 15
 Cathy Schingle



March 16
 Phyllis Speck

March 19
 Pauline Millender

March 25
 Sabrina King

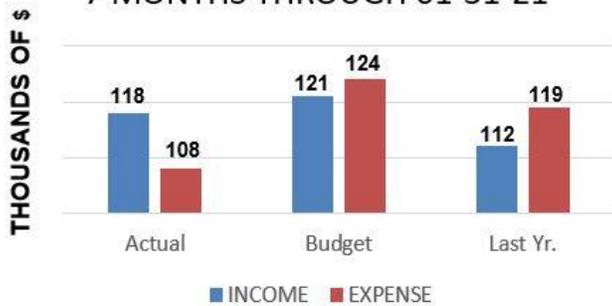
March 31
 Bunty Taylor

Holy Week March 28 - April 4

<p>Sunday, March 28 Palm Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> 	<p>Thursday, April 1 Maundy Thursday</p> 	<p>Friday, April 2 Good Friday</p> 	<p>Sunday, April 4 Easter Sunday 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> 
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Treasurer's Report

7 MONTHS THROUGH 01-31-21



Operating Fund – YTD unrestricted contributions are ahead of budget by \$1,400 and ahead of last year by \$8,600. YTD expenses are \$16,700 below budget and \$13,300 below last year. Bottom line, we are \$14,000 cash positive which is \$16,000 better than budget and \$19,000 better than last year.



Stated Meeting of the Session, January 18, 2021.

Motion passed to collect money and food items from January 20 – February 14 to be donated to White Rock Center of Hope for Souper Bowl.

Sunday, March 14th White Rock Center of Hope

Items needed:
Canned Meat Products
Canned Tuna
Canned Soup of all types
Thank you!



We are now a couple of weeks into Lent. Last month I told you about the “A Lenten Journey” resource that had been developed by a group of Christian Educators in Grace Presbytery. We wanted to provide folks with a relatively simple resource that might make this Lent more meaningful. St. Mark has been including the appropriate section of “A Lenten Journey” in our weekly email. I hope you have been exploring and trying the prayer practices and other activities. And that you have found them meaningful.

Each week you have been invited to:

- ✝ Read a passage of scripture.
- ✝ Explore a prayer practice that might be new for you.
- ✝ Add to your prayer chain.
- ✝ Respond in some concrete way to what you have read and prayed.

I'll remind you that your participation is voluntary. No one is going to grade you. You can even adapt the weeks practices to fit your own situation. You might find that you appreciated one way of praying so much that you use it again the next week. That is fine. Though I do hope you give all the practices at least a try or two. You might like it more than you initially thought. You might find that keeping a prayer list works better for you than creating a prayer chain. Of course, that's fine too. And you may come up with some great additions to the respond activity. That's great. The team that created “A Lenten Journey” did so to be helpful to you and to make your Lent more meaningful.

I hope that you will keep reading, practicing, praying, and responding for the rest of Lent. I hope that this makes your eventual Easter celebration more meaningful. And maybe you will find some things you keep doing after the end of Lent.

A Lenten Journey - Week 3

Week Three in our Lenten series centers on a Prayer Journey. Our Lenten Journey series implies that we are going somewhere. Where are you going on your JOURNEY with God? Where do you expect to encounter God and Jesus? What have you packed for the trip? If we're headed to the wilderness, we may not need to have packed anything. We might just walk right out the front door with nothing but ourselves.

This week we go for a Prayer Walk. You can actually go for a walk, ride, or just stay put. You can still be traveling on your journey.

St. Mark has long had a Prayer Chain, where we send out messages, asking one other to be mindful of people undergoing particular circumstances, and to pray for them. What if you made a Prayer Chain out of slips of paper and hung it in your home? You could write the name of a person or situation and then pray about it. You could pray about yourself, a St. Mark member, a family member. Your chain could be long or short. Could you pray for a 40-day journey in the wilderness? Many of us thought we could not endure three days without power. There are lots of possibilities.

The steps suggested to us are to READ, PRACTICE, PRAY and RESPOND. This last step sometimes calls us to respond by refraining from certain things that impede our closeness to God and to Jesus. How could you lighten your load on the journey, so that you might be more open to God's message and plan?

Prayer:

O God, in these 40 days leading up to Easter, our journey may be limited by social distancing, masks and other safety measures. We pray that you will keep us close to you, and ever mindful of our individual and collective journeys. Jesus cleared the temple - help us clear the path for your message and our journey toward your presence. Amen.

- Anne Thomas

(This week's Lenten Resource will be included in the Thursday Email)





St Mark Presbyterian Church, Dallas Texas



March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28</p> <p>10:00a Zoom Fellowship 10:30a Virtual Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Worship & Music Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>4</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 6:00p Zoom Fellowship Meeting 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>
<p>7</p> <p>10:00a Zoom Fellowship 10:30a Virtual Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 12:00p Zoom Mission/Outreach Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6:00p Zoom CE Committee Meeting 6:00p Zoom Stewardship & Finance Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>10</p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 6:30p Zoom Property Com. 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>12</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00a Mini Workday 7:30p AA Group</p> <p>Don't forget to set your clocks one hour forward this evening.</p>
<p>14</p> <p>10:00a Zoom Fellowship 10:30a Virtual Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:30p Zoom Session Meeting 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>17</p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>20</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>
<p>21</p> <p>10:30a In- Person Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group Virtual Worship will also be available.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:00p Zoom Yoga 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>26</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10:30a In- Person Worship Service 12:00p AA Group 7:30p AA Group</p> <p> Palm Sunday Virtual Worship will also be available.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>30</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>31</p> <p>4:00p Handbells 6:00p Handbells 7:30p AA Group</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p> <p> Maundy Thursday</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7:30p AA Group GOOD FRIDAY</p> <p></p>	<p>3</p> <p>7:30p AA Group</p>