



PASTORS CORNER

Prayers and Blessings,

Holy Week is almost upon us and with that we are called to remember and reflect on our lives and our relationship with one another and Christ. Soon Easter will be here and it will be a time of great celebration. Perhaps, as part of this Lenten Season you have chosen to give up something or begin a new spiritual practice. Whatever it is I hope you have had success in reaching your personal goal. During Lent, we have been actively reflecting on God's love for us through our Lenten book study groups. In these groups, we have discussed the many gifts God gave to us through the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. We have learned a greater appreciation for the crown of thorns, the nails, Jesus' clothes and of course the cross. But perhaps the greatest lessons we have learned is how much God loves us and wishes for us to grow in our love and faith. That to call ourselves truly Christians we must actively follow Christ's teachings through words and deeds. Though we may be saved by grace, obedience calls us to actively live out our Christian faith.

Lent and the Easter Season is a perfect time for us renew our commitment to God and to one another to work and together as a community. If you have been away from church for a while it is a perfect time to return to the church and see what new things are going on. Beginning Palm Sunday there will be some very surprising sermon styles going through the Easter season as well as a drama on Maundy Thursday in the evening. On Easter Sunday, we will have our traditional breakfast plus we will be flowering a cross to represent the resurrection. There are many exciting things going on here. I encourage you to join us for all the Holy Week events.

Please remember John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

May Peace and Joy be With You,
Pastor Donna

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor Donna's working on a SONKA grant for a summer arts and music program in July for children. She will put out feelers for college and high school youth to monitor the pupils. Maundy Thursday will be a drama of the Last Supper. It will be held in the sanctuary. We need Men for the role of disciples.

The "Road to Resurrection" is good for April 9th. Good Friday Day Camp is Vacation Bible School and only one person attended the meeting from our church, so Pat will ask Partners In Hope if they will help.

On April 26, Jeff Paul will be here to speak about bipartisan market based carbon tax fee and dividend program to reduce global warming and pollution.

Council is busy working on ways for our church to earn extra money. The following is planned so far: 1. We are committed to work 8:30a.m. -1:00p.m. at Garby Big Woods for the Tour de Donut on Sept.16. 2. An Art Show in Sept. is also planned using The Ostrich and Frog in Covington. 3. Planning on working in a food booth for Dragon games. We have committed to 10 games and we get 10% (of net or gross) from our booth. These are games in April and May. 4. Also planning on a Christmas craft show.

Stewardship, Finance & Mission

Attendance	MARCH 2016	Avg. 36
Income:		Attendance
Mar. 5	\$ 2,549.00	38
Mar. 12	\$ 1,898.53.	33
Mar. 19	\$ 1,1891.00	40
Mar. 26	\$ 1,503.00	33

Council President

This year's NCAA Basketball Tournament has now come and gone. As always, for sports fans, the tournament provided excitement, some surprise wins, some unbelievable shots, and some disappointing losses for our favorite teams. It doesn't always happen this way, but this year, both the women's and the men's winners were number-one seeds. That means that the selection committees picked these teams as the best of the best before the tournament even started.

There is no church tournament, or even a church competition, of which I am aware. But if there were, where would St. John's be seeded? Are we the best of the best? Do we live our faith? Do we read the Bible daily? Are we generous with our gifts of time, talent, and treasure? Do we worship every Sunday? Do

we attend Sunday School? Do we visit other members of our congregation? Do we provide mentoring for our children and youth? Do we participate on committees?

As we near the end of Lent and look toward the glorious gift of Easter, perhaps it is time to take a closer look at how we stack up in our church thoughts, attitudes, and activities. We want to be a number-one seed!

Blessings to all of you!

Ginny Beamish
Council President

ECONOMIC JUSTICE TEAM

Global warming and the way it threatens our environment is an issue of concern for many. On Wednesday, April 26th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., the Economic Justice Team is sponsoring a program on possible ways to address global warming. Part of our commitment as an Economic Justice Covenant congregation is to protect our environment.

Guest speaker Jeffrey Paul, founder and leader of the Dayton chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL) and congressional liaison will speak on bi-partisan efforts to promote a market-based, non-regulatory solution to protecting the environment while helping the economy. Please plan to attend.

The Economic Justice Team bulletin board is now addressing another part of the theme of Changing U.S. Jobs. The previous display showed the decline of manufacturing jobs. The current board shows manufacturing output has increased while manufacturing jobs have declined. Outsourcing and automation are compared as causes of the job losses.

RUMMAGE SALE JUST AROUND THE CORNER

You may start bringing your “treasures” on April 23. We would like you to place items in the church basement.

Schedule for the sale:

Thursday, May 4, 4:00p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 6, 9:00a.m. – 12:00 noon

Any questions call Becky Pierce 308-0304

News About Our People

Prayer Concerns



Please include the following people in your prayers and thoughts: Em Finney, Steve Barkett (son-in-law of Phyllis Anderson), Caroline Gillis, Marjorie Roeth, Louanne Stockstill, Phyllis Anderson, Patty Thornton, Teresa Beltz (friend of Melissa Stanley), Glenn and Carol Lytle, Jim Jeffries, Robert Flora (Nancy Nadolny's brother with AML), Beulah Bowers, Mary Ann Cornell (Nancy Smith's sister), Harold Friend's Family, Rebecca Daniel (friend of Carolann Stanley who was severely injured in automobile accident).

Remember Our Home Bound

*Mrs. Phyllis Hansford, Room 143
Sycamore Glen Health Center
2175 Leiter Road
Miamisburg, OH 45342-5710*

*Mrs. Caroline Gillis
Sterling House of Troy, Rm 219
81 S. Stanfield Road
Troy, OH 45373*

*Lawrence and Rita Kroger
The Springs of Escondido
1261 W. Washington Ave.
Apt. 215
Escondido, CA 92027*

*Mrs. Marjorie Roeth
855 Timber Lane
Troy, OH 45373*

Happy Birthday To You!!!!!!

01	Lawrence Kroger
04	Carolann Stanley
08	Dale Bevington
	Barb Bartel
15	Joyce Huston
	JoAnn Jropp
17	Christine Wilson
22	Robert Brower
26	Isabel Eichhorn

April At a Glance

**Monday 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Lifetree Café**

Committee Meetings
04-10-17 @ 7:00 p.m. Christian
Education
04-13-17 @ 10:00 a.m. Ministry
and Worship
04-13-17 10:00 a.m. Membership
Outreach
04-26-17@ 6:30 p.m. Econ Justice

**April Events to Mark on
your calendar now**

*April 9 Palm Sunday
Lenten Skit Service 10:30
a.m..*

*April 13 Maundy
Thursday Service 7:00
p.m.*

*April 16 EASTER
SUNDAY
8:00 A.M. Men serve
Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Worship
Service
We will flower the Cross
with fresh flowers
Please join us!*

**Fellowship Groups
10:00am Thursday
Twisted Stitchers**

(join the Stitchers for crafts and
conversation)

**6:00 p.m. Thursday
Choir**

(Got a song in your heart. Come and sing.
Perfection not a requirement!)

SINGLES MEET ON 4-24-17
For lunch, fellowship and a friendly game of
Mexican Train