

The CORNERSTONE

What's INSIDE

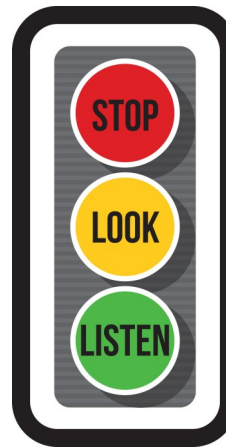
A publication of Westfield Presbyterian Church, New Castle, PA

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Lenten Signals

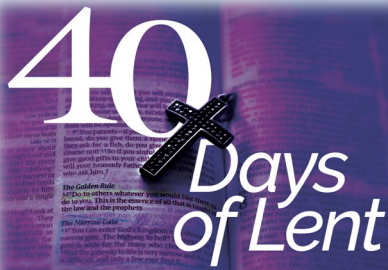
Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love,



and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.



Lent begins
 Ash Wednesday, February 22.
 Please join us at 7:00 P.M.
 as we come together
 as a faith community
 for prayer and worship.
 We will celebrate communion
 and you may receive ashes.

Ready for a Cosmic Adventure?

This year's Vacation Bible School is "Stellar" and it is a space theme. Get ready for planets, spaceships, and asteroids to take over the church in June!

As we begin planning, this year we will be relying on our generous Westfield family for donations. You all have saved us so much money with the donations of snacks in the past, and this year, we also will be asking for "scholarships." As you know, the cost of everything is much higher than it was before, and the cost to run a successful VBS is nearly \$5000 (which is the entire budget for the year for children's

ministries.) For example, t-shirts are \$6 per child. Still a bargain, but for 120 kids, that's \$720. Maybe you want to pay for everyone's t-shirts—that would be huge!! That's just one example.

Please stay tuned for more information and ways you can help keep Bible school going this year, and for many years to come!

And mark your calendar! Our adventure for age 4 through grade 5 will be 9 A.M. to 12 P.M. on **June 19 - 23**.



He Directs Our Steps by Pastor Bobby

When I worked at UPS during seminary, we had this phrase drilled in our heads as managers: plan your work and work your plan. The idea behind that is if you have a plan, when adversity comes you will be able to meet it head on. They probably got that idea from Dwight Eisenhower who said, “plans are useless, but planning is everything.”

Typically, we start out a new year with plans or goals. This is the year to be debt free. This is the year to get in shape. This is the year to run a marathon, have the perfect lawn, or finally take a relaxing vacation. We have other plans, too, I am

sure. Get better at meal planning, organize the garage, call the long lost aunt or uncle.

Then there are times of crisis, or the moment the plan doesn’t work. But is it wrong to have a plan? No!! We need them. God made us to be organizers; it reflects him. But it is also important not to get so caught up in plans that we are stuck in our ways, or devastated when things don’t go how we want. Remember Proverbs 16:9 *“The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.”*



It’s Okay to Be Human

An important theme of the Lenten season is the humanity of Christ. In Jesus, God became human and fully experienced the wide range of emotions we all encounter in life. Jesus experienced times of loneliness, sadness, hurt, anger, disappointment, grief, and abandonment. That is part of being human. Another part of being human is needing help from each other. God never intended us to be completely self-sufficient. Part of God’s plan is for each of us to turn to others for help when we need it.



Lorraine Book, Linda McBride or Evan Ernst. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to care for you!

So when you are experiencing difficult times, don’t struggle alone. Our Stephen Ministers will walk with you, listen to you, encourage you, pray with you, and provide confidential one-to-one care to help you through tough times. Stephen Ministers can bring the love of Jesus back into your life.

Are you interested in becoming a Stephen Minister? Training sessions are planned for this year. Anyone with spiritual gifts of mercy and compassion and who could commit to meeting with a care receiver for an hour per week might consider being a Stephen Minister. Please contact Linda McBride, Lorraine Book or the church office to express your interest.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry, talk to one of our Stephen Leaders—

Local Needs

During February and March please shop for the following items for Project HOPE:

rice, pasta, sauce, macaroni & cheese

Items always needed include coffee, juice, laundry soap, dish soap and cereal. Please leave your items in the labeled bins in the coatrack area in the east wing.



**Russ Bryan
Hazel Pence**
Quality of Life Services, New Castle

Janet Davis
at her residence

Pearl Jolley
at her residence

Mary Lou Trotter
at her residence

Children’s Ministry Activities

by Jennifer Griffith, Director of Children & Family Ministries

How is it already February?! Normally January takes forever, but this year it seemed to fly by. Looking back, we sure packed in a lot of activities in December, and I hope you all enjoyed them. Family Advent Kits were sent home before Thanksgiving, and that provided devotional and fun activities to do. December 11 was our Happy Birthday Jesus party, which was a fun time, and the Children’s Program on the 18th was just wonderful! The kids did a fantastic job.

Moving forward, I predict another wonderful year of events and programs. None of that is possible though without volunteers. As we are planning the reconstruction of committees, we will need people to help in multiple ways. Please let me know if you’d like to be included.

While I am speaking of volunteers, we continue to look for more people to serve in the nursery during the 11:00 worship service. We had hoped to extend that to the 8:30 service as well, but that hasn’t

been possible yet. All it takes is a willingness to dedicate an hour to sitting in the nursery and playing with kids. We also do require anyone over the age of 18 to complete a background check, but that cost is free to you. Just see Maribeth Jones or Jennifer Griffith to make that happen.

The children’s Sunday school classes have moved on to volume 5 of The Gospel Project for Kids – “from rebellion to exile.” We will be learning more from 1 and 2 Kings, Isaiah, Zephaniah, Jonah, and Nahum. Weekly, the kids will be learning more about idolatry, repentance, and what makes people special. A reading schedule is available if you would like to follow along.

The Kids Choir is in full swing as well, already practicing for two songs this year – one in February and one on Easter Sunday.



Christian Symbol

ECCE AGNUS DEI — Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist uses twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).



Our Lenten Journey

by Jessie Yauch, Director of Senior Adult Ministries

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (James 1:22-25)

What do you think of when you hear the month of February? Most people think of hearts and Cupid and getting chocolates from a loved one. Some of us think how exciting it is to have a short month of cold, and Spring is knocking on our door. Some are suffering from loneliness and wish they still had their special loved one. Whatever it is that comes to mind, we all have something we are missing and some things that give us hope. Lent begins at the end of February, and this is the

beginning of a period of reflection and asking and thanking God for his forgiveness. God gives us hope for a new life where we won't be lonely, and we will always feel loved.

Instead of giving something up during this Lenten season, try adding something. Keep a prayer journal to reflect back to daily. Keeping up with this exercise will not only help you become more disciplined in your daily prayer meditations, but you will notice how he listens to our prayers and fulfills our needs. This will be something we will work on at JOY, and I hope it is something we can all do and enjoy throughout the years.

Everyone 50+ years old is welcome to join us for exercise at 11 A.M., a delicious lunch at noon, followed by great fellowship, and activities and/or games.



A Fun Day of Service

Blankets for Babies Sewing Day is Saturday, February 25, from 9:30 to 3:00.

We will make receiving blankets and crib quilts for the New Castle [Nurse/Family Partnership](#). Bring your sewing machine to hem receiving blankets. Other jobs are available for everyone.

Soup will be provided for lunch. Bring your own sandwich if desired.

Everyone is welcome for a day of service full of fun, laughter and fellowship.

Mystery Party Highlights YO! Activities

by Jennifer Griffith

Bobby and I have been enjoying our time getting to know the Westfield teens a little more over the past couple of months. We pick them up at school on Wednesdays to enjoy some time at MoCo, and gather with them Thursday evenings in the youth room for a Bible study and games. In December, we hosted them at our house (the manse) for a murder mystery Christmas party. Lots of pizza was consumed, and all of us were stumped when the "criminal" was revealed.

Please keep the youth group in prayer while we begin the search for our next Youth Ministry Director. In the meantime, if you'd like to help out with driving to MoCo on Wednesdays, or Bible study/games on Thursdays, let us know.

Many thanks to the Pattons and Morgan Lash for being a part of this ministry! It's so great to know that our youth are being cared for and loved well.





Helping Hands of Westfield is a group of volunteers who offer physical, practical aid to members: repairing a roof leak, replacing a broken toilet or faucet, painting, to name a few. Though Helping Hands is not equipped to do major renovations or repairs, all minor repairs will be considered.

If you or a family member would be blessed by this ministry, there are several ways to make your need known. First, there are short forms that can be filled out and placed in the Deacons box located in the church office. Or, if it is more convenient for you, you may contact Marcy McClymonds at 724.667.9640. She will take all necessary information and coordinate the repair. We know that many needs are met quietly with little fanfare or recognition, and for that, God is honored. However, Helping Hands expands what is already being done and will bless and offer help in a tangible, practical way.

Serve one another in love ...



Helping Hands
- Galatians 5:13

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 2 Nicole Sperdute | 11 Amanda Zimkosky |
| Claire Young | 12 Robert Elder |
| 3 Heidi Shiderly | Gwen Harman |
| 4 Riley Blakeman | 13 Sue McCurley |
| Isabella Breuer | 14 Jill Trotter |
| Alexander Osman | 15 Gerald Guido |
| Kasen Trotter | 18 Erik Stewart |
| 6 Linnea Byers | 19 Ben Breuer |
| Ed Clark | 20 Everett Renner |
| 8 Kathleen Jolley | 21 Andrew Liggett |
| 9 Wes Stoner | 22 Barb Bracken |
| 10 Janet Davis | 25 Joshua Good |
| Hayley Koty | 26 Justin Young |
| Ava Ernst | 28 Jean Workman |
| Julia McConahy | |
| David Spieker | |



ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Michelene & Tom Dickson
- 12 Lee Ann & Rick Martin
- 22 Mimi & David Gettemy