

## Cridersville Chronicle

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*From the desk of Pastor Mark Hollinger*

**March 2019**

In the tradition of the early developing church the calendar year was divided into sections for the preaching and growth of the church. The Christian calendar year actually begins after Thanksgiving with Advent. Advent is the season leading up to Christmas and includes the four Sundays leading into Christmas. After Christmas comes Epiphany, which is until the first or second Sunday of January and this is followed by what is known as "ordinary time" and this is usually six Sundays leading into Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday, which is March 6<sup>th</sup> this year, is the beginning of Lent which is a forty day season, excluding the Sundays, that is meant to lead into and prepare the faithful for Easter.

The early church observed with great devotion the days of Jesus' passion, suffering, death and resurrection and so it became a custom in the church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual renewal. It was during this season that new converts to the faith were prepared for Holy baptism. It was also a time when persons who had committed serious sins and had separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to full participation in the life of the church. In this way the whole congregation was reminded of the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ and the need we all have to renew our faith.

The English word *Lent* is a shortened form of the Old English word *len(c)ten*, meaning "spring". So it can have a double understanding in that we are entering into the season of spring, but can also have the meaning of springing into a new season of our spiritual living. Most of the traditional, mainline denominational churches celebrate Lent, and some non-denominational churches give some recognition to the season of Lent. Most Methodist churches and pastors that I know observe Lent. It is a time in which we are to examine our own lives, consider our need for repentance and turning around some of our bad practices, to be ever intentional in our devotional life with prayer, possible fasting and self-denial and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word.

During the time of Lent it has been my practice to focus on the life of Jesus. This year during Lent, we will be walking through the last 24 hours of Jesus' life. We will have six sermons looking at those events that changed everything. We will begin with the Last Supper and then move through the Garden of Gethsemane, then the trial of the Sanhedrin, followed by Jesus before Pilate, then Jesus' torture and humiliation and finally Jesus' crucifixion.

I hope that you will join us with the opening of Lent by coming to our March 6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday observance. It will be a service in which we reflect on our mortality and our need to repent and consider changes in our lives. The service will end with the imposition of Ashes which is a sign of our mortality and need to repent.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to observe a Holy Lent. I further invite you to make a good beginning of your Lenten journey by coming and participating in our 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday service. May the grace and the peace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, fill you with wonder and strength in this Lenten season.

**Liturgist**

- 3) Jim Lucas
- 10) Youth—  
Matthew
- 17) Jim Schroeder
- 24) Youth—Jessie
- 31) Mary Kay Smith

**Nursery**

- 2) Dan & Heather  
Gowanlock
- 9) No Nursery
- 16) Josh & Kari  
Houser
- 23) Jill Wierwille/  
Youth
- 30) No Nursery

**Power Express**

- 3) Communion—No  
Power Xpress
- 10) Youth
- 17) Youth
- 24) Youth
- 31) Youth

**Ushers**

- Brandon and Jenny  
Drexler
- Josh and Kari  
Houser

## Youth Events

- March 3rd - Lakeside Parents Meeting 4:00 pm
- May 5th - Lakeside Counselor Meeting 4:00 pm
- May 24th - Youth going to Cincinnati to set up Pray Path
- May 25th - Youth going to Cincinnati to take down Pray Path

# GRAVE

- March 3rd 5-7 pm
- March 10th Seniors Only 5-7 pm  
Set Up Pray Path

- March 22nd - March 24th No Youth Group
- March 31st 5-7 pm      May 5th 5 - 7 pm
- April 14th 5-7 pm      May 19th 5 - 7 pm
- April 21th Youth going to Sunrise Service No Youth Group

## *Baker / Mart Scholarship*

- Open to Cridersville UMC students who are actively participating in church
- Open to high school students entering college or college students continuing their studies in undergraduate work
- Up to 6 scholarships available each year
- Each scholarship is \$500 with 2 annual \$500 renewal opportunities for a potential total of \$1,500 awarded
- College students winning a scholarship following their first year of college will be eligible for 1 - \$500 renewal for a potential of \$1,000
- A renewal candidate that fails to qualify for a renewal is not eligible for subsequent renewals
- Deadline is May 1 of each year
- Applications are available in the office
- Must have 3 letters of recommendation and 1 page essay



1st Day of Spring

Wednesday

March 20th

**Greeters**

3) Ernie & Jenny  
Numbers

Jean Fox

Jane Bowersock

10) Youth

17) Gene & Neita  
Border

George & Kathy  
Krites

24) Mel & Sue  
Numbers

Billy & Janet Pack

31) Sandy Spillman  
June Reichelderfer

Sue Hinegardner

Connie Rees



Don't forget to turn your clocks forward on Sunday, March 10

at 2:00 am or

before you go to bed.

## March Birthdays

- 5) Kaye Seese
- 6) Karen Feigh
- 7) Diana Eversole
- Micah Chambers
- 8) Marcia Clay
- 9) Joni Blaha
- Guy Kohrieser
- 10) Miriam Irwin
- 12) Trent Fairburn
- 15) Gary Rumbaugh
- 18) David Lightle
- 20) Helen Kuntz
- 24) Matthew Drexler
- 26) Carah Fry
- 27) Tanner Schroder
- 28) Michael Greer
- 29) Quinn Humes
- 31) Gene Bales
- Neita Border

## March Anniversaries

- 20) Larry & Bea Musser
- 24) Jack & Marcia Clay

The Souper Bowl of Caring has finished up for another year, with the competition fierce between Jerry Johnson and Pastor Mark. Jerry Johnson and the NE Patriots were victorious in our donation challenge and on the field, and Pastor Mark (aka Big Bobbie Boucher) and the LA Rams conceded defeat graciously for in the end we received over \$2,300 for the ChKiLo food pantry. We are so appreciative to all who participated!



This money will go a long way to feed our neighbors in need. In January we served 54 households comprised of 58 adults, 42 seniors, and 46 children, for a total of 146 clients. WOFB paid us a visit on January 10th for our annual inspection, and all went well and we encountered no problems. Congratulations and many thanks to all who work so hard to make the pantry run! Upcoming events on our calendar include: Easter Distribution on Thursday, April 18th, Thanksgiving Distribution on Monday, November 25th, and the Christmas Distribution on Friday, December 20th.

## Easter Candy

The Outreach team is in need of LOTS of Candy for the upcoming EASTER EGG HUNG on April 13th. We will be collecting Candy until Sunday, April 7th. Please be sure the candy is small enough to fit inside a plastic Easter Egg and all candy must be individually packaged (i.e. jelly beans wont' work). You can drop off your candy in the Ministry Center.



## February Attendance & Offerings

Date	Attendance	Sunday School Attendance	General Fund Offering	Capital Improvements
27-Jan	94	46	\$3,396.00	\$50.00
3-Feb	135	39	\$4,301.00	\$30.00
10-Feb	99	39	\$1,996.00	\$70.00
17-Feb	101	26	\$2,607.00	\$45.00

### SPAGHETTI DINNER



The Cridersville Lion's Club is having their annual spaghetti dinner on Thursday, March 14. It is to be held in the Fellowship Hall of Cridersville UMC. They will be serving dinner from 4:30 pm-6:30 pm. The price of the dinner is \$8 for adults. Carry out is available.

The food is bring provided by **Fazoli's**.

Menu: Spaghetti with meat or marinara sauce , breadsticks, salad, homemade dessert and beverage.

Tickets can be obtained from any Lion's member.

Proceeds will benefit the Ch-Ki-Lo Food Pantry and Lion's Club projects.



Hello, my name is Trish Wilson and I am new Office Manager. My husband David and I recently moved to Lima, Ohio from a small

town in Pennsylvania called Harrison City just outside of Pittsburgh. We moved to the Lima area for my husband job, he is the Plant Controller at the Wilson Football factory in Ada, Ohio. We are enjoying learning about the area and everyone we have met so far has been very friendly.

We have 2 Golden Retrievers Bella and Lola. Bella is 8 years old and Lola is 7 years old. We rescued them in April of 2017 from Golden Treasures in Arkon, Ohio. They have been a wonderful addition to our family. They are adjusting well to living back in Ohio. We are really enjoying walking them at the wonderful parks in the area.

We have 2 boys Bryan and Mark. Bryan is 25 years old and a recent graduate from Ohio Northern University with an Electrical Engineer degree. He just completed his Masters in Electrical Engineer from Clemson University in South Carolina. He is currently working at Eglin's Air force base in Florida, and recently purchased a home in Fort Walton Beach Florida. He is engaged to be married in October of this year. Mark graduated from Clemson University in May of 2018 with a Computer Science degree and is currently living and working in Charlotte, North Carolina. He is doing very well at his first job and we are very proud of both our boys.

I am looking forward to meeting everyone and becoming a part of the community. Thank you to all of you that I have met so far for you kindness and encouragement.

Many Blessings,  
Trish

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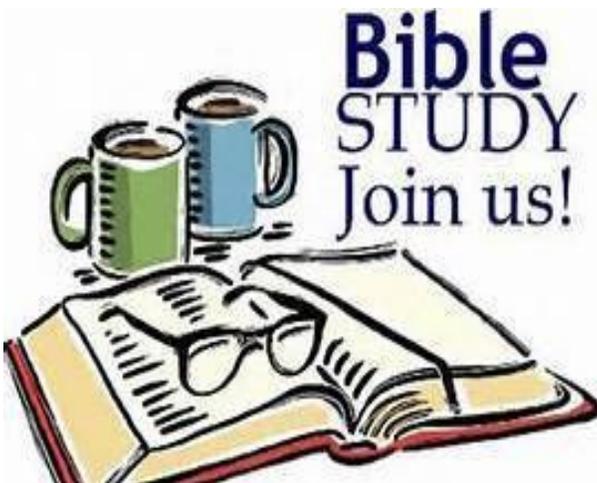
Thank  
You

Beth Bush and family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation for all the ways her brothers and sisters in Christ at Cridersville UMC supported her and her family during the recent passing and services of her husband Brooks Bush.

The  
Season  
of  
Lent



Lent, the 40 day season of spiritual reflection and renewal that precedes and prepares us for the Easter celebration, will soon be upon us. To make a good beginning of our Lenten journey we will have an **Ash Wednesday service on March 6th beginning at 7:00 pm** in the church sanctuary. Be sure to be a part of this service's call to confession and renewal



**Bible**  
STUDY  
Join us!

Bible Study  
Calvary Campus  
Mondays in March  
5:00 pm

# *Mission Projects*

Cridersville will be collecting for five mission projects during Lent

They are as follows

Good Works Ohio

Auglaize County Crisis Center

Ghana Water Project

Anti-Human Trafficking ministries

Family Promise

Four of these we have supported in past years. Family Promise out of Lima is a new one for this year

As in the past we will generate a Lenten giving calendar to take home to make daily contribution suggestions

We will also supply an information sheet with a summary of all five ministries

We will ask people to bring their contributions on Easter to take up a special Easter mission offering in addition to our regular service offering

Jill Wierwille has now stepped forward as our new mission chair and i know that you all rejoice in that decision and will join me in supporting her in all ways

As always--thanks for all that you do in the ministries of Cridersville UMC for the cause of Christ

*Pastor Mark*

During Lent each year, we use the season of preparation to connect and support our mission ministry partners, raising funds through our designated Lent and Easter offerings. Take some time to get to know our ministries below, and join us each week in worship to learn how each ministry connects and share Christ's love and work.

### **Ghana Water Project**

While Ghana has made great strides in providing water for its population, there are still 16% of its rural population without access to an improved water source (JMP 2015). With respect to sanitation, the situation is much more grim. Only 15% of the population has access to safe, private, and hygienic sanitation, while 19% of the total population and 34% of the rural population continue to practice open defecation (JMP 2015). This resulting in disease burden, especially on children, is great, with 25% of child deaths attributable to diarrhea. While a community may have a water point, or sanitation facilities, they may not be adequate to serve the current population. Which results in rationing supplies, long lines, long walks to seek additional sources of water, and/or a return to unimproved sources of water and acts of frustration. Giving to this ministry will be used to construct more water sources in communities and schools, to keep pace with the population needs of each area.

### **Anti-Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery and is the second largest criminal industry in the world. The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines human trafficking as the recruiting, transporting and harboring of persons by use of threat, force or deception for the purpose of exploitation. Traffickers take advantage of vulnerable persons with false promises or physical abduction, forcing them into contract slavery, forced labor and sexual trafficking. According to the U.S. Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report 2015, the number of adults and children currently in forced labor, bonded labor and forced prostitution is 20.9 million. Worldwide, 3 out of every 1,000 people are victims of human trafficking. Giving to this ministry will be used to reinforce investigation, education, and rehabilitation efforts locally and worldwide.

### **Good Works Ohio**

Good Works OH desires, as Jesus does, to bring good news to the poor, specifically in the midst of the rural poverty in Athens, OH. In the long term, their hope is to build bridges between Christians and non Christians from different socioeconomic backgrounds and people in poverty. Their work is to meet needs for shelter, food, transportation and companionship, and communicate clearly that the recipients are loved and valued by God. Good Works, OH wants the people they are reaching to discover what they are also capable of contributing--that they have gifts and skills to share. Finally, they seek to raise up the importance of service to people in poverty to the church, and communicate that serving the poor is a starting place, but Christians can also know and love people living in poverty and deliberately incorporate them into the life of the body of Christ.

### **Auglaize County Crisis Center**

The mission of the Auglaize County Crisis Center, Inc is to provide coordinated family intervention to ensure the safety, dignity and self determination of those involved in the cycle of family violence. This organization provides 24 hour crisis intervention, safe confidential shelter, food, transportation, case management, legal advocacy, family crisis management and programs of prevention and intervention. They provide programs that help families recognize the characteristics of unhealthy relationships, and seek to reduce the risk of interpersonal violence within potentially harmful households. They also provide job skills training, job searching, transportation support. All funds go towards training, supporting, and empowering a holistic future for these families.

Family Promise

Family Promise is a faith-based agency working with various community partners, dedicated to helping homeless families achieve and sustain independence by providing help, hope and a safe haven as they seek suitable employment and housing. Family Promise serves homeless families in the Lima-Allen County area. We connect families with service agencies to help them find jobs to sustain them financially while they look for permanent housing. The heart of the program is the churches that have focused their mission efforts locally. Participating churches provide temporary overnight accommodations for the families giving them a warm place to sleep, a nutritious meal in the evening and the tender mentoring of volunteers to insure them someone cares about them. Annually, Family Promise serves 16 plus families which includes adults and children. We provide more than 2,500 shelter nights, more than 8,000 meals with more than 8,400 volunteer hours. The positive housing outcome is 83.5% and about 75% find employment while at Family Promise.